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**TITLE: WORKING DRAFT - EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE LOCAL PLAN**

Committee: Development and Transport Committee

Date: 6<sup>th</sup> November 2012

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[M132]

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1.0 ISSUE

1.1 The East Cambridgeshire Local Plan will set out a vision and strategy for the future growth and development of the district up to 2031. This report presents a working draft of the Local Plan, for Members feedback and input. A final draft version is due to be reported to this Committee in December 2012.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION(S)

2.1 It is recommended that Members:

1. Consider the policies and proposals in the Working Draft Local Plan (attached as Appendix 1 to this report) and provide feedback and comment
2. Note the timetable for the production of the Local Plan, as set out in paragraph 4.2 below.

3.0 BACKGROUND/OPTIONS

3.1 The District Council is required to prepare a statutory Local Plan for East Cambridgeshire, to guide the growth of the district over the next 20 years. Preparation of the Local Plan was first endorsed by this Committee in September 2010.

3.2 The Local Plan will set out a strategic vision and policies, which will help to guide and shape growth in the district, and be used for assessing planning applications. The Plan will also identify new sites for housing, employment, community, infrastructure and other uses. The purpose of the Local Plan is to ensure that growth takes place in a planned and 'sustainable' way, e.g. brings maximum benefits to the local economy and quality of life, protects the environment, and facilitates delivery of essential infrastructure and facilities.

3.3 Work on the Local Plan in 2011/12 has involved extensive engagement with the public, and close partnership working with Parish Councils – to identify local priorities and needs, and how people want their communities and the district to change and grow over the next 20 years. A significant amount of supporting technical and background work has also taken place, on strategic matters such as housing, jobs and retail growth, and on specific sites such as

North Ely, Soham Eastern Gateway, and Ely Station Gateway. A Masterplan for Burwell has also been prepared, to inform the production of a Vision for the village in the Local Plan. Various reports have been prepared for Committee during this period, updating Members on consultation outcomes, and seeking feedback on technical/background work.

#### 4.0 ARGUMENTS/CONCLUSIONS

4.1 A working draft of the Local Plan is attached as Appendix 1 to this report. Members comments and feedback is sought, in order to inform the preparation of a revised final draft version. This process should help to ensure the plan is better prepared, and is likely to be useful given the breadth of issues covered in the document.

4.2 Following this Committee, officers will carry out further preparation work, take account of comments and feedback, and produce a revised draft Local Plan. The revised draft is due to be reported to this Committee at its meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2012. Consultation is currently scheduled to take place in January/February 2013. A summary of the timetable is as follows:

Working Draft Local Plan – considered by Committee	6 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2012
Draft Local Plan – considered by Committee	3 <sup>rd</sup> Dec 2012
Consultation on draft Local Plan	Jan/Feb 2013
Draft Local Plan submitted to Government Examination	June 2013
	Autumn 2013
Adoption of Local Plan by Full Council	Late 2013

4.3 The working draft Local Plan is split into 2 sections, as follows:

- Part 1 consists of a strategic vision and policies which will guide development, and be used to assess planning applications
- Part 2 contains Village/Town Visions, setting out how each settlement in the district will change and improve over the next 20 years, and identifying new development sites.

4.4 The Local Plan is supported by a number of technical/background documents. Some of these have already been produced and reported to Members – including the Council's Retail Assessment (2012), Jobs Growth Strategy (2012), and Water Cycle Study (2011). The key documents are listed in section 6 below. A number of additional technical documents are currently being finalised, and will be published alongside the Draft Local Plan. This includes:

- A 'Sustainability Appraisal' of the Plan's content (looking at the social, environmental and economic impact of policies and proposals) which will be reported to the Committee meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December.
- Transport Impact Assessment
- Housing Requirements Paper (updated)
- Habitats Assessment
- Ely Station Gateway Development Framework

- Infrastructure Investment Plan
- Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment

## 5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 5.1 No further financial implications. A budget is already in place for the production of the Local Plan.
- 5.2 An Equality Impact Assessment (INRA) will need to be submitted as part of the technical supporting evidence when the Local Plan is submitted to Government.

## 6.0 APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Working Draft East Cambridgeshire Local Plan

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<b><u>Background Documents</u></b>	<b><u>Location</u></b>	<b><u>Contact Officer</u></b>
Localism Act (Nov. 2011)	Room 12, The Grange,	Katie Child Principal Forward Planning Officer (01353) 616 245 E-mail: katie.child@eastcambs.gov.uk
Draft Regional Spatial Strategy (2010)	Ely	
National Planning Policy Framework (March 2012)		
Ely Masterplan (2009)		
Soham Masterplan (2010)		
Littleport Masterplan (2011)		
Draft Burwell Masterplan (September 2012)		
North Ely Development Framework (2012)		
Soham Eastern Gateway Masterplan (2011)		
Results of ECDC Village Vision consultation (2011/12)		
Results of Local Plan strategic consultation (March 2012)		

CIL Infrastructure Study  
(Dec 2011)

East Cambridgeshire  
Infrastructure Investment  
Framework (2009)

East Cambridgeshire Core  
Strategy (2009)

East Cambs Jobs Growth  
Strategy (2012)

East Cambs Retail  
Assessment (2012)

East Cambs Water Cycle  
Study and Strategic Flood  
Risk Assessment Part 1  
(2011)

Cambs Gypsy and  
Traveller Accommodation  
Needs Assessment (2012)

East Cambs Design Guide  
Supplementary Planning  
Document (2012)

Cambs Strategic Open  
Space Assessment (2011)

Cambs Strategic Housing  
Market Assessment (2012)