



**Report for: Cabinet 3rd September 2009
Planning Committee 16th September 2009**

**Subject: Comments on the Aligned Core Strategy: Issues & Options
of other Local Authorities**

**Author: Planning Officer (Planning Policy) for Head of Planning and
Environment and Head of Strategy and Performance**

Purpose of report

- 1 The purpose of this report is to advise on the comments made by Gedling Borough Council to the Issues and Options consultation as part of the Aligned Core Strategy.

Background

- 2 Gedling Borough Council has been working with the other Local Authorities that make up the Nottingham Core Housing Market Area¹ to prepare an Aligned Core Strategy. The first public stage of this work is the preparation and consultation on the Issues and Options document. The document was agreed for consultation purposes at Cabinet on 6th May 2009 and taken as an item for information to Planning Committee on 20th May 2009.
- 3 The Issues and Options document was divided into two areas; Part A and Part B. Part A dealt with issues that affected the conurbation as a whole (e.g. 'Transport and Accessibility' and 'the Economy and Employment Land'). Part B dealt with issues relevant to individual authorities (e.g. in Gedling Borough this addressed the issue of whether landscape characteristics such as ridgelines should limit or direct future development, among other issues).
- 4 As such, the issues and options explored in Part A were common to all six of the authorities while Part B would be individual to each authority. It was agreed that comments made to Part A should be shared and

¹ Gedling Borough Council, Nottingham City Council, Broxtowe Borough Council, Erewash Borough Council and Rushcliffe Borough Council and the Hucknall part of Ashfield District Council.

considered jointly by the partner authorities. As such, it was also agreed that the authorities should only make comments on the issues and options set out in the Part B documents prepared by the other authorities.

- 5 Due to the nature of the settlements, Ashfield is split between two Housing Market Areas. Therefore Ashfield District Council are unable to fully align the Core Strategy with the other districts. They have used the aligned work as a basis and amended it to make it locally specific. As such we are able to comment on their Part A.

Comment Preparation

- 6 In order to meet the deadline of the 31st July 2009, approval was sought from the Portfolio Holder for Strategic Planning to delegate authority for comments on this stage of the Core Strategy to the Head of Planning and Environment in consultation with the Head of Strategy and Performance.
- 7 Comments were made on the Part B documents prepared by each of the other authorities, which are summarised as follows:-

- A consistent theme of ensuring future planning work is joined up effectively runs through the responses made by Gedling Borough Council.

Nottingham City

- Comments on retail issues raised in the City's document reflect the comments made by GBC to the recent consultation on PPS4 'Planning for Prosperous Economies'.
- Comments on types of housing.
- Comments on the nature of public transport links.

Erewash

- Comments on the location of employment sites

Broxtowe

- Comments on the use of Toton Sidings as a strategic road/rail freight depot.

Rushcliffe

- Comments on the 4th Trent crossing.
- Comments on the weight given to open countryside in relation to Green Belt.

Ashfield

- Comments on development beyond 2026.
- Comments on the future role of sub regional centres (including Hucknall).

- Comments on the weight given to open countryside in relation to Green Belt.
 - Comments on the identification of safeguarded land.
 - Comments on the accessibility of major new development.
 - Comments on where existing infrastructure can support growth in Ashfield and Greater Nottingham.
- 8 The detailed responses submitted to each of the other authorities are attached as an appendix to this report. The reference numbers relate to the Issue and Option references contained in the Greater Nottingham Aligned Core Strategy Issues and Options document which can be viewed at the following website and then selecting the link for 'Greater Nottingham Core Strategy – Issues and Options Consultation Documents':-
- <http://www.gngrowthpoint.com/>
- The Issues and Options document for Ashfield District Council can be viewed via the following link:-
- <http://www.ashfield-dc.gov.uk/ccm/navigation/environment/local-development-framework/>

Recommendation

It is RECOMMENDED that members note the contents of this report.