

LOCAL PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To inform VALP Scrutiny Committee of the progress on preparing the Local Plan.

2. Recommendation

To note the content of the report

3. Progress on production of the Local Plan

- 3.1 Following the completion of the issues and options consultation work has focussed on summarising the comments received. A summary of those responses is the subject of a separate committee report. Work has then focussed on the preparation of the detailed policies for inclusion in the plan. A significant number of these are now drafted and are being discussed with Development Management.
- 3.2 A significant issue for the new plan is the degree of unmet need that we may be requested to accommodate from adjacent Councils. Work has therefore been undertaken to establish the level of unmet need which may flow from other areas. Their positions are set out in the responses to the issues and options consultation. In summary a small amount of unmet need may be requested from Luton and Dacorum, but there is no indication what the figure will be yet. The total unmet need from Wycombe, Chiltern and S Bucks was estimated at 10,000 dwellings for the issues and options consultation. With the advent of a joint plan for the unmet need from the other Bucks councils will increase. However it is not yet possible to be definitive about the figure as capacity work, such as phase 2 of the Green belt Review and consideration of sites in the AONB is not due to be completed for Chiltern/S Bucks until their preferred options consultation takes place in October. Joint working is underway to establish the most accurate estimate and agree the way forward for a definitive figure to be established.

4. Progress on production of supporting evidence

- 4.1 The following bullet points summarise the latest position on the preparation of VALP supporting evidence. A verbal update and any further information will be supplied at the committee meeting:
- A revised Buckinghamshire Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment (HEDNA) report has been prepared by ORS to inform the production of the relevant Local Plans. This has established the overall housing need for Buckinghamshire at around 50,000 with a requirement of 21,300 for Aylesbury Vale.
 - A revision of the Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (HELAA) is underway. This involves over 100 site visits, consultations regarding constraints and application of the joint HELAA methodology. This is the subject of a separate committee report. The revised HELAA will provide the source for further capacity

- A Landscape Assessment from LUC was consulted on at issues and options and comments have been taken into account. The revised assessment has been published on the Council's website and will be utilised in considering planning applications.
- A revised Bucks Housing Market Area (HMA) report has been published following the decision by Chiltern and S Bucks to prepare a joint Local Plan. It concludes that the combined Local Plan area falls within the 'best fit' Bucks HMA.
- Phase 1 of a joint Green Belt Review involving the Bucks Councils and including the County Council has been completed and published. A separate report on the review has been prepared for the committee.
- Cooperative work on traffic modelling has commenced between the County Council and the District Councils to inform the preparation of the respective Local Plans. Work has also commenced the preparation of an Aylesbury Transport Strategy.
- A Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and Water Cycle Study has been commissioned and work to gather data from the respective stakeholders is underway.
- Work by consultants to prepare a report on the potential for a new settlement in Aylesbury Vale is continuing. The current focus is on determining the potential landscape and traffic impacts of the most suitable locations.
- As part of efforts to reduce the over supply of employment land which amounts to 77 ha against a requirement of 20 ha is underway. The potential for land to be reallocated for housing development is being explored as part of the work.
- Sustainability appraisal work is continuing following the preparation of a Reasonable Alternatives report for issues and options consultation, work is now focussing on the appraisal of potential development sites.
- Following the production of new government planning policy on travellers which included a revised definition of travellers for planning purposes a update of the joint Bucks traveller needs assessment is underway. The implications of initial results are currently being discussed between the respective councils.

5. Proposed work future work programme

- 5.1 The draft plan is currently being finalised and will be presented to Members at a seminar on Tuesday 31 May at 6:30pm. The draft plan will then be considered by VALP Scrutiny Committee on 13 June, Cabinet on 15 June and Council on 28 June. The draft plan will then be published for public consultation on Thursday 7 July, for a period of over eight weeks (due to summer holiday period), ending on Monday 5 September. The consultation will include a series of public exhibitions and a more streamlined online system for submitting comments. A Town and Parish Councils event will take place on 13th of July.

5.2 Following the public consultation on the draft plan, work will continue on finalising the key pieces of evidence and drafting the final plan. The final plan will be published for comment in early 2017, following consideration again by VALP Scrutiny Committee, Cabinet and Council. This is likely to be in December. Following the consultation on the final 'proposed submission' plan, the plan will be submitted for independent examination in March, which fits with the government's deadline. Once submitted, the timetable is led by PINS and is therefore out of our control, but we anticipate the examination starting in the spring, and adoption by summer 2017.

6. Resource implications

6.1 Funding of Local Plan preparation is being derived from existing budgets.

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Background Documents None