

Local Development Framework Update – March 2009

Cambridge Local Plan

The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 states that policies within Local Plans will be automatically 'saved' (i.e. remain in force) for a period of three years from the date of their adoption. It follows that, under the terms of this Act, the policies in the Cambridge Local Plan 2006 are due to expire on 20th July 2009. In order to save the policies in the Local Plan beyond this period, the City Council have submitted a request to the Government Office for the east of England outlining which policies should be saved and which policies can be deleted.

As part of this request, all policies in the Cambridge Local Plan have been assessed against the criteria set out in the Government's protocol for saving policies. The vast majority of the policies remain relevant and are consistent with the requirements of the protocol. All such policies are recommended for saving. A small number of policies, however, simply repeat national and regional planning guidance, which is already a material consideration when determining planning applications. Furthermore, there are some policies, which have been superseded by local changes or the adoption of new higher-level documents. Policies of this nature do not accord with the Government's protocol and we have therefore recommended that these policies are not saved.

The process of saving policies does not allow for policies to be amended. New planning policies are to be drafted through the Core Strategy, Development Control Policies and Site Specific Proposals documents that will form part of the Cambridge Local Development Framework.

Appendix 1 to this note sets out those policies, which the City Council has recommended should not be saved, and the reasons for this.

Once we have confirmation from the Government Office as to which policies will be saved, the City Council will inform all residents associations as well as all key organisations in the City of the position.

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 a request from the independent Inspectors examining the Plan, the Councils are undertaking additional work on the planning implications of a larger development site that the Inspectors have identified. This larger site is a combination of the site allocated by the Councils' in the Area Action Plan and the site sought by the University. It differs from the site allocated in the

Area Action Plan in that development would extend further west down the slope towards the M11 and the large central open space would be reduced in width.

The Inspectors have made clear that they have not yet reached a view on the appropriate site for development, but that the Area Action Plan may be found unsound without consideration of this larger site. In order for the site to be properly considered by the Inspectors, it needs to be subject to Sustainability Appraisal and public consultation. Consultation will run for a six-week period from **9th March - 20th April 2009**. At the end of the consultation, all responses received will be passed to the Inspectors in order to help inform their final decision on the extent of development at North West Cambridge. Their decision will be binding on the Councils, who could then proceed to statutory adoption of the Area Action Plan.

All consultation material will be available on the City Council's website.

Mill Lane/Old Press area

The City Council is currently preparing a supplementary planning document 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 in order to ensure that future development on the Mill Lane/Old Press site safeguards the architecture, historic, cultural and archaeological importance of the area, and takes proper account of its setting on the river frontage within the historic City Centre.

Consultation on this document will run for a six-week period from **23rd February - 6th April 2009**.

All consultation material will be available on the City Council's website.

Public Art

The City Council is also preparing 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. Critically, the document covers public art delivery through the planning process, e.g. Section 106 agreements, and other commissioning of public art, e.g. using the Public Art Initiatives Fund, and sets out a five-year Public Art Plan.

This City Council will be consulting on this document over the coming months.

Planning Obligations

The City Council started preparing a review of the 2004 Planning Obligations Strategy in 2007 and is hoping to adopt a revised version as a supplementary planning document in Summer 2009.

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 preferred options stage. Informal preferred options consultation is currently scheduled for June to July 2009.

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 planned for late 2009.