

Committee: Planning Policy Working Group

Agenda Item

Date: 27 January 2016

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Title: Duty to Co-Operate – South
Cambridgeshire and Cambridge City
Council Local Plans – Proposed
Modifications

Author: Richard Fox, Planning Policy Team Leader Item for information

Summary

1. South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge City Councils have published proposed modifications to their Local Plans for consultation. The (former) Local Plan Working Group previously considered the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan on 8 February and 9 August 2013 at Issues and Options and Submission stages.

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 the Councils' Statements of Community Involvement
Community Safety	N/A
Equalities	The plan will be subject to Equalities Impact Assessment in accordance with the Councils' normal practice.
Health and Safety	N/A

Human Rights/Legal Implications	N/A
Sustainability	The Modifications will be subject to a Sustainability Appraisal
Ward-specific impacts	N/A
Workforce/Workplace	N/A

Situation

6. The Councils submitted the Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire Local Plans for examination on 28 March 2014. Joint examination hearings on strategic issues were held between November 2014 and April 2015, including housing and employment needs, development strategy, Green Belt, transport, infrastructure and housing supply. The Inspectors wrote to the Councils on 20 May 2015 in relation to three main issues and invited the Councils to undertake additional work to address those issues before the examinations progress further. The issues are in relation to:
 - Objectively Assessed Need for new housing
 - Overall Development Strategy
 - Conformity with revisions to National Planning Policy since the Local Plans were submitted for examination

7. The Councils agreed to undertake additional work and the examinations were formally suspended on 28 July 2015 until March 2016. Modifications to the Plans have now been published and are being consulted upon. The modifications can be viewed at <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/localplanmods-dec2015>. Comments must relate solely to the modifications proposed and are not an opportunity to re-iterate previous representations.

8. While there are no changes to the Objectively Assessed Need for Housing in Cambridge a main modification is proposed to increase the housing requirement for South Cambridgeshire from 19,000 to 19,500 homes, in response to the findings of the Councils' further evidence work on Objectively Assessed Need for new homes. However there is no proposal that Uttlesford meet any of this additional requirement.

9. Main modifications are proposed to provide flexibility in the start date of delivery at new settlements in South Cambridgeshire so that development can come forward on strategic allocations more swiftly, specifically at Waterbeach and Bourn Airfield. Other modifications relate to site specific policies around the City of Cambridge and changes to reflect current Government Guidance.

10. The deadline for responses to the Consultation is 25 January and South Cambridgeshire have been informed that Uttlesford DC are unlikely to make representations.

Risk Analysis

11.

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.

1 = Little or no risk or impact

2 = Some risk or impact – action may be necessary.

3 = Significant risk or impact – action required

4 = Near certainty of risk occurring, catastrophic effect or failure of project.