

**HUNTINGDONSHIRE LOCAL PLAN TO 2036
STAGE 3 DRAFT LOCAL PLAN
CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT PROCESS**

Report by Assistant Director (Environment, Growth and Planning)

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Cabinet on the intended consultation and engagement process on Stage 3 of the Huntingdonshire Local Plan to 2036. This is a non statutory consultation stage that will be based on a single draft Local Plan document, and supporting information.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At its meeting on 8th December 2011, Cabinet formally confirmed the Council's intentions to roll forward the Huntingdonshire Core Strategy in the light of changing national and local circumstances, and endorsed the proposal to produce a new Local Plan in order to achieve this. Stages 1 and 2 of the Local Plan preparation process have been completed and Stage 3 is scheduled to commence with an eight week consultation from Friday 31st May to Friday 26th July 2013. Members have been engaged in the preparation of the draft Local Plan through the Development Plans and Policies Advisory Group (DPPAG) which has met to discuss stage 3 of the Local Plan on 19 March, 9 April and 26 April 2013.

3. CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

- 3.1 Table 1 below sets out the key stages and timescales for the Local Plan consultation and engagement process.

Table 1: Key Stages in the new Local Plan consultation and engagement process	
Dates	Key Stages
Stage 1 - completed: 21 st May to 24 th June 2012	Initial Issues and Options Consultation: This was a non statutory initial introductory consultation designed to raise awareness of key issues and potential options focused on housing growth.
Stage 2 - completed: 31 st August to 23 rd November 2012	Strategy and Policy Consultation: This was the first consultation that sought views on the strategy options set out in Stage 1, place-based policies, potential allocations and Development Management policies, and supporting evidence and appraisal documents.
Stage 3 - current stage:	Draft Local Plan: This consultation focuses on the first full draft of the Local Plan, and supporting

31 st May to 26 th July 2013	evidence and appraisal documents. The draft Local Plan contains draft strategic policies, draft development management policies, and potential site allocations. It takes into account responses received during stage 2. This is the last non-statutory stage in the process.
Stage 4: January to February 2014	Formal Publication of the Draft Local Plan: This is a statutory consultation stage where representations are sought on the soundness of the Local Plan and legal compliance. The representations received at this stage are sent on to the Planning Inspectorate for consideration at the Examination.
Stage 5: April 2014	Submission of the Local Plan: At this stage, the Council can, but is not obliged to, make changes to the Local Plan before it is formally submitted to the Planning Inspectorate. This signals the start of the Examination process.
Stage 6: May to October 2014	Independent Examination of the Local Plan: Consideration by the Planning Inspectorate of the soundness of the Local Plan. Public hearings will be held during this stage when the Inspector will invite those who have made representations at Stage 4 to participate.
Stage 7: November 2014	Recommendations of the Planning Inspector: Formal publication of the Inspector's recommendations for any amendments to the Local Plan. This is subject to fact checking and clarification by the Council, prior to the publication of the report.
Stage 8: December 2014	Adoption of the Local Plan: Formal adoption of the Local Plan by Full Council as the statutory development plan for Huntingdonshire, which then supersedes all current development plan documents.

4. STAGE 3 - DRAFT LOCAL PLAN CONSULTATION

4.1 An eight week consultation and engagement process on the draft Local Plan and supporting information is now planned for the period from 31st May to 26th July 2013. Widespread involvement in the Stage 3 consultation will be encouraged through publicity, exhibitions and seminars. These will include:

- Town and Parish Council seminars
- A series of staffed Local Plan exhibitions (at Huntingdon, St Neots, St Ives, Ramsey, Wyton-on-the-Hill, Sawtry, Yaxley and Great Stukeley)
- An Infrastructure Forum for Members
- A seminar with 'Duty to Co-operate' partners (including neighbouring authorities and infrastructure providers)
- Coverage in the local press
- A leaflet drop to all households and businesses in the District (as per Stage 2)

- 24 hour access to all consultation materials, and the ability to respond through the consultation portal, via the Council's website
- 4.2 A full draft of the Local Plan to 2036 and the Initial Sustainability Appraisal are attached to this report. The consultation material will be supported by a draft Statement of Consultation which indicates how the documents have been changed in response to previous comments received. It will also be supported by a revised Environmental Capacity Study and a number of technical reports.

5. RECOMMENDATION

- 5.1 It is recommended that Cabinet:
1. Notes the progress made to date on preparing the new Local Plan and the anticipated next steps in the consultation and plan making process.
 2. Agrees to move on to the Stage 3 Draft Local Plan non statutory consultation stage, using appropriate consultation material the exact content of which to be agreed by the Assistant Director (Environment, Growth and Planning) in consultation with the Executive Member for Strategic Planning and Housing.

Background Papers:

Cabinet Report and Minutes, 8 December 2011, 16 February 2012, 19 April 2012, 19 July 2012

Initial Issues and Options consultation paper, May 2012

Draft Strategic Options and Policies consultation document, August 2012

Potential development sites: Huntingdon Spatial Planning Area, August 2012

Potential development sites: St Neots Spatial Planning Area, August 2012

Potential development sites: St Ives Spatial Planning Area, August 2012

Potential development sites: Ramsey Spatial Planning Area, August 2012

Potential development sites: Key Service Centres and Small Settlements, August 2012

Draft Development Management Policies, August 2012

These Local Plan Documents are accessed by using the following link:

<http://consult.huntsdc.gov.uk/portal>

CONTACT OFFICERS: Enquiries about this report to:

Steve Ingram, Assistant Director (Environment, Growth and Planning) on 01480 388400

Paul Bland, Planning Services Manager (Policy), on 01480 388430

Clare Bond, Planning Policy Team Leader, on 01480 388435