

BRISTOL CITY COUNCIL

PLACE SCRUTINY

17th November 2016

Report of: Strategic Director Place: Barra Mac Ruairi

Title: Consultation on 'Towards the Emerging Spatial Strategy' for the West of England Joint Spatial Plan and Joint Transport Study

Ward: Citywide

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RECOMMENDATION

To consider the consultation documents 'Towards the Emerging Spatial Strategy' for the West of England Joint Spatial Plan and Joint Transport Study.

Officers will present the documents using the 8th November consultation launch presentation.

Place Scrutiny members are invited to consider these documents in advance of the discussion to inform a response from Scrutiny to be submitted to the consultation.

Summary

'Towards the Emerging Spatial Strategy' for the West of England Joint Spatial Plan and the West of England Joint Transport Vision were endorsed for consultation by Cabinet on 1st November. The Cabinet papers attached summarise the purpose of consultation documents and attach the documents and supporting evidence.

The consultation period is between 7th November and 19th December 2016.

The significant issues in the report are:

The Emerging Spatial Strategy is the next step in the preparation of the Joint Spatial Plan for the West of England. It sets out how the needed growth of new homes, provision for employment land and supporting transport infrastructure could be distributed across the area.

The Joint Spatial Plan when approved will be a statutory development plan document and will provide the strategic context for development across the four Unitary Authorities of the West of England for the period 2016 to 2036.

The Joint Transport Study looks at how the new housing allocations in the Emerging Spatial Strategy could be mitigated through improved transport infrastructure and also addresses the transport needs of already approved and developments and site allocations. Existing transport issues are also addressed to provide a comprehensive assessment of transport infrastructure need across the region.

Key details:

1. The four West of England unitary authorities are committed to the delivery of a Joint Spatial Plan for the West of England. This will identify the amount and distribution of housing and employment land required in the West of England for the period 2016 to 2036. An Issues and Options paper was consulted on last November. The next document 'Towards an Emerging Spatial Strategy' has been endorsed by the Planning Housing and Communities Board, Strategic Leaders Board of the West of England and the executive bodies of the four authorities, including the Bristol Cabinet on 1st November and is presented in the attached Cabinet Papers.
2. The preparation of the Joint Spatial Plan is supported by a Joint Transport Study which has identified proposals for future transport investment which complement the strategic planning work.
3. Consultation is proposed for the six week period 7th November to 19th December 2016.
4. The target that the JSP will test and plan up to is currently 105,000 homes between 2016-2036.
5. The key issues for Bristol in the emerging spatial strategy are:
 - Maximising the capacity for urban development within the Bristol City Council urban area – for Bristol an additional 12,000 above that already proposed and allocated in the Core Strategy giving a total of 33,000 additional homes between 2016 and 2036;
 - Green Belt urban extension proposed to the developed edge of Bath and North East Somerset adjoining Bristol in the Whitchurch

area;

- Green Belt area in BCC within the South Bristol Link Road, which has potential for 400 units has been identified as non-strategic development to be considered through the review of the Bristol Local Plan;
- Scale of proposed growth in the sub-region expected to have significant impact on the transport network in Bristol which will require a ring of park and ride sites beyond the BCC boundary along with the Callington Road Link, a City Centre package and Metrobus to the east fringe; and
- Within South East Bristol Green Belt, the area up to Hicks Gate has not been identified for growth. However, a relocation of the Brislington P&R to B&NES would release the BCC P&R site for development, and enable improved connectivity to and from the site for all modes.

6. The key issues in the JTS are:

- Delivery of appropriate transport infrastructure to meet Bristol's transport need, covering both existing issues and additional congestion likely from the new housing allocations
- Park and Ride sites are critical to enabling the delivery of Bristol's Urban Living targets – the majority of sites are in other local authorities
- Mitigation must be prioritised so that funding is spent effectively and the main priority of the Emerging Spatial Strategy, urban living, is enabled through appropriate transport infrastructure
- The funding required is significantly more than funding currently available. Various options will have to be considered to bridge this funding gap including Congestion Charging and Work Place Parking Levy. Ideally, if implemented, these would be regional policies
- Road space is extremely limited. Delivery of additional sustainable transport facilities on main radial corridors is not possible without significant interventions such as closing roads to through traffic, road user charging or improving orbital highway capacity to remove movements from radial corridors

7. The next steps in the preparation are:

- Completion of the JTS strategy for consideration by members by March 2017, taking account of consultation representations;
- Consultation on a publication plan draft JSP in Summer 2017;
- Consideration of the recommendations from the JTS in an updated Joint Local Transport Plan by end 2017;
- Submission of the JSP to the Secretary of State by in early 2018; and
- Examination in Public and adoption to follow in 2018.

Consultation

1. Internal

On emerging stages of the JSP document and ongoing
Strategic Directors
Cabinet members
WoE Joint Scrutiny
All Members briefings

2. External

Full consultation has been undertaken on the earlier stage Issues and Options document, with invitation to participate sent to all BCC planning policy consultation database and key statutory and non-statutory stakeholders
Neighbourhood Partnership briefing

Context

The attached Cabinet report sets out the context to the consultation documents.

Proposal

3. Officers will present the documents using the 8th November consultation launch presentation.
4. Place Scrutiny members are invited to consider these documents in advance of the discussion to inform a response from Scrutiny to be submitted to the consultation.

The attached Cabinet report sets out:

Other Options Considered
Risk Assessment
Public Sector Equality Duties
Legal and Resource Implications

Appendices:

1st November 2016 Cabinet Report

Consultation on 'Towards the Emerging Spatial Strategy' for the West of England Joint Spatial Plan and Joint Transport Study

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

Background Papers:

none