

<b>Committee(s):</b>	<b>Date(s):</b>
Local Development Framework Sub-committee	15 July 2013
<b>Subject</b> City of London Local Plan: key issues from consultation	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> City Planning Officer	<b>For Decision</b>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Summary</b></p> <p>The City's Draft Local Plan was issued for public consultation during January to March 2013. The next step is to agree revisions to the Plan that can be published for the final stage of consultation in autumn 2013. This report outlines the key issues that arose from the consultation for Members' discussion. I will then prepare the full text of the proposed revisions in the light of Members' views and report this to a further meeting of the Sub-Committee.</p> <p><b>Recommendation</b></p> <p>Members are invited to give their views on the key issues outlined in the appendices to this report.</p>	

## **Main Report**

### **Introduction**

1. The Draft Local Plan was made available for public consultation between 14<sup>th</sup> January and 11<sup>th</sup> March 2013. Comments on the Plan were received from 80 individuals and organisations. Presentations and discussions on the Plan were also held at a number of public and consultative group meetings. Copies of the public's comments and notes of the public meetings are available in the Members' Reading Room. The public's comments have also been placed on the City Corporation website.
2. The Plan is being revised in the light of these comments and other considerations, such as new research and national policy. The revised Plan will then be published for a further period of public consultation, which will be followed by examination by a planning inspector.
3. The main issues raised by consultation on the Draft Local Plan are outlined in the appendices to this report. Members are asked to give their views on these issues. I will then prepare detailed revisions to the Plan and report this to a further meeting of the Sub-Committee in September.

### **Background**

4. The Local Plan incorporates the City's Core Strategy, which was adopted in September 2011, and adds further policies for development management that

will be used in the consideration of planning applications. Because the Core Strategy was adopted relatively recently it has been carried forward into the Local Plan with only limited alterations. Public comments were invited on the alterations to the Core Strategy and the new development management policies. In practice, we have received comments on all the adopted Core Strategy policies, as well as the proposed development management policies. Although the City Corporation is not required to take account of comments on unaltered policies, I recommend that these comments are considered and amendments made where necessary.

### **Preparation procedure**

5. The January-March public consultation on the Draft Local Plan was the principal stage of public consultation in its preparation, and comments on it were actively sought. When the revised Plan is published there will be a further period of consultation. However, this stage is primarily an opportunity for those with any outstanding concerns to make formal objections to the Plan. There is very little opportunity for the City Corporation to make further changes to the Plan in response to any objections. Instead, the Plan and any objections received are examined by an independent planning inspector appointed by the Secretary of State. The inspector will subsequently issue a report on the examination, which may recommend modifications to the Plan. Changes introduced by the Localism Act 2011 mean that the inspector's report is no longer binding upon the City Corporation, but the Corporation is still required to take any recommendations into account. The Local Plan may then be adopted.
6. When the Local Plan is adopted in 2014 it will supersede the Core Strategy 2011 and the remaining policies of the Unitary Development Plan 2002.

### **Key issues**

7. A wide range of comments were made on the Draft Local Plan. Many of the matters raised by the public can be resolved by minor revisions to policies or the text of the Plan that are not expected to be controversial nor result in material changes to the approach already set out in the adopted Core Strategy. I will recommend these minor revisions when I report with the full revised document in September.
8. However, the consultation raised a number of issues that require more extensive consideration. In addition, new research and revised strategic and national policies have emerged which need to be taken into account. The appendices to this report outline the public's comments and provide discussion of the topics, including my recommendations for how the City Corporation could respond. I have not, at this stage, included suggested detailed wording changes to policies. In order to assist me in writing the revisions to the Plan, Members are asked to express their views on the direction that should be taken.

## **Implications**

9. Members are asked to provide guidance on the direction that should be taken on key issues within the Local Plan rather than to comment on detailed wording changes at this time. There are no legal or financial implications arising out of this report. The approach to office accommodation in the City, set out in the Local Plan, will support the City Corporation's corporate and property objectives to protect the City's role as a strategically important office location.

## **Appendix**

Local Plan: key policy issues

## **Background Papers:**

Report to Planning & Transportation and Policy & Resources Committees 27<sup>th</sup> Nov and 13<sup>th</sup> December 2012 "City of London Draft Local Plan".  
Responses to public consultation on the Draft Local Plan.

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