

HUNTINGDONSHIRE'S LOCAL PLAN TO 2036: CONSULTATION DRAFT 2017

To: Economy and Environment Committee

Meeting Date: 12th October 2017

From: Executive Director – Economy, Transport and Environment

Electoral division(s): Ramsey, Norman Cross, Warboys and Upwood, Huntingdon, Somersham and Earith, St Ives, Sawtry and Ellington, Godmanchester and Huntingdon East, Brampton and Kimbolton, Buckden, Gransden and The Offords, The Hemingfords and Fenstanton, Little Paxton and St Neots North, St Neots Eaton Socon and Eynesbury.

Forward Plan ref: N/A **Key decision:** No

Purpose: To consider and endorse the County Council's response to the Huntingdonshire Local Plan to 2036: Consultation Draft 2017

Recommendation: The Committee is requested to:

- a) Endorse the response as set out in Appendix 1; and
- b) Delegate to the Executive Director (Economy, Transport and Environment) in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Committee the authority to make minor changes to the response.

<i>Officer contact:</i>		<i>Member contacts:</i>	
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1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) is consulting on its draft Local Plan 2017.
- 1.2 HDC adopted the Core Strategy on 2009. In response to changes in Government policy (Localism Act and NPPF) and the designation of the Alconbury Enterprise Zone HC embarked on the preparation of a new Plan in 2012. The County Council has responded to the previous stages of the Local Plan highlighting the importance of ensuring that infrastructure provision is adequate to keep pace with additional developments and acknowledging and assessing the impact of growth on existing community infrastructure. This summarised in the Table below.

Local Plan Preparation Stages	Dates	CCC Comments
Strategy and Policy consultation	August to November 2012	CCC comments approved by Informal Cabinet and SMT (12th November 2012)
Full Draft Local Plan consultation: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Full public engagement• Additional sites consultation• Preparation of proposed submission Local Plan and supporting evidence base and documents	May to July 2013	CCC comments approved by Cabinet July 2013
Targeted consultation on amended draft Local Plan	January to March 2015	Comments approved by E&E Committee 21 st April 2015

- 1.3 The current consultation on the draft Local Plan is a key part in the production of the Plan. This Plan takes into account responses received from the previous consultations in 2013 and 2015, including comments by the County Council.
- 1.4 This new consultation excludes the Wyton Airfield allocation as a result of the Strategic Transport Study which has demonstrated that the road infrastructure requirements to re-develop the area were not deliverable.
- 1.5 The 2017 draft also excludes the former Forensic Science Laboratory site at Hinchbrooke and the reference to RAF Molesworth has also been withdrawn. There are no plans to include the site at Gifford's Park near St Ives as an allocation.
- 1.6 The deadline for making responses to this consultation was 25th August 2017. Consequently internal consultations have been conducted with other County Council service areas and draft comments have been submitted to Huntingdonshire District Council in advance of this Committee. HDC are aware these comments are subject to the Committee's agreement.

- 1.7 The draft Local Plan and supporting documents can be accessed from the HDC website by following this [link](#).

2 MAIN ISSUES

- 2.1 This section summarises the key issues that have been set out in the Council's formal response to Huntingdonshire. This can be found at Appendix 1 to this report.

HDC will consider the responses made to the consultation prior to publishing the final draft that will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate. This is expected in December 2017. There will be an opportunity to make objections to this final submission draft if the County Council considers that comments made at the current stage have not been adequately addressed by the District Council.

Renewable Energy

- 2.2 The County Council **objects** to policy LP36, Renewable and Low Carbon Energy. This policy identifies that no planning applications for any wind development across the district will be supported. Policy LP36 will act as an impediment to the delivery of the County Council's Corporate Energy Strategy which seeks to utilise public assets for renewable energy.

Education

- 2.3 With regard to the Strategic Expansion Location at Alconbury Weald and particularly the proposal to allocate an additional 1,680 homes on the site of RAF Alconbury, the County Council will need to future proof the secondary school site in order to respond to additional demand for school places should dwelling numbers exceed that already indicated in the Plan. Whilst some Strategic Expansion Locations will generate the sufficient demand for a self-contained secondary education, this will not be the case for RAF Alconbury and therefore developers, the District and County Council will need to work together to provide a suitable solution by expanding the provision at Alconbury Weald.
- 2.4 The Loves Farm Reserved Site has been left out of the St Neots Eastern Expansion. There are currently significant issues relating to the availability of primary school places in the area. However, this allocation makes no reference to education and how the impact of the primary aged school children arising from this development will be mitigated. Comments on the 2015 consultation about the increase of number of dwellings from 160 to 450 dwellings have not been taken into account. There is still no reference to education within this allocation which poses particular difficulty with regard to the provision of primary education and pre-school infrastructure.
- 2.5 Development of unallocated sites can pose difficulties for the County Council particularly in the catchments of schools on constrained sites which cannot easily be expanded.
- 2.6 The Enterprise Zone will bring around 8,000 jobs by 2036. These numbers of employees are likely to include a large number of parents requiring childcare. The need to support working parents should be considered and reflected in the plan by including the requirement for at least one full day care setting within the Enterprise Zone.

- 2.7 Officers also have a number of concerns related to the assumptions made in the transport work and these, together with further detail on the above points are set out in further detail in Appendix 1. For these reasons, an objection is recommended on transport matters.

Transport

- 2.8 The County Council has worked closely with HDC on various strategies and projects, including the Huntingdon and Godmanchester Market Town Transport Strategy (MTTS), the St Neots MTTS refresh, and the Third Local Transport Plan for Cambridgeshire (including the Long Term Transport Strategy for Cambridgeshire). These strategies have been developed with an awareness of the forthcoming needs of the Local Plan. Furthermore, the Council has worked closely with HDC in bringing forward the Huntingdonshire Strategic Transport Study, which will provide a substantial evidence base to support the Local Plan. In preparing this together, both teams have been fully seized of the other's objectives and we are happy to support the evidence and recommendations of this study.
- 2.9 Consequently Officers can confirm that the aims and objectives of the Local Plan align with the aforementioned County Council strategies and are fully supported.

Public Health

- 2.10 The Public Health team has worked closely with HDC to develop appropriate health policies for the Local Plan. The team is satisfied with the provisions made for Health Impact Assessment and supports the policy.

Adults

- 2.11 The People and Communities New Communities team have no further comments beyond those made at the previous consultation stages. The Local Plan provides sufficient references to adult social care, specialist accommodation and accessible provision of health and social services.

3. ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PRIORITIES

3.1 Developing the local economy for the benefit of all

There are no significant implications for this priority. The strategy and policy consultation includes an option for the high level of growth for the District. Additional housing growth is important for the broader development of the Cambridgeshire economy.

3.2 Helping people live healthy and independent lives

There are no significant implications for this priority. Any planning applications coming forward will need to demonstrate how it provides for healthy and independent lives in accordance with local plan policies.

3.3 Supporting and protecting vulnerable people

There are no significant implications for this priority. The strategy and policy consultation

includes options which aim to address deprivation through strategic objectives.

4. SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Resource Implications

4.2 Procurement/Contractual/Council Contract Procedure Rules Implications

There are no significant implications

4.3 Statutory, Legal and Risk Implications

There are no significant implications

4.4 Equality and Diversity Implications

There are no significant implications

4.5 Engagement and Communications Implications

There are no significant implications

4.6 Localism and Local Member Involvement

There are no significant implications

4.7 Public Health Implications

There are no significant implications

Implications	Officer Clearance
Have the resource implications been cleared by Finance?	Yes Name of Financial Officer: Sarah Heywood
Have the procurement/contractual/ Council Contract Procedure Rules implications been cleared by the LGSS Head of Procurement?	N/A
Has the impact on statutory, legal and risk implications been cleared by LGSS Law?	Yes Name of Legal Officer: Fiona McMillan
Have the equality and diversity implications been cleared by your Service Contact?	Yes Name of Officer: Tamar Oviatt-Ham
Have any engagement and communication implications been cleared by Communications?	Yes Name of Officer: Eleanor Bell
Have any localism and Local Member involvement issues been cleared by your Service Contact?	Yes Name of Officer: Tamar Oviatt-Ham
Have any Public Health implications been cleared by Public Health	Yes Name of Officer: Kate Parker

Source Documents	Location
<u>Huntingdonshire Local Plan to 2036: Consultation Draft 2017</u>	On Line
<u>Draft Final Sustainability Appraisal</u>	On Line
<u>Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment 2017</u>	On Line
<u>Call for Sites 2017</u>	On Line

**APPENDIX 1 - Huntingdonshire Local Plan 2036: Consultation Draft July 2017
Response by Cambridgeshire County Council**