

Leicester & Leicestershire

Strategic Growth Plan

Consultation Overview

September 2018

L&L SGP Consultation Overview Report

August 2018

Report of Consultation

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The Strategic Growth Plan (L&L SGP) has been prepared by the ten partner organisations in Leicester and Leicestershire. Once approved, the L&L SGP will provide the long term framework for the delivery of growth in Leicester and Leicestershire to 2050. It is a 'non-statutory' plan, but it will provide an agreed framework for use in the preparation of Local Plans and other strategies.
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to summarise the consultation processes that have taken place.
- 1.3 Partners began work on the L&L SGP in late 2015. The Statement of Strategic Involvement, August 2016 outlined the consultation process for the Strategic Growth Plan and the relationship with Statements of Community Involvement (SCI) produced individually by the partners. Since then partners have undertaken consultation on two occasions with statutory bodies and local stakeholders. The first consultation was on the Strategic Growth Statement in August and September 2016, and the second consultation was on the Consultation Draft Strategic Growth Plan in January to May 2018.
- 1.4 Both of these documents are available on the website: www.llstrategicgrowthplan.org.uk

2.0 Strategic Growth Statement (August 2016)

2.1 The Strategic Growth Statement, published in August 2016, set out the scope of the work for the preparation of the L&L SGP through:

- Summarising the changing context;
- Identifying defining current characteristics of the area and opportunities and challenges for the future;
- Setting out ambitions for the future and initial objectives to guide the work;
- Outlining the evidence base and spatial options to be considered in formulating a new strategy; and
- Describing the next steps in the process.

2.2 Consultation on the Strategic Growth Statement took place between 5 August 2016 and 16 September 2016.

How did partners consult?

2.3 To publicise the launch of the consultation on the Strategic Growth Statement:

- A press release was issued on 5 August 2016 (Appendix 1);
- Details of the consultation were posted on all ten partner websites and the L&L SGP website;
- Statutory and local consultees were sent either an email or a letter asking them to respond to the consultation. (Appendix 2)
- Hard copies of the Strategic Growth Statement, a summary leaflet and consultation material were available from all libraries and local authority offices throughout the consultation.

Consultation responses

2.4 In total 78 respondents completed the questionnaire. A further 18 responses were received by email or letter. All responses whether via survey or an alternative format were accepted and considered.

2.5 A headline report summarising consultation findings is available on the website.

2.6 In summary respondents were generally supportive of the proposed approach, including the eight Strategic Growth Statement objectives (listed below), and the suggested approach for evidence collation which underpins the final Strategic Growth Plan.

- Obj 1: To provide a deliverable supply of land for housing, providing high quality homes, reflecting local styles and distinctiveness, in a range of types, sizes and tenures suited to local needs.
- Obj 2: To strengthen the economic base and maintain its diversity by providing a range of employment sites that respond to the needs of industry.
- Obj 3: To maximise the potential of our transportation corridors to deliver sustainable development and enable the creation of an integrated public transport system.
- Obj 4: To support the City of Leicester, Loughborough, Hinckley and other market towns across the County as accessible business, service and cultural centres.
- Obj 5: To promote prosperous and sustainable rural communities.

- Obj 6: To protect and enhance the quality of the area's built and water environments, landscape and farmland, biodiversity and natural resources.
- Obj 7: To seek to achieve high standards of design and environmental sustainability in all new development, responsive to local distinctiveness.
- Obj 8: To focus on the importance of communities, ensuring that place-making delivers high quality development which supports the needs of both existing and new communities.

2.7 Additional areas for consideration highlighted by respondees included: education and skills; more and better employment; focus on type as well as spread of homes; limit congestion in market towns; appropriate growth for rural areas and towns; importance of community cohesion and combating social isolation.

2.8 These comments have been given careful consideration during the development of the SGP and will continue to be considered in future planning and delivery phases.

3.0 Consultation Draft Strategic Growth Plan (January 2018)

3.1 The Consultation Draft Strategic Growth Plan, published in January 2018, set out the broad locations where partners consider that development should be focused and the infrastructure needed to deliver it. Key components of the spatial strategy of the draft L&L SGP were:

- The primary growth areas: The A46 Growth Corridor and Leicester (our 'Central City');
- The secondary growth areas: The Northern Gateway and the Southern Gateway;
- Key Centres: Melton Mowbray and Lutterworth;
- Areas of Managed Growth in Local Plans: Coalville, Hinckley, Loughborough and Market Harborough;
- Villages and rural areas: Limited growth consistent with providing for local needs.

3.2 Consultation on the Draft Strategic Growth Plan took place between 11 January 2018 and 10 May 2018 (a seventeen week period). Initially the consultation end date was 5 April 2018, this was then extended to 10 May 2018 following new availability of evidence, notably the Strategic Assessment of Transport Impacts.

How did partners consult?

3.3 To publicise the launch of the consultation on the consultation draft L&L SGP (January 2018):

- A media briefing was held on 10 January 2018 with East Midlands Today, ITV Central and Leicester Mercury all attending.
- A press release announcing the start of the consultation on 11 January 2018, with a further press release issued in late March 2018 when the consultation period was extended to 10 May 2018. (Appendix 3)
- Statutory consultees and other organisations and groups were notified about the consultation by email or letter. (Appendix 4).
- Public exhibitions were held during the consultation period (Appendix5).
- Copies of the draft SGP and summary leaflets were available in all libraries in the County and the City. Paper copies of the survey and all the evidence were made available at the main offices of each partner.
- The draft SGP and all of the accompanying evidence was available via the Strategic Growth Plan website (lstrategicgrowthplan.org.uk).
- Links to the SGP website were provided on the websites of partner organisations.
- Social media messages.

Consultation responses

3.4 In total 458 responses were received to the survey with an additional 130 responses received by email or letter.

3.5 These consultation responses have all been considered by partners when preparing the revised version of the Strategic Growth Plan.

3.6 The SGP: L&L Consultation Results report (July 2018) and the Partner Response report (September 2018) documents provide further information and have been published alongside the revised version of the Plan.

APPENDIX 1

Press release on Strategic Growth Statement

5th August 2016

Have your say on future development

Help shape future housing and job sites

People can help shape a long-term plan to advise where future employment and housing developments take place in Leicester and Leicestershire.

The city, county and district councils and the Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership will be drawing up a strategic growth plan, outlining the amount and location of future growth in the area up to 2036 and broad aspirations for growth up to 2050.

People can comment on the first stage, known as the draft strategic growth statement, between now and 16 September, on www.llestrategicgrowthplan.org.uk

“By working more closely together to plan for future growth across Leicester and Leicestershire, we should be able to secure more funding to deliver infrastructure and have a greater say in how and when growth is delivered. I’d encourage you to have your say on our initial growth statement, before our draft plan is produced and consulted on in summer 2017.”

Councillor Trevor Pendleton, chair of the advisory group

The proposed plan would help to decide:

- How expected population and economic growth is accommodated and supported
- What type of development is needed and when
- The most appropriate locations for developments
- Which environmental assets should be protected and enhanced
- What investment is required in services and infrastructure, where and when

For more information and to view the strategic growth statement and survey questions, please visit www.llestrategicgrowthplan.org.uk or you can see a printed copy at your local library.

<https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/news/have-your-say-on-future-development>

APPENDIX 2:

Letter/email on Strategic Growth Statement



Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to inform you that the nine local authorities in Leicester and Leicestershire and the Local Enterprise Partnership are starting work on a Strategic Growth Plan.

The first stage in the preparation of the plan is the Strategic Growth Statement. This is a high level document which explains why the plan is being prepared, provides a pen portrait of the area, sets out some overall objectives and describes the types of options that we will be considering when planning for growth. A copy of the document is available on our dedicated web site and can be found using this link: www.llestrategicgrowthplan.org.uk

Consultation will begin shortly on the Strategic Growth Statement and extends until **16 September 2016**. A summary leaflet and a consultation survey have also been prepared for your use and both are available on the web site. We would very much welcome your views.

In the meantime, if you have any queries, please contact me or one of the partners. Contact details are given for all of the partners on the web site and within the summary leaflet.

Thank you in advance for your time.

Kind Regards

Patricia Willoughby

Joint Strategic Planning Manager

For the County and Districts of Leicestershire, Leicester City and the LLEP

Direct Line: 01530 - 454 661

Email: pat.willoughby@nwleicestershire.gov.uk



APPENDIX 3:

Press release on Consultation Draft Strategic Growth Plan and extension to consultation period

11th January 2018

Have your say on how city and county will grow

A draft Strategic Growth Plan is being developed by a partnership formed by Leicester City and Leicestershire County councils, the seven local borough and district authorities and the Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership (LEEP).

It puts forward proposals for the new housing and transport improvements that would be needed to attract jobs and investment to Leicester and Leicestershire from now until 2050.

The final version of the plan will provide strategic direction and help shape the Local Plans that the city, borough and district councils are or will be preparing or reviewing.

It will also be used to support bids for Government funding to deliver the infrastructure needed to support growth.

Now, people are invited to comment on the plan by taking part in a county-wide consultation, which runs from 11 January until 5 April 2018.

The plan estimates that Leicester & Leicestershire needs 96,580 new homes and 367-423 hectares of employment land from 2011-2031. Some of these homes have already been built or have planning permission.

Beyond 2031, the plan identifies the need for a further 90,500 dwellings and additional employment land, which is why further land needs to be unlocked. Local Plans will deal with the detailed allocation of which sites will be brought forward.

Draft proposals put forward in the Strategic Growth Plan include major infrastructure improvements on which new growth is dependent. These include a new link road – the A46 Expressway – to the south and east of Leicester, running from the M69 and the M1 to the A46 north of the city.

The A5 and A42 would also be upgraded to expressway status, supporting growth in these areas. Rail improvements are also proposed.

These road and rail improvements would require significant Government investment and would relieve congestion pressures along the M1 and more widely across the Midlands. It would also potentially unlock land for the required housing and employment.

Key areas for potential growth are the city of Leicester and the corridor of land around the proposed new road. Secondary areas for growth are identified in the north and the south of the county – there would be a ‘northern gateway’ close to East Midlands Airport, and a ‘southern gateway’, close to Magna Park.

Growth is also proposed for Melton and Lutterworth, where it would support transport improvements and relieve congestion in the towns. New housing would be built closer to where people work, to minimise congestion from commuters.

Cllr Trevor Pendleton, chair of the Strategic Growth Plan Members’ Advisory Group, said: “This is a long-term overall plan for the city and county, looking at how we can best accommodate investment and growth. We need national funding, particularly for infrastructure, so that we can grow and prosper – this is why we need this plan.

“We’re asking people whether they agree with the priorities the Government is asking us to deliver, such as delivering new housing, focusing growth in key areas and identifying essential transport infrastructure that will be needed in the future.

“It’s important to stress that no decisions have yet been made, but we do have to plan ahead and identify areas for future growth, which would then be built into our Local Plans at the appropriate time.

“We know that some of these proposals will be controversial, but that’s why we’re having this consultation – to gather people’s views.”

City mayor Peter Soulsby said: “We have ambitious plans for our city and county, and we want to see them grow and prosper in the future.

“This plan is a chance for us to shape that growth, taking advantage of the opportunities it will bring while remembering our responsibilities to the local environment and existing built heritage.

“Leicester is a city that has grown not just in population but in confidence and pride over the past few years. And Leicestershire is a county benefitting from both proven economic success and great potential. We want to capitalise on these major strengths with our Strategic Growth Plan.”

To take part in the consultation, please see the website [lstrategicgrowthplan.org.uk](http://strategicgrowthplan.org.uk) or contact any of the local authorities or the LLEP. Local consultation events are also being planned. Details will be on the website.

<https://news.leicester.gov.uk/news-articles/2018/january/have-your-say-on-how-city-and-county-will-grow/>

26th March 2018

More time to comment on city and county’s future growth plans

People are being given more time to comment on plans about how Leicester and Leicestershire could grow in the future.

The draft Strategic Growth Plan has been out for consultation since 11 January. The consultation was due to close at the beginning of April, but the closing date for people to give their views has now been extended to Thursday 10 May 2018.

The plan has been developed by a partnership formed by Leicester City and Leicestershire County councils, the seven local borough and district authorities and the Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership (LLEP).

It puts forward proposals for the new housing and transport improvements that would be needed to attract jobs and investment to Leicester and Leicestershire from now until 2050.

Since the consultation was launched, additional evidence has been published that people responding to the consultation might wish to read and consider. As a result, the consultation period has been extended.

The new evidence includes reports on sustainability, habitats and transport impacts, all of which can be found on the [Strategic Growth Plan website](#).

The final version of the Strategic Growth Plan will provide strategic direction and help shape the Local Plans that the city, borough and district councils are or will be preparing or reviewing.

It will also be used to support bids for Government funding to deliver the infrastructure needed to support growth.

The plan estimates that Leicester & Leicestershire needs 96,580 new homes and 367-423 hectares of employment land from 2011-2031. Some of these homes have already been built or have planning permission.

Beyond 2031, the plan identifies the need for a further 90,500 dwellings and additional employment land, which is why further land needs to be unlocked. Local Plans will deal with the detailed allocation of which sites will be brought forward.

Cllr Trevor Pendleton, chair of the Strategic Growth Plan Members' Advisory Group, said: "Because we have added new evidence to the website, we want to give people the chance to look over this information thoroughly before they respond to the consultation. That's why we have extended the deadline for responses.

"We're asking people whether they agree with the priorities the Government is asking us to concentrate on, such as delivering new housing, focusing growth in key areas and identifying essential transport infrastructure that will be needed in the future.

"It's important to stress that no decisions have yet been made, but we do have to plan ahead and identify areas for future growth, which would then be built into our Local Plans at the appropriate time.

"We know that some of these proposals will be controversial, but that's why we're having this consultation – to gather people's views."

To take part in the consultation, please see the website <http://strategicgrowthplan.org.uk> or contact any of the local authorities or the LLEP. Local consultation events are also being planned. Details will be on the website.

<https://news.leicester.gov.uk/news-articles/2018/march/more-time-to-comment-on-city-and-county-s-future-growth-plans/>

APPENDIX 4:

Letter /email sent on the Consultation Draft Strategic Growth Plan



11 January 2018

Dear Sir/Madam,

Strategic Growth Plan for Leicester & Leicestershire: Consultation Draft Plan – Your Views Please

You may be aware that the nine local authorities in Leicester & Leicestershire, together with the Local Enterprise Partnership, are preparing a Strategic Growth Plan.

The first stage in the preparation of the Plan was the Strategic Growth Statement which was published in August 2016. This was a high level document which explained why the Plan is being prepared, provided a pen portrait of the area, set out some overall objectives and described the types of options that we would be considering when planning for growth.

A Draft Plan has now been prepared for public consultation. A copy of the Draft Plan and information on the evidence used in its preparation are available on our dedicated web site. They can be found using this link: www.llstrategicgrowthplan.org.uk.

Consultation on the Draft Plan begins on 11 January and extends until 5 April 2018. A summary leaflet and a consultation questionnaire have been prepared for your use and both are available on the web site. If possible, please fill out the questionnaire online. Alternative formats, including paper copies of the questionnaire, are available on request by contacting one of the partners. Contact details for all of the partners are given on the web site and in the summary leaflet. We would very much welcome your views.

Individual local authorities are also organising consultation events during the consultation period. Details will be posted on our web site and will be available from individual local authorities as soon as times, dates and venues have been confirmed.

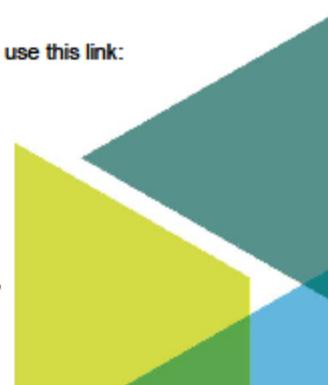
In the meantime, if you have any queries, please contact me or one of the partners.

Thank you in advance for your time.

Kind Regards.

Patricia Willoughby
Joint Strategic Planning Manager
For the County and Districts of Leicestershire, Leicester City and the LLEP
Email: strategic.growthplan@leics.gov.uk

A copy of the documents are available on our dedicated web site. Please use this link:
www.llstrategicgrowthplan.org.uk.



Appendix 5:

List of public exhibitions (dates and locations) on the Consultation Draft Strategic Growth Plan

St Peter's Parish Hall, Market Bosworth	30 January 2018
Tesco, Ashby de la Zouch	1 February 2018
Memorial Hall, Sheepy Magna	2 February 2018
Reception, Charnwood Borough Council, Loughborough	12 February 2018 - 10 May 2018
The Pavilion, Newbold Verdon	12 February 2018
Main Reception, Leicestershire County Council, Glenfield	13 February 2018 - 10 May 2018
Village Hall, Witherley	15 February 2018
Thurmaston Parish Council, Thurmaston	19 February 2018 - 8 March 2018
Village Hall, Groby	21 February 2018
Hill Court, Bushby	21 February 2018
Kegworth Parish Council, Kegworth	22 February 2018
Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council, Hinckley	26 February 2018
Blaby District Council, Narborough	27 February 2018
Harborough District Council, Market Harborough	27 February 2018
Customer Services Centre, Granby St., Leicester City Council	1 March 2018 - 10 May 2018
Whetstone Parish Council, Whetstone	1 March 2018
Broughton Astley Parish Council, Broughton Astley	1 March 2018
Wycliffe Rooms, Lutterworth	3 March 2018
Village Hall, Great Glen	3 March 2018
Syston Town Council, Syston	12 March 2018 - 10 May 2018
Melton Mowbray Borough Council, Melton Mowbray	14 March 2018
Sapcote Pavilion, Sapcote	19 March 2018
Customer Service Centre, Oadby and Wigston Borough Council, Wigston	21 March 2018