



Leicester
City Council

Democratic and Civic
Support
City Hall
115 Charles Street
Leicester
LE1 1FZ

11 February 2020

Sir or Madam

I hereby summon you to a SPECIAL meeting of the LEICESTER CITY COUNCIL to be held at the Town Hall, on WEDNESDAY, 19 FEBRUARY 2020 at SIX pm OR ON THE RISING OF THE BUDGET COUNCIL MEETING, whichever is the later, for the business hereunder mentioned.

Monitoring Officer

AGENDA

- 1 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
- 2 **DRAFT LOCAL PLAN**

Fire & Emergency Evacuation Procedure

- The Council Chamber Fire Exits are the two entrances either side of the top bench or under the balcony in the far left corner of the room.

- In the event of an emergency alarm sounding make your way to Town Hall Square and assemble on the far side of the fountain.
- Anyone who is unable to evacuate using stairs should speak to any of the Town Hall staff at the beginning of the meeting who will offer advice on evacuation arrangements.
- From the public gallery, exit via the way you came in, or via the Chamber as directed by Town Hall staff.

Meeting Arrangements

- Please ensure that all mobile phones are either switched off or put on silent mode for the duration of the Council Meeting.
- Please do not take food into the Council Chamber.
- Please note that Council meetings are web cast live and also recorded for later viewing via the Council's web site. Tweeting in formal Council meetings is fine as long as it does not disrupt the meeting. Will all Members please ensure they use their microphones to assist in the clarity of the web-cast.
- The Council is committed to transparency and supports efforts to record and share reports of proceedings of public meetings through a variety of means, including social media. In accordance with government regulations and the Council's policy, persons and press attending any meeting of the Council open to the public (except Licensing Sub Committees and where the public have been formally excluded) are allowed to record and/or report all or part of that meeting. Details of the Council's policy are available at www.leicester.gov.uk or from Democratic Support. If Members of the public intend to film or make an audio recording of a meeting they are asked to notify the relevant Democratic Support Officer in advance of the meeting to ensure that participants can be notified in advance and consideration given to practicalities such as allocating appropriate space in the public gallery etc.

The aim of the Regulations and of the Council's policy is to encourage public interest and engagement so in recording or reporting on proceedings members of the public are asked:

- ✓ to respect the right of others to view and hear debates without interruption;
- ✓ to ensure that the sound on any device is fully muted and intrusive lighting avoided;
- ✓ where filming, to only focus on those people actively participating in the meeting;
- ✓ where filming, to (via the Chair of the meeting) ensure that those present are aware that they may be filmed and respect any requests to not be filmed.

Item 2



WARDS AFFECTED: ALL

Full Council

19th February 2020

Draft Leicester Local Plan (2019 – 2036) - Public Consultation

Report of the Director of Planning, Development and Transportation

1. Summary

This report outlines the proposed timetable for the local plan including provisions for consultation and scrutiny.

2. Recommendations

That council is recommended to approve public consultation for this stage of the replacement Leicester Local Plan as set out in the report.

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 draft plan will cover the period 2019 – 2036 and seeks to:

- Meet the needs for homes, jobs, shopping, and leisure;
- Allocate sites for development including strategic development sites; and
- Set clear planning policies that guide decisions on planning applications

The replacement local plan process involves a number of stages before the plan is ultimately adopted by the council. Following on from previous consultations, the council is now in a position to publish a draft plan for public consultation. The plan will be supported by various evidence documents and assessments, including an Equality Impact Assessment.

The draft plan and supporting documents can be viewed here:-
<https://consultations.leicester.gov.uk/sec/local-plan-2019-2036>

The plan also needs to be viable and deliverable and should not be a burden on development.

3.2 Key Strategies and Policies in the draft Local Plan

- Housing need for the city over the plan period is 29,104. Supply of land is proposed as follows:

Strategic Sites

- Former Western Park Golf Course (LCC) – Including employment and open space
 - East of Ashton Green (LCC) – Including employment and open space
 - Land North of A46 bypass LCC/Private) – Including open space
 - Land at Billesdon Close and the Paddock (Private)
 - Leicester General Hospital (Private)
- 85 other sites will be allocated for housing and a large number of dwellings will also be provided on city centre and brownfield sites within the Central Development Area (CDA).
 - The Central Development Area (CDA) will provide around 4900 dwellings to

contribute towards housing supply but also focus on retailing, culture, leisure and entertainment.

- However, there will still be an insufficient supply of land, which means there will be a shortfall of 7,813 dwellings which will be distributed through agreement with district councils
- Officers have carried out a detailed analysis of areas (e.g. building heights, local character, heritage assets) within the CDA which has identified 9 key character areas and 4 'other' areas, each with their own objectives.
- Employment – To meet 45ha employment need, new sites are allocated at the former Western Park Golf course, East of Ashton Green, and Beaumont Park. The city centre will still be a focus for offices.
- Open Space – Balance between housing, employment and open space. Some green wedge will be lost and public open space reduced. However, there will be opportunities to secure new open space on strategic sites and enhance the quality of existing public open space.
- Transport – The plan will support the emerging local transport plan, which includes improving key transport hubs, providing a fast and efficient bus network, and promoting walking and cycling.

3.3 Key planning policies that planning applications will be judged against.

- Climate Change – Includes air quality, transport, energy and flooding
- Health and Wellbeing – Good design, open spaces, employment, cycling and walking
- Internal Space Standards – City wide
- Affordable Housing 30% on greenfield sites
- Policies in relation to Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO's), student housing and retention of family housing
- Delivering Quality Places – includes tall buildings, landscaping, shopfronts, and protecting residential amenity
- Policies to preserve heritage assets and to support tourism in the city
- Maintaining and enhancing the quality of open space

- Protecting designated bio-diversity sites and support for net gain (awaiting government guidance)
- Policies to protect existing sports pitches and support for new ones
- Support the city's retail hierarchy and leisure and cultural facilities

3.4 Local Plan Timetable

The Government is expected to introduce policy and legislation changes in relation to issues such as bio-diversity, design and climate change. Subject to emerging Government policy and any associated changes in plan making requirements, the current timetable for the local plan is as follows:

- Issues and Options - Public Consultation (Complete)
- Emerging Options, Sites and Development Management Policies – Public Consultation (Complete)
- Full Council 19th February 2020
- Public Consultation to commence March 2020
- Submission Local Plan Consultation – Autumn 2020
- Public Examination Winter 2020
- Adoption 2021

4. Details of Proposed Scrutiny

Scrutiny of the Local Plan will be carried out at draft stage, submission and modifications stages (After the Local Plan examination).

During the public consultation a full round of reports to each Scrutiny Commissions will be carried out, to allow them to review in detail, the plan and policy elements which come under their remit. Decisions will be captured as part of the formal consultation process.

The plans, at appropriate stages, will also be referred for consideration at Full Council.

5. Financial, legal and other implications

5.1 Financial implications

There are no direct financial implications from this report as support for the development of the Local Plan is being resourced through existing staffing and operational budgets.

Paresh Radia – Finance.

5.2 Legal implications

The draft local plan for the city of Leicester has been drafted pursuant to powers under the following legislation, the Planning and Compulsory purchase Act 2004 and the Localism Act 2011. As part of the plan process, consultation now needs to take place in relation to provisions in the draft plan this process is authorised following the requirements set out in regulation 18 of the Town and Country (Local Planning) Regulations 2012.

Stuart Evans – Solicitor.

5.3 Climate Change and Carbon Reduction implications

Land use and development have been identified as key factors which will affect Leicester's ability to respond to the climate emergency declared on 1st February 2019. The Local Plan therefore represents an important opportunity to ensure that, as far as possible within the legal framework set by central government, including for the viability of development, changes to the city's land use and built environment support the necessary rapid progress towards carbon neutrality and climate-adaptation.

Council should note that the proposals for responding to the climate emergency include "Land use, green space and development" as one of six key themes. Public consultation on these is currently underway until 9th February 2020. They were considered by the Economic Development, Transport and Tourism Scrutiny Commission on 4th December and the Housing Scrutiny Commission on Monday 13th January. It is also proposed to bring them to the Overview Scrutiny Committee on Wednesday 12th February.

Duncan Bell - Corporate Environmental Consultant.

5.4 Equalities Implications

An Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out and is available as part of the 'Evidence Base', (see section 6.)

Under the Equality Act 2010, public authorities have a Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) which means that, in carrying out their functions, they have a statutory duty to pay due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation, 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.

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

Meaningful consultation on the local plan will be 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. The local plan is a high-level document, and in order to foster a meaningful approach to assessing the equalities impacts, in this stage, a high-level assessment of potential equalities implications has been undertaken to indicate both the key issues and where more intensive focus is required in the following stage of local plan development.

Therefore, prior to a final decision on the local plan in 2021, at the next 'submission' stage of consultation (Regulation 19), a more detailed impact assessment on policies will be undertaken drawing upon equality information and the results of consultation and engagement activity. Building an evidence base is a vital part of equality impact assessment and should include protected characteristic groups (through established groups, support organisations and individually as part of a representative sample of consultees) and other groups at risk of exclusion. A key part of this will be understanding how current policies and issues affect different groups. This will be an iterative process and should be undertaken in such a way that equalities considerations influence the final decision.

Where disproportionate negative impacts on any protected characteristic/s are identified, decision makers must consider steps to mitigate those impacts. It is important that, throughout the process of decision making, decision makers are aware of and act upon their duty to pay due regard to the PSED.

Surinder Singh - Equalities Officer

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

None applicable

6. Background information and other papers:

A number of documents, which make up "The Evidence Base" behind the Local Plan, are also available on the consultation website link:-

<https://consultations.leicester.gov.uk/sec/local-plan-2019-2036>