

**CONSULTATION RESPONSE TO SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL
ON THE SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE LOCAL PLAN ISSUES AND OPTIONS
CONSULTATION (JULY 2012)**

To: Cabinet

Date: 2nd October 2012

From: Executive Director: Economy, Transport & Environment

Electoral division(s): Willingham, Cottenham, Waterbeach, Fulbourn, Linton, Sawston, Duxford, Melbourn, Gamlingay, Hardwick, Bar Hill, Papworth, Bourn, Gamlingay, Bassingbourn

Forward Plan ref: Not applicable **Key decision:** No

Purpose: To agree the County Council response to South Cambridgeshire District Council - Issues & Options Report (July 2012).

Recommendation: Cabinet is asked to:

- a) Agree the consultation response attached as Appendix 1 to this report, and send it to South Cambridgeshire District Council in response to their Local Plan Issues & Options Report (July 2012).
- b) Delegate to the Cabinet Member for Growth and Economy in consultation with the Executive Director, Economy, Transport and Environment the authority to make minor amendments as necessary prior to submission.

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1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC) published its Local Plan Issues and Options Report on 12 July 2012 for public consultation. This report marks the start of the local plan review process. The report includes options on the level of future housing and jobs provision, and the identification of possible new broad locations for growth, covering the period up to 2031.
- 1.2 On the Cambridge City fringe, the process of looking for possible new locations for new housing has been carried out jointly with Cambridge City Council. If such sites come forward, they will involve further Green Belt release. The City Council through its recent consultation included indicative capacities for land within in its administrative area; South Cambridgeshire has not.
- 1.3 The Issues & Options Report strategy follows the sequential approach outlined in the 2003 Structure Plan which was embedded in the Cambridge Local Plan (2006) and SCDC Core Strategy (2007). Future growth options rely on Green Belt releases either on the edge of Cambridge or in larger villages.

The vision set out in this plan also needs to ensure it adequately addresses the sub-regional dimension by explaining how this is integrated with the emerging Cambridge City draft plan, to ensure this effectively addresses the “duty to cooperate” requirement and more importantly plans for the infrastructure requirements of the wider area.

2.0 MAIN ISSUES

- 2.1 This consultation is asking for views on the issues and options as outlined in the report. The County Council’s response is contained within the appendix attached to this report. Whilst this Council’s overall response is supportive, where necessary issues of strategic importance which require further consideration have been raised, namely:

- The scale of growth;
- Transport;
- Economic development;
- Education, and;
- Waste.

A summary of the key issues on each of these is as follows and covered in more detail in the full consultation response.

Scale of Growth

- 2.2 The report outlines 3 options for jobs – 14,000, 23,100 and 25,200 up to 2031. These figures are based on forecasts commissioned by the Joint Strategic Planning Unit on behalf of the Cambridgeshire authorities which in turn are based on the LEFM (Local Economic Forecasting Model). The comparable EEFM (East of England Forecasting Model) figures are 16,800, 24,800 and 31,300. We support SCDC’s medium jobs target of 23,100.
- 2.3. The 3 options for housing provision are 18,500, 21,500 and 23,500. It is encouraging that one of the strategic challenges with an aging profile is being addressed by Issue 47 (Flexible Housing) for those with reduced mobility.

- 2.4 The merits of safeguarding Cambridge East as an allocation for post 2031 (Issue 108) needs careful evaluation; it is considered that this would provide additional flexibility for now and the future and would be compliant with the NPPF (National Planning Policy Framework).

Transport

- 2.5 The County Council is concurrently consulting on a [Transport Strategy for Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire](#); the relationship between this and the emerging South Cambridgeshire Local Plan will be particularly important. It is important to ensure that adequate strategic transport infrastructure provision will be required for all growth options. Key transport infrastructure projects such as the Cambridge Science Park Station will be addressed as part of any future spatial strategy for SCDC.
- 2.6 The objectives set out in the Issues and Options Report which refer to supporting economic growth, linking development with sustainable transport and ensuring that new development provides or has access to a range of services and facilities that support healthy lifestyles and well-being for everyone are welcomed. These fit well with the objectives set out in the both the adopted Local Transport Plan and those that are proposed in the Transport Strategy being developed for Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire.

Economic Development

- 2.7 The aspiration of the Plan to ensure sufficient employment land is available in the right places to support the economy and also to address the issues which underpin economic development including strategic infrastructure is supported. This ties in well with the County Council's corporate priority to promote economic growth and job creation.

Education

- 2.8 It is recommended that robust viability testing of major site allocations should be completed. The planning of schools infrastructure, particularly secondary school provision, needs to be undertaken at a strategic level, taking into account the Plan for the whole of the area. The County Council requires that additional housing sites identified through the Issues & Options process provide sites for new school provision in addition to any financial contributions towards education provision.

Waste

- 2.9 There are a number of cross-boundary issues to consider in the Northern Fringe East and the County Council in its capacity as the Waste and Mineral Planning Authority looks forward to working with SCDC on the detailed planning of this area. As noted in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) this should be a continuous process and one which results in the provision of land and infrastructure necessary to support current and future levels of development.

3.0 ALIGNMENT WITH PRIORITIES AND WAYS OF WORKING

- 3.1 Developing the local economy for the benefit of all
The issues and options report includes an option for a high level of growth for the District.

3.2 Helping people live healthy and independent lives

The issues and options report sets out a number of options that will be used to secure community infrastructure and services as part of new developments.

3.3 Supporting and protecting vulnerable people

The issues and options report includes options which aim to address deprivation through strategic objectives. The pathways for doing so such as policies relating to wheelchair and lifetime homes should be reinserted given the age profile of the District as a whole.

3.4 Ways of Working

The County Council is identified as a key partner that will help deliver the emerging Local Plan. The preparation and adoption of the Local Plan will support the County Council's ways of working through:

- Helping provide services and community facilities – *Making sure services are provided in the right way*
- Promoting closer working between public bodies – *Working together*

4.0 SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Resource and Performance Implications

There are no significant implications from this report.

4.2 Statutory, Risk and Legal Implications

When adopted, the Local Plan will be part of the development plan for the District and will carry significant weight in the determination of planning applications. It is therefore important that the right policies are included.

4.3 Equality and Diversity Implications

SCDC has undertaken an equality impact assessment of the draft Local Plan and the County Council is satisfied with this.

4.4 Engagement and Consultation Implications

The County Council is being consulted on this Local Plan Issues and Options Report by South Cambridgeshire District Council. Comments have been sought from a wide range of County Council service areas and those received have been incorporated into the draft response.

4.5 Public Health Implications

As part of the corporate response public health have been consulted on the SCDC Issues & Options report. It is important that new development is accessible, of a high quality and allows people to walk and cycle as much as possible. In combination, this will contribute towards people's health and well being.

Source Documents (click on links)	Location
South Cambridgeshire Local Plan Issues & Options Report July 2012	Online & hard copies in Members' Lounge
South Cambridgeshire Local Plan Evidence Base and Supporting Studies (This link opens a page with links to all documents.)	Online

[Cambridge Local Plan – Towards 2031
Issues & Options Report June 2012](#)

[National Planning Policy Framework](#)

[Transport Strategy for Cambridge and South
Cambridgeshire](#)

[Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste
Plan](#)

Online & hard copies
in Members' Lounge

Online

Online & hard copies
available from TPIF

Online & hard copies
available from G&E