



**CABINET – 16 SEPTEMBER 2022**

**CHARNWOOD LOCAL PLAN (2021 TO 2037)**  
**- LATEST POSITION**

**REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to advise members with regard to the delay to the Examination in Public (EiP) of the draft Charnwood Local Plan arising from the decision by the Borough Council on the first day of the EiP to propose what the Inspectors judged to be a material change to the submitted plan, in relation to its apportionment of the City's unmet need, which resulted in the suspension of the Examination.
2. The report details the consequences to the County Council in respect to the delay and the Borough Council failing to secure an adopted plan.
3. A supplementary report setting out the County Council's position is currently being prepared and this will be circulated to members and published on the County Council's website as soon as it is available.

**Recommendation**

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

**Reason for Recommendation**

5. The supplementary report will make clear the consequences of the delay both in terms of additional unplanned development but also the resourcing implications arising from the delayed EiP process.
6. It will also set out the conditions under which the County Council will be able to provide a clear response to future stages of the EiP.

**Timetable for Decisions (including Scrutiny)**

7. The delayed EiP is scheduled across two phases, the first being held at the end of October 2022 and will focus on the Borough Council's apportionment of the City's unmet need. The second phase, yet to be scheduled, will focus on the Borough Council's amended Local Plan, taking into account decisions taken at the October EiP.

**Policy Framework and Previous Decisions**

8. In September 2021, the Cabinet considered a report setting out the County Council's proposed response to the Pre-Submission Charnwood Local Plan. That report included detail of the policy framework within which the Plan sits, and also relevant previous decisions made by the Cabinet.
9. In June 2022, the Cabinet considered a report on Highways and Transportation matters in respect of the Charnwood Local Plan and resolved, amongst other things, to approve the County Council's position as Local Highway Authority (LHA) for the purposes of the Plan's Examination in Public (EiP).

**Resource Implications**

10. The financial challenges to the Council are being exacerbated by the high inflation environment that is currently being experienced, which is having a particularly profound impact upon construction schemes and the Council's financial position, both in relation to capital and revenue funds, is grave.
11. There are direct and immediate resourcing implications to the County Council arising from Borough Council's approach to their Local Plan EiP and these will be set out in the supplementary report.
12. The Director of Corporate Resources and the Director of Law and Governance have been consulted on the content of this report.

**Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure**

13. A copy of this report and the supplementary report will be circulated to all members.

**Equality and Human Rights Implications**

14. There are no equality and human rights implications arising from the report.

**Environmental Implications**

15. The County Council will continue to advise the Borough Council and other partners how best to minimise the impact of the planned growth on the environmental assets of Leicestershire.
16. The impact upon the environment is a key consideration in all planning decisions made within the context of an approved or emerging Local Plan, and the County Council will seek to ensure that opportunities are taken to enhance the environment through biodiversity net gain and sustainable forms of development.

### **Partnership Working and Associated Issues**

17. The County Council works closely with the Leicester and Leicestershire Strategic Planning Partnership, which includes Leicester City Council, the seven district councils in Leicestershire and the Leicester and Leicestershire Local Enterprise Partnership.

### **Background Papers**

Report to the Cabinet on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2021: Response to the Charnwood Borough Council Pre-Submission Charnwood Local Plan (2021-2037) Consultation  
<https://politics.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=135&MId=6446&Ver=4>

[Report to the Cabinet on 24 June 2022: Charnwood Local Plan \(2021 TO 2037\) - Highways and Transportation Matters](https://politics.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=135&MId=6775&Ver=4)  
<https://politics.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=135&MId=6775&Ver=4>

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