



## **CABINET – 26 MAY 2026**

### **RESPONSE TO BOROUGH OF OADBY AND WIGSTON REGULATION 19 LOCAL PLAN CONSULTATION AND DECLARATION OF UNMET HOUSING NEED**

#### **REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF GROWTH, ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT**

##### **Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to advise the Cabinet of the progress of Oadby and Wigston Borough Council's Local Plan and to set out the proposed response to its Regulation 19 consultation, as the views of the County Council. The report also sets out the County Council's position on the matter of Oadby and Wigston Borough Council's declared unmet housing need.
2. A supplementary report setting out the detail on these matters is currently being prepared and will be circulated to Members and published on the County Council's website as soon as it is available.

##### **Recommendations**

3. The Cabinet is asked to note this report and will be asked to consider recommendations set out in the supplementary report.

##### **Reasons for Recommendation**

4. The supplementary report will set out the County Council's proposed response to the Oadby and Wigston Borough Council's Local Plan consultation and position on the declared unmet housing need.

##### **Timetable for Decisions (including Scrutiny)**

5. Oadby and Wigston Borough Council has outlined a timetable for the submission of its Local Plan. It is anticipated that following the Regulation 19 Pre-Submission consultation and subject to approval of Oadby and Wigston Borough Council, the Local Plan would be submitted to the Secretary of State for examination by 12 June 2026.

##### **Policy Framework and Previous Decisions**

6. In 2018, the County Council, Leicester City Council, the seven district councils in Leicestershire, and the Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership

(LLEP), approved the Leicester and Leicestershire Strategic Growth Plan (SGP) which provides the long-term vision for planned growth for the area up to 2050. The SGP identifies five key growth areas, most pertinent to the Borough of Oadby and Wigston are 'Leicester Our Central City' and the A46 Priority Growth Corridor.

7. The Leicester and Leicestershire Strategic Transport Priorities (LLTSTP) was approved by the Cabinet on 20 November 2020. This document has a plan period to 2050 and it was developed by the County Council and City Council alongside the SGP to ensure that the long-term development needs and associated transportation requirements are co-ordinated.
8. In 2021, the Council and its partners (Leicester City Council, the seven district councils and the LLEP), commissioned the Leicester and Leicestershire Housing and Economic Needs Assessment (HENA). The HENA, published in June 2022, provides evidence that across Leicester and Leicestershire, the projected housing need from 2020 to 2036 is 91,400 dwellings and employment land need from 2021 to 2036 is 344 hectares.
9. In October 2021, the Cabinet approved the response to Oadby and Wigston Borough Council's New Local Plan Issues and Options Consultation at Regulation 18 stage, which is the first formal stage of consultation for the Local Plan.
10. In December 2021, the County Council became a signatory to a Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) relating to South Leicestershire Local Plan Making (November 2021), aligning the gathering of evidence and activity in the development of new local plans for three districts in the south of the County.
11. In September 2022, the Cabinet approved the County Council becoming a signatory to a SoCG relating to Housing and Employment Land Needs (June 2022), setting out how the City Council's identified unmet needs would be accommodated in the County. Oadby and Wigston Borough Council approved the SoCG at its Council meeting in July 2022.
12. In November 2022, the Cabinet received a paper setting out the financial implications for the County Council of delivering sustainable and inclusive growth and the approach and principles that it is proposed the Council would adopt to address and manage these risks.
13. In May 2024, delegated authority was given to the Chief Executive for the submission of the County Council's comments to Oadby and Wigston Borough Council's Regulation 18B Preferred Options consultation.
14. In October 2024, the Cabinet received a paper on the Strategic Planning Issues associated with the emerging Charnwood Local Plan. This included principles for future engagement of the Local Highways Authority in other local plan processes in light of the County Council's experience of the Local Plan for Charnwood Borough.

15. In December 2024, the Cabinet report on the Provisional Medium Term Financial Strategy 2025/26 – 2028/29 referred to the importance of Local Plans being prepared with sufficient evidence to secure contributions and delivery for critical infrastructure and that it is necessary for the district councils to work with the County Council to ensure that their Local Plans include policies that balance the need to support delivery of growth with the financial risk to the County Council.
16. In February 2025, the Cabinet approved the response to Oadby and Wigston Borough Council's Regulation 19 Pre-Submission Consultation draft, noting the decision of Oadby and Wigston Borough Council to pause progress on its new Local Plan following the close of the Regulation 19 consultation, in order to consider the requirements of the new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).
17. In December 2025, the Cabinet received a report on Strategic Spatial and Transport Planning. This outlined proposals for the preparation of a Spatial Development Strategy and secured approval for the County Council to share initial evidence work, to undertake initial scheme feasibility and development work, outlined how this would be used by the Local Transport Authority (LTA) to input into strategic planning, including to assist the evolution of Local Plans to the submission stage and in bringing forward strategic sites allocated in those Local Plans.
18. In February 2026, the Cabinet approved the County Council becoming a signatory to a SoCG produced by the Leicester and Leicestershire local authorities relating to housing distribution following the NPPF and new Standard Method published in December 2024. Oadby and Wigston Borough Council also became signatories to this SoCG in February 2026.

### **Resource Implications**

19. The County Council has committed significant resources to engaging in, and supporting, a collaborative approach to strategic planning in order to facilitate the delivery of growth within the County and to mitigate the negative impacts of development, to the extent that it is reasonably possible to do.
20. As set out in the report to the Cabinet in December 2025 on Strategic Spatial and Transport Planning, securing the delivery of infrastructure, transport or otherwise (such as education, waste and health), to support the needs of Leicester and Leicestershire's growing population is becoming ever more challenging. The County Council seeks to achieve a more coordinated approach to locations for growth and prioritisation of its delivery relative to the prioritisation of investment in the infrastructure and services necessary to support it.
21. The Director of Corporate Resources and the Chief Legal Officer and Monitoring Officer have been consulted on this report.

**Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure**

This report will be circulated to all Members.

**Officers to Contact**

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