

Chapter 1 Introduction



Impington, South Cambridgeshire

Chapter 1 Introduction

- 1.1. The Council consulted on Issues and Options for the new Local Plan in summer 2012. This consultation forms the second stage in preparing an updated Local Plan for South Cambridgeshire that will set out the vision for the district over the years to 2031. The plan affects all of us that live, work or study in South Cambridgeshire, or who come here to enjoy all that the area has to offer.
- 1.2. This second stage of Issues and Options consultation is in two parts:
 - Part 1 - A joint consultation with Cambridge City Council on options for the development strategy for the wider Cambridge area and for site options for housing or employment development on the edge of Cambridge on land currently in the Green Belt. It also includes options on sub-regional sporting, cultural and community facilities and site options for a community stadium. It builds on the Issues and Options consultations that both Councils have already consulted on in summer 2012 and provides background information in relation to the housing and employment needs for the area as a whole, as well as outlining what that means for the future development strategy.
 - Part 2 - Each Council is also carrying out consultation on other matters for their own areas in their respective Part 2 consultation documents.

Part 2 - South Cambridgeshire Issues

- 1.3. In this Part 2 document, South Cambridgeshire District Council is consulting on new issues arising from the Summer's consultation that would be reasonable additional options to consider for the new Local Plan, including possible new site options to allocate for development as well as matters such as possible changes to village frameworks and designations to protect village character.
- 1.4. The Part 2 document includes the following chapters:
 - **Chapter 1** is the introduction which describes the overall purpose and approach of the document and how to make comments.
 - **Chapter 2** sets out a number of site options for housing development.
 - **Chapter 3** sets out a new employment option and revision to the boundary of an established employment area in the countryside.
 - **Chapter 4** sets out new mixed use proposals from two Parish Councils.
 - **Chapter 5** sets out suggested amendments to village frameworks.
 - **Chapter 6** sets out options for a new hospice, moorings on the River Cam and burial grounds.
 - **Chapter 7** sets out a number of new options for recreation and open space.
 - **Chapter 8** sets out options for important areas of green space for protection and Important Countryside Frontages to protect village character.
 - **Chapter 9** Maps of Options.

Localism – Parish Council Proposals

- 1.5. The national approach to planning has changed with the Coalition Government's introduction of the Localism Act and there is now a strong emphasis on local communities being involved in planning. Parish Councils now have the option to prepare Neighbourhood Development Plans to bring forward community aspirations for development to meet their local needs.
- 1.6. Many Parish Councils are indicating to us that they would find preparing neighbourhood plans too much of a burden for them. The District Council has therefore been working with Parish Councils to explore how best to bring forward community aspirations and has offered the opportunity to include community-led proposals in the Local Plan. A number of proposals have been put to us by Parish Councils during the 2012 consultation. Where they are consistent with the approach being taken in the Local Plan, they are included with the District Council's options for consultation. However, a number of proposals from Parish Councils are not consistent with the detailed approach for the Local Plan. Nevertheless they are likely to be proposals that are capable of being included in a neighbourhood plan where the test is that they must generally conform with the strategic policies of the Local Plan. The consultation document therefore includes Parish Council proposals separately under each topic for those proposals not consistent with the normal Local Plan approach. This will help those communities that prefer not to prepare their own neighbourhood plans to still be able to deliver their local aspirations. Parish Council proposals for site options or changes to boundaries that are not consistent with the Local Plan approach are identified by the prefix 'PC' and are numbered sequentially through the document, rather than by topic.

Supporting Documents

- 1.7. The consultation document is supported by a number of evidence documents, which are listed in Appendix 1 and available to view on the Council's website: www.scambs.gov.uk/ldf/localplan. Whilst they are not generally published as consultation documents, if you have any concerns about statements contained in the evidence documents, you can raise them as part of your response to the consultation questions.
- 1.8. The overarching objective in national policy to secure sustainable development has strongly influenced the development of the issues and options in this document. The Council has prepared a Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report that has helped us identify the key issues and sustainability objectives for the new Local Plan. An Initial Sustainability Report (2013) has also been prepared for this second Issues and Options consultation, which tests the sustainability merits of the options. It also includes within it technical annexes that provide additional information to support the issues and options contained in the Part 2 consultation report.

How to have your say

- 1.9. Consultation runs from **7 January to 5pm on 18 February 2013**. Part 2 of the Issues and Options 2 Report contains 15 issues which need to be addressed in updating the Local Plan providing options where appropriate and asking questions to help the local community and stakeholders to respond to the consultation. These are in addition to the issues included in the 2012 consultation.
- 1.10. Once you have looked through this consultation document, please send us your comments. You don't have to answer all questions if you are only interested in some of them. Please be aware that your comments will be published on the Council's website, together with your name. There are a number of ways in which you can do this:

- **Using the Council's online consultation system** - This is the Council's preferred means of receiving representations because it is the fastest and most accurate method and it will help us to manage your representations quickly and efficiently. Separate instructions on how to use the electronic system are provided on the Council's website and officers in the Planning Policy team are always available to help if you have any queries. Please go to the following link:
<http://scambs.jdi-consult.net/ldf/>
- **By email at ldf@scambs.gov.uk** using the electronic response form on the Council's website.
- **Using a response form** - If you do not have access to a computer, a paper form can be completed and sent to the Council. Copies of the response form are available from the Planning Policy team.

We're here to help

- 1.11. Your views are important to us, and we recognise that the planning system is not always easy to understand and find your way around. We want to make sure that as many people as possible have an opportunity to have their say as the new Local Plan is prepared. You can contact us using one of the following methods:

- You can phone us on 03450 450 500 (ask to speak to someone in the Planning Policy team);
- You can email us at ldf@scambs.gov.uk

- 1.12. There will also be opportunities for you to meet officers face-to-face through exhibitions that have been organised. Details of these events, together with up to date information on the Local Plan review can be found on the Council's Local Plan website: <http://www.scambs.gov.uk/ldf/localplan>.
- 1.13. For those who use social media, we shall also be providing regular updates on the Councils' Facebook pages and Twitter feeds.

What happens next?

- 1.14. The results of this second Issues and Options consultation will be taken together with the other comments we received to the first consultation and will help the Council prepare a draft Local Plan for consultation in summer 2013. Once processed, all consultation responses can be viewed on the Council's website.
- 1.15. The new Local Plan will then be submitted to the Secretary of State for examination. Any objections received at that stage will be considered by a Planning Inspector at the examination of the Local Plan before the Council can adopt the new Local Plan.
- 1.16. The District Council is firmly committed to securing high quality development and welcomes the changes in national policy that require developers of proposals to consult local people at an early stage. Having a good plan is only half the story, getting the planning applications right comes next.