

**CAMBRIDGE NORTHERN FRINGE EAST AREA ACTION PLAN (CNFE AAP)**

*To:* **Cabinet**

*Date:* **4<sup>th</sup> March 2014**

*From:* **Executive Director: Economy, Transport and Environment**

*Electoral division(s):* **All in Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire**

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

*Purpose:* **To advise Cabinet that Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council are commencing the preparation of the Cambridge Northern Fringe East Area Action Plan, and to outline the role the County Council will have in this process as a key stakeholder.**

*Recommendation:* **To support the preparation of the Cambridge Northern Fringe East Area Action Plan, and the Council's contribution to this process as a key stakeholder.**

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## **1. PURPOSE**

- 1.1 The Cambridge Northern Fringe Area is a significant area for future development which straddles the Cambridge City/South Cambridgeshire boundary. Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council are commencing the preparation of an Area Action Plan (AAP) to set the parameters for the area's development (see accompanying plan for anticipated Plan boundary). This report advises Cabinet of the proposed arrangements for developing the Plan and outlines the role the County Council will have in this process as a key stakeholder.

## **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council are both in the process of rolling forward their Local Plans; these state that an Area Action Plan for the Cambridge Northern Fringe East (CNFE) will be prepared.
- 2.2 The CNFE is a major development priority, and the recent planning permission for the Cambridge Science Park Station is expected to act as a catalyst for the subsequent development of the area. The CNFE is a complex area with a multiplicity of land uses and land owners. There are also a number of planning designations and allocations in the area, which have been made through the County Council's Minerals and Waste Plan.
- 2.3 The minerals and waste interests include the Cambridge Waste Water Treatment Works, which has a 400 metre safeguarding area around it to prevent other uses prejudicing its ongoing operations which are key to supporting the growth agenda in the wider Cambridge area; aggregate rail depots, one of which will be essential in providing hard rock for the improvement of the A14; and allocations for a Household Recycling Centre, an inert recycling facility and a new railhead; and Waste Consultation Areas which protect these allocations and other existing waste management facilities.
- 2.4 The Transport Strategy for the wider Cambridge area has been developed in tandem with the Local Plans and will be adopted as part of the third Local Transport Plan. Further work may be required to assess the CNFE area in greater detail and to determine what improvements may be necessary to facilitate the planned development of the Area.
- 2.5 The planning system through the AAP will provide a formal planning framework which can ensure that development is integrated, and which will maximise the potential of the area and ensure that development opportunities are not missed.

## **3. WORKING ARRANGEMENTS**

- 3.1 Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council will take the lead on the preparation of the AAP. However, the County Council will be a key stakeholder and adviser, reflecting the interests it has in the AAP in terms of minerals and waste developments and allocations and its role in determining the strategic transport strategy for the area.

- 3.2 The need for and process to develop the AAP has been discussed by a Joint Committee of Members from Cambridge City, South Cambridgeshire and the County Council – the Strategic Transport and Spatial Planning Group (STSPG). This group met on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2014 to agree:
- Joint working arrangements
  - The scope and approach for the CNFE project i.e. the preparation of the AAP
  - The project timetable.
- 3.3 The emerging strategy and Plan will be considered by the STSPG. This Group will act as the commissioning body and programme board, and as the primary decision making body. An Officer Steering Group has been agreed, which will have representatives from the three Councils. A Project Manager based at Cambridge City Council will oversee the details of the project and maintain its progress.
- 3.4 The timetable is:
- Spring 2014 – Summer 2014: site assessment, landowner stakeholder discussions, workshops, preparation and completion of the evidence base for the AAP, design analysis and goal setting
  - Autumn 2014 – Winter 2014: AAP preparation
  - December 2014 – January 2015: Issues and Options Consultation
  - September – October 2015: Submission Draft Plan Consultation
  - April 2016: Submission
  - April – September 2016: Examination
  - October 2016: Adoption.

#### **4. ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PRIORITIES AND WAYS OF WORKING**

##### **4.1 Developing the local economy for the benefit of all**

This work fits well with the corporate priority of developing the local economy for all. It is seeking to maximise development potential and provide a framework for the development of the CNFE. The planned development of the CNFE will co-ordinate and maximise opportunities for economic growth, benefiting the immediate and wider Cambridge area.

##### **4.2 Helping people live healthy and independent lives / Supporting and protecting vulnerable people**

There are no implications for these priorities.

##### **4.3 Supporting and protecting vulnerable people**

There are no significant implications for this priority.

##### **4.4 Ways of working**

Close working between the authorities on land use planning and strategic planning already exists.

## **5. SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS**

### **5.1 Resource and Performance Implications**

Staff resource from the County Council will be required to undertake land use planning and transport strategy work to facilitate the preparation of the AAP. This work will be built into the existing teams work programme and so no additional funding will be required to do this work.

### **5.2 Statutory, Risk and Legal Implications**

The County Council has a statutory duty, the Duty to Co-operate, to work with the City/District Councils of Cambridgeshire as they prepare their Local Plans.

### **5.3 Equality and Diversity Implications**

There are no implications under this heading.

### **5.4 Engagement and Consultation Implications**

The AAP will be subject to public participation. Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire District Council will take the lead on this, but staff from the County Council may attend exhibitions etc., in a supporting role.

### **5.5 Public Health Implications**

There are no implications under this heading.

<b>Source Documents</b>	<b>Location</b>
None	

