



Chapter 1

Introduction

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- 1.1. Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council are preparing new Local Plans for the Cambridge area for the period up to 2031. The existing development plans for the area are the Cambridge Local Plan (adopted 2006) and the South Cambridgeshire Local Development Framework (adopted between 2007 and 2010). Both Plans set out a series of policies and proposals to guide future development up to 2016, and are used to determine planning applications in Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire.
- 1.2. The Councils have been working closely on progressing the review of each Local Plan as well as working with the County Council on the preparation of a Transport Strategy for Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire.
- 1.3. Both Councils carried out consultation on Issues and Options for their Local Plans in Summer 2012. For Cambridge City Council, consultation ran for six weeks between 15 June to 27 July 2012 and for South Cambridgeshire District Council, consultation started on 12 July and ran for 11 weeks to 28 September 2012. Consultation on the first stage of the Transport Strategy for Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire took place in parallel with both District Councils' consultations. Consultation on the Transport Strategy started on 15 June and ran until 28 September 2012.
- 1.4. The Councils took a co-ordinated approach to joint issues in the recent Issues and Options consultations. Each of the Issues and Options consultation documents took a common approach to the Green Belt on the edge of Cambridge, the future planning of Cambridge East and Northern Fringe East and sub-regional sporting, cultural and community facilities. Each document also highlighted the corresponding consultation by the other Council.
- 1.5. The Councils continue to work jointly as plan preparation continues. Part 1 of this second stage of Issues and Options consultation is a joint consultation on options for the development strategy for the wider Cambridge area and for site options for housing or employment development on the edge of Cambridge on land currently in the Green Belt. It also includes options on sub-regional sporting, cultural and community facilities and site options for a community stadium. It builds on the Issues and Options consultations that the Councils have already consulted on in the Summer and provides background information in relation to the housing and employment needs for the area as a whole, as well as outlining what that means for the future development strategy.
- 1.6. In addition to the joint elements of this consultation, each Council is carrying out consultation on other matters for their own areas in their respective Part 2 consultation documents. The City Council is consulting on site options for the urban area of Cambridge, including a range of uses for possible site allocations as

well as picking up more detailed matters such as consultation on space standards and car and cycle parking standards. South Cambridgeshire District Council is consulting on new issues arising from the Summer's consultation that would be reasonable additional options for the new Local Plan, including possible new site options for allocation for development as well as matters such as possible changes to village frameworks and designations to protect village character.

- 1.7. The document sets out how the Councils are responding to the duty to cooperate on plan making, considers the current development strategy and progress being made and considers the national requirement to deliver sustainable development. Within this context, the document then looks at development needs for jobs and homes across the two Councils' areas over the plan period to 2031. It then explores how the Councils can best continue the sustainable development strategy in their new Local Plans. This leads to a consideration of the approach to the Green Belt in the new plans and brings this together to look at the sustainable development strategy to 2031 and seek views on the most appropriate approach. The document then sets out the approach to testing of a range of sites on the edge of Cambridge and set out the site options for consultation that performed best in the technical assessment process. The document moves on to look at evidence of a need for sub-regional sporting, cultural and community facilities and sets out site options for a community stadium for consultation.
- 1.8. Both Councils' Local Plans will be accompanied by Sustainability Appraisals, which test the sustainability credentials of the plans and alternative options considered. A joint initial sustainability appraisal has been prepared to accompany this consultation document, which considers the impact of options on the sustainability objectives identified in the Scoping Reports of both Councils.
- 1.9. The consultation document is also supported by technical reports and studies, which are listed in Appendix 1 and available to view on the Councils' websites:

- <http://www.cambridge.gov.uk/localplanreview>
- <http://www.scambs.gov.uk/ldf/localplan>

Whilst they are not generally published as consultation documents, if you have any concerns about statements contained in the evidence documents, you can raise them as part of your response to the consultation questions.

How to have your say

1.10. Once you have looked through this joint consultation document, please send us your comments. Please be aware that your comments will be published on the Councils' websites together with your name. There are a number of ways in which you can do this:

- Using the **Councils' online consultation system** - This is both Councils' preferred means of receiving representations because it is the fastest and most accurate method and it will help us to manage your representations quickly and efficiently. Separate instructions on how to use the electronic system are provided on the Councils' websites and officers in the planning policy teams are always available to help if you have any queries. Please go to the following link: <http://cambridge.jdi-consult.net/ldf> or <http://scambs.jdi-consult.net/ldf/>
- By email at policysurveys@cambridge.gov.uk or ldf@scambs.gov.uk using the electronic response form on the Councils' websites.
- Using a **response form** - If you do not have access to a computer, a paper form can be completed and sent to the Councils. Copies of the response form are available from the Planning Policy teams.

We're here to help

1.11. Your views are important to us, and we recognise that the planning system is not always easy to understand and find your way around. We want to make sure that as many people as possible have an opportunity to have their say as the new Local Plans are prepared. You can contact us using one of the following methods:

Cambridge City Council:

- You can phone us on 01223 457000 (ask to speak to someone in the Planning Policy team);
- You can email us at policysurveys@cambridge.gov.uk

South Cambridgeshire District Council:

- You can phone us on 03450 450 500 (ask to speak to someone in the Planning Policy team);
- You can email us at ldf@scambs.gov.uk

1.12. There will also be opportunities for you to meet officers face-to-face through exhibitions that have been organised. Details of these events, together with up to date information on the Local Plan review can be found on the Councils' Local Plan websites:

- <http://www.cambridge.gov.uk/localplanreview>
- <http://www.scambs.gov.uk/ldf/localplan>

1.13. For those who use social media, we shall also be providing regular updates on the Councils' Facebook pages, Twitter feeds and the City Council's Local Plan blog.

What happens next?

- 1.14. This Issues and Options 2 consultation is the second phase in developing new Local Plans for Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire. Once consultation has finished, we will consider all of the representations received to both rounds of consultation, using them to refine site options and policies that will be included in the new Local Plans.
- 1.15. We will then draft the new Local Plans, which will be subject to a further round of public consultation prior to being submitted to the Secretary of State for examination. At that stage, independent Government inspectors will consider the 'soundness' of the Local Plans at public examinations. In other words, the inspectors will consider whether the plans have been positively prepared, and that policies are justified, effective and are in conformity with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). Following this, the inspectors will produce reports of their findings, and then the Councils can formally adopt the Local Plans.