

Report to:	Joint Local Planning Advisory Group 3 October 2022
Lead Members	Lead Cabinet Member for Planning (South Cambridgeshire) – Tumi Hawkins Executive Councillor, Planning and Transport (Cambridge) – Cllr Katie Thornburrow
Lead Officer:	Joint Director of Planning and Economic Development

Joint Local Planning Advisory Group Programme to Draft Local Plan and First Session: Vision & Aims and Climate Change

Executive Summary

1. Leading up to the next member decisions on the Greater Cambridge Local Plan further member engagement will now take place to explore issues raised in the First Proposals feedback and help to inform development of the draft plan. This report sets out the proposed approach to those meetings. The first session will also be used to discuss feedback received on the vision and aims of the plan and the climate change theme.

Key Decision

2. No

Recommendations

3. It is recommended that the advisory group:
 - a. comments on the proposed approach to these advisory group meetings,
 - b. offers views regarding issues raised in representations to the First Proposals in relation to:
 - i. Vision and Aims
 - ii. Climate Change.

Reasons for Recommendations

4. The Joint Local Planning Advisory Group provides an appropriate forum for consideration of issues raised in representations, and can help steer development of the local plan.

Details

Background

5. South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridge City Council are working together to produce a joint local plan for the Greater Cambridge area. Plan making so far has involved significant stakeholder engagement and two main stages of public consultation.
6. The Greater Cambridge Local Plan First Proposals consultation was held between 1 November and 13 December 2021. In June and July 2022 members of both Councils received reports on feedback received and the full consultation results were published. A [report on the consultation](#) and all the results are available on the Councils' local plan website. In summary:
 - Approximately 4,100 comments were made on the First Proposals, by 625 different respondents (this includes comments received online or input having been received by other means e.g. email)
 - The quick survey received 5,551 answers or comments from 598 unique respondents
 - 41 new sites were received
 - 172 sites had new information submitted which in some cases included revisions to site boundaries.
7. Comments registered on the Councils' online consultation system can be viewed on our First Proposals website: [Greater Cambridge Local Plan - First Proposals](#). Responses to the quick questionnaire have been collated into a spreadsheet. This is available on our local plan webpage: [Greater Cambridge Local Plan](#) (greatercambridgeplanning.org). Site information can be found on the Call For sites pages on our local plan webpage: [Greater Cambridge Local Plan](#) (greatercambridgeplanning.org).
8. The next key member decisions in relation to the local plan, to be made by South Cambridgeshire District Council's Cabinet and Cambridge Planning and Transport Scrutiny Committee, will be:
 - A report to members in January 2023 to confirm the preferred options for the Local Plan strategy and sites;
 - A report in Summer 2023 to consider the complete draft local plan prior to consultation.

Approach to JLPAG Meetings

9. Leading up to the next member decisions on the Local Plan further member engagement will now take place to explore issues raised in the First Proposals feedback and help to inform development of the draft plan. This will be via the Joint Local Plan Advisory Group (JLPAG), which was set up with the purpose of enabling such discussion.
10. The [Terms of Reference for the group](#) (available on both Councils' websites), include that, the group 'will offer a steer at Member level for the development of land use plans' and that it 'will provide efficient and effective coordination of spatial planning including land use and integrated transport strategy for the Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire districts. The group will provide opportunity for three-way discussion on other strategic and cross-boundary issues, at the discretion of the Chair in discussion with Vice Chairs.'
11. A series of meetings of JLPAG will now take place on an approximately monthly basis, with three sessions planned in 2022, and two sessions in 2023.
12. The Local Plan First Proposals divided the plan up into a series of key themes and topics. The aim of the programme will be to cover all of the plan themes. This will mean that each meeting will cover two or three themes, although the detailed ordering and issues will be kept under review:
 - Session 1: 3 October 2022 Vision & Aims, Climate Change.
 - Session 2: 24 October 2022 (provisional date) – Development numbers, overall strategy and sites.
 - Session 3: November 2022 (date TBC) - Homes, Wellbeing and Social inclusion.
 - Session 4: February 2023 (date TBC) - Biodiversity, Great Places.
 - Session 5: March 2023 (date TBC) - Jobs, Infrastructure .
13. The agenda for each session will include a summary of the representations received. For each proposed policy the summary will provide an overview of the comments received. Issues are then identified and grouped, highlighting which representor or organisation have raised the issue.
14. At the sessions officers will present the issues and highlight points that members may wish to discuss.
15. The meetings will be held remotely (not hybrid). The meetings will be for JLPAG members but are open to all members from both Councils to attend remotely, and to speak at the discretion of the Chair. They will be open to the public as observers only, in that they will be livestreamed and recordings made available.
16. Meeting minutes will be reported for agreement to the next meeting, and then reported at the decision making stage when the draft plan is considered by South Cambridgeshire District Council Cabinet and Cambridge Planning and Transport Scrutiny Committee.

Session 1: Vision & Aims and Climate Change

17. This session will consider the comments received relating to the vision and aims for the Local Plan (see Appendix A) and to the climate change theme (see Appendix B).

18. The First Proposals put forward a [vision for the plan](#):

‘We want Greater Cambridge to be a place where a big decrease in our climate impacts comes with a big increase in the quality of everyday life for all our communities. New development must minimise carbon emissions and reliance on the private car; create thriving neighbourhoods with the variety of jobs and homes we need; increase nature, wildlife and green spaces; and safeguard our unique heritage and landscapes.’

19. The vision was supported by seven aims, which expand on the themes for this plan, and have informed decisions regarding the spatial strategy and future policies.

20. With regard to climate change the First Proposals set out the aim to help transition to net zero carbon by 2050, by ensuring that development is sited in places that help to limit carbon emissions, is designed to the highest achievable standards for energy and water use, and is resilient to current and future climate risks. As well as being an important issue considered within the development of the wider strategy, seven policies have been proposed:

- [Policy CC/NZ: Net zero carbon new buildings](#)
- [Policy CC/WE: Water efficiency in new developments](#)
- [Policy CC/DC: Designing for a changing climate](#)
- [Policy CC/FM: Flooding and integrated water management](#)
- [Policy CC/RE: Renewable energy projects and infrastructure](#)
- [Policy CC/CE: Reducing waste and supporting the circular economy](#)
- [Policy CC/CS: Supporting land-based carbon sequestration](#)

Options

21. There are no decisions being sought by this report, although Members views are invited.

Implications

22. In the writing of this report, taking into account financial, legal, staffing, risk, equality and diversity, climate change, and any other key issues, the following implications have been considered:-

Financial

23. There are no direct financial implications.

Equality and Diversity

24. There is no decision to be made as part of this report. The development plans will each be subject to Equalities Impact Assessment at each stage during their development.

Climate Change

25. There is no decision to be made as part of this report. Notwithstanding, development plans provide an opportunity to address the aspects of the environment that can be influenced by the planning system. These aspects will be considered by a range of evidence including via a Sustainability Appraisal as the plans are prepared. One of the big themes for the Greater Cambridge Local Plan identified in The First Proposals is climate change. Evidence has been produced to inform the plan, including a study on how the plan can assist with the journey towards net zero carbon.

Health & Wellbeing

26. There is no decision to be made as part of this report. Notwithstanding, the vision and policies of the emerging Local Plan seek to support wellbeing and social inclusion.

Consultation responses

27. One of the main purposes of this series of meetings is to further explore the significant amount of consultation feedback received to the Greater Cambridge Local Plan First Proposals.

Background Papers

Background papers used in the preparation of this report:

[Terms of Reference of the Joint Local Planning Advisory Group](#)

[Greater Cambridge Local Plan – First Proposals consultation 2021](#)

[GCLP First Proposals Consultation Report 2022](#)

[Current Greater Cambridge Local Development Scheme](#)

Appendices

Appendix A: Summary of Representations on Vision and Aims

Appendix B: Summary of Representations on Climate Change theme

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