

<b>Committee(s)</b>	<b>Dated:</b>
Planning and Transportation Committee	21 March 2017
<b>Subject:</b> City of London Local Plan Review: Outcome of public consultation on Issues and Options	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Carolyn Dwyer, Director of the Built Environment	<b>For Information</b>
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### **Summary**

In October 2015, the Planning and Transportation Committee approved in principle the commencement of work on a full review of the adopted City Local Plan. The first stage of the review was to consider the key issues and the potential policy options available for the new Local Plan. An Issues and Options document was published for consultation between September and December 2016, and this report summarises the responses to that consultation for Members' information.

### **Recommendation**

Members are asked to note the content of the report.

### **Main Report**

#### **Background**

1. The Local Plan sets out the City Corporation's vision, objectives and policies for planning the City of London. It is accompanied by a Policies Map, in two parts, which shows where its policies apply to specific locations. The Local Plan has to be consistent with national policy and in general conformity with the London Plan, prepared by the Mayor of London.
2. The current City Local Plan was adopted in January 2015 and plans for development requirements up to 2026. In October 2015, the Planning and Transportation Committee approved in principle the commencement of work on a full review of the adopted Local Plan, which will look forward to 2036 in line with the timescale of the London Plan.

#### **Issues and Options document**

3. The first significant milestone in the Local Plan review process is to gauge the views of interested organisations and members of the public on the key planning issues facing the City. This is known as the Issues and Options stage.
4. An Issues and Options document was approved for consultation by the Planning and Transportation Committee at its meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> July 2016. The document provided a brief overview of each policy topic, followed by questions based on

the issues and challenges identified. The consultation questions were phrased in an open style in order to encourage debate and not to preclude respondents from coming up with their own ideas and suggestions.

### **Consultation methods**

5. Public consultation took place over an initial six week period from 19<sup>th</sup> September to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2016, which was extended until 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2016. A small number of representations were also accepted after 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2016.
6. At the outset of the consultation, over 1,350 emails and letters were sent to consultees on the planning policy database, with a separate email sent to 3,300 business occupiers. In addition letters were sent to all properties in the City which are registered as residential for council tax purposes.
7. Two public consultation events were held at the City Centre, and a range of other methods were used to publicise the consultation. This included issuing a press release; distributing 1,500 leaflets around the City; using Social Media including Facebook, Twitter and Eshot; writing articles for publications such as City Resident; and direct contact with business representative groups.
8. A full account of the consultation that was undertaken is contained in the Consultation Statement, which is appended to this report.

### **Consultation responses**

9. A total of 911 formal comments were received from 65 organisations and individuals. In addition, about 150 anonymised comments were collected at the consultation events.
10. Given the extensive publicity undertaken the number of comments received was a little disappointing, albeit very similar to the level of response at the same stage of the current City Local Plan. It is likely that a greater number of responses will be received when draft policies for consultation are published, since that is when organisations and individuals can see what the City Corporation is proposing and comment on their impact accordingly.
11. The quality of responses to the Issues and Options consultation was high, with many respondents taking considerable time and effort to contribute detailed comments on a range of policy topics. A summary of the overall response to each of the consultation questions is contained in the Consultation Statement at Appendix 1. Full summaries of the individual responses can be found on the City Corporation's website at [www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/cityplan2036](http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/cityplan2036).
12. Respondents to the Issues and Options consultation included residents, workers, visitors, businesses, amenity groups and local authorities, with no single group being particularly dominant in terms of the number of responses. Consequently, there were many questions which prompted a mix of views with no clear consensus.

13. Nonetheless, it is apparent from the responses received that there is a broad degree of support for the City's current planning strategy with, for instance, a significant majority of respondents stating that the strategic objectives in the current Local Plan remain relevant to the new Plan. There was also support for a number of emerging City policies and actions, which build on the framework set out in the current Local Plan. For example, there was widespread support for measures to tackle air pollution and traffic congestion and improve the public realm, alongside new development. It is likely, therefore, that the new Plan will comprise an evolution and updating of the current Local Plan rather than a radical overhaul.

### **Next steps**

14. Following this meeting, officers will start work on the preparation of a Draft Local Plan, which will be informed by the consultation responses together with emerging evidence studies, national and London-wide planning policies and the City Corporation's own priorities.
15. It is intended to arrange meetings of the Local Plans Sub-Committee during the summer and early autumn to assist with shaping and refining emerging policies, and to report back to the Grand Committee with the full text of a Draft Plan towards the end of the year. This will enable us to follow closely behind and take into account the emerging review of the London Plan, a draft of which is expected to be published for consultation in November.
16. Consultation on the City's Draft Local Plan would then extend into the early part of 2018, following which the Plan will be amended and subject to a third and final statutory consultation prior to submission to the Secretary of State for independent examination. It is anticipated that the review will be formally adopted during 2019.

### **Corporate and Strategic Implications**

17. The review of the Local Plan addresses the three Strategic Aims of the Corporate Plan 2015-19 and Key Delivery Theme 1 – Future Key Places – of the Department of the Built Environment's Business Plan. As the new Plan develops, it will take account of the updated Corporate Plan and will provide an opportunity to complement key corporate objectives, such as developing the City's Cultural Hub and progressing the Future City agenda.

### **Implications**

There are no specific financial, legal, HR, equalities or health implications arising from this report.

### **Appendices**

- Appendix 1 – Local Plan Issues and Options consultation statement

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