

Economic Development and Enterprise Scrutiny March 2015

Newcastle-under-Lyme and Stoke-on-Trent Local Plan Progress

Purpose of the report

To update Members of the Joint Advisory Group (JAG) on the progress made in preparing the Newcastle-under-Lyme and Stoke-on-Trent Local Plan (Joint Local Plan).

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Members are reminded that in accordance with the agreed Local Plan timetable the Plan is currently in the Pre-Production phase. This phase involves two stages: Stage 1 involves the assembly of relevant and up to date evidence, critical to driving the strategic direction of the plan strategy. (*a requirement of National planning policy paragraph 158*), and Stage 2 includes the adoption of a joint Statement of Community Involvement, (*a requirement of section 18 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act, 2004*).

2.0 Progress

2.1 Statement of Community Involvement

2.2 The Draft Joint Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) was approved for public consultation purposes by Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council and Stoke on Trent City Council on the 15 October and 30 October 2014 respectively. The six weeks consultation period began on the 10th November and ended on the 19th December 2014. The results of the consultation exercise and proposed amendments to the Draft SCI will be reported first to the council's Planning Committee so that their views can be considered by Cabinet in June. The decision to adopt the Final SCI will be made by Council and this is now anticipated to be July.

2.3 Evidence

2.4 The table below summarises the position in respect of key pieces of evidence which have either been, or are in the process of being, commissioned. Some timescales are estimates, because a contract has not been signed, and these are denoted by an *.

Project	Position	Draft report	Final report	Comments
Joint SHMA Objective assessment of housing needs (OAN) for each authority including affordable with recommendations on house types, tenures and sizes. The OAN is the	Contract awarded to 'Turley Economics' in partnership with demographic consultancy 'Edge Analytics'	Full draft report w/c 23 March. Final draft report w/c 20 April	Mid May 2015	Draft chapters of SHMA received and commented on. Stakeholder workshop held 15 Jan 2015 Final report due after the publication of the 2012 Household Projections which need to be incorporated into the report. Publication of this

starting point for developing the housing target and is a policy off position.				census data has been consistently delayed and finally made available 27 February.
Joint ELR Update of 2011 Joint study. Identifies need for economic development land and reviews existing and future employment sites including considering their potential for employment use.	Contract awarded to NLP	May/ June2015*	July/Aug 2015*	Contract awarded at end of Feb 2015. Inception meeting 18 March. Will need to take account of the final SHMA and test its economic forecasts. A supplementary SHMA report will subsequently be prepared to reflect the ELR findings.
Joint GTAA Identifies accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers including cross border implications.	Contract awarded to ARC 4 22 Sept 2014 In progress	Interim findings on data due April 2015 Draft Report June 15	Sept 2015	Joint initiative also involves Staffordshire Moorlands and Stafford Borough. Length of contract reflects seasonal activity. Arc 4 have undertaken the research review and stakeholder consultation with good results (26 responses received) Fieldwork surveys ongoing.
Joint Call for Sites Use to help inform how much land is going to be available in the future for all types of use & assess how well we can meet important social and economic needs.	Complete	N/A	N/A	Six week Call for Sites ended on 31 Oct 2014. This information will initially be analysed through each council's SHLAA and the Joint ELR. 116 responses received

<p>2 x Green Space Strategy (GSS) A full review of the Joint Urban Green Space Strategy 2009 is required to satisfy national planning policy. The GSS will guide investment decisions and help achieve a balance between the built and green environments including provision for informal sport and recreation.</p>	<p>NULBC procurement early stages.</p> <p>S-o-T Strategy is being conducted in-house</p>	<p>Draft Tender brief</p>	<p>Estimate May 2016</p>	<p>A methodology for the reassessment of the sites has been agreed to ensure that any emerging documents are consistent with each other and provide a robust evidence base.</p> <p>S-o-T has completed an initial assessment of its open space and is in the process of completing a full qualitative assessment</p> <p>NULBC Cabinet has approved in December to fund an external audit and assessment.</p>
<p>2 x Play Pitch Strategy Strategy for the maintenance and improvement of existing outdoor sports pitches and ancillary facilities.</p>		<p>Assessment report complete</p>	<p>Final Draft Strategy to be reported to Cabinet March 15</p>	<p>Knight Kavanagh & Page commissioned in 2013 by NULBC to prepare a Play Pitch Strategy.</p> <p>SOTCC have agreed with Sport England that a Playing Pitch strategy will be completed during 2015; the procurement of this study is shortly to be commenced.</p>

SHMA -Strategic housing market assessment; ELR - Employment Land Review, GTAA - Gypsy and Travellers Accommodation Needs Assessment, SHLAA - Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment.

3.0 Position Statement

Progress is being made to put key pieces of evidence in place and we remain on track to consult the public on 'Issues and Strategic Options' in the third quarter of 2015. However, this does depend upon satisfactory completion of the SHMA and ELR.