

Local Plan and related spatial policy matters update

Report of the Cabinet Member for Economic Growth, Environment & Development Services:
Councillor I. Pritchard



Date: 22 January 2019
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Key Decision? YES
Local Ward ALL
Members

**Economic Growth,
Environment and
Development (Overview
and Scrutiny)
Committee**

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The Local Plan Allocations document has now been examined by the Planning Inspectorate. Following the public hearing sessions held in September 2018 the Council is now in receipt of the 'Main Modifications' which have been sent to the authority by the Planning Inspector who conducted the hearing sessions. Main modifications are provided following the hearing sessions to ensure that a Plan can be found sound. The District Council is currently consulting upon these main modifications until 6th February 2019. The responses received will be submitted to the Local Plan Inspector for his consideration.
- 1.2 Consultation on the Local Plan Review: Preferred Options & Policy Directions document will take place between 28th January 2019 and 18th March 2019. Following the close of the consultation officers will consider the responses received and report these to members in due course.
- 1.3 The Council is currently consulting upon the draft Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) until the 1st February 2019. Following consultation officers will consider the responses received and report to members on the adoption of the SCI.
- 1.4 In respect of Neighbourhood Plan progress this is positive with three plans being 'made' and a referendum held for the Elford Neighbourhood Plan and a referendum scheduled to take place for the Fradley Neighbourhood Plan on 31st January 2019.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Committee notes the progress associated with the Local Plan Allocations and Local Plan Review.
- 2.2 That the Committee note the progress associated with the Statement of Community Involvement.
- 2.3 The Committee notes the recent progress in relation to neighbourhood plans within Lichfield District.

3. Background

Local Plan Allocations

- 3.1 The Local Plan Allocations document has now been examined by the Planning Inspectorate. Members will recall that an update regarding the examination was provided to Economic Growth, Environment and Development (Overview and Scrutiny) Committee on 19th September 2018. Following that update

and the examination hearing sessions which were held in September 2018, the Council is now in receipt of the Inspectors 'Main Modifications'. These Main Modifications can be [viewed here](#). The purpose of Main Modifications is to enable the Plan to be sound. In order for the Plan to progress to adoption the Council need to accept the proposed modifications and update the Plan accordingly. It is then necessary to undertake a period of public consultation for a minimum of six weeks. This consultation includes the schedule of minor modifications previously agreed by the Council in May 2018.

- 3.2 The Main Modifications were reported to members in November 2018 where it was determined by Cabinet that consultation on the modifications would take place between 19th December 2018 and 6th February 2019. This consultation is currently underway and is available to view via our [consultation portal](#). Alongside the modifications the Council has prepared an updated version of the Plan and its accompanying maps, Sustainability Appraisal, Habitat Regulations Assessment and Equality Impact Assessment which accompany the current consultation.
- 3.3 Following the consultation the Council will need to report the responses received back to the Planning Inspector who conducted the Examination. Following the Inspectors consideration the Council will then be issued with a report by the Inspector. This report will make clear the next steps the Authority needs to take. The objective following receipt of the Inspectors report will be to progress the Plan to adoption.

Local Plan Review

- 3.4 Members will recall that an update on the progress of the Local Plan Review was provided to Economic Growth, Environment and Development (Overview and Scrutiny) Committee on 19th September 2018. At that time officers had been able to consider the responses which had been received to the Local Plan Review: Scope, Issues & Options document which had been subject to consultation between April and May 2018.
- 3.5 The next stage of the Plan review has been to prepare a Preferred Options and Policy Directions document for further public consultation. The Preferred Options and Policy Directions document will be reported to Cabinet on 15th January 2019. Subject to Cabinet approval the document will be published for public consultation between 28th January 2019 and 18th March 2019. The Preferred Options and Policy Directions document is important for the following reasons:
- The Council have committed to consult on this stage in its adopted Local Development Scheme (LDS);
 - The recently examined Local Plan Allocations includes a modification proposed by the Inspector that will require the Council to submit the Plan review in a timely manner;
 - Further evidence has been prepared and other evidence updated which has resulted in some policies and policy directions being drafted; and
 - It is important the Council obtain feedback on the proposed policies and policy directions to adequately inform the local plan review process.
- 3.6 Where possible the Preferred Options and Policy Directions document sets out the preferred planning policies which are suggested to be included within the Local Plan Review. These policies are based on the concluded evidence and/or the consultation responses which were received to the Scope, Issues and Options consultation. Where further work is required a preferred policy direction is identified which shows how such issues are being considered and how policies will be developed.

- 3.7 Following the consultation on this stage officers will need to consider the responses received. A report will then be produced for the EGED (O&S) Committee. In addition the evidence base listed in the consultation document will need to be completed. The intention is to bring a draft submission document to Cabinet for consultation in September 2019.

Statement of Community Involvement

- 3.8 Members will recall from a previous report that an update to the Council's Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) is required. A Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) is a statutory requirement and sets out how the Local Planning Authority will consult when undertaking its statutory planning functions such as the preparation of a Local Plan and the determination of planning applications.
- 3.9 Our current SCI was adopted in 2016. Since this time there have been a number of legislative changes which need to be considered and reflected in an amended SCI to keep it up to date and easy to use.
- 3.10 The SCI has been updated and a draft document was presented to Cabinet in November 2018 where it was determined that consultation on the draft document would take place between 2nd January 2019 and 1st February 2019. The consultation is currently underway and is available to view via our [consultation portal](#). This consultation will be followed by analysis of responses, and subject to the necessary changes a final draft will be developed which will be reported to this Committee prior to presentation to Cabinet for formal approval.

Neighbourhood Plans

- 3.11 There has been further progress on a number of Neighbourhood Plans which can be summarised as follows:
- The Alrewas, Armitage with Handsacre and Longdon Neighbourhood Plans were all 'made' and adopted on the 9th October 2018. These three neighbourhood plans now form part of the development plan within the District.
 - Elford Neighbourhood Plan will be made on the 15th January 2019 subject to ratification by Cabinet. Once made this will form part of the Districts development plan. This follows the successful referendum which was held on 29th November 2018.
 - Fradley Neighbourhood Plan was submitted for examination by Fradley Parish Council. The examination has been completed and the Independent Examiner concluded that subject to a number of modifications the Fradley Neighbourhood Plan could proceed to referendum. The referendum is scheduled to take place on 31st January 2019.
 - Burntwood Neighbourhood Plan and Hammerwich Neighbourhood Plan – both of these emerging neighbourhood plans are currently being progressed by the communities responsible for their production. It is anticipated that further drafts of these documents will be produced by the Town Council and Parish Council in the early part of 2019.
- 3.12 The District Council will continue to work with communities providing advice and guidance throughout the Neighbourhood Plan process. This includes providing detailed comments and representations on drafts of the Neighbourhood Plans when requested by the Parish Councils.

Alternative Options	1. None. The contents of the report relates to items to be noted by the committee.
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Consultation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consultation is currently underway in relation to the Local Plan Allocations Main Modifications. 2. Consultation on the Preferred Options and Policy Directions document is scheduled to take place from 28th January 2019. 3. Consultation is currently underway in relation to the revised SCI.
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Financial Implications	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Officer time will be needed to undertake future the consultation on the Local Plan Review. 2. The costs of consultation will be met within approved budgets. 3. There will be a need to commission evidence associated with the Local Plan Review.
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Contribution to the Delivery of the Strategic Plan	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Supports the priority of a vibrant and prosperous economy as it assists in the delivery of the planning function of the Council. 2. Supports the priority of Healthy and Safe communities by ensuring the provision of housing. 3. Supports the priority of clean, green and welcoming places to live by assisting in allocating land for affordable housing, as well as supporting the delivery of residential and commercial developments.
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Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Implications	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An Equality Impact Assessment accompanies the Local Plan Allocations. 2. An Equality Impact Assessment accompanies the Local Plan Review 3. An Equality Impact Assessment accompanies the SCI
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Crime & Safety Issues	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. None.
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GDPR/Privacy Impact Assessment	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No privacy impact assessment has been undertaken.
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	Risk Description	How We Manage It	Severity of Risk (RYG)
A	Clarity over the GBHMA shortfall is not achieved and the Council are unable to effectively progress with the Local Plan Review.	Officers continue dialogue with neighbouring authorities on this matter.	Yellow
B	Evidence required to support the Local Plan Review has a detrimental impact on the proposed timescales and allocated budget.	Consideration of evidence base requirements is an iterative process. Officers will continue engagement with stakeholders involved in shaping evidence base requirements to ensure the initial scope is clear. Project management practices are followed in the preparation and delivery of evidence base. New requirements arising from external factors such as future consultations will be considered by officers.	Yellow

Background documents:

Local Plan Allocations suggested main modifications
Schedule of Main modifications and other modifications
Local Plan Strategy 2015
Local Plan Review: Preferred Options & Policy Directions
Draft Statement of Community Involvement 2018
Local Development Scheme

Relevant web links:

[Local Plan Allocations suggested main modifications](#)
[Local Plan Allocations examination and main modifications](#)
[Local Plan Strategy 2015](#)
[Local Plan Review](#)
[Statement of Community Involvement](#)
[Local Development Scheme](#)