



Leicester
City Council

WARDS AFFECTED
All Wards

FORWARD TIMETABLE OF CONSULTATION AND MEETINGS:

Cabinet
Strategic Planning & Regeneration Scrutiny Committee

9th April 2001
9th May 2001

REPLACEMENT CITY OF LEICESTER LOCAL PLAN

Report of the Director of Environment and Development

1. Purpose of the Report

To inform Cabinet and the Strategic Planning and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee of progress on the Replacement City of Leicester Local Plan and to approve the timetable leading to the formal deposit of the Local Plan. To seek the Strategic Planning and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee's views on the content of the Replacement Local Plan.

2. Summary

- 2.1** The City Council is required by statute to have a Local Plan covering all its area. The preparation of local plans gives local communities the opportunity to participate in the process of where development should be accommodated in their area. Government guidance makes the preparation of district wide local plans mandatory for all areas. The Government is therefore committed to a 'plan led' system. This reduces and avoids the risk of unplanned and uncoordinated developments occurring by default through appeals and the possibility of costs being awarded against the Council. The production of Local Plans is also monitored through Best Value and Audit Commission performance indicators. Local Planning Authorities should state whether a local plan has been adopted within the last five years.
- 2.2** The current Local Plan covers the period 1991-2001 and was adopted in December 1994 after a lengthy local public inquiry. The replacement Local Plan (RLP) will cover the period up to 2011. The RLP contains new priorities which reflect new Government guidance on a range of issues including; urban design, regeneration and mixed use, addressing social exclusion, sustainability, and the integration of land use and transportation policies.
- 2.3** The drafting of the Deposit version of the Plan is nearing completion and will be presented to Cabinet and Scrutiny Committees for discussion over the next few months. The latest version of the Replacement Local Plan is now available on the City Council's Intranet (<http://intranet/environment/LocalPlanReview/rfp0.htm> or go to Environment & Development Department home page and click on 'What's New'.) A detailed glossary

has also been produced which will be appended to the Plan. The Proposals Map is being revised and a copy will be made available for inspection at your meeting.

- 2.4** It is proposed to hold a Members' seminar to explain the changes to the Local Plan in more detail. I also recommend the establishment of a member steering group to oversee and advise on the preparation of the Plan. The composition and precise remit of this group will be agreed between the Town Clerk and the Cabinet Lead on Strategic Planning and Regeneration following discussion with group whips but it is likely to be a small group with cross party representation. It should meet at key stages of Local Plan preparation. Following final approval by Cabinet, the RLP will be placed on formal 'deposit' for public consultation later this year. An indicative timetable is included as Appendix A to the Supporting Information.
- 2.5** I am also giving early consideration to a suitable venue for the local plan inquiry proposed towards the end of 2002. In addition to the usual venues, the search will need to consider commercial venues. During the search for facilities to accommodate the Structure Plan 'examination in public', the County cricket club's facilities at Grace Road were considered suitable but were not available. I propose that this venue be nominated as the preferred choice for the local plan inquiry.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1** Cabinet is recommended to endorse the timetable and general format of the Replacement Local Plan and to request the Strategic Planning and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee to consider the content of the Plan.
- 3.2** The Strategic Planning and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee is recommended to consider the Draft Replacement Local Plan and to make any observations to Cabinet.
- 3.3** That the Town Clerk in consultation with the Cabinet Lead for Strategic Planning and Regeneration establish a Member Steering Group to oversee the preparation of the Replacement Local Plan.

4. Financial Implications

Costs of producing the Plan will be met within existing budgets. However there are concerns about the cost of the Local Plan Inquiry anticipated towards the end of 2002. The Development Plans Inquiries budget has been increased by an additional £ 20,000 in this year's Budget Strategy. However costs for the Structure Plan 'examination in public', (EIP) commencing in June are likely to increase due to increased charges for conducting the E.I.P. The costs for the Local Plan Inquiry are dependent on the length of the inquiry, and will have implications for budgetary provision at that stage. This will be addressed in next year's Budget Strategy.

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