

Planning Policy Monthly Update (December 2013)

We bring you this monthly update to:

- [Highlight where we would like your involvement in future plan making in South Cambridgeshire and show the progress of past consultations; and
- [Bring to your notice news items relevant to planning at national, county and local levels.

Text in **red** highlights the latest opportunities for you to become involved in plan making and the latest updates on news items.

The update is available to view on our website: <http://www.scambs.gov.uk/content/planning-policy-news>

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE NEWS

Local Development Scheme

The [Local Development Scheme](#) shows the key stages for preparing the new South Cambridgeshire Local Plan and is available on our website.

South Cambridgeshire Local Plan - The Proposed Submission Local Plan

Publishing the Representations

We have now completed registering all the representations that we received during the recent consultation on the Proposed Submission Local Plan. We received 7,400 representations.

We will be writing to or emailing everyone that made comments outlining how their representations have been registered. Sometimes we have registered representations differently from the way they were submitted to help us and the Inspector consider them, for example:

- [Any representation that has suggested a change to the plan has had to be registered as an objection, even if supported in principle.
- [We may have moved a representation from the part of the plan to which it had been submitted so that it is with other submissions that seek similar changes to the plan.
- [Anyone agreeing the fact that we have not included a particular site in the plan will have had their comments registered as a support against the relevant allocation policy.
- [Where a single response form had been completed and suggested many changes within the plan each change has been registered as a separate representation.

Viewing the Representations

All the representations can now be seen on our [website](#), together with the name of the person or organisation making the comments. If you want to find out what others have said about a particular policy or site you can either:

- [Look at the online [Proposed Submission Local Plan](#) - in the contents list, click on the part of the plan that you are interested in. The representations made against each

section can be viewed by clicking on the magnifying glass found to the left of the words of the policy/paragraph. This will show you all the representations made against that part of the plan.

- [By [searching representations](#) - you can use this to find out what others have said about the plan by searching for a person or organisation, or on individual parts of the plan.

The Council will also make the comments available to view in full at its offices, and in response to requests made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and Environmental Information Regulations, where the full name and address details will be available to view.

What happens next to the plan?

At a meeting on [11th February 2014](#) Cllr Pippa Corney, Planning Policy and Localism Portfolio Holder, will consider the issues raised in representations and assess whether the plan is ready for submission to the Secretary of State for examination. It may be necessary, as a result of representations received, to make minor changes to the plan. If anything more than minor changes need to be made to the plan it would require a further round of public consultation which would extend the Local Plan adoption timetable.

If the Portfolio Holder considers that the plan is ready to submit for examination, she will recommend to a meeting of full Council on 13 March 2014 that it agrees to the submission of the Local Plan for independent examination (a sort of public inquiry).

Once the Local Plan is submitted, an independent planning inspector will be appointed to hold an examination to consider the 'soundness' of the Local Plan. This will include considering the representations received by the Council to the recent consultation and holding a series of public hearings where the Inspector considers that more information is needed. If the Council agrees in March 2014 to submit the Local Plan, it is anticipated that the examination hearings will be held in summer/autumn 2014.

We are working jointly with Cambridge City Council on things that affect both districts, particularly the development strategy and the Cambridge Green Belt. These issues are likely to be considered by the Inspector at a joint examination with the City Council. Remaining South Cambridgeshire issues will be dealt with separately.

Cambridgeshire County Council News

Transport Strategy for Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire

The County carried out a consultation on the [Transport Strategy](#) and they are currently analysing the feedback and will be publishing the results shortly.

National News

Wind Turbine proposals to be seen by communities first

An [announcement](#) was made by Government on 16 November 2013 about wind turbines. Onshore wind farm developers will be required to carry out pre-application consultations with

local communities for most schemes according to new legislation drawn up by the Department for Communities and Local Government and due to be published shortly.

Ministers have made it clear that this new requirement will cover all projects involving more than two turbines and any proposal for a turbine more than 15 metres in height. These measures will come into force before the end of the year.

Communities Secretary Eric Pickles said: "Ensuring communities have a greater say at an early stage allows developers to consider much earlier whether to pursue a proposal and what changes they should consider before putting forward formal plans."

"Our changes allow people's views and other impacts to be taken into consideration much earlier".

Details of the new regime will be set out in the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure and Section 62A Applications (England) (Amendment) Order 2013.

National Infrastructure Plan 2013

The Government has published the [National Infrastructure Plan 2013](#) on 4 December which brings together analysis of the UK's infrastructure needs across different sectors now and in the future. This plan includes confirmation that there will be no tolling on the planned A14 scheme between Cambridge and Huntingdon.

The plan states '.....there will be no tolling on the planned A14 scheme between Cambridge and Huntingdon, construction of which is planned to start in 2016, which is one of the government's Top 40 priority investments; it has listened to concerns from local residents and businesses who rely on this road and, following a consultation, has decided to take forward a scheme which does not include a tolling element.'

The plan explains the rationale for having the A14 as a key priority investment -

'This project is deemed to be a priority investment in its own right because of its scale (the capital value of the project is around £1.5 billion) and because of its significant strategic value through its links to other priority investments. The importance of the A14 trunk road as a link between Britain and continental Europe is set to grow as the east coast Haven ports at Ipswich, Harwich and Felixstowe expand, bringing further growth to the region. Major developments, such as the new 10,000-home village at Northstowe, the Alconbury Enterprise Zone, and expansion on the northern and eastern fringes of Cambridge, all depend on an improved A14.'

The Government will publish a report on the options for the A14 consultation before the end of the year. Over 1,000 responses were received during this consultation. The preferred route will be announced early next year. A statutory consultation under the Planning Act 2008 will take place in the first half of 2014. The start of works is anticipated to be in 2016. The plan states 'Funding: Public with contributions from local enterprise partnership'.

Autumn Statement

The Chancellor, George Osborne, in his [Autumn Statement 2013](#) mentioned the Greater Cambridge Area –

2.34 Greater Cambridge Gain Share – The government is committed to delivering with Greater Cambridge their proposals on Gain Share – a payment by results mechanism whereby the local area will be able to keep a larger proportion of the proceeds of economic growth generated in, and around, the city of Cambridge. This recognises the growth potential that exists in Greater Cambridge and will drive economic growth and accelerate transport and housing infrastructure by unlocking over £1 billion of investment. The government will announce details on how this proposal will work alongside Budget 2014. Further information on City Deals will be announced in due course.