

**WEST AREA COMMITTEE – 15 JULY 2009**

<b>Title of paper:</b>	Nottingham City Core Strategy – Issues and Options Consultation	
<b>Director(s)/ Corporate Director(s):</b>	Mark Parkinson Director of Planning and Transport Services	<b>Wards affected:</b> ALL
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<b>Other officers who have provided input:</b>		
<b>Relevant Council Plan theme(s):</b>		
Choose Nottingham		✓
Respect for Nottingham		✓
Transforming Nottingham's Neighbourhoods		✓
Supporting Nottingham People		✓
Serving Nottingham Better		✓
<b>Summary of issues (including benefits to customers/service users):</b>		
<p>The Core Strategy will form the central element of the City Council's Local Development Framework, which will set out statutory planning policies to determine the future development of the City and will replace the existing Nottingham Local Plan. The City Council's Core Strategy is being prepared in alignment with the adjoining District and Borough Councils in Greater Nottingham to ensure that the future development of Greater Nottingham is planned in a consistent and comprehensive way.</p> <p>The first stage of the process involves a wide ranging consultation with the public and other interested parties on the range of issues that the Core Strategy will need to address and the possible options for dealing with them. This initial 'Issues and Options' consultation is being undertaken from 15<sup>th</sup> June to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2009. The aim is to seek views to help guide and influence the development of the Core Strategy from an early stage.</p>		
<b>Recommendation(s):</b>		
<b>1</b>	That Area Committee Members note the publication of the Issues and Options consultation and give their views in response to the consultation.	

# **1 BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 The Core Strategy will form the most important element of the **Local Development Framework (LDF)** for Nottingham, which will set out statutory planning policies to determine the future development of the City and will replace the existing Nottingham Local Plan. It must be in general conformity with the **East Midlands Regional Plan**, which outlines overall planning policies for the region – including, for example, the number of new houses that need to be built in every local planning authority's area.
- 1.2 The Core Strategy will sit below '*City, Neighbourhood, Family: Raising Aspirations*', which is the **Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS)** for Nottingham City. It will help to deliver many of the SCS objectives. It will also include a long-term vision for the development of the City, which must cover a period of at least 15 years and be closely related to the SCS vision. The Core Strategy will also include strategic development objectives focused on addressing key issues in the City and a strategy to show what measures will be delivered to address each of the objectives.
- 1.3 The Core Strategy will also help to support the delivery of the series of **Strategic Regeneration Frameworks (SRFs)** and **Neighbourhood Plans (NPs)** which are currently being developed across the City. These documents aim to outline an overall strategy for the regeneration of various neighbourhoods in the City. Whilst not formally part of the LDF, the SRFs and NPs will provide a valuable input into the Core Strategy and other LDF documents, and the Core Strategy will be able to help support their delivery by including appropriate planning policies to help influence development in accordance with SRF principles.
- 1.4 It is also important to note that the Core Strategy for the City is being prepared in alignment with the Core Strategies of the adjoining Borough and District Councils in the Greater Nottingham area to ensure that the future development of Greater Nottingham is planned in a consistent and comprehensive manner. This process is being overseen by the Greater Nottingham Joint Planning Advisory Board (JPAB), which is comprised of the relevant Planning Portfolio Holders from each of the authorities involved.
- 1.5 In accordance with Government regulations, the Core Strategy must undergo a series of stages of production. The first stage of the process relates to the identification of the main 'issues' which the Core Strategy will need to address and the possible 'options' for dealing with them. These 'Issues and Options' must be subject to consultation with the public and other interested organisations. This consultation process is taking place from **15<sup>th</sup> June to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2009**.
- 1.6 The consultation is being publicised widely through press releases and articles in the Nottingham Arrow and Business Arrow. An overall launch conference, a conference for developers and a range of other community focused events are also being held. A separate event, aimed primarily at Scrutiny Members and Area Committee representatives is also proposed. The Core Strategy Issues and Options documents (including summary leaflets) are available to view on the Council's website and in all libraries within the City, and comments can be made online, in writing or via email.
- 1.7 As noted above, the Core Strategy will need to clearly link with the SCS and will also closely relate to the emerging SRFs. A significant amount of consultation has already taken place across the City in relation to both of these processes, and it is not the intention of the Core Strategy to duplicate this. Given the relationship between these documents and the Core Strategy, any comments which have been made in relation to

these documents will, by association, also help to inform the Core Strategy.

- 1.8 At a Greater Nottingham level, the type of Issues and Options that are being consulted upon include, for example:
- How to accommodate the new housing and employment growth required by the East Midlands Regional Plan
  - How to revise the Green Belt around Nottingham in order to deliver the required growth
  - How to make provision for any new infrastructure that is required e.g. transport improvements, schools and other community facilities
  - What measures should be taken to address climate change across Greater Nottingham
- 1.9 In addition, the Issues and Options consultation also focuses on issues of specific relevance to the City Council area including, for example:
- How to address neighbourhood transformation and regeneration
  - What type of new housing should be prioritised in the City
  - What approach should be taken towards building balanced communities
  - How to ensure suitable employment opportunities are provided for local residents
- 1.10 It should also be noted that all of the other authorities within the partnership are consulting on issues that are of specific relevance to their Borough/District. In some cases, these local issues might have an effect on residents within the City Council – for example where growth may take place in areas which adjoin the City, and consultation is taking place on how this might be accommodated. Any consultation responses on these local issues will need to be directed towards the relevant Borough/District Council.
- 1.11 Views from all Area Committees are being sought during the consultation process, and Area Committee Members are invited to examine the relevant Issues and Options documents and submit comments as appropriate.
- 1.12 Once the Issues and Options consultation has ended, all views will be taken into account and used to inform the next stage of the process, which involves setting out the Preferred Options for inclusion within the Core Strategy. These will again be subject to consultation before a full version of the Core Strategy is produced. Further views on the full version will then be sought before it is submitted for examination by an independent Planning Inspector. Subject to the Inspector being satisfied that the Core Strategy is sound, the City Council can then formally adopt the document and use it as the basis for determining all planning applications in the City. It is currently expected that this process will be completed by December 2011. During the interim period, the planning policies in the current Nottingham Local Plan will continue to apply.

## **2 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)**

- 2.1 The Issues and Options process represents the first stage of the production of the Core Strategy. Comments and input at this early stage are important and will help to ensure that the final policies in the Core Strategy represent the most appropriate choices in the light of other possible alternatives.

## **3 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 The production of the Core Strategy must be undertaken in line with statutory procedures, and consulting on issues and options is therefore a statutory requirement.

The consultation process is intended to examine all reasonable options and alternatives to ensure that the final policies selected for inclusion within the Core Strategy represent the most appropriate choices in light of all other possible alternatives.

**4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING VALUE FOR MONEY)**

4.1 None

**5 RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES (INCLUDING LEGAL IMPLICATIONS, CRIME AND DISORDER ACT IMPLICATIONS AND EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS)**

5.1 None

**6 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS OTHER THAN PUBLISHED WORKS OR THOSE DISCLOSING CONFIDENTIAL OR EXEMPT INFORMATION**

6.1 None

**7 PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT**

7.1 None