

Report to Sustainable development panel
22 June 2021

Report of Executive Director, Development and City Services

Subject Submission of the Greater Norwich Local Plan (GNLP)

Item

6

Purpose

To update members on the progress made with the Greater Norwich Local Plan (GNLP) which is now approaching submission stage, and to enable members to provide comments on the GNLP papers to inform members attending the Greater Norwich Development Partnership on 24 June as well as informing discussion of the submission GNLP at cabinet on 7 July.

Recommendation

To provide comments on the GNLP papers to inform members attending the Greater Norwich Development Partnership on 24 June; and

To recommend to cabinet that it notes the comments of sustainable development panel in its consideration of the submission of the GNLP at the meeting on 7 July.

Corporate and service priorities

The report helps to meet the corporate priority great neighbourhoods, housing and environment, inclusive economy, and people living well.

Financial implications

There are no direct financial implications arising directly from this report. The council's contribution towards the cost of producing the plan is expected to be met from existing budgets.

Ward/s: All Wards

Cabinet member: Councillor Stonard - Sustainable and inclusive growth

Contact officers

Graham Nelson 01603 989205

Judith Davison 01603 989314

Sarah Ashurst 01603 987856

Background documents

None

Report

Introduction

1. The Greater Norwich Local Plan (GNLP) has been in preparation since 2016 and is now nearing its final stages, with submission to the Secretary of State expected to take place on 30 July.
2. The Greater Norwich Development Partnership (GNDP) oversees the preparation of the GNLP. The GNDP is an informal, non-decision-making partnership comprising the city, South Norfolk and Broadland councils, the county council and the Broads Authority.
3. The GNDP meeting on 24 June will consider the submission of the GNLP on 30 July. These papers have not yet been published but will be available a week in advance of that meeting. Members of sustainable development panel will be sent a link to the papers as soon as they are published. Those papers will form the basis for consideration at the panel meeting.
4. This will give Panel members the opportunity to provide comments on the plan and associated documentation, which will inform Cllr Stonard when he attends the GNDP meeting on 24 June, and will also be reported to cabinet for its consideration of the GNLP report on 7 July.

Emerging Greater Norwich Local Plan

5. The submission (Regulation 22) GNLP comprises:
 - (a) a strategy document which contains the planning strategy for growth in Greater Norwich from 2019 to 2038, including thematic policies, and
 - (b) a site allocations document containing sites proposed to be allocated for development to help implement the growth strategy, containing site specific policies for all sites other than the village clusters in South Norfolk. (A separate allocations plan is being developed by South Norfolk council for these village cluster sites, which will come forward in due course.)
6. The GNLP has undergone several stages of consultation since its commencement in 2016, and reports have been provided to both Sustainable Development Panel and Cabinet throughout this period.
7. Most recently, Sustainable Development Panel considered and commented on an early version of the draft Regulation 19 Strategy document at a meeting on 3rd December 2020 and subsequently had the opportunity to comment on the draft Sites document. This informed discussion at the GNDP Board meetings in December.
8. Cabinet, at its meeting on [20th January 2021](#), approved the draft Regulation 19 GNLP for consultation on soundness and legal compliance in February – March 2021. This consultation took place as planned and over 1,300 representations were made to the plan.

9. The GNDP report for the meeting on 24 June will include an update on representations made, outline the issues being addressed ahead of submission and beyond, and identify potential issues for examination. It will also provide a summary of the main issues raised for the policies, site specific allocations, and evidence studies. Subject to approval, the GNDP report will be considered by the councils in July to decide whether to submit the plan for examination on 30 July.

Next steps

10. Assuming that the GNDP approves the GNLP for submission at its meeting on 24 June, the next steps are set out in the table below. It should be noted however that the timetable following submission is in the hands of the Planning Inspectorate so may be subject to change.

Authorisation by the councils to submit the plan	July 2021 (including, for Norwich, Cabinet on 7 July and Council on 20 July)
Submission of the GNLP to the Secretary of State	30 July 2021
Public Examination	Nov/Dec 2021
Consultation on proposed main modifications	Mar/Apr 2022
Publication of Inspector's report	July 2022
Adoption of the Greater Norwich Local Plan	September 2022