

# Environment, Development and Transport Committee

Item No.

<b>Report title:</b>	<b>Recommendations of the Greater Norwich Development Partnership (GNDP) Board</b>
<b>Date of meeting:</b>	<b>15 September 2017</b>
<b>Responsible Chief Officer:</b>	<b>Tom McCabe – Executive Director, Community and Environmental Services</b>
<b>Strategic impact</b> Working in partnership across Greater Norwich will help to deliver infrastructure and jobs.	

## Executive summary

The Greater Norwich Development Partnership (GNDP) Board oversees the production of the Greater Norwich Local Plan (GNLP) for Broadland, Norwich and South Norfolk. The Board is not a decision making body and its recommendations are considered by each of the partners. While the plan making responsibility remains with the district councils, in the spirit of partnership, the County Council endorse the recommendations of the Board as appropriate. This helps us discharge our responsibilities under the “duty to co-operate” and demonstrates unity of purpose, supporting the delivery of economic growth and infrastructure in the Greater Norwich area.

A meeting of the GNDP Board took place on 23 June 2017. The Board considered two substantive reports providing guidance on the development of public consultation documents. The first report outlined the approach to deriving the quantity of new housing provision in the GNLP and recommended that, for the Local Plan period to 2036, new allocations should be made capable of accommodating 8,900 dwellings. The second paper set out seven proposed alternatives for the strategic distribution of the additional growth.

The Board agreed that the approach to housing provision and strategic options for growth form a reasonable basis for developing alternatives for public consultation. The full public consultation document is programmed to be considered at the next GNDP Board meeting on the 21 September with the recommendation reported to EDT in October.

## Recommendations

### Members agree to:

- **Note progress on the production of the Greater Norwich Local Plan; and**
- **Endorse the GNDP Board’s recommendations on housing provision and strategy options to help shape public consultation.**

## 1. Proposal

- 1.1. The Greater Norwich Development Partnership (GNDP) Board oversees the production of the Greater Norwich Local Plan (GNLP) for Broadland, Norwich and South Norfolk. The Board is not a decision making body and its recommendations are considered by each of the partners. While the plan making responsibility remains with the district councils, in the spirit of partnership, EDT Committee

endorse the recommendations of the Board as appropriate. This helps us discharge our responsibilities under the “duty to co-operate”, required under the Localism Act 2011, and demonstrates unity of purpose, supporting the delivery of economic growth and infrastructure. The County Council is represented on the GNDP Board by Councillors Clancy, East and Wilby.

- 1.2. The last GNDP Board took place on 23 June 2017. The Board considered two substantive reports on: the scale of housing allocations required in the Plan; and, options for the strategic distribution of growth. The agenda and reports can be found at <http://www.greaternorwichgrowth.org.uk/dmsdocument/2363> and the draft minutes can be found at <http://www.greaternorwichgrowth.org.uk/dmsdocument/2365>

#### *Housing Numbers*

- 1.3. The evidence for housing need is provided by a Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA). In order to increase the prospects of enough homes being developed to meet this need, Local Plans will normally over-allocate sites to provide a contingency or delivery buffer. Including this buffer, it is proposed to identify sufficient sites for a total of 48,500 homes in the period 2015 to 2036. The current housing commitment, made up of development since the 2015 base date, outstanding planning permissions and existing Local Plan allocations, provides for most of this provision. Having taken account of current commitment, the GNLPA will need to find new sites for 8,900 homes. The delivery buffer also provides the flexibility required to deliver extra homes to support enhanced economic growth as envisaged through the City Deal.

#### *Developing Growth Strategy options*

- 1.4. The Board considered the issues that will help shape options for locating new growth, including key economic drivers, new transport infrastructure and the pattern of existing housing commitments. Seven options for locating the sites for the additional 8,900 homes were considered. The seven options are broad and strategic, outlining how much growth could be allocated to general locations and categories of settlement rather than to any specific place.
- 1.5. All the options propose a common approach to locating the sites for 5,000 of the dwellings that both maximises the opportunity for brownfield growth in the urban area and ensures that there are opportunities in more rural locations. Each of the options takes an alternative approach for the remaining 4,900 homes. These options include: urban concentration; supporting the Cambridge Norwich tech corridor; a focus on transport corridors; and various levels of rural dispersal with and without a new settlement.
- 1.6. At this stage we are developing options for consultation rather than determining a preferred way forward. As the plan develops we will need to ensure that the GNLPA reflects County Council policies and priorities. For example, the County Council’s health and transport agendas would require any new housing allocations to provide for safe routes to schools. Members may wish to comment on key issues and themes for the plan.

#### *Next Steps*

- 1.7. These papers are contributing to the development of a draft “Reg 18” document for public consultation. The next meeting of the GNDP Board on 21 September will consider this document with the aim to begin consultation around the end of October. The recommendations of the September GNDP Board will be reported to EDT on 20 October 2017.
- 1.8. Further information on the GNDP Board, including the full set of Board papers, and the emerging Local Plan can be found at <http://www.greaternorwichgrowth.org.uk/planning/greater-norwich-local-plan/>

## **2. Financial Implications**

- 2.1. There are no direct financial implications. Staff support is managed through existing resources.

## **3. Issues, risks and innovation**

- 3.1. There are no other significant issues that arise from this decision. This kind of partnership remains innovative.

## **4. Background**

- 4.1. The County Council has been working successfully in partnership across the Greater Norwich area for a number of years through the Greater Norwich Development Partnership and through the Greater Norwich Growth Board. Working in partnership has helped bring significant investment for infrastructure to the area.

### **Officer Contact**

If you have any questions about matters contained in this paper or want to see copies of any assessments, eg equality impact assessment, please get in touch with:

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