

TITLE: JOINT STRATEGIC PLANNING

Committee: Development & Transport Committee

Date: 20th November 2012

Author: Giles Hughes, Head of Planning & Sustainable Development

[M146]

1.0 ISSUE

1.1 To update members about the arrangements in place to address strategic planning and transport issues in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, and to consider the joint position statement on the development strategy for Cambridgeshire.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION(S)

2.1 To note the terms of reference for the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Joint Strategic Planning and Transport Member Group, which are attached as Appendix 1.

2.2 To note that the Council's representation on the Joint Member Group is provided by Councillors Peter Moakes, Philip Read, and Gareth Wilson.

2.3 To endorse the updated 'Joint Statement on the Development Strategy for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, which is attached as Appendix 2.

3.0 BACKGROUND/OPTIONS

3.1 There is a history of successful joint working between the Cambridgeshire authorities to address strategic planning issues. This approach led to the development of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Structure Plan in 2003, and response to the review of the East of England Plan to 2031, in 2008-09.

3.2 The collaborative approach continued after the Government's announcement in summer 2010 to abolish Regional Spatial Strategies, where the Cambridgeshire local authorities issued a joint interim statement emphasising their commitment to delivering the existing development strategy and continuing to work collaboratively. This joint interim statement was endorsed by East Cambridgeshire's Strategic Development Committee in September 2010.

3.3 Further to this, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough's strong legacy of collaborative strategic planning subsequently led to a decision to set up a joint member group to oversee development of an updated vision for the

sustainable growth of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. This will include the development of a non-statutory spatial framework for the area, and also the development of a long term transport strategy. The joint member group has met twice, in July and in October 2012. The Council is represented on this body by Councillor's Peter Moakes, Philip Read and Gareth Wilson. The terms of reference for the joint member group are attached as appendix 1.

- 3.4 Given the significant changes that have occurred and on-going work on local plans, it has been concluded that an updated position statement is needed. This is particularly appropriate in light of the recent changes with the duty to co-operate and National Planning Policy Framework, and the agreement to co-operate effectively and work together on strategic planning issues.
- 3.5 A copy of a revised joint statement is attached in appendix 2. The updated version is not radically different in principle from the 2010 version, but it does take recent important changes to the planning system into account, and now incorporates Peterborough unitary authority as well as the Cambridgeshire authorities. The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough local authorities are now individually seeking endorsement of the updated joint strategic planning statement to ensure that it has weight in the current development planning process. The Council's emerging local plan is consistent with this interim statement.
- 3.6 Further work by the joint member group will help the authorities develop an updated vision for the sustainable growth of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, which can be included in a non-statutory spatial framework for the area. The group will also oversee development of a long term transport strategy. Further reports on the progress of this work will be presented to the Development and Transport Committee when appropriate. The spatial framework, when developed, will influence future reviews of the Council's local plan.

4.0 ARGUMENTS/CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1 Developing a long-term vision for the sustainable growth and prosperity of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough through a non-statutory spatial framework for the area, and through a long term transport strategy should help to ensure that the strategic issues and implications of growth can be considered across the wider area. This will help to ensure that authorities across the area are planning for sustainable development and economic growth in a collaborative way including planning positively for the range of development needs, including community based, locally generated proposals as well as those of a more strategic significance.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 5.1 There are no additional financial implications arising from this report.

5.2 Equality Impact Assessment (INRA) not required.

6.0 APPENDICES

6.1 Appendix 1 – Terms of Reference Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Joint Strategic Planning and Transport Member Group

6.2 Appendix 2 - Joint Statement on the Development Strategy for Cambridgeshire

Background Documents

none

Location

Room 007
The Grange,
Ely

Contact Officer

Giles Hughes
Head of Planning and Sustainable
Development
(01353) 665555
E-mail:
giles.hughes@eastcambs.gov.uk

Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Joint Strategic Planning & Transport Member Group

Draft Terms of Reference

Purpose

The Group has been established to steer the development of joint strategic planning and transport work across Cambridgeshire & Peterborough, following the abolition of the requirement to produce any form of strategic spatial plan.

Role and Outcomes

The main role of the Group is to ensure that a coherent approach is taken to development strategies across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and that the Duty to Co-operate is actively addressed.

The key outcomes from the Group will be:

- a) To steer the development of a non-statutory spatial framework for Cambridgeshire & Peterborough to at least 2031; and
- b) To steer the development of a long-term transport strategy for Cambridgeshire covering 2012 – 2050.

The Group will not have any formal decision-making powers. It will meet in public unless, exceptionally, it is agreed that matters of commercial or other sensitivity should be discussed in private.

Membership

The Group will consist of three Members from each of Cambridge City Council, Cambridgeshire County Council, East Cambridgeshire District Council, Fenland District Council, Huntingdonshire District Council, Peterborough City Council, and South Cambridgeshire District Council. Individual membership of the Group will be determined by each authority. Each authority should also nominate substitutes should the core participants not be able to attend particular meetings.

Chair

The Chairman will be nominated and elected at the first meeting. This role will be reconsidered annually, dependent on the overall timescales for achievement of the outcomes outlined above.

Frequency of meetings

The Group will meet initially in early July 2012. Following this, meetings will be quarterly unless there are specific or exceptional reasons to meet more often.

Secretariat

The secretariat for the Group will be provided by the Joint Strategic Planning Unit. Meetings will be held at Cambridgeshire County Council's offices unless agreed otherwise.

**JOINT STATEMENT ON THE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR
CAMBRIDGESHIRE BY THE CAMBRIDGESHIRE AUTHORITIES**

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This statement has been prepared by the Cambridgeshire authorities to set out our position regarding the development strategy for the County in light of the Government's recent announcement of the revocation of Regional Spatial Strategies and aspiration for a locally based planning system.
- 1.2 The Cambridgeshire authorities have a long history of joint working on planning issues and will continue to work together to share information and develop good practice. A significant evidence base has been built up that provides the authorities with important information to guide further work. An important outcome of this approach was the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Structure Plan - a sustainable strategy for growth that was tested at Examination and adopted in 2003. This strategy was adopted largely unchanged in the Regional Spatial Strategy (2008) and the authorities' response to the RSS review in 2009. The Structure Plan strategy has also informed the development of the City and District Councils' Local Plan and Local Development Frameworks and is currently being implemented by the authorities through their development decisions.

2 Cambridgeshire strategy

- 2.1 The Cambridgeshire authorities remain committed to the strategy for planning in the County, including the provision of housing, as originally established by the Structure Plan and as now partially set out in saved Structure Plan policies and as reflected by the policies and site proposals in the Cambridge Local Plan and District Councils' Development Plan Documents and developing strategies for market towns.
- 2.2 The key objective of the strategy is to locate homes in and close to Cambridge, following a comprehensive review of the Cambridge Green Belt, and to other main centres of employment, while avoiding dispersed development which increases unsustainable travel and makes access to services and community facilities difficult. Further sustainable locations for growth focus mainly on Cambridgeshire's market towns.
- 2.3 This strategy makes provision for development:
- within Cambridge or as sustainable extensions to the urban area, subject to environmental capacity and compatibility with Green Belt objectives.
 - at the new town of Northstowe, linked to the guided busway;
 - within, or as sustainable extensions to, the market towns of Wisbech, March, Ely, Huntingdon and St Neots, subject to the potential for

regeneration and the provision of essential infrastructure and public transport improvements¹; and

- within, or as extensions to, other market towns, where development would increase the towns' sustainability and self-containment, improvements to infrastructure and services are planned or will be provided and high quality public transport provision can reduce the impacts of out-commuting.
- 2.4 This strategy has met with considerable success so far and a large number of sites have already been delivered throughout the County or are under construction, with more remaining to be developed. Despite the recession, construction has continued and Cambridgeshire is identified as one of the key areas of the country likely to lead the national economy into recovery.
- 2.5 Despite recent announcements about the relocation of Marshalls from Cambridge airport, the authorities consider that Cambridge East retains great potential for sustainable development and currently remains part of the strategy. The authorities also consider that there is sufficient availability of housing land over the short to medium term. Cambridge East will be considered alongside other sites as part of a fuller review of the strategy.

3 Looking forward

- 3.1 The Cambridgeshire authorities remain committed to the strategy for planning in the County outlined above, as embedded in the Cambridge Local Plan and District Councils' Development Plan Documents. However, with factors such as fragile economic growth, the need to rebalance the economy towards the private sector, changing demographic pressures, the challenges of climate change, uncertainty over infrastructure provision and emerging proposals for the Greater Cambridge and Greater Peterborough Local Enterprise Partnership, there remains a need to keep the strategy under review.
- 3.2 The authorities will continue to work together on place-shaping issues and will begin gathering evidence to inform decisions on future development levels and locations, so that the strategy that emerges will be based on a thorough understanding of the issues the County faces, including cross-County boundary impacts. Moves to a more locally based planning system will provide the authorities with much greater freedom. We will ensure that under this new system the future strategy is driven by the needs and aspirations of local communities, is fully deliverable, ensures the County's continuing economic success and protects and enhances Cambridgeshire's unique environment.

¹ Huntingdon and St Neots in this policy refers to the Spatial Planning Areas as defined in the adopted Huntingdonshire Core Strategy