

## HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

<b>Title/Subject Matter:</b>	Local Plan to 2036 – Targeted Consultation
<b>Meeting/Date:</b>	Overview and Scrutiny – Environmental Well-Being 4 February 2015
<b>Executive Portfolio:</b>	Cllr Doug Dew, Executive Councillor for Planning and Housing Strategy
<b>Report by:</b>	Planning Service Manager (Policy)
<b>Ward(s) affected:</b>	All

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### **Executive Summary:**

A targeted consultation on the Stage 4 draft Local Plan to 2036 will run for 8 weeks from 23<sup>rd</sup> January to 20<sup>th</sup> March 2015. It is targeted to Town and Parish Councils, District and relevant County Members, key duty to cooperate stakeholders, and owners and agents for land proposed for development in the plan. This is intended to be the final phase of non-statutory consultation undertaken during the preparation of the draft Local Plan.

Following the targeted consultation the Local Plan will be finalised for statutory pre-submission consultation in the summer, followed by formal submission at the end of the year to the Secretary of State / Planning Inspectorate for examination in public.

### **Recommendation(s):**

Members are recommended to note:

- 1) The dates for the targeted consultation are 23 January to 20 March 2015.
- 2) The opportunity for any Member to submit individual representations through the Objective consultation system.

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## 1. WHAT IS THIS REPORT ABOUT?

- 1.1 The draft Local Plan to 2036 has been published for a targeted consultation between 23 January and 20 March. This is the beginning of Stage 4 of the Local Plan preparation process. Invited participants include all Town and Parish Councils, District and relevant County Members, key duty to cooperate stakeholders, owners and agents for land proposed for development.
- 1.2 This report provides a summary of the key issues raised during the last round of full public consultation and explains progress made since then. It also explains the future timetable and production processes for the Local Plan.

## 2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Stage 3 draft Local Plan was published for full public consultation from May to July 2013. Eight drop-in sessions were attended by over 520 people and some 1,500 responses received. Further consultation was held in December 2013 on new sites submitted for potential development during the summer consultation.
- 2.2 Key issues raised concerned flexibility in the strategy, availability and impact of infrastructure, limited development opportunities in service centres and small settlements and numerous issues concerning individual sites.
- 2.3 The draft Local Plan to 2036 has been substantially rewritten since the previous Stage 3 consultation document. It now reflects the new Corporate Plan and Economic Growth Plan. It is also closely tied in with the County Council's Long Term Transport Strategy which identifies key transport requirements to deliver the Local Plan's growth strategy. Progress has also been made on delivering all three strategic expansion locations (at Alconbury Weald, St Neots East and Wyton on the Hill).

## 3. LOCAL PLAN TO 2036: TARGETED CONSULTATION 2015

- 3.1 The current draft Local Plan to 2036 targeted consultation document is intended to anchor the last phase of non-statutory engagement. The purpose of the targeted consultation is to give organisations and individuals with a particular interest in the Local Plan to 2036 an opportunity to freely discuss and make further comments on the contents of the document without the constraints imposed by the formal statutory engagement processes.
- 3.2 A briefing was presented to all District Council Members on 17 December 2014, prior to the Full Council meeting. The targeted consultation started on 23 January 2015 and will run to 20 March 2015. Town and Parish Councils have been invited to two seminars held on 26<sup>th</sup> January and 2<sup>nd</sup> February; environmental organisations, developers and owners of potential site allocations have been invited to a separate seminar on 4<sup>th</sup> February.
- 3.3 The targeted consultation version of the Local Plan is arranged in four sections:

Section	Issues addressed
Section A: Introduction	National and local context District portrait Key planning issues
Section B: The Strategy for Sustainable Growth	Key influences, vision and objectives Development strategy

	Policies to promote strong communities Policies on infrastructure and delivery
Section C: Development Management	Detailed policy guidance on design, economy and environment issues
Section D: Allocations	69 proposed site allocations to deliver the development strategy

#### 4. FUTURE TIMETABLE AND PROCESSES

4.1 The next stage for the Local Plan to 2036 is preparation of the formal proposed submission document. The intention is to present this to Cabinet in June 2015, subject to the volume of responses on the targeted consultation and finalisation of supporting evidence. The proposed submission Local Plan will then be published for a six week statutory consultation.

4.2 The proposed submission consultation will be different from the previous consultations in that representations at this stage are sought on issues of legal compliance and 'soundness'. Legal compliance requires the Local Plan to adhere to the National Planning Policy Framework and all relevant Acts. The tests of soundness reflect the requirement for the Local Plan to be:

- **Positively Prepared:** based on a strategy that seeks to meet objectively assessed development and infrastructure requirements
- **Justified:** the strategy is the most appropriate one when considered against reasonable alternatives, based on proportionate evidence
- **Effective:** deliverable over its period based on effective joint working on cross-boundary strategic priorities
- **Consistent:** with national policy enabling the delivery of sustainable development

4.3 After this the Council will produce a submission version of the Local Plan and will submit this, along with all representations received on the proposed submission document to the Planning Inspectorate for independent examination. Submission is targeted for the end of 2015.

4.4 Once the Local Plan is submitted for examination the timetable is controlled by the Inspector. It is likely that hearings would start in spring 2016 and the Inspector's report published in autumn 2016 unless the Inspector requests additional work and a further round of hearings.

#### 5. RECOMMENDED DECISIONS

5.1 Members are recommended to note:

- 1) The dates for the targeted consultation are 23 January to 20 March 2015
- 2) The opportunity for any Member to submit individual representations through the Objective consultation system.

#### BACKGROUND PAPERS

Huntingdonshire's Local Plan to 2036: Targeted Consultation 2015 (January 2015)  
Huntingdonshire's Draft Local Plan to 2036: Stage 3 Consultation (May 2013)

#### CONTACT OFFICER

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