

REPORT TO EXECUTIVE

Date of Meeting: 8 February 2022

Report of: Deputy Chief Executive

Title: Exeter Local Plan: Issues consultation summary report

Is this a Key Decision?

Yes

Is this an Executive or Council Function?

Executive

1. What is the report about?

1.1 This report discusses an accompanying consultation report (Appendix A) which summaries the Local Plan 'Issues' consultation and the responses received.

2. Recommendations:

2.1 That the Executive notes the content of the 'New Local Plan Issues Consultation Summary Report' (Appendix A) as a document which will be used to inform the preparation of the emerging new Local Plan.

3. Reasons for the recommendation:

3.1 As the Local Planning Authority for Exeter, the City Council has a statutory duty to prepare planning policy for the city. On this basis work has started on a new Local Plan for Exeter which will eventually replace the adopted Core Strategy and Local Plan First Review.

3.2 The first milestone in preparing the new Local Plan was an initial, 'Issues' public consultation held between September and November 2021. This process provided the public, stakeholders and the wider community with an early opportunity to influence the scope of the new Local Plan. It is therefore important to summarise and reflect on the responses received as part of ongoing work on the emerging new Local Plan. The Consultation Report at Appendix A provides the consultation summary.

4. What are the resource implications including non financial resources?

4.1 The 'Issues' consultation is complete and the recommendation made in this report results in no direct additional resource implications.

5. Section 151 Officer comments:

5.1 There are no additional financial implications contained within this report.

6. What are the legal aspects?

6.1 The preparation of planning policy is a legal requirement under Section 19 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. A public consultation was held in the

autumn of 2021 in accordance with the provisions of Regulation 18 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.

7. Monitoring Officer's comments:

The Monitoring Officer has no additional comments.

8. Report details:

Consultation summary

8.1 The 'Issues' consultation was held between 20 September and 15 November 2021 and sought views on a brief scoping document for the new Local Plan. The Issues consultation document included the following:

- The proposed content of the new Local Plan;
- A series of ten key issues for the new Local Plan to help address;
- A vision for the city;
- A discussion of the pattern future development in Exeter; and
- A discussion of the quality of future development in the city.

8.2 Six open questions on the consultation document were asked based around the content above. Responses were invited online via an electronic survey while email and paper responses were also welcomed.

8.3 The consultation was organised to enable both electronic and in-person engagement. On this basis, two exhibitions were held in the city centre to provide an opportunity for discussion.

8.4 The consultation was promoted in a number of ways including by correspondence via the Council's planning contact list, a press release, social media posting, digital advertising in the city centre, promotion through community networks and posters.

Consultation responses

8.5 In total, there were 215 responses to the Issues consultation. The majority of these were submitted online via the website. Of the 215 responses received, 161 were from individuals and 54 from organisations or groups such as Councils, public sector bodies and landowners and promoters.

8.6 Each of the six questions were responded to. The questions were 'open' in order to allow respondents the freedom to answer in a flexible way without specific answer options. On this basis, responses to the various questions often covered similar issues and provided similar commentary. Detailed discussion of the responses is set out in the accompanying consultation summary report at Appendix A. The responses provided will be made available online alongside the summary report.

Next steps

8.7 The responses provided to the consultation will be used to inform the next stage of plan-making which will lead up to the preparation of a draft Local Plan for consultation in autumn 2022.

9. How does the decision contribute to the Council's Corporate Plan?

9.1 The Issues consultation document was the first tangible stage in the preparation of the Local Plan and helped to explore various issues facing Exeter. A number of these issues related to the priorities in the Corporate Plan, particularly those below:

- Delivering Net Zero Exeter 2030;
- Promoting active and healthy lifestyles; and
- Building great neighbourhoods.

A large number of the responses provided views on topics related to these corporate priorities. Using the consultation responses to inform the future work on the Local Plan will therefore help to maintain links to the Corporate Plan.

10. What risks are there and how can they be reduced?

10.1 The report explores the responses to the Local Plan Issues Consultation which has already taken place. There are therefore no specific risks to consider.

11. Equality Act 2010 (The Act)

11.1 Under the Act's Public Sector Equalities Duty, decision makers are required to consider the need to:

- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other prohibited conduct;
- advance equality by encouraging participation, removing disadvantage, taking account of disabilities and meeting people's needs; and
- foster good relations between people by tackling prejudice and promoting understanding.

11.2 In order to comply with the general duty authorities must assess the impact on equality of decisions, policies and practices. These duties do not prevent the authority from reducing services where necessary, but they offer a way of developing proposals that consider the impacts on all members of the community.

11.3 In making decisions the authority must take into account the potential impact of that decision in relation to age, disability, race/ethnicity (includes Gypsies and Travellers), sex and gender, gender identity, religion and belief, sexual orientation, pregnant women and new and breastfeeding mothers, marriage and civil partnership status in coming to a decision.

11.4. In recommending that Executive notes the content of the Issues Consultation Summary Report to inform the preparation of the emerging new Local Plan, no potential negative impact has been identified on people with protected characteristics as determined by the Act.

12. Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

12.1 There are no direct carbon/environmental impacts arising from the recommendation to note the content of the Issues Consultation Summary Report as this document does not set Council policy.

13. Are there any other options?

13.1. The Issues consultation for the new Local Plan has already taken place. It is necessary to provide feedback on the consultation and therefore there are no appropriate alternatives to noting the Consultation Summary Report.

Deputy Chief Executive, Bindu Arjoon

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Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1972 (as amended)

Background papers used in compiling this report:-

None

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