

Cabinet



Forest Heath
District Council

Title of Report:	Recommendations of the Local Plan Working Group: 22 April 2015	
Report No:	CAB/FH/15/022	
Report to and date:	Cabinet	2 June 2015
(Outgoing) Portfolio Holder and (Outgoing) Chairman of the Working Group:	Rona Burt Portfolio Holder for Planning, Housing and Transport Tel: 01638 712309 Email: rona.burt@forest-heath.gov.uk	
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Purpose of report:	On 22 April 2015, the Local Plan Working Group considered the following substantive item of business: (1) Regulation 18 Stage 'Further Issues and Options' Single Issue Review (SIR) and Site Specific Allocations (SIR) Local Plan Documents - Progress	
Recommendation:	It is <u>RECOMMENDED</u> that: (1) Progress made to the Core Strategy Single Issue Review (SIR) and Site Specific Allocations (SSA) Further Issues and Options Local Plan Documents be endorsed; and (2) The Core Strategy Single Issue Review (SIR) and Site Specific Allocations (SSA) Further Issues and Options Local Plan Documents be prepared alongside the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and be approved for public consultation.	
Key Decision: <i>(Check the appropriate box and delete all those that do not apply.)</i>	<i>Is this a Key Decision and, if so, under which definition?</i> Yes, it is a Key Decision - <input type="checkbox"/> No, it is not a Key Decision - <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

<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.</i>			
Consultation:		• See Report No: LOP/FH/15/004	
Alternative option(s):		• See Report No: LOP/FH/15/004	
Implications:			
<i>Are there any financial implications? If yes, please give details</i>		See Report No: LOP/FH/15/004	
<i>Are there any staffing implications? If yes, please give details</i>		See Report No: LOP/FH/15/004	
<i>Are there any ICT implications? If yes, please give details</i>		See Report No: LOP/FH/15/004	
<i>Are there any legal and/or policy implications? If yes, please give details</i>		See Report No: LOP/FH/15/004	
<i>Are there any equality implications? If yes, please give details</i>		See Report No: LOP/FH/15/004	
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 Report No: LOP/FH/15/004			
Ward(s) affected:		All Wards	
Background papers: <i>(all background papers are to be published on the website and a link included)</i>		Local Plan Working Group: 22 April 2015 (Agenda Papers)	
Documents attached:		None	

1. Regulation 18 Stage 'Further Issues and Options' Single Issue Review (SIR) and Site Specific Allocations (SSA) Local Plan Documents - Progress

- 1.1 It had been previously agreed to proceed with a 'combined' Single Issue Review (SIR) and Site Specific Allocation (SSA) Local Plan document. However, at this stage, the documents need to be advanced separately to allow the emerging SIR to influence the content of the draft SSA (Local Plan Working Group: 16 October 2014 and Cabinet: 9 December 2014).
- 1.2 Working Paper 1 attached to Report No: LOP/FH/15/004 is a technical report considering housing distribution options that represents the first stage of preparing the Forest Heath Core Strategy Policy CS7 Single Issue Review (Further) Issues and Options (2nd Regulation 18 stage) Consultation Document. This document looks at the level of housing to be provided within the district to 2031 and possible options for its distribution between towns and villages.
- 1.3 The Working Group considered the content of Working Paper 1 and Members expressed their general support for the options contained within. Whilst considering Distribution Option 6 (*Sustainable distribution in accordance with spatial strategy*), Members requested as to whether specific reference should also be made to the constraints of the horseracing industry. Officers initially stated that, in their view, the horseracing industry would not be considered as a disadvantage to this option, but agreed to consider this further.

Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

- 1.4 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.
- 1.5 Consultants have been appointed to undertake the SA and SEA work in relation to the emerging SIR and SSA consultation documents. This work has not been completed and the Working Group noted that Working Paper 1 may be subject to amendment on receipt of the appraisals. The SA and SEA process cannot be prejudged especially in relation to the assessment of options and reasonable alternatives in the SIR. A full report setting out the findings of the SA and SEA and the proposed SIR and SSA Regulation 18 consultation documents will be presented to the Cabinet in June/July 2015.

The Next Steps

- 1.6 Following approval of the consultation documents by the Cabinet, it is envisaged that consultation on the SIR and SSA documents will take place for a minimum of six weeks commencing in June/July 2015 for consideration and amendments made where appropriate. The Site Specific Allocations Local Plan Document will undergo a further Regulation 18 consultation in November/December 2015 putting forward the Councils preferred sites and

other land use allocations.

1.7 The Local Development Scheme anticipates the following timeline:

- Pre Submission (Regulation 19) consultation for both documents taking place in April/May 2016
- Submission to the Secretary of state in July 2016
- Examination in Public in November 2016, and
- Adoption in 2017.