



Overview Select Committee

Date of meeting: 3rd November 2022

Leicester Local Plan (2020 – 2036) - Public Consultation on Submission Plan (Regulation 19)

Report of the Director of Planning, Development and
Transportation

Useful information

- Ward(s) affected: all
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- Report version number: 1

1. Summary

Following recent consideration of the draft local by the Scrutiny Commissions, it was agreed that further consultation would be carried out with all members to review the draft plan and all supporting evidence documents, prior to consideration at Full Council on the 24th November. Approval will be sought for commencement of proposed public consultation early next year and thereafter submission of the plan for Examination in Public in 2023.

This report provides feedback on the comments made during the initial scrutiny considerations during September and the extended consultation period with all members during October and outlines the proposed changes to the plan.

2. Recommendations

Overview Select Committee to note the officer comments and any proposed changes, and to make any further comments on the draft plan as required.

3. Draft Local Plan

3.1 Background

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) requires all local planning authorities to produce a local plan. In view of this officers have been working on a new plan which will replace the current core strategy (2014) and saved policies from the previous local plan of 2006. The key consultation stages are shown in section 3 below.

The draft plan will cover the period 2020 – 2036 and seeks to:

- Meet the needs for homes, jobs, shopping, and leisure
- Allocate sites for development including strategic development sites
- Protect important sites such as those with heritage value
- Set clear policies that guide decisions on planning applications
- The plan is required to be viable and deliverable

This will be the final public consultation stage, after which the statutory process requires the plan, together with any consultation responses, to be submitted to the

independent Planning Inspectorate for an Examination in Public (EIP).

3.2 Key Strategies and Policies in the draft Local Plan

- Housing need for the city over the plan period is 39,424 dwellings (2,464 dwellings per annum).
- However, there will be an insufficient supply of land available in the city, which means there will be a shortfall of approximately 18,700 dwellings and around 30 ha of employment land.
- A Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) on the redistribution of 18,700 unmet housing need and 23ha of employment within Leicester and Leicestershire was approved by the Council in April and would support our Local Plan progressing to an examination subject to approval by the individual district councils.
- Key planning policies that planning applications will be judged against include, for example, climate change, health and wellbeing, affordable and supported housing, internal space standards, delivering quality places and bio-diversity net gain.

3.3 Previous 'Regulation 18' Local Plan Consultation

- Previous consultation on the Draft Leicester Local Plan (Reg 18) was delayed due to the COVID-19 Pandemic until September - December 2020
- All policies and proposed site allocations have been reviewed in the context of the consultation responses made at the 'Regulation 18' Consultation stage. Revisions to the list of proposed development sites have been made following consultation and as a result of the withdrawal of some proposed allocations by site promoters.
- Comments from all scrutiny commissions on the previous 'Regulation 18' plan have been considered and officer responses provided as set out in Appendix 1 to this report, including changes made to the plan where appropriate.

3.4 Scrutiny of Draft 'Regulation 19' Local Plan

- Further scrutiny of the Draft 'Regulation 19' Local Plan has been carried out by the scrutiny commissions and OSC during September 2022. Subsequently a further opportunity was made available for all council members to inspect the plan and supporting evidence, including at three drop-in sessions, during October 2022.
- Comments received from these and officer responses, together with any actions to alter the plan, are shown in Appendix 1.

3.5 Local Plan Timetable

The following provides a summary of key dates and an estimated forward timetable to plan adoption.

- Overview and Scrutiny Commission – 3rd November
- Full Council – 24th November
- 6 Week Regulation 19 Consultation – January/February 2023
- Submit Plan to Government – June 2023
- Examination in Public – Autumn 2023
- Local Plan formally adopted – Early 2024

4. Public Consultation

The emerging local plan has been subject to extensive consultation as follows:

- Public Consultation on Key Issues and Options
- Public Consultation on Emerging Options and Development Management Policies
- Public Consultation on Draft Local Plan (Regulation 18)

The final plan (Regulation 19) and supporting evidence is proposed to be presented for consideration at Full Council on the 24th November.

Subject to Council approval, officers plan to commence consultation in January 2023 in line with the approved Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) document. This sets out how we will involve the public, developers, businesses and other agencies in the preparation of the council's planning policy documents.

5. Financial, legal and other implications

5.1 Financial implications

Whilst a great deal of officer time and effort goes into the development of the Local

Plan, these costs are largely funded through existing staff budgets and reserves set aside for this purpose.

Stuart McAvoy, Acting Head of Finance

5.2 Legal implications

The draft local plan will be subject to a further period of public consultation and a public hearing before an independently appointed Inspector, prior to adoption by the Council.

Legal, Stuart Evans

5.3 Climate Change and Carbon Reduction implications

Buildings and land are responsible for the majority of Leicester's Scope 1 & 2 carbon emissions, with new development leading to both operational and embodied emissions. Considering the council's declaration of a climate emergency and ambition to reach carbon neutrality, it is therefore vital that these emissions are considered and addressed, including through the new Local Plan.

The council's current Climate Emergency Action Plan includes an action to ensure that the new Local Plan addresses the climate emergency. As set out within this report, the new Local Plan will include a policy on climate change, which will implement this action. The Climate Emergency Action Plan also contains an action on carrying out a study on sustainable construction to inform the Local Plan, which has been carried out. In addition, the council's Sustainability Service has been consulted on development of the new policy as part of the development of the Plan.

Aidan Davis, Sustainability Officer, Ext 37 2284

5.4 Equalities Implications

Under the Equality Act 2010, public authorities have a Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) which means that they have a statutory duty to pay due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by the Act, to advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who don't and to foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who don't.

This on-going duty. Where a disproportionate negative impact on a particular protected

characteristic/s is identified, steps should be taken to mitigate (reduce or remove) that impact.

Protected Characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 are age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

One of the three overarching objectives in achieving sustainable development is a social objective – to support strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by ensuring that a sufficient number and range of homes can be provided to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by fostering well-designed and safe places, with accessible services and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities' health, social and cultural well-being.

The purpose of the Statement of Community Involvement is to ensure that all members of the public, stakeholders and industry professionals can become involved in the plan making process, and comment on planning applications. It aims to ensure that the views of a wide range of stakeholders from across a range of protected characteristics, backgrounds and communities are considered, supporting the aims of the Public Sector Equality Duty. Meaningful consultation on the local plan is an important method of collating evidence around any potential equalities implications and should aid the authority in paying due regard to the aims of the PSED.

An equality impact assessment has been produced for the plan; the assessment is an iterative document and should be revisited and updated throughout the process and should take into account the consultation findings. It is important that the consultation is accessible.

Equalities Officer, Surinder Singh, Ext 37 4148

5.5 Other Implications (You will need to have considered other implications in preparing this report. Please indicate which ones apply?)

Not applicable

6. Background information and other papers:

- Papers and Presentation given to OSC on the 27th September 2022.

Appendix

1. Summary of scrutiny/member's comments on Regulation 18 and 19 Local Plans with officer responses and amendments proposed to The Plan.