



<b>Policy, Finance and Development Committee</b>	<b>Tuesday, 26 March 2024</b>	<b>Matter for Decision</b>
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**Report Title:** **New Local Plan Regulation 18B Consultation Draft (Preferred Options)**

**Report Author(s):** **Ed Morgan (Principal Planning Policy Officer)**

<b>Purpose of Report:</b>	The purpose of this report is to seek Committee's approval to publicly consult on the emerging draft New Local Plan Preferred Options document for a 6-week period.
<b>Report Summary:</b>	<p>The Council is currently preparing a new Local Plan. The time period of the new Plan period is 2020 to 2041. The Local Plan will contain planning policies that drive as well as shape sustainable development throughout the Plan period. The Plan will also protect and enhance the Borough's historic heritage and green open spaces.</p> <p>In producing a Local Plan, the Council is required to undertake a number of formal public consultations at specific times and milestones (as set by national legislation and the Council's Local Development Scheme). So far, for the new Local Plan, the Council has undertaken the first stage of public consultation under Regulation 18A - as termed by national legislation. This took place between Midday Friday, 25 September 2020 until Midday Friday, 20 November 2020 (Issues and Options).</p> <p>The Preferred Options document (see <b>Appendix 1</b> to this Report) contains the Council's preferred approaches to delivering sustainable development for the Plan period 2020 – 2041 and will be publicly consulted on for a 6-week period during April and May 2024.</p> <p>The proposed timetable for progressing the New Local Plan is set out in the Council's latest Local Development Scheme. Once adopted, the New Local Plan will supersede the current Borough of Oadby and Wigston Local Plan (adopted in 2019).</p>
<b>Recommendation(s):</b>	<b>That Committee approves the emerging draft New Local Plan Preferred Options document for the purposes of public consultation commencing on Wednesday, 3 April 2024 for a 6-week period.</b>
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<b>Strategic Objectives:</b>	Our Council (SO1) Our Communities (SO2) Our Economy (SO3) Our Environment (SO4) Our Partners (SO5)
<b>Vision and Values:</b>	"Our Borough - The Place To Be" (Vision) Customer & Community Focused (V1)
<b>Report Implications:-</b>	
Legal:	There are no implications arising from this report.
Financial:	There are no implications arising from this report.
Corporate Risk Management:	Political Dynamics (CR3) Reputation Damage (CR4) Regulatory Governance (CR6) Economy / Regeneration (CR9)
Equalities and Equalities Assessment (EA):	There are no implications arising from this report. Initial EA Screening (See Appendices)
Human Rights:	There are no implications arising from this report.
Health and Safety:	There are no implications arising from this report.
<b>Statutory Officers' Comments:-</b>	
Head of Paid Service:	The report is satisfactory.
Chief Finance Officer:	The report is satisfactory.
Monitoring Officer:	The report is satisfactory.
<b>Consultees:</b>	None so far, however this report is seeking approval to consult with the public and other key stakeholders.
<b>Background Papers:</b>	<a href="#">Issues and Options (Regulation 18A) Statement of Consultation (March 2023)</a>
<b>Appendices:</b>	<b>1.</b> Regulation 18B Preferred Options Consultation Draft <b>2.</b> Equality Assessment Initial Screening

## 1. Information

- 1.1 The Council has already undertaken the first stage of public consultation for the new Local Plan (Issues and Options – Regulation 18A consultation). That document highlighted the Issues and Options for the Borough, and asked the public, businesses and other stakeholders to comment, as well as to add any more suggestions if they felt it necessary to do so.
- 1.2 The Issues and Options consultation and its outcomes has helped shape the production of the Preferred Options Local Plan document. The comments and the responses have been taken into account when producing the Preferred Options document for consultation. The comments received can be viewed in the Issues and Options Statement of Consultation (link

included in Background Paper 1 to this Report).

- 1.3 The Preferred Options document is in essence a draft new Local Plan that contains the vision, objectives and (in the main) preferred policies; that seek to fulfil the vision and the objectives over the Plan period up to 2041.
- 1.4 The key elements of the Preferred Options document were highlighted to Members at the most recent All Member Briefing that took place on the 13 February 2024. The briefing session also gave those Members in attendance the opportunity to speak with Officers about any questions or queries that they may have had in relation to the key elements of the Preferred Options document.

## **Structure**

- 1.5 The structure of the document is set out as below:
  - 1. Introduction** - The document begins with an Introductory Chapter that sets out national planning policy, the Council's Corporate Priorities and sets out the strategic context of the Borough and the wider Leicester and Leicestershire region (for example the Strategic Growth Plan).
  - 2. Spatial Portrait** - The document contains a Spatial Portrait chapter that highlights the specific characteristics of the Borough, for example physical, social, environmental, historic and economic. This chapter also sets out the key challenges that the Borough will face now and in the future.
  - 3. Vision and Objectives** - The document then illustrates the vision and objectives that the Council wish to meet to ensure that sustainable development is delivered and the Borough is a safe and prosperous place to live.
  - 4. Policies** - Chapters 4 through to 11 contain all of the planning policies and the preferred approaches that the Council wishes to adopt to deliver the vision and objectives set out in the previous chapter. Chapter 4 sets out the Council's proposed Spatial Strategy that will provide a broad indication of the overall scale of development in the Borough, and the level of infrastructure needed to support it, whilst seeking a balance between protection of the Borough's environmental and historical assets, continuing socio-economic development, and improving the quality of life for all.
  - 5. Appendix 1** - The Regulation 18B Site Options are set out in Appendix 1 of the document. However, it should be noted that none of the sites submitted have yet been assessed for their appropriateness because the Council has not fully developed the suite of evidence that will underpin the New Local Plan and its growth areas. The full assessment will take place throughout 2024 prior to the Regulation 19 Pre-Submission public consultation.
- 1.6 A full version of the document that is to be publicly consulted on is contained within Appendix 1 to this Committee report.
- 1.7 To ensure that the New Local Plan fulfils certain required directives and legislation, a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) has been prepared for this Preferred Options stage of the Plan. SA is a tool used at the plan-making stage to assess the likely effects of the plan when judged against reasonable alternatives. The Sustainability Appraisal will also be consulted on in public. Consultation will be for the same time period as the Plan; April to May 2024, for 6 weeks.
- 1.8 Although not necessarily required at this stage of the Plan, prior to the Local Plan Pre-Submission consultation stage, the Council will need to ensure that all of the approaches and policies set out within the Plan are appropriately evidenced. Evidence base production is ongoing.

## **2 Conclusion**

- 2.1 It is important that the new Local Plan contains all of the appropriate and relevant elements that successfully deliver sustainable development that responds to local community need.
- 2.2 The approaches set out within the draft document are similar to those set out within the Council's existing Adopted Local Plan. They have been successful in shaping sustainable built development within the Borough since its adoption and it is felt that they will also be in the future, hence why they are to be carried forward in this emerging New Local Plan.
- 2.3 Subject to Committee approval, The Preferred Options document public consultation period will be commencing on Wednesday, 3 April 2024 for a 6-week period.
- 2.4 A further All-Member Briefing will be held following the Preferred Options consultation to inform the process of preparing the Regulation 19 Pre-Submission version of the emerging New Local Plan.