

Report to Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Subject: Progress on the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan and consultation methods for the forthcoming Publication Draft

Date: 15 January 2024

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Purpose

The purpose of this report is to inform members of the progress made in preparing the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan and to set out proposals for the methods for public consultation locally within Gedling Borough on the Publication Draft version of the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan.

Recommendation(s)

THAT Committee

- 1) Note the report; and**
- 2) Comment on the proposed consultation methods.**

1 Background

- 1.1 It is a legal requirement of local planning authorities that they exercise their plan making functions (under s.39(2) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004). The local plan for Gedling Borough comprises two parts. The Aligned Core Strategy comprises part 1 of Gedling Borough Council's Local Plan and was adopted in September 2014. It sets out the strategic policy direction for future development in the Borough up to 2028 and was developed in conjunction with other authorities in the housing market area. The Local Planning Document, adopted in July 2018, comprises part 2 of the Local Plan and shapes future development in Gedling Borough by setting out in more detail how new homes, jobs and infrastructure will be planned for.
- 1.2 There is a legal requirement to review local plans every 5 years (Reg 10A of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012) and this is reflected in the revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) which was updated in September 2023.

- 1.3 The Councils of Greater Nottingham are advised by the Greater Nottingham Joint Planning Advisory Board which is made up of the lead planning and transport councillors from each of the Councils. The Joint Board meets regularly and has overseen the co-ordination of all the Core Strategies within Greater Nottingham. Broxtowe, Gedling, and Nottingham City Councils prepared an aligned and consistent planning strategy for their part of Greater Nottingham. The strategy is not a formal Joint Core Strategy so decisions relating to it have been made separately by each Council.

Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan: progress to date

- 1.4 The principle of reviewing the Core Strategies covering Greater Nottingham was agreed by the Greater Nottingham Joint Planning Advisory Board in December 2017. Work has commenced on the preparation of a new strategic plan – the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan. To date the preparation of the Strategic Plan has been through a number of stages:
- Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan Growth Options document – this was the subject of a 10-week consultation between 6th July and 14th September 2020. The consultation was extended from 10th February to 24th March 2021 as some comments had been blocked by security software and not received. This document asked a series of questions on topics including housing growth, employment growth and economic development, climate change, natural and historic environment, Green Belt, and Infrastructure. Over 5,000 comments were received from a wide variety of public and private bodies and the general public.
 - Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan: Preferred Approach – this document was subject to consultation in January and February 2023. The document focused on the strategic distribution of housing and employment provision and identified potential strategic sites. Approximately 250 consultees made over 800 comments.
 - Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan: Distribution and Logistics Preferred Approach. Consulted on between September and October 2023. This document sought views on the Councils proposed sites for strategic distribution and logistics.

- 1.5 Turning to the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan Growth Options Document which received over 5,000 responses. These have been summarised in the Report of Consultation published in February 2022. In December 2022, the Greater Nottingham Planning Partnership published its Response to the Growth Options Consultation. Both documents are available here:

[Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan: Preferred Approach \(now closed\)
\(gnplan.org.uk\)](https://gnplan.org.uk)

- 1.6 The Greater Nottingham Planning Partnership will be publishing its response to the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan Preferred Approach setting out favoured strategic sites and the separate consultation on strategic distribution and logistics sites to coincide with the consultation on the Publication Draft Strategic Plan.

Evidence Base

- 1.7 A key part of the preparation of the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan is the preparation of a robust and comprehensive evidence base (a link to the Greater Nottingham Planning Partnership is provided in the Background Papers section of this report where all GNSP commissioned evidence is or will be published). A number of studies have already been completed such as the Nottingham Core Housing Market Area Boundary Study (August 2018) which confirms that the Nottingham Core Housing Market Area is a coherent Housing Market Area and Functional Economic Market Area. An employment land study setting out recommendations on the amount and distribution of employment land has also been completed. Similarly, a specific study on the need for strategic distribution and logistics facilities has been completed. A number of studies are on-going and due to report prior to the next stage of plan making the Publication Draft Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan:

- Transport Modelling
- Viability appraisal
- Infrastructure Delivery Plan
- Greater Nottingham Centres Study
- Housing Needs Assessment Review
- Carbon Reduction Study
- Habitats Regulation Assessment

Next Steps

- 1.8 It is anticipated that the Publication Draft of the Greater Nottingham Plan will be published for consultation during the Spring of 2024. Following this consultation, the plan will be submitted for independent examination later in 2024.

Planning Reforms

- 1.9 The Government is currently implementing elements of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act which received Royal Assent in October 2023. This Act includes a number of measures to speed up plan making. Transitional arrangements provide that plan makers will have until 30th June 2025 to submit their plans for independent examination under the current

legislation. Although this timetable is feasible it may be quite challenging given the need to consider comments made during the forthcoming consultation and any potential changes to be made prior to submission.

Proposed Consultation Strategy

- 1.10 The next stage of plan preparation - the Publication Draft Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan will need to be subject to six weeks of formal public consultation. The Portfolio Holder for Growth and Regeneration approved a consultation strategy for the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan as it relates to Gedling Borough on 23rd June 2020 prior to consultation on the Greater Nottingham Growth Options document. This consultation strategy was prepared by Greater Nottingham Planning Partnership to ensure consistency across authorities from the outset but also recognised that each Council must follow the provisions within their individual Statement of Community Involvement.
- 1.11 The Consultation Strategy seeks efficiencies through making best use of the joint Greater Nottingham Planning Partnership staff and resources including the GNPP website, use of social media including the setting up of a joint dedicated GNPP Twitter account. The joint consultation methods will also utilise the shared INOVEM data base consultation portal which will initiate alerts to stakeholders by e-mail or post prior to the start of the consultation and host consultation documents online. However, individual Councils have considerable flexibility about engagement with their local Members, local residents, community groups and other stakeholders. The proposed methods to be used in Gedling Borough are set out in the appendix.

2 Proposal

- 2.1 Members are asked to consider the report, and the consultation methods set out in Appendix 1, and make any comments where appropriate.

3 Alternative Options

- 3.1 None. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee has requested an update on progress with the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan and proposed consultation strategy for the next stage of plan preparation the Publication Draft Strategic Plan.

4 Financial Implications

- 4.1 None. The update will be delivered using existing resources.

5 Legal Implications

- 5.1 None

6 Equalities Implications

- 6.1 None direct. However, the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan will be subject to an Equalities Impact Assessment.

7 Carbon Reduction/Environmental Sustainability Implications

- 7.1 None direct. However, the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan will be a key strand in terms of delivering carbon reduction through new development.

8 Appendices

- 8.1 Appendix 1 - Consultation Strategy

9 Background Papers

- 9.1 Greater Nottingham Planning Partnership evidence base available here:

[Evidence Base \(gnplan.org.uk\)](http://gnplan.org.uk)

Statutory Officer approval

Approved by:

Date:

On behalf of the Chief Financial Officer

Approved by:

Date:

On behalf of the Monitoring Officer