

Report to: **Strategic Planning Committee**



Date of Meeting 27 April 2021

Document classification: Part A Public Document

Exemption applied: None

Review date for release N/A

Initial feedback report – Local plan issues and options consultation

Report summary:

This report sets out initial feedback on responses received to the local plan issues and options report consultation that closed on the 15 March 2021.

Is the proposed decision in accordance with:

Budget Yes No

Policy Framework Yes No

Recommendation:

That Strategic Planning Committee note the initial feedback received in consultation responses to the Local Plan issues and options report.

Reason for recommendation: To give initial advice to the committee of the feedback received to the recent issues and options consultation.

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Portfolio(s) (check which apply):

- Climate Action
- Corporate Services and COVID-19 Response and Recovery
- Democracy and Transparency
- Economy and Assets
- Coast, Country and Environment
- Finance
- Strategic Planning
- Sustainable Homes and Communities

Equalities impact Low Impact

Climate change Low Impact

Risk: Low Risk;

Links to background information – See links in the attached the report.

Link to [Council Plan](#):

Priorities (check which apply)

- Outstanding Place and Environment
 - Outstanding Homes and Communities
 - Outstanding Economic Growth, Productivity, and Prosperity
 - Outstanding Council and Council Services
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1 Local plan issues and options report – initial consultation feedback

- 1.1 A local plan issues and options report was consulted on from the 18 January 2021 to 15 March 2021. A first draft report of responses received has been produced. It is stressed, however, that this report only advises on the number and percentage split of responses received to the ‘tick box’ questions that were in the questionnaire. At this stage no attempt (with a couple of extremely limited exceptions) has been made to review or summarise actual comments received, i.e. the information that people may put in the ‘free text’ boxes. Likewise no summary or comment is made on response received that did not use the questionnaire – i.e. where people sent in letters, emails or reports.

2 The interim report on comments received

- 2.1 Appended to this committee paper is the initial report of responses received, and as an appendix to that is a consultation strategy report that highlights work undertaken to support and encourage communications around the consultation and to encourage participation.
- 2.2 The consultation exercise received a high number of responses and there was a lot of social media activity associated with the consultation. We encouraged respondents to use an on-line response form and most respondents did, though some respondents encountered technical problems and submitted a pdf of the questionnaire. There were also a relatively large number of mostly agents (typically acting for land owners or developers) who we do not believe encountered technical problems but chose not to make submissions via the pdf questionnaire and not on-line. As these submissions did not come through the envisaged channels they are taking longer to assess.
- 2.3 The draft report of feedback received is an interim report majoring on statistical elements of feedback. For the May 2021 meeting of Strategic Planning Committee the intent is to provide a more complete feedback report that summarises some of the key themes and messages, and more frequently raised points, made in consultation responses. It is stressed, however, that we will not highlight every point raised, to do so would result in a very long report that would take a long time to prepare. However, we will endeavour to make all comments received publically available.
- 2.4 In this committee report we have not summarised what is actually in the relatively short feedback report that we trust is self-explanatory and an easy to read document. The intention is to pick up on the consultation responses in the themed topic papers that we will be bringing to the committee throughout the rest of the year.

3 Next steps

- 3.1 For the May 2021 Strategic Planning Committee we plan to bring a more detailed feedback report to including commentary on matters raised in free text boxes of the questionnaire and in other correspondence. In the May 2021 report we do not intend to provide officer comment or suggested policy responses to comments received, rather the intent is that it will just be a feedback on information submitted.
- 3.2 Through 2021 and potentially in 2022 and beyond, however, we plan to revisit the questionnaire response when we bring topic and subject based papers to committee. This will provide a chance to delve into consultation feedback in more depth and also to give some more critical comment or observations on feedback in the context of developing and refining policy options going forward.

Financial implications:

There are no specific financial implications to comment on.

Legal implications:

There are no legal implications to this interim report.