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| Title of meeting: | Cabinet |
| Date of meeting: | 27 th July 2021 |
| Subject: | Draft Portsmouth Local Plan consultation |
| Report by: | Ian Maguire, Assistant Director of Planning and Economic Growth |
| Wards affected: | All |
| Key decision: | No |
| Full Council decision: | No |

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval to publish a consultation document on the draft Portsmouth Local Plan under Regulation 18 of the *Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended)* and its proposed communications plan and budget.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 To approve the Portsmouth draft Local Plan consultation document for at least 6 weeks of public consultation.
- 2.2 To approve the Local Plan consultation communications plan and suggested budget of £30,000.
- 2.2 To delegate authority to the Assistant Director of Planning and Economic Growth to modify and make editorial changes to the Portsmouth draft Local Plan consultation document, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Planning Policy and City Development (if required).

3. Background

- 3.1 The Council is preparing a new Local Plan for Portsmouth. This document will set out a planning strategy to meet future development needs in the city for the period to 2038. The Plan will set out details on the level of development that will need to take place in the city and where it will be located. It will contain planning policies to guide decision making on planning applications.
- 3.2 The process for producing the new Local Plan is set out in the *Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended)*. Its content and scope will be tested on its consistency with the *National Planning Policy Framework*

(NPPF) and *National Planning Practice Guidance* (NPPGs) and the justification provided by the Plan's evidence base. A public examination process will consider the soundness of the Local Plan, and it must be found sound in order to be adopted by the Council. The new Portsmouth Local Plan, once adopted, will replace the policies from existing planning policy documents.

- 3.3 The first stage in the preparation of the new Local Plan, the *Issues and Options document* was published for consultation in August 2017, followed by an *Evidence Base Update consultation* and a consultation paper on the *Tipner Strategic Development Area* proposals in February 2019. The responses to these consultations have informed the development of this consultation draft of the new Local Plan, which is to be published as a 'preparation stage' (Regulation 18) consultation. The supporting evidence for the Plan has been further developed since the previous consultation, including the preparation of commissioned studies, engagement with neighbouring authorities and an updated appraisal of all potential development land in the city (including a 'call for sites'). The subsequent stages for the progression of the Plan through to adoption are set out in the Council's updated Local Development Scheme.

Portsmouth Local Plan ('Regulation 18') consultation draft

- 3.4 A consultation draft of the new Local Plan has been prepared (See Appendix A). It summarises the current evidence base to present the following:
- Draft Local Plan vision, objectives, key themes and a spatial development strategy.
 - Draft strategic policies to indicate where new development should, or shouldn't be located, including: areas for housing, employment and culture, leisure tourism development; a hierarchy of centres; protection of community uses and protection for networks of ecological importance, green infrastructure and open space/ recreation.
 - Draft development management policies that set out the proposed standards and criteria for new development; e.g. design, flooding, heritage, sustainable construction and health, pollution and amenity;
 - Proposed allocation of six strategic development sites to deliver the required development needs for the plan period; and
 - Three area allocations to provide a high-level framework to guide any future development proposals.
- 3.6 The proposed approach and draft policies in the Plan are a first draft for public consultation, and are expected to be subject to change as a result of the consultation and/or the progression of the plan. However, there are some aspects of the consultation document, such as some of the proposed development management policies, which will have more certainty in their proposed direction given either a lack of reasonable alternatives or their context within current national planning policy guidance. The consultation document includes a number of open



and closed questions to ascertain views on the proposed direction and content of the draft Plan and specific questions on key issues to help prompt and direct discussion.

- 3.7 The publication of the consultation document will be accompanied an independent Habitat Regulation Assessment (HRA), Sustainability Appraisal, a viability appraisal and transport assessment of the Plan's proposals, plus a range of supporting evidence topic papers - all of which can be commented upon as part of the consultation.

Local Plan consultation - communications plan

- 3.8 A consultation and engagement strategy for the consultation document has been developed with Corporate Communications (See Appendix B), who will continue to have input on the wording, style and presentation of the Local Plan consultation questions ahead of publication.
- 3.9 The communications plan has a proposed budget of £30,000 which reflects the need to encourage engagement at this key stage in the preparation of the draft Plan where comments have a greater opportunity to influence the form and direction of the Local Plan, whereas the latter stages of consultation on the Plan will be more focused on legal compliance.
- 3.10 Promotion is proposed to be through a mix of print, digital and in-person engagement; featuring an online consultation space with multimedia functionality, a city-wide leaflet drop and drop-in sessions with Officers and display boards. This would be supported by social media and website promotion with a phone line available for those who cannot engage through other methods.
- 3.11 If approved, the virtual consultation room would be hosted by Arup who can offer a customisable space for the Portsmouth Local Plan consultation where all proposals/ documents can be browsed and commented upon¹.

4. Reasons for recommendations

- 4.1 As the Local Planning Authority, the Council is required to publish a consultation document on the proposed direction of the draft Portsmouth Local Plan under Regulation 18 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 and in-line with the timetable in Council's Local Development Scheme.
- 4.2 Consultation plan with a range of engagement methods is proposed with a budget of £30,000 to encourage maximum participation at the stage of plan preparation, where the public have a greater opportunity to influence the form and direction of the Local Plan.

¹ An example of a virtual consultation room can be viewed at: <https://virtualengage.arup.com/smartsustainablecities/>



5. Integrated impact assessment

5.1 An integrated impact assessment is not required as the recommendations do not directly impact on service or policy delivery at this stage. While the Regulation 18 consultation document seeks comments on draft proposals that feature a range of environment, social and economic related issues and impacts, an Assessment will be undertaken for the 'Regulation 19' stage consultation which will present the proposed Submission version of the Plan for consultation.

6. Legal implications

6.1 The legal requirements for the preparation and consultation of the Local Plan are set out in Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) ("PCPA 2004") and the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended) ("The LPR 2012"). The Council must carry out consultation on the draft local plan in accordance with regulation 18 of The LPR 2012 and take into account representations made in response to the consultation.

6.2 Under S.19 PCPA 2004 and as per the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 there is a requirement that a local plans is subject to a Sustainability Appraisal incorporating the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment. A Habitat Regulations Assessment of the local plan is required under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. A Sustainability Appraisal and Habitat Regulations Assessment will be published alongside the Local Plan Regulation 18 consultation documents.

7. Director of Finance's comments

7.1 With the exception of the approval of the £30,000 for the local plan consultation here are no direct financial implications as a result approving the recommendations within this report, this cost will be met from cash limited resources.

7.2 The remainder of the costs associated with the development of the Local Plan will also be met from the Cash limited resources.

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Signed by:

Appendices:

Appendix A: Portsmouth Local Plan Regulation 18 draft for consultation

Appendix B: Local Plan consultation - communications plan

Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

| Title of document | Location |
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The recommendation(s) set out above were approved/ approved as amended/ deferred/ rejected by on

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Signed by: