

<b>Report to:</b>	Joint Local Planning Advisory Group 13 March 2023
<b>Lead Members</b>	Lead Cabinet Member for Planning (South Cambridgeshire) – Tumi Hawkins  Executive Councillor, Planning and Transport (Cambridge) – Cllr Katie Thornburrow
<b>Lead Officer:</b>	Joint Director of Planning and Economic Development

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## Joint Local Planning Advisory Group Programme to Draft Local Plan – Fifth Session: Infrastructure and Jobs

### Executive Summary

1. Further member engagement is taking place to explore issues raised in the First Proposals feedback and help to inform development of the draft plan. This fifth session will be used to discuss feedback received on the Infrastructure and Jobs chapters of the plan.

### Key Decision

2. No

### Recommendations

3. It is recommended that the advisory group:
  - a. offers views regarding issues raised in representations to the First Proposals in relation to Infrastructure and Jobs chapters.

### 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. Following consideration of development strategy updates by [South Cambridgeshire's Cabinet](#) and [Cambridge's Planning and Transport Scrutiny committee](#) in January and February 2023, the next key member decisions in relation to the local plan, to be made by South Cambridgeshire District Council's Cabinet and the Cambridge City Council Executive Councillor for Planning Policy and Infrastructure following a Cambridge Planning and Transport Scrutiny Committee, will be a report in summer 2023 to consider the Draft Local Plan and approve for public 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. A series of meetings of JLPAG is now taking place on an approximately monthly basis. Three sessions took place in 2022, and two sessions have been planned for 2023. Further information on the approach to these meetings was reported to and considered at the first session on 3 October 2022.
11. The first session considered the topics of vision and aims, and climate change. The second session considered the spatial strategy and sites. The third session considered the topics of wellbeing and social inclusion. The fourth session considered Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure, and Great Places. All sessions were livestreamed and the recordings are available to view here: [Browse meetings - Joint Local Planning Advisory Group \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

## **Session 5: Infrastructure and Jobs**

12. This session will consider the comments received relating to the Infrastructure and Jobs chapters of the Local Plan. Summaries of the issues raised in representations are included as appendices to this report, with the full submissions available to view on the Councils' Local Plan website.
13. At this session officers will provide a presentation setting out what the First Proposals suggested as the preferred policies, key feedback that was received, and the next steps officers are taking to explore the issues, moving towards development of the draft plan.
14. The infrastructure chapter of the Local Plan aims to plan for transport, water, energy and digital networks; and health, education and cultural facilities; in the right places and built at the right times to serve our growing communities.
15. The Jobs chapter of the Local Plan aims to encourage a flourishing and mixed economy in Greater Cambridge which includes a wide range of jobs, while maintaining our area's global reputation for innovation.
16. A Summary of the policy approaches put forward in the First Proposals consultation is included below. For full details please visit the First Proposal consultation documents. The links in the section below show the relevant sections in the interactive version of the First Proposals.

## **Infrastructure**

17. [Policy I/ST: Sustainable transport and connectivity](#) – This policy will set out how the transport impacts of development should be managed, and how new development should be connected to the transport network. Policy will seek to deliver sustainable and inclusive communities by minimising the need to travel and reducing travel distances, whilst ensuring there is effective and sufficient sustainable transport mode choice and improved connectivity for everyone of any ability. It will require development to be located and designed to reduce the need to travel, particularly by car, and promote sustainable travel appropriate to its location.

18. [Policy I/EV: Parking and electric vehicles](#) – This policy will set out the requirements for cycle and vehicle parking, including infrastructure for electric vehicle charging.
19. [Policy I/FD: Freight and delivery consolidation](#) – This policy will set out how the development of delivery hubs should be considered, and how development proposals should provide space for servicing, storage and deliveries.
20. [Policy I/SI: Safeguarding important infrastructure](#) – This policy will set out what infrastructure should be safeguarded from the impacts of development, and how this should be assessed. Policy proposes to safeguard specified strategic and important infrastructure from being negatively impacted by development (Lord's Bridge Radio Telescope and existing rail freight facilities and sightings at Duxford, Foxton, Fulbourn and Whittlesford).
21. [Policy I/AD: Aviation development](#) – This policy will control development proposals related to aviation, and set out in what circumstances, and how, developments should take account of aviation safety. Policy would only support development at Cambridge Airport (whilst it remains operational) where it would not have a significant adverse impact on the environment and on residential amenity. For other airfields, policy proposes to carry forward the aviation policy included in the current South Cambridgeshire Local Plan.
22. [Policy I/EI: Energy infrastructure masterplanning](#) – This policy will set out the requirements for energy infrastructure to support development. Policy proposes requirement of energy masterplans for residential developments and non-residential development (for developments over 100 dwellings) of a scale and nature that would allow for the benefits of smart energy management to be identified and secured.
23. [Policy I/ID: Infrastructure and delivery](#) – This policy will set out how necessary infrastructure to support development should be delivered. Policy will only permit development if there is, or will be, sufficient infrastructure capacity to support and meet all the requirements arising from the new development, at the time when they are needed.
24. [Policy I/DI: Digital infrastructure](#) – This policy will set out how developments should contribute to Greater Cambridge's requirements for broadband, mobile phone and smart infrastructure. Policy will require applicants to submit a 'Connectivity Statement' with a planning application to demonstrate how their proposed digital infrastructure will meet specified policy requirements.

## Jobs

25. [Policy J/NE: New employment and development proposals](#) – This policy will set out the criteria that will determine whether proposals for employment development in urban areas, villages, and the countryside are acceptable. Policy

will support employment development (classes E(g), B2 and B8) and will not support large scale national and regional warehousing and distribution centres.

26. [Policy J/RE: Supporting the rural economy](#) – This policy will set out the approach to re-use and replacement of rural buildings, and proposals related to land-based enterprises. Policy will support proposals for diversification schemes which enable continued operation of agricultural and other land based rural businesses, support the re-use of rural buildings in the countryside for employment purposes (where they are of permanent and substantial construction and in keeping with their surroundings) and allow the replacement of such buildings where it would bring about environmental improvement and a more sustainable development.
27. [Policy J/AL: Protecting the best agricultural land](#) – This policy will set out when and how development on agricultural land and soils should be controlled. Policy will restrict development which would lead to the irreversible loss of the best agricultural land (Grades 1, 2 or 3a) unless it is allocated in the Local Plan to meet development needs, or sustainability considerations and the need for the development are sufficient to override the need to protect the agricultural value of the land.
28. [Policy J/PB: Protecting existing business space](#) – This policy will state what existing business space will be protected and how business space and employment land can be changed to other uses. The Local Plan will seek to protect employment land from loss to other uses in Greater Cambridge, including specific protection for industrial sites in Cambridge. Where loss is proposed, it will need to be justified by evidence that it is no longer needed.
29. [Policy J/RW: Enabling remote working](#) – The policy will support the creation of local employment hubs, outlining acceptable types, scale and location of development and will also support the partial conversion, extension or change of use of residential dwellings to enable the residents to work at or from part of the dwelling, (subject to set criteria).
30. [Policy J/AW: Affordable workspace and creative industries](#) – This policy will set out how affordable workspace (workspace that has a rental value below the market rate (generally, 80% of the market rate or less), including for creative businesses, should be provided across Greater Cambridge. For the development of new communities major mixed use developments should incorporate an element of affordable workspace and include provision for creative and artists' workspace, rehearsal and performance space and makerspace.
31. [Policy J/EP: Supporting a range of facilities in employment parks](#) – This policy will guide consideration of proposals for shared facilities in employment parks and campuses. It will support appropriately scaled leisure, eating and social hub facilities where they support the functioning of an employment area, and they are primarily aimed at meeting the needs of workers on site and help to manage the transport impacts of the development.

32. [Policy J/RC: Retail and centres](#): – This policy will cover the treatment of retail, leisure (arts, culture and entertainment) and other city centre proposals in Cambridge (including its district, local and neighbourhood centres), and the towns and villages of South Cambridgeshire, as well as out-of-town development. Policy will be updated to adapt to changing retail environment and changes to national planning policy regarding Use Class E which reduce control over changes between certain uses.
33. [Policy J/VA: Visitor accommodation, attractions and facilities](#) – This policy will state where hotel and other types of visitor accommodation development will be supported in Greater Cambridge and how the loss or gain of new hotels / visitor accommodation will be managed.
34. [Policy J/FD: Faculty development and specialist/ language schools](#) – This policy will state when new faculty (higher education) development, teaching hospital facilities, specialist colleges and language schools will be supported, and the requirements that will need to be satisfied. The policy will support new faculty and specialist facilities/development in Greater Cambridge which meet set requirements and will permit development of existing and new specialist colleges and/or language schools where they provide residential accommodation, social and amenity facilities for all non-local students (with controls in place to ensure that the provision of accommodation is in step with the expansion of student places).

## Options

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

## Implications

36. 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

37. There are no direct financial implications.

### Equality and Diversity

38. 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

39. 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.
40. This session also has a particular focus upon how biodiversity can be protected and enhanced.

## Health & Wellbeing

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

## Consultation responses

42. 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](#)

[Agenda for Joint Local Planning Advisory Group \(session 1\) on Monday 3 October 2022 \(modern.gov.co.uk\)](#)

[Agenda for Joint Local Planning Advisory Group \(session 2\) on Monday 24 October 2022 \(modern.gov.co.uk\)](#)

[Agenda for Joint Local Planning Advisory Group \(session 3\) on Monday 21 November 2022 \(modern.gov.co.uk\)](#)

[Agenda for Joint Local Planning Advisory Group \(session 4\) on Monday 27 February 2023 \(modern.gov.co.uk\)](#)

Development strategy updates considered by [South Cambridgeshire's Cabinet](#) and [Cambridge's Planning and Transport Scrutiny committee](#) in January and February 2023.

## **Appendices**

Appendix A: Summaries of Representations and Responses – Infrastructure Chapter

Appendix B: Summaries of Representations and Responses – Jobs Chapter

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