

REPORT TO: WECA OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

DATE: 19th SEPTEMBER 2018

REPORT TITLE: JOINT SPATIAL PLAN (JSP) UPDATE

**AUTHOR: LISA BARTLETT
(JOINT SPATIAL PLAN SENIOR RESPONSIBLE
OFFICER)**

Purpose of Report

1. This report provides an update on the Joint Spatial Plan (JSP) Examination in Public (EIP).

The JSP is a joint plan of the four authorities of the West of England (Bristol City Council, Bath and North East Somerset, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire) and is overseen by the West of England Joint Committee. WECA is not party to the JSP or decisions and agreements made with regards to the JSP.

Background

2. The Joint Spatial Plan (JSP) was submitted to the Secretary of State on the 13th April 2018. On this date the JSP entered the examination stage. It is during this stage where the independent Inspector(s) review the plan and its supporting evidence base and determine whether the plan is sound and therefore ready to be adopted.
 - 2.1 Inspector Malcolm Rivett BA (Hons) MSc MRTPI has been appointed by the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) to conduct the examination to determine whether the JSP is sound. Steven Lee BA (Hons) MA MRTPI has been appointed to assist Inspector Malcolm Rivett with the examination. Mr Robert Young has been appointed as Programme Officer for this examination and from the date of submission he has been the point of contact for the Inspector.
 - 2.2. During the Examination stage, the Inspectors will undertake a review of duly made representations to the JSP submission plan consultation along with the submission documents themselves.
 - 2.3 As part of the inspectors review of the JSP, additional work has been requested to be made public. These requested are presented through the Inspectors Letters to the Councils'. Four letters have been received regarding the JSP requesting clarification

and information from the councils in relation to Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Habitat Regulation Assessment (HRA), as well as requesting clarification and further evidence within other technical work areas, including transport. The authorities are now undertaking additional work in response to points raised by the Inspectors in their letters. The details of which can be found on the JSP websites' examination page.

Issues for Consideration

- 3.0 The councils are proposing a single public consultation to commence from November – December 2018. The councils will run a six-week consultation process to give people the opportunity to see and comment on the information provided. That feedback will be passed to the Inspectors to consider as they prepare for the next phase of their assessment of the JSP.

Examination Hearing Sessions

- 3.1 The examination Hearing sessions are led by the inspectors. These sessions allow those who objected to the Plan in April 2017 to participate on specific matters to assist the Inspector in considering the policies and principles set within the JSP. The dates and venue for hearings, along with the Inspectors' draft timetable and issues to be discussed at the hearings will be set by the Inspectors in due course. The hearings are scheduled to be held in May 2019.

Next Steps

- 3.2 Following the hearings, the Inspectors will conclude if the Plan can be adopted as submitted or whether modifications are required to make it sound. Any such modification will need to be subject to public consultation

Consultation:

- 4 The JSP has undertaken consultation stages in compliance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. This report has been prepared following discussion and review from WECA and UA officers.

Other Options Considered:

- 5 This is an update report for information only and requires no decision regarding options or proposals.

Risk Management/Assessment:

- 6 There are no direct implications arising from this report. Any risks will be reviewed through the Joint Spatial Plan Project Board.

Public Sector Equality Duties:

- 7 The public sector equality duty created under the Equality Act 2010 means that public authorities must have due regard to the need to:
- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimization and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
 - Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
 - Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- 7.1 The Act explains that having due regard for advancing equality involves:
- Removing or minimizing disadvantages suffered by people due to their protected characteristics.
 - Taking steps to meet the needs of people from protected groups where these are different from the needs of other people.
 - Encouraging people from protected groups to participate in public life or in other activities where their participation is disproportionately low.
- 7.2 The general equality duty therefore requires organisations to consider how they could positively contribute to the advancement of equality and good relations. It requires equality considerations to be reflected in the design of policies and the delivery of services, including policies, and for these issues to be kept under review.
- 7.3 An Equalities Impact Assessment has been undertaken as part of the Joint Spatial Plan.

Economic Impact Assessment:

- 8 There are no direct implications arising from this report.

Finance Implications:

- 9 The joint Spatial Plan will be resourced by the four Unitary Authorities, via the JSP Budget for which B&NES is the lead authority.

Advice given by: Tim Richens, Interim Director of Investment and Cooperate Services, West of England Combined Authority.

Legal Implications:

- 10 There are no direct implications arising from this report.

Advice given by: Shahzia Daya, Director of Legal Services, West of England Combined Authority

Land/Property Implications;

11 There are no direct implications arising from this report.

Advice given by: Tim Richens, Interim Director of Investment and Cooperate Services, West of England Combined Authority.

Human Resources Implications:

11 The Plan will be resourced by Unitary Authority officers. As this project evolves, the resource requirements will be reviewed to ensure effective delivery of the project.

Advice given by: Alex Holly , Head of HR , West of England Combined Authority

Recommendation:

12 Members are asked to note the update report.