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**To: Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee**

**Date: 11<sup>th</sup> January 2017**

**Subject: Progress of the Council's Draft Local Plan**

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## **1 Purpose of the Note**

- 1.1 This note is provided for members of the Scrutiny Coordination Board at its January 2017 meeting. It is provided at the request of the Chair and is intended to provide an update on how the Council's draft Local Plan is progressing through examination.

## **2 Recommendations**

- 2.1 Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee are recommended to note the progress to date.

## **3 Progress of the Council's Draft Local Plan**

- 3.1 The City Council's draft Local Plan was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016. This followed a period of statutory public consultation between 18<sup>th</sup> January 2016 and 29<sup>th</sup> February 2016. All responses to this consultation were then presented to Scrutiny Board 3 at its meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2016 before being formally submitted to the Secretary of State (SoS) for formal, public examination. Following its submission, the SoS appointed an independent Inspector - Rebecca Phillips - to oversee the public examination of the Plan and its evidence base.
- 3.2 The public examination takes the form of a number of hearing sessions. These started on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2016 and initially ran until 21<sup>st</sup> July. There was then a break over the summer holidays before hearings reconvened on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2016, continuing until 2<sup>nd</sup> November. There are 2 more hearing sessions planned;
1. An additional session on detailed transport modelling at the request of the Inspector and following on from the original transport session held in October. This will have specific regard to the highway impacts of proposed development at Eastern Green and Keresley, as well as the site at Cromwell Lane, with specific consideration to the cross boundary development proposals in Warwick District; and
  2. The session on monitoring and implementation of the Plan. This session was originally scheduled for October, but was delayed to allow consideration of the transport work and any impacts this may have on monitoring indicators.
- 3.3 These hearings had been pencilled in for mid-December, but due to the importance of allowing all interested parties to consider the additional evidence work, these sessions are now planned for the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> January 2017.
- 3.4 This also reflects the slight slippage in completing the additional transport modelling, however this has now been completed and was published on the Council's examination website - [www.coventry.gov.uk/localplan](http://www.coventry.gov.uk/localplan) - on the 8<sup>th</sup> December 2016. On the same date notification was sent to all interested parties to inform them the report had been published and hearing dates confirmed.

- 3.5 Following the end of the last two hearing sessions we must then await the Inspector's initial recommendations.
- 3.6 If we plan positively though, we expect to have to consult on a round of main modifications. These are a set of focused changes to the Plan required as a result of the examination process (and consultation exercises). They are also considered necessary to make the Plan 'sound'. Any changes proposed are subject to a statutory period of six weeks consultation with any responses focusing on the proposed changes as opposed to the Plan as a whole or in general. This consultation will require Cabinet and Council approval and is currently programmed to be presented to the respective meetings in March. This timetable features in the
- 3.7 December update of the Forward Plan. An additional meeting of Scrutiny Coordination Committee is to be scheduled for early May, prior to the Council's AGM, to consider the responses to this consultation exercise. This will be in accordance with the planned Council recommendations and be in advance of submitting these modifications back to the Inspector. This approach is consistent with that taken with the draft Local Plan prior to its submission in April.
- 3.8 The proposed changes and the responses to the consultation are then referred back to the Inspector for her consideration. Unless there are significant issues that require further examination the Inspector will then issue her final report (potentially in June). Assuming this final report confirms the Plan is 'sound' and 'legally compliant' the Council can then move to adopt the Local Plan through its normal Cabinet and Full Council processes. This is currently programmed to take place over the summer although no formal dates have been entered on the Forward Plan at this time.
- 3.9 The process is identical for the Council's City Centre Area Action Plan, which is being twinned tracked through public examination at the same time as the Local Plan.
- 3.10 As part of the Examination process the Council is required to keep the information on the website up to date. This can be viewed via [www.coventry.gov.uk/localplan](http://www.coventry.gov.uk/localplan)
- 3.11 Any specific inquiries relating to the examination process should, in the first instance, be directed towards the Programme Officer - Lisa Albrighton at [programmeofficer@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:programmeofficer@coventry.gov.uk). This is in accordance with the statutory national process governing the examination of Local Plans.

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16<sup>th</sup> December 2016