

Title of meeting:	Cabinet Member for Planning, Regeneration and Economic Development
Date of meeting:	27 th January 2015
Subject:	Portsmouth Plan Review
Report by:	City Development Manager
Wards affected:	All
Key decision:	No
Full Council decision:	No

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Cabinet Member approval to review the Portsmouth Plan and to note the timescales involved.

2. Recommendations

The Cabinet Member is recommended to:

- 1. approve a review of the Portsmouth Plan**

3. Background

- 3.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) states that all local authorities should produce a local plan and that it should be kept up to date. The Portsmouth Plan was adopted in January 2012 and it is considered that it now needs to be reviewed. The reasons for a review are:
- a new PUSH Spatial Strategy is being developed which will set out new development targets (i.e. housing targets) and the Portsmouth Plan will need to be updated to reflect the new strategic direction;
 - to reflect and deliver the growth objectives of the Local Economic Partnership (LEP) as set out in the Strategic Economic Plan and Growth Deal;
 - to respond to the release of public land locally;
 - to include additional policies to fully reflect national policy as set out in the NPPF;
 - changes to national policy mean that some of our existing policies need to be updated;

- to create a single plan for Portsmouth that clearly sets out a vision and a delivery strategy.

Content of the Portsmouth Plan

- 3.2 The proposal is to provide a full review of the Portsmouth Plan and bring together key strategic policies from other strategies such as the Local Transport Plan, Health and Wellbeing Strategy, Anti-Poverty Strategy, Effective Learning and Education Strategy. The plan would set a shared direction of travel to achieve our ambitious growth plans and provide a co-ordinated approach. It will show how through the development of our city we can achieve many different aims the council has, such as regenerating the city, improving economic growth and job provision, boosting culture and tourism, valuing our heritage, creating a healthy and sustainable environment, ensuring access to education and ensuring that we provide enough of the right type of good quality housing to meet the different needs of our population.
- 3.3 The plan would set out how key development sites in the city can be delivered - setting out the type of uses to be developed on site and the infrastructure needed to ensure the site can be delivered. There would also be specific policies to ensure that corporate objectives can be met. The plan would also include a section of infrastructure setting out what infrastructure is needed to ensure that development can be supported, when the infrastructure is needed and how and by whom it will be delivered. Identifying key infrastructure requirement within a statutory plan can lend more weight to funding bids.
- 3.4 The plan would be in three sections - a strategic framework outlining the future of the city, detailed policies to achieve council priorities and sites for development, and a delivery strategy.

Process for reviewing the plan

- 3.5 In preparing a new plan for Portsmouth it is necessary to follow set legal procedures. The plan needs to be supported with a robust evidence base, has to go through two rounds of public consultation and has to go through an independent public examination where it must be found sound or it cannot be adopted by the council. Essentially the review of the Portsmouth Plan can be broken down into six stages:

Stage 1:

- gather evidence on the economic, social and environmental characteristics and prospects of the city. For example, such evidence could include an assessment of the development needs and capacity in Portsmouth, a transport strategy to set out how additional development could be supported, research into the function and future of our town centres, an infrastructure strategy and an assessment of the impact on the environment.
- Informal engagement with stakeholders to identify the most pressing issues for the city that a plan should address. Stakeholders could include members,

the university, local businesses, Shaping Portsmouth, PUSH, LEP, nature conservation partners and local interest groups.

Stage 2:

- Continue evidence gathering
- Produce policy options to tackle the issues identified and to deliver on corporate objectives.
- Consult on the options

Stage 3:

- Analyse the consultation responses
- Produce a draft plan
- Formal consultation on the draft plan (for a period of 6 weeks minimum)

Stage 4:

- Analyse the consultation responses and make changes to the plan as necessary
- Submit the revised plan to the Planning Inspectorate for an independent examination.

Stage 5 - Examination in Public.

Stage 6 - Adopt the new plan.

Possible timing for producing the plan

- 3.6 Stage 1 - December 2014 - September 2015
Stage 2 - September 2015 - December 2015
Stage 3 - December 2015 - June 2016
Stage 4 - June 2016 - December 2016
Stage 5 - March 2017
Stage 6 - April / May 2017.

4. Reasons for recommendations

- 4.1 To ensure that the council has an up to date plan for the city that can direct and deliver corporate objectives and the future growth of the city.

5. Equality impact assessment (EIA)

- 5.1 An EIA is not required, as this report is largely for information, setting out an intention and timetable to review the Portsmouth Plan.

6. Legal Implications

6.1 The Council is obliged by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 to keep its local plan under review, including any changes which it is considered may occur in relation to other relevant matters (such as those identified above at paragraph 3.1) and the effect such changes are likely to have on the development or planning of the area. The report identifies significant matters where the impact of changes on the local plan should be assessed and the plan reviewed accordingly. The recommendation accords with that statutory duty. The public consultations and examination in public will all be conducted to accord with current statutory provisions and regulations, and with the Statement of Community involvement.

7. Finance Comments

- 7.1 There will be a financial cost associated with the examination stage of the revised plan (not due until March 2017). This was £40,859 in 2012 when the last examination was carried out and this is the basis for the estimate of the cost that will be incurred in Stage 5 of the planned work. The charge may vary depending upon the length of time required to carry out the examination.
- 7.2 A programme manager will also be needed to undertake some of this work and is likely to be employed for an 8 month period starting from December 2016 / January 2017. Previously this has been done on a consultancy basis at a cost of £5,000.
- 7.3 These costs will be met from existing budget resources.

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Signed by: Claire Upton-Brown, City Development Manager

Appendices:

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
None.	

The recommendation(s) set out above were approved/ approved as amended/ deferred/
rejected by on

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Signed by: