

WEST AREA COMMITTEE – 10 MARCH 2010

Title of paper:	Greater Nottingham Aligned Core Strategies – Option for Consultation	
Director(s)/ Corporate Director(s):	Jennifer Dearing Interim Corporate Director of Development	Wards affected: ALL
Contact Officer(s) and contact details:	Grant Butterworth Head of Planning, Transport and Intelligence Strategy Tel: 0115 9155482 Email: grant.butterworth@nottinghamcity.gov.uk Kate Proctor Local Development Framework Officer Tel: 0115 9155487 Email: kate.proctor@nottinghamcity.gov.uk	
Other officers who have provided input:		
Relevant Council Plan Strategic Priority:		
World Class Nottingham		✓
Work in Nottingham		✓
Safer Nottingham		✓
Neighbourhood Nottingham		✓
Family Nottingham		✓
Healthy Nottingham		✓
Serving Nottingham Better		✓
Summary of issues (including benefits to customers/service users):		
<p>The Core Strategies 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 Strategies are 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>This second stage of the process involves consultation with citizens, partners and other interested parties on a number of draft planning policies. This follows on from the initial 'Issues and Options' consultation which took place in summer 2009. The aim is to seek views so as to help guide and influence the development of the next stage of the Core Strategies. The next version of the document will be consulted on before submission to the government for approval.</p>		
Recommendation(s):		
1	That Area Committee note the publication of the Option for Consultation document and give their views in response to the consultation.	

1 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Core Strategies 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 Strategies 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 Strategies 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 Strategies 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 Strategies and other LDF documents, and the Core Strategies 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 comprises the relevant Planning Portfolio Holders from each of the authorities involved.
- 1.5 In accordance with Government regulations, the Core Strategies must undergo a series of stages of production. This current stage is non-statutory but it is important that it is subject to consultation so that citizens, partners and other interested organisations can make their views heard before the plan progresses to a more finalised draft. This consultation process is taking place from 15 February to 12 April 2010. The Option for Consultation document was approved for consultation purposes by the City Council's Executive Board on 19 January 2010.
- 1.6 The consultation is being publicised through press releases, a joint launch event with the district and borough authorities, as well as a range of other events and meetings. A separate event, aimed primarily at Scrutiny members and Area Committee representatives is also proposed. The Core Strategies Option for Consultation document (including a summary leaflet) 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 Strategies 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 Strategies to duplicate this. Given the relationship between these

documents and the Core Strategies, any comments which have been made in relation to these documents will, by association, also help to inform the Core Strategies. A report of the Issues and Options Consultation exercise undertaken last summer will also be available at on the City Council's website within the Local Development Framework pages.

1.8 The Option for Consultation has three elements :

- a vision setting out how the Greater Nottingham area and the places within should develop. The vision highlights some of the advantages of working together in delivering conurbation priorities such as those set out with the Homes and Communities Agency, Primary Care Trust Strategic Plans, Local Transport Plan and achieving the spatial aspirations of the Sustainable Communities Strategy;
- a series of strategic objectives for the area focusing on how to deliver the vision and setting out the broad principles which underline the aligned Core Strategies such as broadening the housing mix, addressing climate change and regeneration;
- a Delivery Strategy for achieving the objectives, including policies setting out how much development is intended to happen where, when and by what means. This has been informed by the views submitted on the Issues and Options. At this current stage they are not fully finalised policies, but they establish a direction of travel, and allow consultees to understand the implications of the Core Strategy policies. The Delivery Strategy has policies grouped under the four themes of:
 - Sustainable Growth (including climate change, employment and regeneration);
 - Places for People (including placemaking, housing, health, culture and transport);
 - Our Environment (including Green Infrastructure, biodiversity and open space) and;
 - Making it Happen (including delivery and infrastructure priorities).

1.9 In some cases, proposals in the surrounding Districts/Boroughs might have an effect on residents within the City Council, for example, where growth may take place in areas which adjoin the City.

1.10 Views from all Area Committees are being sought during the consultation process, and Area Committees are invited to examine the Option for Consultation document and submit comments as appropriate.

1.11 Once consultation on the Option for Consultation document has ended, all views will be taken into account and used to inform the next stage of the process. This will be when further views on a more finalised version will be sought before it is submitted to the government for examination by an independent Planning Inspector. Subject to the Inspector being satisfied that the Core Strategies are 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 saved planning policies in the current Nottingham Local Plan will continue to apply.

2 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)

Comments and input at this stage are important and will help to ensure that the final policies in the Core Strategies represent the most appropriate choices.

3 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS

The production of the Core Strategies must be undertaken in line with statutory procedures. The consultation process is intended to examine all reasonable options and alternatives to ensure that the final policies selected for inclusion within the Core Strategies represent the most appropriate choices in light of all other possible alternatives.

4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING VALUE FOR MONEY)

None.

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

- 5.1 The key risks attached to the preparation of the Core Strategies are associated with the implications of the partnership between local authorities in the conurbation not being sustained. This could potentially lead to the Core Strategy of individual authorities being found to be “unsound”.
- 5.2 The work on the Aligned Core Strategies is fully compliant with the City Council’s Section 17 requirements. A full Sustainability Appraisal is also being undertaken throughout the preparation process which will test the Plans’ development in the context of a wide range of social and equality issues.

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

None.

7 PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT

- 7.1 Greater Nottingham Aligned Core Strategies Issues and Options (June 2009)
- 7.2 Nottingham Local Plan (November 2005)
- 7.3 East Midlands Regional Plan (March 2009)
- 7.4 Report to City Council Executive Board (19 January 2010)