

<u>SCRUTINY COMMISSION – 8 SEPTEMBER 2021</u>

UPDATE ON STRATEGIC PLANNING AND GROWTH RELATED MATTERS

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Purpose of the Report

- 1. The purpose of this report is to provide the Commission with an update on a number of key strategic planning and other related matters which affect the County Council and the work being undertaken by the Growth Service and others to work with partners to address these. In particular the report provides an update on the uplift in housing numbers to be delivered by 20 cities across the country which includes Leicester City, and the implications of this for district council housing numbers and their current local plan proposals, as well as the County Council as infrastructure provider.
- 2. The report which was previously requested by members covers a large number of complex and detailed issues. It is not the purpose of the report to address these in full, but more to set out the impact they have on the County Council and the approach being taken to tackle the challenges faced.

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

- 3. The Government's Planning White Paper, considered by the Cabinet on 18 September 2020 (and by the Scrutiny Commission on 14 September 2020), proposes 'end to end' reform of the current planning system in England. Local Plans are proposed for retention but with a greater role and tighter timeframe. Once the consultation responses have been considered by Government, legislative change and revision to national planning policy will take place and will impact on plan making processes. Further announcements on the proposed reforms are expected in autumn 2021.
- 4. The County Council's Strategic Plan (2018 to 2022) agreed by full Council in May 2019 and amended in July 2020, following the County Council's declaration on climate change, has five strategic outcomes. The delivery of 'Affordable and Quality Homes' and 'Strong Economy' are directly impacted by the draft City of Leicester Local Plan and the emerging Local Plans in the districts.

- 5. The Strategic Growth Plan (SGP) for Leicester and Leicestershire, approved by the County Council in November 2018 and its partners (i.e. the eight local authorities in Leicester and Leicestershire and the Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership (LLEP)) in late 2018, provides the long-term vision for future planned growth to 2050. It recognises the pivotal role Leicester City has in Leicester and Leicestershire and looks for the City to develop its role as the 'central city' supporting the market towns and rural area around it through more jobs, leisure, arts, culture and entertainment. The SGP recognises the City needs to grow in such a way that full use can be made of existing services and infrastructure within the City. Also, the SGP notes that by providing more homes close to jobs in the City centre and other employment centres this will relieve development pressures in other parts of the County.
- 6. The Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment (HEDNA, 2017), forms a key part of the SGP evidence base; the Housing and Employment Needs Assessment (HENA) currently being undertaken will replace this in due course, and is discussed later in this report.
- 7. The Government's consultation on 'Changes to the current planning system' ended on 1 October 2020. The County Council raised strong concerns to the proposed changes to the Standard Method (the national method of calculating minimum annual local housing requirements), which if introduced would have resulted in significant increases for all districts other than Melton Borough. On 16 December 2020 the Government introduced a 35% uplift for the twenty largest cities and urban areas in England, and this has resulted in a 35% uplift for the City of Leicester to 2,341 dwellings per annum.

Background

- 8. The Growth Service, situated in the Chief Executive's department, has a wide ranging set of responsibilities all focused on the management of the financial risk to the County Council arising from the need to deliver infrastructure in support of housing and employment requirements set out in district councils' current and emerging Local Plans.
- 9. The Growth Service coordinates the County Council's input to each districts' local plan development and through pro-active engagement with district council colleagues is able to do so at an earlier stage than has previously been the case. This engagement helps ensure that the need for deliverable, affordable infrastructure to support their place shaping aspirations as set out in their local plans is properly considered.
- 10. Since November 2020 when the Scrutiny Commission received a report on the draft City of Leicester Local Plan, there have been various announcements, publications, and progress with evidence on or related to strategic planning, and this report seeks to provide an update on the key matters pertinent to Leicestershire, which include:
 - The Government announcement of a 35% uplift for the twenty largest cities in England;

- Current Position on Local Plans including:
 - Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) written ministerial statement (19 January 2021), restated need to have up to date Local Plans in place by December 2023;
 - Recent consultations on pre-submission Charnwood Local Plan 2021 to 2037 (Regulation 19) and Draft Hinckley and Bosworth Local Plan 2020 to 2039 (Regulation 18);
 - Blaby 'New Local Plan Options' (Regulation 18) March 2021;
 - Update on the Draft City of Leicester Local Plan;
 - Other Local Plans
- Interim Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) to accompany the emerging Charnwood Local Plan;
- Members' Advisory Group/Strategic Planning Group (MAG/SPG) work programme and the future Statement of Common Ground for Leicester and Leicestershire apportioning unmet need arising from Leicester City to Leicestershire districts;
- Midlands Connect A46 (Stage 2) Study;
- Revisions to National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and National Model Design Code consultation;
- Publication of the Strategic Warehousing and Logistics Study;
- Leicester City's Local Transport Plan (LTP4) and Workplace Charging Levy
- Environment and Zero-Carbon

Risks and impact on the County Council

- 11. Securing funding for infrastructure to underpin proposed housing and employment growth continues to be a challenge and is of critical importance to new and existing communities. In the current financial climate, the financial risk to the County Council needs to be minimised and therefore a joint commitment to developing a funding strategy for how infrastructure will be funded in district local plans will be essential. The County Council will continue to work together with the City, its district partners and other stakeholders to secure the funding to deliver the transport, education and other necessary infrastructure that will be required to enable Leicester and Leicestershire's future growth. The Growth Service is responsible for early engagement with district councils to help shape local plans in a way that properly accommodates the infrastructure identified as necessary by the County Council.
- 12. Meeting these growth challenges needs to be contiguous with delivery against climate emergency commitments. The County Council has its own commitment to zero carbon and addressing climate emergency challenges, alongside the recent adoption of a Cycling and Walking Strategy. Policies within Local Plans should reflect the context of recent national/local 'climate emergency' declarations and associated policies/priorities.
- 13. It is incumbent upon Housing Market Area (HMA) authorities to jointly resolve any cross-boundary matters with HMA partners under the Duty to Co-operate. The consequences of unplanned, speculative growth resulting from 5-year land supply issues with districts is recognised, in particular the pressure this puts on

- infrastructure provision. The close working between the County and district councils, and other partners, is therefore of paramount importance in the delivery of infrastructure and related proposals.
- 14. Without a clear aligned approach to delivery, Leicestershire faces high levels of speculative/indiscriminate development with inadequate highway and education infrastructure. Whilst it is noted for example, the delivery of Strategic Housing Sites has been a challenge in Hinckley and Bosworth, there is an ongoing need to secure deliverable planned growth supported by infrastructure rather than unplanned speculative development. Similarly, it is increasingly necessary for individual districts to undertake sufficient modelling and mitigation and recognise future transport infrastructure requirements on a cross-boundary, cumulative basis.
- 15. Ongoing commitment from all the local authorities is crucial, as is their support for a collaborative and coordinated approach to the defining and allocating of infrastructure funding requirements of local plans. A coordinated, strategy-led approach, including National Highways (known until recently as Highways England) will be required to address the transport challenges of seeking to accommodate further growth.

The Government announcement of a 35% uplift for the twenty largest cities in England

- 16. On 16 December 2020 the Government announced the retention of the existing standard method for calculating housing need, including its reliance on the 2014-based household projections, but with a new cities and urban centres uplift of 35 per cent for England's twenty biggest cities and towns (including the City of Leicester). Whilst the need in the districts has therefore remained largely the same, the 35 per cent uplift for Leicester City, has resulted in a need of 10,000 additional homes between 2020 and 2036 (600 homes per year). Based on Leicester City's draft supply, this equates to a shortfall of approximately 18,000 homes.
- 17. Work was already ongoing by Leicester and Leicestershire (L&L) partners to redistribute the unmet need arising from the City to the districts and this was halted shortly after the 35 per cent urban uplift was announced, as it was recognised that joint new evidence was required to inform the redistribution of the increased scale of unmet need arising from the City.
- 18. This has emphasised the need for Leicester and Leicestershire (L&L) partners to continue to work together to address this unmet need in the most sustainable way possible. It has also placed greater importance on the MAG/SPG work programme and the need for a L&L Statement of Common Ground to apportion this increased unmet need to Leicestershire districts (both of which are discussed later in the report), together with Local Plan review trigger policies.

Current Position on Local Plans

- 19. The 35% uplift announcement in December 2020 was followed on 19 January 2021 by a MHCLG ministerial statement restating the Government's ambition expressed in March 2020 for all local planning authorities to have up to date Local Plans in place by December 2023.
- For the County Council, Leicester City Council and the Leicestershire districts, this means continued close working to ensure progress is made to meet this deadline. The current position regarding Local Plans across L&L is set out below.

Blaby 'New Local Plan Options' (Regulation 18)

- 21. Blaby District Council began its Regulation 18 consultation on its new Local Plan options in January 2021. The County Council responded in its role as a statutory consultee, with comments considered by the Cabinet on 23 March 2021 (a link to this report can be accessed here).
- 22. This emerging Blaby District Local Plan is particularly pivotal in providing key infrastructure to underpin growth across the wider L&L Housing Market Area, and the responses raised reflected this. It was noted by the Cabinet that the Council would be looking to work closely with Blaby District Council to provide the necessary infrastructure to support the area's development.
- 23. Blaby District Council is working closely with other partners in the south of the County to align evidence, including transport work to produce evidence to underpin their Regulation 19 Local Plan which is anticipated in 2022.
 - <u>Pre-submission Charnwood Local Plan 2021 to 2037 (Regulation 19) and the</u> Draft Hinckley and Bosworth Local Plan 2020 to 2039 (Regulation 18)
- 24. Consultations have recently closed on the Pre-submission Charnwood Local Plan 2021 to 2037 (Regulation 19) and the Draft Hinckley and Bosworth Local Plan 2020 to 2039 (Regulation 18). The County Council response to both consultations will be considered by the Cabinet at its meeting on 17 September.
- 25. The County Council's officer responses have recommended the need for coordinated strategy led approaches at wider than borough level to address the transport challenges of seeking to accommodate future housing and employment growth, and to provide a robust basis for seeking developer contributions towards mitigation measures to address impacts.
- 26. For the draft Charnwood Local Plan which is at a more advanced stage, key comments include the following:
 - Support for further transport work to inform a mitigation package to support
 the proposed growth and the joint funding to do this which is critical to the
 successful delivery of the proposals in the draft Local Plan, noting
 elements of the package are not within the gift of either Charnwood BC or

- the County Council to deliver, notably the likely requirements for improvements to the Strategic Road Network (M1 and A46), so delivery will depend on Highways England future programmes;
- Education has worked closely with CBC on the implications for schools from the proposed allocations and is content the Local Plan incorporates solutions to issues previously highlighted. Further discussion required regarding potential requirement for additional land for secondary school to south of Loughborough and SEND provision across the borough;
- 27. For the draft Hinckley and Bosworth Local Plan, which is at an earlier stage of preparation in comparison to Charnwood Borough Council's Local Plan, the key comments include the following:
 - Stronger partnership working is sought to ensure infrastructure provision by the County Council and other partners informs and shapes the preferred spatial strategy which will be defined at the next stage of local plan making;
 - A joint review of the transport evidence base and support to HBBC in undertaking work to explore options for the delivery of required highways and transport measures (including to address cumulative and crossboundary impacts), how this might impact on assumptions about potential sites to be included as allocations and other aspects of the Local Plan;
 - Need for wider issues beyond the Borough to inform the Local Plan such as failing functionality of the A5 in the Hinckley area, the M1 J21 And J21a to Hobby Horse roundabout pressures, and need to ensure the A50/A511 can continue to play its role in enabling growth and providing access to jobs and key services and facilities in the City of Leicester;
 - Uncertainty about the delivery of the Barwell and Earl Shilton Sustainable Urban Extensions (SUEs);
 - Need for a Local Plan Review trigger policy;
 - Concern about S106 developer contributions not being sought on 100 per cent Affordable Homes Grant schemes.
 - A request to lengthen the timeframe before consultation on Regulation 19 of the Local Plan.

Update on the Draft City of Leicester Local Plan

- 28. The Draft City of Leicester Local Plan (Regulation 18) consultation took place between September and December 2020 and was considered by the Commission on 4 November 2020 and the Cabinet on 20 November 2020.
- 29. Consultation on this draft Local Plan formed a Regulation 18 consultation, which means that once Leicester City Council has considered comments received during this consultation period, the Plan will be refined in preparation for a further consultation held on the Submission Plan (Regulation 19). A confirmed date has not yet been set for the Regulation 19 consultation though it is likely to be in early 2022.
- 30. The City are seeking to maximise the scale of growth they can accommodate whilst minimising environmental loss, to reduce the scale of the now increased

level of unmet need. Since the end of the Regulation 18 consultation period, the City Council has informed the County Council and other partners that they have been:

- Assessing and considering responses (3500 responses) received, including the views submitted by the County Council and district councils:
- b) Considering information from promoters of strategic sites (scale and deliverability, design options);
- c) Undertaking design capacity work in respect of smaller sites;
- d) Reviewing the implications of the emerging Environment Bill (expected to become law in the autumn), which includes creating a requirement for higher tier local authorities to engage in the development and delivery of a Local Nature Recovery Strategy, and a mandatory 10% gain in biodiversity value for most development;
- e) Reviewing suitability/deliverability of sites in light of the above; and
- f) Undertaking an evidence Update/Review of:
 - 35% uplift implications Also working on SoCG with County Council and Districts
 - Updating our SHELAA (Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment)
 - Character Area and Tall Buildings
 - Retail Study
 - Local Housing Needs Assessment
 - Transport Evidence
 - Infrastructure and Viability implications
 - Densities inc. City Centre capacity
 - Energy/climate
 - Implications of Class E Permitted Development Rights
- g) Reviewing policies in light of the above.
- 31. The City Council's next consultation (Regulation 19) on its draft Local Plan is expected in early 2022 and details of this will be presented to Scrutiny and the Cabinet as appropriate.

Other Local Plans

- 32. In autumn 2021 it is understood consultations are likely on the North West Leicestershire Substantive Review (Regulation 18) and a draft Oadby and Wigston Local Plan (Regulation 18), followed in the winter by a further consultation on the draft Hinckley and Bosworth Local Plan 2020 to 2039 (Regulation 19). These consultations are likely to take place ahead of the agreement of a Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) for Leicester and Leicestershire apportioning the unmet housing and employment need arising from the City to the districts.
- 33. Those Local Plans most recently adopted in April 2019 (Harborough Local Plan 2011 to 2031 and Oadby and Wigton Local Plan 2011 to 2031) are working closely with other authorities in the south of Leicestershire on evidence for the

- next round of plan-making. This should help to ensure seamless infrastructure is put in place essential to deliver and support new planned growth. The County Council are involved in these discussions.
- 34. Melton Borough Council and Harborough District Council adopted their current Local Plan in 2018 and 2019 respectively and have yet to announce dates of their next formal review. This is likely to occur following the preparation of the L&L SoCG dealing with the redistribution of the City's unmet need.
- 35. The Leicestershire Minerals and Waste Local Plan was adopted in 2019. A review is due to commence later in 2021 with a view to getting a new plan in place in 2023/24.

Interim Statement of Common Ground to accompany the emerging Charnwood Local Plan

- 36. As part of our Duty to Cooperate in February 2021 MAG suggested that an interim Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) be prepared to accompany the emerging Charnwood Local Plan and that this needed to be signed off through the respective governance arrangements of all L&L partners. The County Council became a signatory to the Statement in advance of it being presented to the Cabinet on 22 June 2021 (a link to the report can be accessed here), given the necessity for the Statement to be approved in advance of Charnwood Borough Council taking its emerging Local Plan through its own governance processes and launching its consultation in June 2021.
- 37. The SoCG provides a summary of the jointly agreed position between the authorities in L&L on housing and employment need and supply, as well as the cooperation that is taking place to agree the distribution of unmet housing and employment need from Leicester City. This interim SoCG is a statement of fact, setting out key strategic matters under the 'Duty to Co-operate' and includes L&L housing and employment need to 2036, unmet need to 2036, and the process of apportioning need to 2036. It is likely to be used to support other emerging Local Plans until such a point that the content of the SoCG needs updating.
- 38. The interim SoCG supports Charnwood's Local Plan progressing ahead of this process subject to the inclusion of a trigger policy in the local plan to require a review of the plan if Charnwood are required to meet unmet needs. A Local Plan review trigger policy has been included in the draft Charnwood Local Plan.

Members' Advisory Group/ Strategic Planning Group work programme and the future Statement of Common Ground for Leicester and Leicestershire apportioning unmet need arising from Leicester City to Leicestershire districts

39. Three key pieces of evidence were commissioned by partners in March 2021: the Housing and Employment Need Assessment (HENA), the Strategic Growth Options and Constraints study and the Strategic Transport Assessment. A fourth, the Sustainability Appraisal on the distribution of the unmet need, was halted following the increase in scale caused by the 35 per cent urban uplift.

This work will be resumed once it can be informed by the findings from the other three pieces of evidence (in the case of the Strategic Transport Assessment it will be informed by the early transport modelling work rather than the complete Strategic Transport Assessment).

- 40. The commissioned pieces of evidence are expected to be complete in autumn 2021 with the Strategic Transport Assessment due for completion in early 2022.
- 41. The SoCG for L&L apportioning unmet need arising from Leicester City to Leicestershire districts will be informed by this evidence and is expected to follow in winter 2021/2022. The findings of the evidence will be presented to the MAG in early 2022 and will also be presented to the Scrutiny Commission in due course.

Midlands Connect A46 (Stage 2) Study

- 42. The A46 Corridor across the Midlands is identified as an investment priority in the Midlands Connect Strategy, and in November 2020 Midlands Connect published their Stage 2 report (a link to the report can be accessed here).
- 43. The key findings showed a road to 'Expressway' standard is not needed around the south and east of Leicester to serve people making long distance trips i.e. people travelling from the south west to the north east of England and vice versa, but confirmed a lower standard of road is still required to support new housing and economic development. These findings hold true if development is delivered in accordance with the distribution of housing across the area (spatial distribution) as set out in the SGP. Further work was recommended to better understand the infrastructure and sustainable transport interventions that may be needed to support planned growth and mitigate adverse impacts on existing urban areas and their associated transport networks, and the Leicester and Leicestershire authorities are undertaking this work in collaboration with Midlands Connect.
- 44. The Strategic Transport Assessment (further reference is made to it later in this report), early work on which is currently ongoing, will develop further our understanding of the infrastructure and sustainable transport measures required to deliver long term growth whilst supporting air quality and low carbon objectives.

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) proposed revisions and Model Design Code consultation

45. During February and March 2021, the Government undertook a consultation on a number of proposed revisions to the NPPF (last updated in 2019) to reflect the creation of better and more beautiful homes and places, and also on the National Model Design Code. The County Council submitted an officer response to both. It is worth noting that North West Leicestershire District Council were successful in being selected as one of fourteen pilot local authorities to test the National Model Design Code. This provides them with a toolkit of design principles to consider for new developments, such as street

character, building type and façade as well as environmental, heritage and wellbeing factors. Their experience can be shared with other partners and it should help to 'raise the bar' regarding the delivery of high-quality development in Leicestershire.

- 46. In July 2021, the National Design Code was published, and an Office for Place was established by government to support local authorities to work with communities to set local design standards for new development. A revised NPPF was also published with main changes including:
 - making beauty and placemaking a strategic policy;
 - an expectation that local authorities produce their own design codes and that new streets are tree-lined;
 - improving biodiversity and access to nature through design;
 - an emphasis on granting planning permission for well-designed development and refusal for poor quality schemes.
- 47. The County Council is considering the impact of these changes and will adjust its approach where appropriate, such as considering changes to the Leicestershire Highway Design Guide.

Publication of the Strategic Warehousing and Logistics Study in May 2021

- 48. On 6 May 2021 the Strategic Warehousing and Logistics Study was published having been jointly commissioned by the L&L authorities and the LLEP (a link to the report can be accessed here). This replaces the 2014 L&L Strategic Distribution Sector Study and the update report (Sept 2016). The Study forms an important part of the evidence base for L&L authorities' Local Plans, highlighting the current and future needs of the sector, with particular emphasis on future floorspace and land needs to 2041.
- 49. Taking into account the current supply of warehouses the study suggests there is a need for 768,000sqm of rail-based warehousing and 392,000sqm of road-based warehousing. The shortfall in rail provision starts to emerge around the mid-2020s and the shortfall for road-based provision starts post-2031, because the existing supply is relatively strong.
- 50. The 'Areas of Opportunity' are the same as those identified in the previous 2014 study and are based on accessibility to the road and rail network, as well as access to labour.
- 51. The update reflects the rapid change of pace in this sector in recent years which has been accelerated recently by the move to online retail during the pandemic.
- 52. Officers are currently working through the next steps to enable L&L authorities to be on the 'front foot', rather than in a reactive position with regards to the consideration of future strategic warehousing planning applications

Leicester City's Local Transport Plan (LTP4) and Workplace Charging Levy

 Consultation has recently closed on Leicester City's Local Transport Plan (LTP4) and Workplace Charging Levy. Member views have been sought for inclusion in a report to Cabinet on 17 September 2021.

Environment and Carbon Zero

- 54. The County Council is taking action working with key partners to develop mechanisms for advancing opportunities that support a low carbon circular economy and sustainable development and growth. The district councils and the local plans they prepare for their respective areas are included in this action. Through the County Council's response to Local Plans, opportunities to strengthen progress towards a low carbon circular economy and more sustainable development and growth can and are being highlighted. These include decarbonising existing and new housing stock, reducing dependency on the private car, encouraging more walking and cycling, encouraging the switch to electric vehicles, and making place for nature and the eco-system services it provides.
- 55. The County Council contributes to the delivery of some action on the environment and climate change through the Environment Group, which is a collaborative group led by the districts of which the County Council and the LLEP are partners. Actions currently being delivered include, the provision of electric vehicle charging infrastructure across many of the districts, improving the energy efficiency of homes and providing an opportunity for households to install solar panels.
- 56. The Environment Bill is due to be laid before parliament later in 2021 having been subject to extensive scrutiny and amendment for several years. The Bill proposes a range of powers relevant to County Council duties, including powers to reverse biodiversity loss as part of the planning process. It is anticipated that planning decisions will be expected to secure at least a 10% 'net gain' in biodiversity where planning permission is granted. This provision affects the County Council in a number of ways in its statutory role as County Planning authority as well as in its working relationships with other Leicestershire and Rutland councils. Discussions are underway in relation to new processes and ways of working in preparation for the new legislation.
- 57. A new role is being appointed in the Growth Service to lead the coordination of activity related to the Green agenda. This appointment is a reflection of the breadth and depth of the issue, and the significance of aligning the Council's commitment to delivering growth and maintaining its commitment to the climate emergency.

Resource Implications

- 58. The infrastructure required to support the delivery of housing and employment growth will have a significant impact on the County Council's finances.
- 59. The scale of the infrastructure, and the need for much of it to be needed in advance of development, will put pressure on the County Council to cash flow it in advance of funding being received from developers. However, given the wider pressures on the County Council's financial position, there is limited scope for this and there will inevitably be a need for prioritisation.
- 60. It is of paramount importance that early engagement and close working is undertaken between the County Council and other partners in the delivery of infrastructure and related proposals to help to partially mitigate some of these risks.
- 61. It is also crucial that there is flexibility wherever possible around timing of spend and what money is spent on, as well as ensuring developer contributions to local infrastructure costs can be secured in a coordinated and equitable manner.
- 62. An increased volume of growth and the 'bunching up' and overlapping of Local Plan reviews has had immediate resource implications for the County Council, pulling on capacity of officers throughout the various stages of the consultation process. During 2022 and 2023 there will be several Local Plan Examinations taking place in Leicester and Leicestershire. Further resources will need to be allocated to prepare for and give evidence at those Local Plan Examinations where the County Council has expressed support, and wishes to attend to defend and amplify that support, or wishes to defend and elaborate on its opposition to a strategy for future planned growth.

Timetable for Decisions

- 63. The update nature of this report does not necessitate a timetable for decision. However, as indicated in the preceding text, a number of matters and consultations are ongoing, with the Cabinet considering responses to Local Plan consultations for Charnwood and Hinckley and Bosworth in September 2021. Further Local Plan consultations are expected in the autumn, on the North West Leicestershire Substantive Review and the Oadby and Wigston Local Plan and the next phase of consultation on the draft City of Leicester Local Plan is expected in early 2022.
- 64. The Statement of Common Ground for apportioning unmet need arising from Leicester City to Leicestershire districts is expected to follow in winter 2021/2022 and details of this will be presented to the Scrutiny Commission and the Cabinet as appropriate. The findings of the evidence will be presented to the MAG in early 2022 and will also be presented to the Commission in due course.

Equalities and Human Rights Implications

65. There are no equality or human rights implications arising from the recommendation of this report.

Recommendation

66. The Scrutiny Commission is asked to note the content of this update on strategic planning and other growth related matters

Background Papers

Report to Scrutiny Commission on the Government's Planning for the Future White Paper on 14 September 2020

http://politics.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?Cld=137&Mld=6335&Ver=4

Report to Scrutiny Commission on the draft City of Leicester Local Plan on 4 November 2020

http://politics.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?Cld=137&Mld=6178&Ver=4

Report to Cabinet on the Response to the Blaby District Council New Local Plans Options Consultation on 23 March 2021

http://politics.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?Cld=135&MID=6441

Report to Cabinet on the Urgent Action Taken by the Chief Executive in Relation to the Leicester and Leicestershire Statement of Common Ground Relating to Housing and Employment Land Needs (March 2021) on 22 June 2021 http://politics.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?Cld=135&MID=6444#Al68019

Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure

None.

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