

<b>CABINET</b> <b>5 AUGUST 2014</b>
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<b>*PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM No.</b>  <b>7</b>
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**TITLE OF REPORT: STRATEGIC PLANNING MATTERS**

REPORT OF THE STRATEGIC DIRECTOR OF PLANNING, HOUSING AND ENTERPRISE  
PORTFOLIO HOLDER: COUNCILLOR DAVID LEVETT

**1. SUMMARY**

1.1 This report informs Members of the current positions regarding:

- Luton Airport;
- Local Enterprise Partnership;
- Neighbouring authorities' plans;
- North Hertfordshire Local Plan;
- Local Development Scheme (timetable for local plan); and
- Neighbourhood planning.

1.2 The report also seeks Cabinet endorsement of a draft timetable (Local Development Scheme) for the preparation of the Local Plan, which needs approval by Full Council to take effect.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 That the report be noted.

2.2 That Cabinet recommends to Full Council that the updated draft Local Development Scheme attached as Appendix C be approved and take effect from 5 September 2014.

**3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

3.1 To keep Cabinet informed of recent developments.

3.2 To publish an up to date timetable for the preparation of the Local Plan.

**4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

4.1 None.

**5. CONSULTATION WITH EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS AND WARD MEMBERS**

5.1 The Portfolio Holder for Planning and Enterprise, had been kept informed on the matters set out above.

**6. FORWARD PLAN**

6.1 This report does not contain a recommendation on a key decision and has not been referred to in the Forward Plan.

## 7. BACKGROUND

- 7.1 Members will be aware of, and familiar with, many of the issues surrounding the strategic planning matters referred to in paragraph 1.1 above. This report is intended to provide Members with the current positions on these matters.

## 8. ISSUES

### *Luton Airport*

- 8.1 Luton Borough Council granted permission for the expansion of Luton Airport on 23 June 2014. This Council's request to be a signatory to the section 106 agreement was declined.

### *Local Enterprise Partnership and Local Growth Fund*

- 8.2 On 7 July 2014 the Government announced funding for local growth projects, based on the strategic economic plans prepared by each Local Enterprise Partnership. The figures in paragraphs 8.3 to 8.5 are taken from a series of policy papers published by the Government on the day of the funding announcements.

- 8.3 The Hertfordshire LEP secured £20.9m additional funding for 2015/6, which added to previously committed Government funding of £32.3m brings the total local growth fund for the Hertfordshire LEP for 2015/6 to £53.2m. For the period 2016-2021, £126.1m new money has been secured, on top of £19.9m previously committed money. The whole package from 2015-2021 therefore totals **£199.2m** of Government money. The Government believes that this investment will also bring forward £180m funding from "local partners and the private sector", making £379.2m available for the area.

- 8.4 Much of the money is assigned to the Croxley Rail Link near Watford and an M11/A10 transport package. More locally £16m (including £2m in 2015-16) is earmarked for both a town centre 'joint venture vehicle' to accelerate land assembly in Stevenage town centre and a 'growth area forum' to advance major schemes in the A1(M) growth area. How this money will be split between the joint venture vehicle and the growth area forum is not clear, nor is there any clarity yet on how the growth area forum will function. There is also £3.8m (including £1.3m in 2015-16) for an A1(M) transport package.

- 8.5 The Greater Cambridge Greater Peterborough LEP has secured £17.1m additional funding for 2015/6, which added to previously committed Government funding of £4m brings the total local growth fund for that LEP for 2015/6 to £21.1m. For the period 2016-2021, £20.4m new money has been secured, on top of £10.1m previously committed funding and a provisional allocation of £19.5m linked to specific projects. The whole package from 2015-2021 therefore totals **£71.1m** of Government money. The Government believes that this investment will also bring forward £40m funding from local partners and the private sector, making £111.1m available for the area. The largest specific areas where the money will be spent are at Peterborough, Alconbury, Whittlesey and Wisbech.

### *Neighbouring authorities' plans*

- 8.6 Both Luton and Central Bedfordshire Councils have published draft plans.
- 8.7 Luton's draft plan is a preferred options (regulation 18) consultation, with comments due by 22 August 2014.

- 8.8 Central Bedfordshire's draft plan is a revised proposed submission (regulation 19) consultation, and as such is the last draft Central Bedfordshire propose consulting upon before their plan is examined by a Government-appointed inspector. Comments are due by 26 August 2014.
- 8.9 These two plans are of particular importance to North Hertfordshire for the contribution they make towards the housing need of the Luton Housing Market Area. The objectively assessed need attributable to Luton borough is identified in the joint work done by the two councils (which this council and six others sat on the steering group for) is 17,800 dwellings. Luton is proposing to accommodate 5,700 homes be built within the borough, whilst Central Bedfordshire makes an allowance of 5,400 homes (within an overall total of 31,000 homes) towards needs arising for Luton. Neither plan says how the balance of 6,700 homes is to be dealt with. Responses to both plans will be prepared and submitted under the Portfolio Holder's delegated powers.

### ***North Hertfordshire Local Plan***

- 8.10 Luton and Central Bedfordshire have each now published plans in advance of any conclusions being reached as to how the whole of the needs arising from Luton will be dealt with. It therefore seems reasonable that North Hertfordshire should also progress a draft plan setting out our conclusions responding to the evidence and consultations carried out to date.
- 8.11 It is proposed to publish a preferred options (regulation 18) version of the Local Plan in the autumn, with the proposed submission (regulation 19) version of the plan following in Summer 2015.

### ***Local Development Scheme***

- 8.12 The Local Development Scheme is the formal name for the timetable document which has to be prepared for the preparation of the Local Plan. It is periodically updated. There is a need to review the current (February 2013) Local Development Scheme. Whereas previously such reviews were conducted under delegated powers, the Localism Act 2011 now requires a resolution of the local planning authority to bring such reviews into effect.
- 8.13 The draft revised Local Development Scheme is therefore included as Appendix C to this report and is referred to in the recommendation set out at paragraph 2.3.

### ***Neighbourhood plans***

- 8.14 A separate report considers the application to designate the two parishes of Barkway and Nuthampstead as a single neighbourhood planning area. An application has also been received from Ickleford to have the parish designated as a neighbourhood planning area. This is being processed and the results will be reported to a later Cabinet.

## **9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 The Terms of Reference for Cabinet confirm that they should exercise the Council's functions as Local Planning Authority except where functions are reserved by law to the responsibility of the Council or delegated to the Strategic Director of Planning, Housing and Enterprise.

9.2 Section 110 of the Localism Act 2011 sets out the duty to co-operate between local planning authorities and other prescribed bodies, to maximise the effectiveness in the preparation of development plan and other local development plan documents, so far as they relate to a strategic nature. These bodies should consider if they are able to work together jointly on such matters and must have due regard to any guidance given by the Secretary of State.

## **10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 No direct financial implications arising from this report.

## **11. RISK IMPLICATIONS**

11.1 No direct risk implications from this report but Sustainable Development of the District and the Local Plan are both Cabinet Top Risks.

## **12. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

12.1 The Equality Act 2010 came into force on the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2010, a major piece of legislation. The Act also created a new Public Sector Equality Duty, which came into force on the 5<sup>th</sup> April 2011. There is a General duty, described in 12.2, that public bodies must meet, underpinned by more specific duties which are designed to help meet them.

12.2 In line with the Public Sector Equality Duty, public bodies must, in the exercise of its functions, give **due regard** to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

12.3 There are not considered to be any direct equality issues arising from this report.

## **13. SOCIAL VALUE IMPLICATIONS**

13.1 As the recommendations made in this report do not constitute a public service contract, the measurement of 'social value' as required by the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 need not be applied, although equalities implications and opportunities are identified in the relevant section at paragraphs 12.

## **14. HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

14.1 There are no new human resource implications arising from the contents of this report.

## **15. CONTACT OFFICERS**

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**16. APPENDICES**

Appendix A: North Hertfordshire Local Development Scheme for approval at Full Council.