DECISION-MAKER:	OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
SUBJECT:	SOUTHAMPTON CITY VISION – DRAFT LOCAL PLAN WITH OPTIONS CONSULTATION
DATE OF DECISION:	10 NOVEMBER 2022
REPORT OF:	COUNCILLOR BOGLE CABINET MEMBER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

NOT APPLICABLE

BRIEF SUMMARY

The Southampton City Vision – Local Plan sets a vision and strategy to shape the city as a place through to 2040 and beyond and includes policies to guide and manage new development. On 18 October 2022 the Cabinet approved the draft local plan with options for public consultation (link to draft local plan identified in paragraph 6). The consultation started on 31 October and will run to 23 December 2022.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

(i) That the Committee considers and notes the contents of this report and provides feedback on the draft plan to help inform and shape the preparation of the next stage of the plan.

REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To enable the Committee to provide timely input into the emerging plan.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

2. To not progress the plan. This would mean that the Council was reliant on an increasingly out of date plan and would risk Government intervention.

DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)

3. The Local Plan sets out the overall need for development (for new homes and economic growth), where and how this development should be accommodated, the infrastructure needed to support this growth (for example schools, health, transport, flood risk) and the areas to protect (for example green spaces, environmental designations, heritage assets and archaeology).

- 4. Once adopted, the Local Plan will form the key part of the development plan for the city against which all planning applications for new development are determined. It is a key document for shaping how the city continues to evolve as a place through to 2040 and beyond to achieve sustainable development which meets the city's economic, social and environmental needs.
- 5. The full report to Cabinet on the Local Plan can be found here:

https://www.southampton.gov.uk/modernGov/documents/s57770/Cabinet%20Report% 20-%20Southampton%20City%20Vision%20Local%20Plan%20-%20Draft%20Plan%20with%20Options%20Consultation.pdf

For ease of reference, that report addresses the following issues:

Paragraphs 4 – 9: Preparation of the plan to date, including the initial consultation undertaken in 2020 and 'call for sites' undertaken in 2020 and 2021.

Paragraphs 10 – 15: The format and purpose of the draft plan. This section emphasises that the plan is a draft and can be amended as appropriate in the light of the consultation responses and the gathering of further evidence. The feedback from the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee will be considered as part of this process.

Paragraphs 16 – 34: A summary of the approach and all the policies in the draft plan.

Paragraphs 35 - 36: A summary of some of the key statutory and policy tests the plan will need to meet to be found 'sound' by the independent planning inspector through the examination. The plan needs to be supported by a robust evidence base.

Paragraphs 37 – 45: A summary of the wide range of consultation techniques to be used over the Autumn to ensure full engagement with the public on the draft plan.

6. The full Local Plan which has been published for consultation can be found here: https://www.southampton.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy/emerging-plans/cityvision/documentslibrary/

For ease of reference, a contents page and list of policies is set out at the start of the document. Some relatively limited changes to the Local Plan have been made under delegated powers since the version considered by Cabinet. For example, the objectives have been slightly broadened, the housing supply figures slightly increased (by 200 dwellings), the concept of social value has been broadened, references to cultural infrastructure added, policies on flood risk and sustainable drainage strengthened, and guidance for the city centre guarters added.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Capital/Revenue

Revenue

7. Revenue resources are required to produce the Southampton Local Plan as it will involve commissioning specialist technical experts to produce a sound evidence base and the costs associated with holding a local plan examination. This cost will be met from existing revenue budgets. There is no base budget for the Local Plan but a budget carry forward of £0.34M was approved by Council in July 2022, subject to the delegations detailed in the Budget Outturn report.

8. For this particular stage of consultation, the costs primarily relate to document design, printing and communications. These costs are estimated at £10,000 and will be met via the £0.12M PropTech Government Grant which the authority has been awarded and is linked to delivery of this particular Local Plan consultation phase.

Property/Other

9. Not applicable.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:

- 10. As the Local Planning Authority, Southampton City Council has a statutory duty under regulation 10A of the Town and County Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 ("the 2012 Regulations") to complete a review of its local plan every five years, starting from adoption of the local plan.
- 11. Under section 19 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 ("the 2004 Act") the local plan must be prepared in accordance with the council's Local Development Scheme and Statement of Community Involvement.
- 12. Under section 19 of the 2004 Act, a local plan must include policies designed to secure that the development and use of land in the local planning authority's area contribute to the mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change and identify and include policies addressing the strategic priorities for the development and use of land in the authority's area.
- 13. In preparing the local plan, the council must have regard to, inter alia, the National Planning Policy Framework and the National Planning Policy Guidance.
- 14. Consultation on the draft Local Plan must be carried out in accordance with the 2012 Regulations and meet the Council's Statement of Community Involvement.

Other Legal Implications:

- 15. Local Plans are required to be both designed and consulted upon having regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty set out in s.149 of the Equalities Act 2010 (the duty to exercise all Council functions with regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation for those with protected characteristics.) The Council's planning functions and the implementation of those in accordance with the Local Plan are key functions impacting on how people access and use property within the local authority area and must therefore be compliant having regard to this duty.
- 16. The council must carry out a Sustainability Appraisal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment) and a Habitats Regulations Assessment in the preparation of the local plan.
- 17. S.17 Crime & Disorder Act 1998 requires all local plans to be designed in such a way they contribute to the reduction of crime & disorder through the implementation of environmental design and planning processes.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

18. Compliance with Local Development Scheme

The risk of not undertaking this next stage of the Local Plan development at this time is that the Council will remain in a position in which its planning policies are considered 'out-of-date' and the determination of planning applications will not be genuinely plan-

- led but instead made in line with the presumption in favour of sustainable development with reference to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).
- 19. Likewise, not having an up-to-date Local Plan or complying with the national requirement to have up to date Local Plans in place by December 2023 could lead to the Council being 'designated' by the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC).
- 20. Compliance with Statement of Community Involvement

If the Council is not able demonstrate that it has used the principles set out in 'Involving you in Planning' in formulating planning policies, it could be open to challenge by way of judicial review or could result in the Local Plan not being found 'sound' by a Planning Inspector at the examination stage of the plan making process.

POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS

- 21. The emerging Local Plan is a policy framework document once it achieves final approval (which will be determined by full Council in due course).
- 22. As the Local Planning Authority, Southampton City Council is required to clearly define strategic priorities and policies to address these within the Development Plan, including the Local Plan, under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. The Council is also required to include non strategic priorities and policies in the local plan, as is set out in Paragraphs 17 to 19 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).
- 23. The Draft Plan with Options consultation will be conducted in accordance with the requirements set out in the Town and County Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.

KEY [DECISION?	Yes	
WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:		AFFECTED:	All
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION			
Appendices			
1.	None		

Documents In Members' Rooms

Documents in Members (Nooms			
1.	None		
Equality Impact Assessment			
Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality and Safety Impact Assessment (ESIA) to be carried out? Yes			
Data Protection Impact Assessment			
Do the implications/subject of the report require a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) to be carried out? Yes			
Other Background Documents			
Other Background documents available for inspection at:			

Title	of Background Paper(s)	Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)
1.	Southampton City Vision - documents library	