

Cabinet



Forest Heath
District Council

Title of Report:	Recommendations of the Local Plan Working Group: 15 February 2016	
Report No:	CAB/FH/16/011	
Report to and date:	Cabinet	1 March 2016
Portfolio holder:	James Waters Portfolio Holder for Planning and Growth Tel: 07771 621038 Email: james.waters@forest-heath.gov.uk	
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Lead officer:	Marie Smith Strategic Planning Manager Tel: 01638 719260 Email: marie.smith@westsuffolk.gov.uk	
Purpose of report:	On 15 February 2016, the Local Plan Working Group considered the following substantive items of business: (1) Responses to consultation and engagement on the Core Strategy Single Issue Review (SIR), Site Allocations Local Plan (SALP) and Draft Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP). (2) Core Strategy Single Issue Review (SIR) Preferred Option – (Regulation 18) Consultation Document.	
Recommendation:	It is <u>RECOMMENDED</u> that: (1) <u>Responses to consultation and engagement on the Core Strategy Single Issue Review (SIR), Site Allocations Local Plan (SALP) and Draft Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP)</u> That the responses, comments and actions as set out in Working Papers 1, 2 and 3 of Report No LOP/FH/16/004 be endorsed.	

	<p>(2) <u>Core Strategy Single Issue Review (SIR) Preferred Option – (Regulation 18) Consultation Document</u></p> <p>(a) That the Core Strategy Single Issue Review (CS SIR) Preferred Option document (as set out in Working Paper 1 to Report No LOP/FH/16/005) and accompanying Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)/Sustainability Appraisal (SA), together with supporting documents, be approved for consultation, subject to additional text being included to provide further clarity and context for Newmarket in relation to Option 1 (the Council’s preferred option) and Option 2 (the Council’s non-preferred option).</p> <p>(b) The Head of Planning and Growth, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Growth, be authorised to make any minor typographical, factual, spelling and grammatical changes to the document, provided that it does not materially affect the substance or meaning.</p>
<p>Key Decision:</p> <p><i>(Check the appropriate box and delete all those that do not apply.)</i></p>	<p><i>Is this a Key Decision and, if so, under which definition?</i></p> <p>Yes, it is a Key Decision - <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No, it is not a Key Decision - <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
<p><i>The decisions made as a result of this report will usually be published within 48 hours and cannot be actioned until five clear working days of the publication of the decision have elapsed. This item is included on the Decisions Plan.</i></p>	
<p>Consultation:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See Reports: LOP/FH/16/004 and 005
<p>Alternative option(s):</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See Reports: LOP/FH/16/004 and 005
<p>Implications:</p>	
<p><i>Are there any financial implications? If yes, please give details</i></p>	<p>See Reports: LOP/FH/16/004 and 005</p>
<p><i>Are there any staffing implications? If yes, please give details</i></p>	<p>See Reports: LOP/FH/16/004 and 005</p>
<p><i>Are there any ICT implications? If yes, please give details</i></p>	<p>See Reports: LOP/FH/16/004 and 005</p>
<p><i>Are there any legal and/or policy implications? If yes, please give details</i></p>	<p>See Reports: LOP/FH/16/004 and 005</p>

<i>Are there any equality implications? If yes, please give details</i>		See Reports: LOP/FH/16/004 and 005	
Risk/opportunity assessment:		<i>(potential hazards or opportunities affecting corporate, service or project objectives)</i>	
Risk area	Inherent level of risk (before controls)	Controls	Residual risk (after controls)
See Reports: LOP/FH/16/004 and 005			
Ward(s) affected:		All Wards	
Background papers: <i>(all background papers are to be published on the website and a link included)</i>		<u>Local Plan Working Group: 15 February 2016</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report No LOP/FH/16/004 & Working Paper 1; Working Paper 2; Working Paper 3 • Report No LOP/FH/16/005 & Working Paper 1 	
Documents attached:		None	

Key issues and reasons for recommendation(s)

- 1. Responses to consultation and engagement on the Core Strategy Single Issue Review (SIR), Site Allocations Local Plan (SALP) and Draft Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) (Report No: LOP/FH/16/004)**
- 1.1. The Core Strategy Single Issue Review (CS SIR) revisits the quashed parts of the 2010 Core Strategy as well as reassessing overall housing need/numbers to ensure compliance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). An 'Issues and Options' (Regulation 18) consultation was completed on the Core Strategy SIR in July to September 2012, with a second Issues and Options (Regulation 18) consultation taking place between August and October 2015.
- 1.2. An Issues and Options draft of the Site Allocations Local Plan (SALP) was prepared but did not proceed to consultation in 2013. A Further Issues and Options (Regulation 18) draft was completed, and consultation took place concurrently with the SIR between August and October 2015.
- 1.3. A first draft of an Infrastructure Development Plan (IDP) was prepared to accompany the Issues and Options consultation drafts of both the Single Issue Review (SIR) of Core Strategy Policy CS7 – Overall Housing Provision and Distribution, and the Site Allocations Local Plans. The IDP will be updated and refined as the local plan documents progress through the planning process (to the Preferred Options and Submission draft stages). Consultation took place on this first draft of the IDP concurrently with the regulation 18 consultations on the SIR and SALP between August and October 2015.
- 1.4. Paragraph 155 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) advises:

"Early and meaningful engagement and collaboration with neighbourhoods, local organisations and businesses is essential. A wide section of the community should be proactively engaged, so that Local Plans, as far as possible, reflect a collective vision and a set of agreed priorities for the sustainable development of the area, including those contained in any neighbourhood plans that have been made."

The accompanying guidance in the National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) notes that "Section 18 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires local planning authorities to produce a Statement of Community Involvement, which should explain how they will engage local communities and other interested parties in producing their Local Plan and determining planning applications."
- 1.5. The Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) was adopted in February 2014. The SCI contains a statement of intent to engage with our communities – part of a wider commitment made by the councils to create and maintain effective working relationships with all sectors of the community. The document sets out the key stages in preparing a local plan document, and the protocols that all local authorities must follow. The SCI states the councils' intention to go well beyond the minimum requirements for consultation. The 'Issues and Options' stage concludes, "we must take into account any representations made to us at this 'Issues and Options' stage."

- 1.6 Responses to all three documents have been received from statutory consultees, such as the Environment Agency, Historic England, Natural England etc., town and parish councils, interest groups, and individual residents and landowners.
- 1.7 There were a total of 364 representations (of support, objection, or comments) from 98 respondents to the Core Strategy Single Issue Review of CS7; 893 representations on the Site Allocations Local Plan Further Issues and Options document from 133 respondents; 11 people responded to the Draft Infrastructure Delivery Plan submitting 46 representations.
- 1.8 Working Papers 1, 2 and 3 of Report No LOP/FH/16/004 set out summaries of all the responses received to the SIR, SALP and IDP documents that were the subject of an eight week consultation period between August and October 2015, together with Officer responses and comments and/or actions on each.
- 1.9 Consultation responses to the Sustainability Appraisal and the Habitats Regulations Assessment will be considered by the Council's Consultants preparing these documents and will be addressed as part of the next iteration of each of these documents.
- 1.10 Following approval by Cabinet on 1 March 2016, of the final CS SIR and SALP consultation documents, the design and printing of the documents will take a further few weeks and, therefore, the consultation is planned to be held from 4 April 2016 until 8 June 2016.
- 1.11 Comments received during this next consultation will be considered and brought back to the Local Plan Working Group before being fed into the final consultations for both the Site Allocations and Core Strategy Single Issue Review in late summer/autumn 2016. Submission of the documents for independent examination will follow in December 2016.

Comments from the Local Plan Working Group

- 1.12 The Working Group considered the responses, comments and actions as set out in Working Papers 1, 2 3 of the report and recommended that these be endorsed.
- 2. Core Strategy Single Issue Review (SIR) Preferred Option – (Regulation 18) Consultation Document (Report No: LOP/FH/16/005)**
- 2.1 The Core Strategy Single Issue Review (CS SIR) revisits the quashed parts of the 2010 Core Strategy as well as reassessing overall housing need/numbers to ensure compliance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).
- 2.2 An 'Issues and Options' (Regulation 18) consultation was completed on the Core Strategy SIR in July to September 2012, with a second Issues and Options (Regulation 18) consultation taking place between August and October 2015.
- 2.3 A third Issues and Options consultation is scheduled to take place between 4 April 2016 and 8 June 2016, and it is the preferred option consultation draft of the Core Strategy SIR, attached as Working Paper 1 to Report No

LOP/FH/16/005.

- 2.4 [Report No LOP/FH/16/002](#) and [Working Paper 1](#) were presented to the Local Plan Working Group on 19 January 2016, setting out the Sustainability Appraisal work undertaken during the development of the refined housing distribution options.
- 2.5 Three potential options were proposed in this report, but it was the view of Officers and the consultants appointed to undertake the Sustainability Appraisal work, that in order to progress the CS SIR and to ensure a more engaging consultation, a smaller number of options for consultation should be included in the next CS SIR document (one to be indicated as the Council's preferred option and one as an alternative option).
- 2.6 The report stated it was likely that Option 1 (Higher growth at Mildenhall and Red Lodge and Primary Villages, enabling lower growth at Newmarket) would be presented as the Council's final preferred Option, a decision which is reinforced by this Option ranking mostly highly in terms of performance against the SA objectives. Option 2 (Higher growth at Newmarket, enabling lower growth at Mildenhall, Red Lodge and Primary Villages) would be presented as an alternative option, but will not be preferred.
- 2.7 Working Paper 1 to Report No LOP/FH/16/005 is the third 'Issues and Options' (Regulation 18) CS SIR consultation document. This document considers one option for the overall level of housing to be provided in the District from 2011 to 2031 and two reasonable options (one of which is the Council's preferred Option) for its distribution between towns and villages (as outlined in paragraph 2.6 above).
- 2.8 The purpose of the consultation document is to stimulate further debate on housing quantum and the most appropriate way to distribute the housing need throughout the district. The document asks questions and invites comments from both the public and statutory stakeholders. The Council is still evidence gathering at this stage and is not making a final decision on the distribution of housing, but is giving an indication of its preferred strategy.
- 2.9 A Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is a tool for appraising policies to ensure they reflect sustainable development objectives. Sustainability Appraisals are required for all local development documents. Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is a procedure (set out in the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004) which requires the formal environmental assessment of certain plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment.
- 2.10 Consultants have been appointed to undertake the full SA and SEA work in relation to the next consultation draft of the SIR document. A full report setting out the findings of the SA and SEA and the proposed CS SIR Regulation 18 consultation will accompany the document for consultation in April 2016.
- 2.11 Following consideration by the Local Plan Working Group, the final CS SIR consultation document will be presented to Cabinet for approval on 1 March 2016. The design and printing of the documents will take a further few weeks, therefore, the consultation is planned to run from 4 April 2016 until 8 June

2016.

- 2.12 Comments received during this next consultation will be considered and brought back to the Local Plan Working Group before being fed into the final consultations for both the Site Allocations and Core Strategy Single Issue Review in late Summer/Autumn 2016. Submission of the documents for independent examination will follow in December 2016.

Comments from the Local Plan Working Group

- 2.13 The Working Group considered the CS SIR consultation document in detail and proposed that the document be approved for consultation, subject to additional text being included within the document to provide further clarity and context for Newmarket in relation to Option 1 (the Council's preferred option) and Option 2 (the Council's non-preferred option).