

FULL COUNCIL

22nd FEBRUARY 2018

REPORT OF ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF STRATEGIC PLANNING AND REGULATORY SERVICES

LEICESTER AND LEICESTERSHIRE STRATEGIC GROWTH PLAN

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To invite Council to make comments on the Strategic Growth Plan (SGP) for Leicester & Leicestershire as part of its consultation exercise.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that:

- (i) **Council supports the content of the Draft Strategic Growth Plan for Leicester & Leicestershire and highlights the potential issues set out at para 3.11.1 – 3.11.3 below.**

3.0 KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 Members will recall agreeing to the content of the Draft Strategic Growth Plan for Leicester & Leicestershire for consultation purposes at its meeting of 12th December 2017. That report is provided as Appendix A to avoid repetition.
- 3.2 Having secured agreement from all partners, consultation on the Plan started on 9th January 2018 and extends to 5th April 2018.
- 3.3 The Plan is currently available on various websites including the relevant parts of www.meltonplan.co.uk and www.melton.gov.uk by means of linkages to its dedicated website where the Plan and the supporting evidence are available, and interested parties may make comments directly. Key stakeholders across and around the Leicestershire have been consulted, and locally we have invited comment from key local stakeholders such as Parish Councils, residents groups, the Melton BiD etc. Progress is now being made to arrange a public exhibition to be held in March, allowing time for the necessary arrangements and publicity.
- 3.4 All consultation responses will be reviewed and reported, in the first instance, to MAG. At the same time, consideration will be given to whether amendments to the Draft Plan will need to be made.
- 3.5 It is anticipated that the final version of the Strategic Growth Plan will be presented to MAG for consideration in summer/early autumn 2018. If agreed, it will proceed through the governance arrangements of each partner organisation, allowing for further comments to be made on its final form.
- 3.6 However the Council itself is a consultee and the main purpose of this report is to configure the consultation response required.

- 3.7 The Plan sets out the longer terms growth implications for the Borough and for Melton Mowbray in particular, with a horizon extending to 2050. Its timeframe includes that of our current Local Plan (2011 -36) but there is a very strong synergy with its content over that period.
- 3.8 The Plan proposes a draft strategy for growth which integrates development and infrastructure building upon existing development proposals and infrastructure opportunities, such as those set out in 'Midlands Connect'. It proposes key growth areas based upon the shared ambition to enhance the role of Leicester as a core city nationally and focal point of the County. It proposes growth of the city supported by the A46 Expressway, secondary growth centres in the form of Northern and Southern 'gateways' focussed on motorway junctions along the M1 corridor, and 'key centres' for growth, comprising Melton Mowbray and Lutterworth. Elsewhere in the County, it proposes that further development should be consistent with the need to support local growth and a shift away from the development pressure experience by market towns and villages.
- 3.9 The plan address the spatial distribution of housing and explains that demand up to 2031 is already accommodated within existing and emerging local plans, and in Table 4, Appendix B, it sets out the distribution of growth for the period 2031 – 2050. This includes approximately 3000 dwellings in Melton Mowbray following on from its identification as a 'Growth Point'.
- 3.10 The plan also addresses several key issues relevant to Melton Mowbray present opportunities to stimulate growth and prosperity. As a growth point, it proposes that Melton Mowbray should continue to grow at a similar to that in the Local Plan beyond the plan period and through to 2050.

Other measures include reference to:

- The importance of digital infrastructure in the period of Plan
- The value of improved connectivity of Melton Mowbray to other centres and the new A46 Expressway
- The continued role of the Melton Mowbray Distributor Road (MMDR) as a key factor to unlocking growth potential.

3.11 Relationship with the Melton Local Plan

- 3.11.1 As Members are aware, the Examination into the Melton Local Plan was completed on 9th February 2018. As described above, the content of the Plan has strong synergy to the Melton Local Plan in terms of the level of growth, its quantity and location (i.e. the focus on Melton Mowbray). However these and other aspects of the Plan were challenged by several participants in the Examination – both 'upward' and 'downward' in terms of levels of growth - and naturally various views about the spatial distribution and the extent of the focus on Melton Mowbray.
- 3.11.2 The Local Plan contains a review trigger in which it specifically cites that a review will take place depending on the impact of the final version of the Strategic Growth Plan, i.e. if it creates a level of growth of a spatial distribution that is not consistent with its current content. This was also the subject of contention and a revised version has been requested by the Inspector for her consideration, retaining the reference to the SGP.
- 3.11.3 There is a risk that the Examination process will alter the content of the Local Plan in such a way that its synergy with the SGP is weakened. It is considered that this

needs to be highlighted through the consultation process, albeit we will not learn if it is realised for some period afterwards (the final outcome of the Examination will be several months later than the SGP consultation period).

4.0 POLICY AND CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The plan sets out the longer terms growth implications for the Borough and for Melton Mowbray in particular, with a horizon extending to 2050. Its timeframe includes that of our current Local Plan (2011 -36) and there is a very strong synergy with its content over that period.
- 4.3 The Draft Plan is referenced in the Local Plan under Policy SS6 as a potential trigger for review of the plan, should it in its final version result in quantitative of spatial requirements that are not compatible with the Local Plan.

5.0 FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no Financial or other resource implications at present. The Council contributes to the Joint Strategic Planning manager and the work carried out to produce the Draft Plan on a proportionate basis from existing budgets.

6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS/POWER

- 6.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

7.0 COMMUNITY SAFETY

- 7.1 There are no community safety implications arising from this report.

8.0 EQUALITIES

- 8.1 There are no changes that affect the Equalities Impact Assessment Report.

9.0 RISKS

L I K E L I H O O D	A	Very High				
	B	High				
	C	Significant		3		
	D	Low		4	1	
	E	Very Low			2	
	F	Almost Impossible				
			Negligible 1	Marginal 2	Critical 3	Catastrophic 4

IMPACT

Risk No	Risk Description
1	Impact on Melton Local Plan
2	Legal challenge from dissatisfied interested parties
3	Significant opposition to the content of the SGP
4	LP Examination outcome undermines synergy with SGP

10.0 CLIMATE CHANGE

10.1 The Draft Plan proposes a n approach to management future development in accordance with the principles of sustainable development.

11.0 CONSULTATION

11.1 Consultation started during week commencing 8 January 2018 and continue to the first week in April 2018. The following is providing the basis of the public consultation:

- The Consultation Draft Plan
- A short, simple consultation leaflet. It is anticipated that this would constitute an A3 sheet of paper folded in such a way that the reasons for preparing the plan are set out on the front page, the strategy diagram with explanatory notations are set out on the centre spread and the final page should provide details of proposed housing numbers and ways in which consultation responses can be submitted.
- Copies of all supporting documentation.

- A locally held 'Exhibition'
- A consultation questionnaire.
- Joint press releases.

12.0 WARDS AFFECTED

12.1 All wards

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Date: 13th Feb.2018

Appendices : Appendix 1 – Report to Council 12/12/2017
Appendix 2 - Consultation Draft SGP

Reference : X:\Cttee, Council & Sub Cttees\Council Meetings\2017/18