

**Committee:** Local Plan Working Group

**Agenda Item**

**Date:** 9<sup>th</sup> August 2013

**5**

**Title:** Duty to Co-operate - South Cambridgeshire

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Key Decision: No

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### Summary

1. South Cambridgeshire District Council has published its proposed submission Local Plan for consultation. Closing date for comments is 30<sup>th</sup> September 2013. The Local Plan Working Group previously considered the plan at the meeting on 8 February 2013 when the Issues and Options consultation was published.

### Recommendations

2. For information - Members views are sought.

### Financial Implications

3. None

### Background Papers

4. None

### Impact

- 5.

Communication/Consultation	The plan is subject to consultation in accordance with South Cambridgeshire's own Statement of Community Involvement
Community Safety	N/A
Equalities	The plan will be subject to Equalities Impact Assessment in accordance with South Cambridgeshire's normal practise.
Health and Safety	N/A
Human Rights/Legal Implications	N/A
Sustainability	The Plan will be subject to a Sustainability Appraisal
Ward-specific impacts	N/A

Workforce/Workplace	N/A
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## Situation

6. Following Members consideration of the Issues and Options consultation in February representations were made on behalf of this Council expressing concerns about the effect on the road network of the potential housing sites identified in the consultation document close to the northern boundary of Uttlesford.
7. In the pre-submission consultation South Cambridgeshire plan to meet their own objectively assessed need within the District. The plan period runs from 2011 to 2031 and they are providing for 22,000 additional jobs and 19,000 new homes including affordable housing and 85 Gypsy and Traveller Pitches. Their new homes requirement will be 950 per year and the plan makes provision for 5,000 homes on new sites.
8. The housing strategy is based on a combination of sites being carried forward from the previous plan and some new sites. Sites are distributed as follows:
  - 3 new settlements, Waterbeach, Bourn Airfield and an extension to Northstowe
  - On the edge of Cambridge city and sustainable villages like Cambourne
  - In a hierarchy of rural settlements
    - Rural Centres, where sites have been identified
    - Minor Rural Centres, where up to 30 new homes will be permitted
    - Group Villages, where up to 8 homes will be permitted
    - Infill Villages, where up to 2 dwellings will be allowed in infill plots as defined in the plan.
9. Sawston is classified as a Rural Centre and three sites have been identified here for a total of 540 homes. Dales Manor Business Park (200 homes) North of Babraham Road (80 homes) and South of Babraham Road (260 homes).
10. The plan makes provision for at least 85 permanent Gypsy and Traveller Pitches between 2011 and 2031 and at least 4 plots for travelling show people between 2011 and 2016. The target identified in the policy reflects the findings of a needs assessment as modified following an internal review. Needs will be met by planning permissions and existing sites. The plan does not propose any new allocations.
11. A Transport Strategy for Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire is being produced alongside the Local Plan. It is still at a draft stage but initial modelling results are demonstrating that while there is expected to be a significant growth in travel demand in the area, principally related to jobs

growth, the Draft Transport Strategy will have a positive impact on travel behaviour in Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire. The model is showing that growth in non-car modes with the strategy could be 40-45% higher than the growth realised without the interventions. Further detailed analysis is needed in the final model run to help clarify which measures are more or less effective depending on the focus of development. .

12. A number of measures are being proposed in the Draft Strategy. In South Cambridgeshire it is proposed to enhance existing High Quality Passenger Transport Corridors and deliver new ones where necessary. In the short term the focus will be on addressing pinch points in the network that particularly disadvantage passenger transport journeys. In the medium to longer term investment will be sought to further upgrade the quality of whole routes for passenger transport. A comprehensive cycle/pedestrian network linking Cambridge with all neighbouring towns and villages will be needed. In the shorter term, priority will be given to providing cycle/pedestrian links to important local destinations in the rural area, including schools, village centres, employment sites and health centres. The Draft Transport Strategy also suggests the need for improvements to rail services and improvements to bus interchanges in the Saffron Walden to Cambridge Corridor.
13. Councils have a duty to co-operate in their plan preparation. South Cambridgeshire can make provision for their own objectively assessed need within their District and have not given any indication through officer discussions that there are any significant cross border issues which require formal joint working arrangements under the duty.
14. If Members do wish to make further representations at this stage, they will be forwarded for consideration by the Inspector at the examination into the Plan. Members should also be aware that as this is the pre-submission consultation representations can only be made on the basis that all legal requirements have not been met or that the plan is not “sound” i.e. it is not positively prepared, justified, effective and consistent with National Policy.

## Risk Analysis

15.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
That this Council's views are not taken into account in relation to some issue which has cross border implications	Low – providing comments are made in relation to material planning issues	Failure in Duty to Co-operate	Respond to consultations in a timely manner and in the format etc requested.