

South Norfolk Council's responses to the Hearing Action Points

Agenda Item 2 of the Issue Specific Hearings 2

As part of this response the Reg 19 final formatted Draft Greater Norwich Local Plan has been attached

South Norfolk District Council (SNDC)/Norfolk County Council (NCC) will be asked to provide further information on the emerging Local Plan.

- o *Confirmation of the geographical land areas the plan would cover;*

Local Planning Authority areas of Broadland, Norwich and South Norfolk Councils.

- o *Any known changes to its current planned/anticipated adoption date;*

Adoption currently forecast Sept – Nov 2022 but is subject to further hearing on matters of Gypsies and Travellers that could cause further delays.

- o *Which policies of the emerging plan would be applicable to the scheme should it be adopted? And confirmation of their aims.*

Policy 4: Strategic Infrastructure would be most relevant to the scheme. The aim of this policy is to support the delivery of infrastructure to enable the timely delivery of planned development and the wider growth needs of the areas. Improvements to Thickthorn are specifically identified as an item that will help to achieve the overall aim of the policy. Page 80/81.

Also relevant are Policy 2: Sustainable communities that sets out a range of expectations for new development including, amongst other things, respecting and enhancing landscapes. Page 64/65

And Policy 3: Environmental Protection and Enhancement that sets out requirements including that development proposals conserve and enhance the historic environment and conserves and enhances the natural environment. Page 72/73.

- o *The policies in the existing local plan that would be superseded or replaced.*

The elements of the existing local plan to be superseded are listed in Appendix 4 of the GNLP, page 141.

- o *The specific changes to local housing growth aims for the conurbation. The present housing growth commitments of the existing plan and those aspired to by the emerging plan;*

The Joint Core Strategy for Broadland, Norwich and South Norfolk sets out the current Housing Requirement for the area. This plan sought to achieve at least

36,820 homes between 2008 and 2026, of which a minimum of 33,000 homes were planned for Norwich Urban Area. The extent of the Norwich Urban area is set out in Appendix 4 of the Joint Core Strategy, [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. The Greater Norwich Local Plan seeks to achieve a minimum of 40,541 homes between 2018 and 2038. In order to ensure this minimum level of growth is achieved the plan makes provision for a potential housing growth of 49,492. Of this 32,691 is planned for the Norwich Urban Area, with a further 2,465 homes planned for Wymondham and 1,375 homes planned for Hethersett. Hethersett and Wymondham previously formed part of the Norwich Policy Area and are part of the extended conurbation in the vicinity of Thickthorn.

o The broad locations identified for any new housing within the emerging local plan relative to the Thickthorn Junction improvement applied for and the differences to the existing development plan allocation;

Overall growth plans are as illustrated on the key diagram on page 53 of the GNLP, page 53, on the Housing Growth Locations plan on page 54 and explained in the Policy 1 in respect of the overall spatial strategy, pages 55-57. Settlement specific levels of strategic growth are set out in Policies 7.1, pages 102 to 107, policy 7.2, pages 111 to 112 and policy 7.3 pages 114 to 115. In particular the housing and employment growth ascribed to Cringleford, Wymondham and Hethersett. See also the employment growth set out for Hethel in Policy 7.4, pages 117 to 118.

o The nature of any changes to strategic transportation options/ infrastructure within the conurbation having regard to non-car modes of transport;

High level strategic interventions relating to the plan area are set out in Policy 4, pages 80 and 81 of the GNLP.

o The level of compliance of the Proposed Development with the new emerging Local Plan should it be adopted following the close of the examination;

Improvements at Thickthorn are specifically identified as a key element of transport infrastructure that supports the overall approach to the delivery of transport infrastructure in the Greater Norwich area as set out in Policy 4, pages 80 and 81 of the GNLP.

o The weight the emerging Local Plan is presently being given in local decision making by SNDC.

The Council considers that limited weight can be given to the emerging plan at the current time.

Action 4

South Norfolk Council considers there are legislative options/scope available to deal with S106 agreements directly between parties it covers, in particular a Deed of Variation.