

Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING/ DECISION MAKER:	Cllr Tim Ball, Cabinet Member for Planning and Licensing	
MEETING/ DECISION DATE:	On or after 25th February 2023	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
		E 3446
TITLE:	B&NES response to Bristol Local Plan Review – Further Consultation Document November 2022	
WARD:	All	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report: Appendix 1 – B&NES response to Bristol Local Plan Review – Further Consultation Document, November 2022		

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 Bristol City Council is reviewing its Local Plan and in November last year published the Bristol Local Plan Review: Draft Policies and Development Allocation – Further Consultation document. As Bristol City Council is a neighbouring authority to Bath & North East Somerset (B&NES) and given the wider influence of the city, the Bristol Local Plan will have implications for communities within B&NES. Therefore, B&NES Council is responding to the consultation document relating to cross-boundary strategic issues. The proposed response is set out in Appendix 1 to this report for consideration and endorsement by the Cabinet Member for Planning and Licencing.

2 RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet Member is asked to agree that:

- 2.1 The comments set out in Appendix 1 are endorsed and should be submitted to Bristol City Council and the formal response of B&NES Council to the Bristol Local Plan Review – Further Consultation Document, November 2022.

3 THE REPORT

- 3.1 Bristol City Council (Bristol CC) is reviewing its Local Plan to provide an up-to-date planning policy framework covering the period from 2022 to 2040. Bristol CC published a Further Consultation document in November 2022, to which B&NES Council is responding through the comments set out in Appendix 1 to this Report. With regards to Local Plan preparation consultation on the document published in November last year is an important stage in the overall programme as summarised below:
- a) 2018: Consultation on issues to be addressed by the Bristol Local Plan Review
 - b) March 2019: Consultation on Draft Policies and allocations (under Reg 18)
 - c) November 2022: Further consultation on changes to Draft Policies and allocations (under Reg 18)
 - d) Summer 2023: consultation on the Draft Local Plan, publication version (under Reg 19)
- 3.2 In addition to responding formally to this and other Local Plan consultation documents B&NES Council is working with Bristol CC under the Duty to Co-operate, and this will continue up to preparation of the publication version of the Draft Bristol Local Plan and its submission for examination.
- 3.3 Following preparation of a Local Plan Partial Update B&NES Council has recently formally launched preparation of its new full Local Plan through publishing a Launch Document in November 2022. Currently it is anticipated that the B&NES Local Plan options document will be published for consultation under Reg 18 this autumn/winter, moving towards a Draft Local Plan in summer 2024. As such preparation of the Bristol Local Plan is running significantly in advance of preparation of the B&NES Local Plan. B&NES will continue to work with Bristol CC, under the Duty to Co-operate, in order to understand and address the implications of this and to best address the cross boundary strategic issues and associated engagement with our respective communities and stakeholders. Progress on and outcomes of engagement between B&NES and Bristol CC will be set out in a Statement of Common Ground.
- 3.4 B&NES comments on the November 2022 consultation document set out in Appendix 1 relate to cross-boundary strategic issues and focus on:
- a) Bristol's Local Plan housing requirement and its delivery
 - b) Economy and the strategy for meeting Bristol's employment needs
 - c) Potential release of land from the Green Belt and areas of development
 - d) Renewable energy policy approach
 - e) Biodiversity and Nature Recovery

- f) Local food growing and the provision of allotments and protection of food growing enterprises
 - g) Transport and the need for continuing discussions around the policy approach to transport and development
 - h) Flood risk and the need for cross-boundary consideration of flood risk and mitigation
 - i) Sustainability Appraisal
- 3.5 B&NES Council would welcome the opportunity to discuss its comments on the November 2022 consultation document and to continue working with Bristol CC as its Local Plan progresses.

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1 Bristol CC is preparing its Local Plan following a process prescribed by statute and regulations, including the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) and Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. B&NES Council is formally responding to the latest consultation document published for public consultation under Regulation 18 of the 2012 Regulations. Under section 33A of the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) Bristol CC has a duty to co-operate (engage constructively, actively and on an on-going basis) with its neighbouring authorities and other prescribed bodies. B&NES Council is working constructively, actively and on an on-going basis with Bristol CC on its Local Plan and as required by the NPPF this will be documented through a Statement of Common Ground.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

- 5.1 The preparation of comments on the Bristol Local Plan Review – Further Consultation Document, November 2022 has been undertaken by the Planning Policy Team and the costs covered within the existing salary budget. It is anticipated that any costs arising from on-going engagement with Bristol CC on its Local Plan, via the Duty to Co-operate, will also be covered within the existing salary budget and the Council's LDF budget.

6 RISK MANAGEMENT

- 6.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.

7 EQUALITIES

- 7.1 Given this report relates to comments on Bristol CC's Local Plan an Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) has not been carried out. An EqIA of the Bristol Local Plan is the responsibility of Bristol CC.

8 CLIMATE CHANGE

- 8.1 In common with this Council, Bristol CC has declared a climate emergency and is aiming to be carbon neutral by 2030. The Bristol Local Plan Review

Consultation Document includes policies that seek to address the climate emergency and B&NES welcomes this approach. Comments are made on strategic, cross boundary issues that arise and opportunities for continued joint working, related to net zero carbon development and renewable energy.

9 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

9.1 This report relates to B&NES Council's comments on the Bristol Local Plan Review – Further Consultation Document, November 2022. Given there were strategic, cross-boundary issues that this Council wants to raise no alternative options were considered.

10 CONSULTATION

10.1 This report sets out B&NES Council response to consultation on Bristol CC's Local Plan Review. The undertaking of this consultation is the responsibility of Bristol CC. In preparing this Report and the response attached as Appendix 1 consultation has been undertaken with Cabinet Members and the Council's S151 and Monitoring Officers.

Contact person	Richard Daone, Deputy Head of Planning
Background papers	Bristol Local Plan Review: Further Consultation Document, November 2022 https://files.smartsurvey.io/2/0/LQ6IJ5DA/BLPR_Nov_22_Further_Consultation.pdf
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