

## **Local Development Framework Update – March 2010**

### **Cambridge Local Plan 2006**

The Cambridge Local Plan 2006 was adopted in July 2006. It is the main consideration in the determination of planning applications and forms part of the development plan for Cambridge, setting out a vision, policies and proposals for future development and land use in Cambridge to 2016.

While we are preparing the documents that comprise Cambridge's Local Development Framework, which will replace the Local Plan, the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 makes provision for Councils to retain their Local Plan policies by application to the Secretary of State three years after the date of adoption. The Secretary of State issued a formal direction on 2nd July 2009 saving the majority of policies in the Cambridge Local Plan.

### **North West Cambridge Area Action Plan**

The North West Cambridge Area Action Plan (AAP) is a joint plan prepared by South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridge City Council. It allocates land for development on the northwest edge of Cambridge, between Madingley Road and Huntingdon Road, primarily to meet the needs of the University of Cambridge.

Following the Examination in Public into the North West AAP, the City Council received the final binding report from the Inspectors, which found the AAP to be sound. The Councils formally adopted the AAP on the 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2009.

The University is now progressing work on the masterplan for the North West Cambridge site, with a number of stakeholder workshops undertaken before Christmas 2009. The University is looking to submit the masterplan as part of an outline planning application for the site in July/September 2010.

### **Mill Lane/Old Press area**

The City Council have prepared a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) to guide the future development of the Mill Lane/Old Press area of the City. This document has been prepared in partnership with the University of Cambridge in order to ensure that future development on the Mill Lane/Old Press site safeguards the architectural, historic, cultural and archaeological importance of the area, and takes proper account of its setting on the river frontage within the historic City Centre. Following public consultation, a number of changes were made to the SPD, notably in relation to the quantum of retail development, changes to the Vision for the site and removal of references to the colonnading of Silver Street. The SPD was adopted at Environment Scrutiny Committee on the 12<sup>th</sup> January 2010.

### **Public Art**

The City Council have also prepared a Supplementary Planning Document in relation to Public Art, which will guide the City Council on the provision of public art in Cambridge through setting out clear objectives for public art, the ongoing development of policy and means of delivering public art.

Following public consultation in May 2009 the SPD was adopted at Environment Scrutiny Committee on the 12<sup>th</sup> January 2010.

### **Planning Obligations**

The City Council started preparing a review of the 2004 Planning Obligations Strategy in 2007. Following public consultation a number of changes have been made to the SPD, and a revised version of the document is due to be adopted at Environment Scrutiny Committee on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2010.

During the consultation period, the City Council received a representation containing significant revisions to the education section of the SPD from the County Council. Discussions are still being carried out with the County Council regarding the proposed education contributions being sought and an additional round of consultation will be required before a revised education section could be incorporated into the adopted SPD. In the interim period, the education section of the 2004 Planning Obligations Strategy will continue to apply. It is hoped that the education issues can be resolved (including undertaking any necessary consultation) over the next few months.

### **Core Strategy (Cambridge Development Strategy)**

The Core Strategy will set out the long-term spatial vision for Cambridge and the strategic policies and proposals to deliver that vision. The City Council started work on the production of this document in 2007 with issues and options consultation and is currently preparing the informal preferred options stage. Informal preferred options consultation is currently scheduled for November 2010 – early January 2011.

### **Development Control Policies and Site Specific Allocations Development Plan Documents**

The Development Control Policies document will set out detailed policies against which planning applications will be considered and the Site Specific Allocations document will identify allocations for specific or mixed uses. The production of these documents is at an early stage with informal consultation on both documents planned for late 2010.

### **Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment**

The role of the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) is to help with an assessment of the reasonable housing capacity of the City taking into account deliverability and amenity considerations. The City Council is required to meet the housing targets set out in the East of England Plan and the SHLAA will seek to identify land to address those targets. It will also provide an evidence base to enable informed challenge of the review of the Regional Spatial Strategy which is currently underway and which is likely to seek increases in the housing target for Cambridge looking towards 2031.

A number of assessment criteria were produced for the evaluation of sites, and these were subject to consultation with key stakeholders and residents associations in July - August 2009. Officers are now in the process of assessing all of the SHLAA sites against these criteria, and a total of 850 sites

from around the City are being considered. Further public consultation will be carried out once all of the sites have been assessed, and it is hoped that this will take place in the next few months.

The guidance states that SHLAAs should have the involvement of a Housing Market Partnership (HMP) and that HMP should include key stakeholders such as house builders, social landlords, local property agents, local communities and other agencies. As there is no HMP at present, one will have to be set up, ideally in partnership with other Councils in the Cambridge area and the City Council will be seeking representatives from the local community to sit on the HMP.

### **S29 Committee – Cambridge City Fringes Joint Committee**

A joint plan making committee (the S29 Committee) has been established, consisting of Members of Cambridge City Council, South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridgeshire County Council. The purpose of this committee is to act as the local planning authority, as far as plan-making is concerned, for cross boundary locations on the edge of Cambridge:

The first piece of work to be prepared under the S29 Committee will be a joint Area Action Plan for the Northern Fringe East. A timetable of work (a Local Development Scheme) has been prepared for this document and submitted to the Government Office for approval. The initial phases of work preparing the document has started and it is anticipated that the Area Action Plan could be ready for submission to the Secretary of State by mid 2011 and to be adopted by July 2012.

### **OTHER LOCAL AUTHORITY POLICY WORK**

#### **Cambridgeshire County Council – Consultation on the Submission Draft Minerals and Waste Local Development Framework**

Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council are jointly preparing the Minerals and Waste Development Plan as part of the Minerals and Waste Local Development Framework. This will guide minerals and waste development in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough until 2026 and will replace the adopted Waste Local Plan (2003) and the Cambridgeshire Aggregates (Minerals) Local Plan (1991).

Consultation is currently underway on the following Development Plan Documents:

- Submission Stage of the Core Strategy – this document sets out the strategic vision and objectives for minerals and waste management;
- The Site Specific Proposals Plan – this document identifies the site-specific allocations and policies to support the Core Strategy. Sites and boundaries are identified for Minerals working, minerals consultation areas, waste management use, areas of search for waste management, waste water treatment works and safeguarding, waste consultation areas and sustainable transport zones and safeguarding.

Following this round of consultation, the documents will be submitted to the Secretary of State (scheduled for July 2010).

Consultation is also being carried out on the following Supplementary Planning Documents of relevance to Cambridge:

- Location and Design of Waste Management Facilities Draft SPD – provides detailed guidance on the location and design of waste management facilities;
- RECAP (Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Waste Partnership) Waste Management Design Guide Draft SPD – this document provides detailed guidance in relation to the design and provision of waste storage, collection and recycling facilities as part of new developments.

The dates of consultation for all of these documents are 15<sup>th</sup> February to 29<sup>th</sup> March 2010. Further information can be found at Cambridgeshire County Council's website:

<http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/environment/planning/mineralswasteframe/work/>

### **Cambridgeshire County Council – Consultation on the updated Cambridgeshire Local Transport Plan (LTP3)**

The Local Transport Plan sets out existing and future transport issues in Cambridgeshire and how the County Council will seek to address them. The County Council is currently consulting on the updated Local Transport Plan for Cambridgeshire, and more information can be found on the County Council's website: <http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/transport/strategies/local/>

The consultation period runs from the 11<sup>th</sup> January – 9<sup>th</sup> April 2010.

### **Cambridgeshire County Council – Transport Innovation Fund bid**

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2010, the Government announced that they would not be supporting Cambridgeshire County Council's bid for funding as part of the Transport Innovation Fund (TIF), which included proposals for congestion charging and for a railway station in Chesterton. TIF has now been replaced by a new fund, the Urban Challenge, although there will be less money available to local authorities for transport projects via this initiative.

### **Cambridgeshire Horizons – Green Infrastructure Strategy**

In 2006 Cambridgeshire Horizons launched a Green Infrastructure Strategy for the Cambridge Sub-Region (2006). This strategy is currently under review, with LDA Design appointed by Cambridgeshire Horizons to undertake the work in May 2009. Green Infrastructure includes a wide range of places and spaces including:

- Rivers and watercourses
- Commons
- Natural and semi-natural habitats for wildlife
- Country parks and playing fields

- Woodlands and hedgerows
- Historic parks and gardens
- Historic landscapes and ancient monuments
- Wetlands
- Allotments
- Public rights of way, cycleways and other recreational routes.

Officers from the City Council have been involved in the review process via Steering Group meetings and where possible, providing initial comments on the emerging draft, primarily concerning its accuracy and reflection of existing Council policies. The draft Strategy was subject to public consultation from the 25<sup>th</sup> January – 7<sup>th</sup> March 2010. The City Council has submitted a number of representations to this consultation following agreement of comments at Development Steering Group on the 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2010.

### **Regional Spatial Strategy**

The East of England Regional Assembly (EERA) will be considering the draft replacement for the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) later this month for submission to the Government. The draft plan proposed fewer houses in Cambridge than the existing plan's target of 19,000 homes between 2001 – 2021 (most of which have yet to be built), with a target of 14,000 homes for the period 2011 – 2031. Following submission of the draft plan to the Government, an Examination in Public will take place, currently scheduled for later this year.