

Scrutiny Committee

Appendix B - Draft Action Plan

PAS proposed action/UDC response

Introduction

It is clear from the PAS report that the decision to pause the Local Plan was the correct one.

It is also important to note that the report acknowledges that any perceived gaps in the evidence base are being addressed and so this will generate more confidence in the Council moving forward with a sound evidence base led Plan.

As a result an action plan has been produced to capture this on-going work.

Number	Report finding/action	Proposed response by UDC
1	An additional Preferred Options (Draft Plan) stage and supporting evidence for consultation would reduce risk/inform plan.	The Council will give consideration to a Preferred Options (Regulation 18) document as part of programme for consultation. Updated Local Plan project plan for the above to Feb PPWG. A formal revised LDS for March PPWG/Cabinet.
2	The Sustainability Appraisal (SA) needs to include preferred scenarios or weighting process.	A further scoping exercise to be completed mid January on reasonable scenarios. Member workshop to consider outcome of draft scoping work on SA 1 February. Apply a weighting system to SA (assuming preferred options) to PPWG Summer 2017.
3	Uncertainty exists regards the scale of housing and consequently its location, timing, viability, transport, and infrastructure impacts. Staying with 12500 homes is a serious risk to soundness. It is suggested that UDC use 14100 homes from latest government projections as a starting point. Method of apportionment in the SHMA that results in UDC provision needs to be clearly explained.	Accept that limiting provision to 12,500 homes is a serious risk to soundness therefore we need to consider proceeding on the basis of testing 14,100 homes. Updated topic papers to be put to PPWG/Cabinet on location, timing, viability, transport, and infrastructure impacts by first quarter 2017. HMA consultants to produce a clear explanation of apportionment.

Number	Report finding/action	Proposed response by UDC
4	Further government announcement on changes to planning policy in the Housing White Paper expected although outcome unknown. The Council needs to reflect on this when moving forward with the Plan.	To be closely monitored and reviewed as soon as available.
5	2014 IDP out of date/requires more recent information. Transport study including Saffron Walden needs to be completed.	While the published Local Plan Viability Study October 2016 included infrastructure requirements of new settlements, the 2014 IDP needs to be updated with timeframe as above eg to reflect new evidence and planning considerations coming from the White Paper. Transport study reports will need to be published once complete as above. Both studies will be tested at Examination.
6	Updates of the Habitats Regulation Assessment, housing viability and employment studies to be done	The housing viability and employment study updates are underway. The target for completion will be dependent on a revised LDS. The HRA will be completed at draft plan stage.
7	Suggests that a topic approach to duty to co-operate would be more helpful than chronology.	To be collated by Troy Planning by March 2017.
8	Desirable to have specific section on Braintree duty-to-co-operate.	Memorandum of Understanding needs to be in place by Submission stage.
9	Will need further criterion policy on traveller provision for those considered travellers who do not meet the government definition.	This is currently being considered.