

CABINET MEETING – 23 November 2016

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY SHEET – PART I

Title of Report:

INTERNATIONAL ADVANCED MANUFACTURING PARK: AREA ACTION PLAN

Author(s): Report of the Chief Executive

Purpose of Report:

The purpose of this report is to seek Cabinet approval to make minor modifications to the draft Area Action Plan (AAP) for the International Advanced Manufacturing Park (IAMP) following the public consultation which was held from 8 August 2016 to 10 October 2016. A schedule of proposed modifications is attached as Appendix A.

It is also proposed that this report is submitted to Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee and Planning and Highways Committee for advice and consideration.

Description of Decision:

2.1 Cabinet is requested to:-

- 1) Accept the proposed modifications to the AAP set out in Appendix A and
- 2) Refer this report to the Planning and Highways Committee and also to the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee for advice and consideration in accordance with the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure

Is the decision consistent with the Budget/Policy Framework? ***Yes**

If not, Council approval is required to change the Budget/Policy Framework

Suggested reason(s) for Decision:

The decision is required:-

- 1) To facilitate the modification of the AAP for the IAMP following the recent consultation and to progress the Plan through the stages of the Policy Framework procedure.

Alternative options to be considered and recommended to be rejected:

The adoption of the AAP is a key component of both Sunderland and South Tyneside Councils' ambition to enable the development of the IAMP. The submission of the draft Plan for public examination is a statutory stage in the process required to bring the Plan forward. The AAP, when adopted, will form part of the suite of documents that will constitute the statutory Local Plan for the City and as such must be declared sound by a Planning Inspector following the public examination. At that examination, the Inspector

will take into consideration representations made during the statutory consultation stage and consider any minor modifications made to the Publication Draft. The proposed modifications set out in this report represent the Councils' response to those submissions. Not to modify the plan following the statutory consultation stage would increase the risk of the Plan being found unsound at examination. The alternative option of not modifying the draft AAP is therefore not recommended.

Impacts analysed:

Equality **Privacy** **Sustainability** **Crime and Disorder**

Is the Decision consistent with the Council's co-operative Values? **Yes**

Is this a "Key Decision" as defined in the Constitution? ***Yes**

Is it included in the 28 day Notice of Decisions? ***Yes**

INTERNATIONAL ADVANCED MANUFACTURING PARK: AREA ACTION PLAN

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Cabinet approval to make minor modifications to the draft Area Action Plan (AAP) for the International Advanced Manufacturing Park (IAMP) following the period of statutory public consultation which was held from 8 August 2016 to 10 October 2016. A schedule of proposed modifications is attached as Appendix A.
- 1.2 This report also proposes submission of the AAP to Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee and Planning and Highways Committee for advice and consideration.

2.0 DESCRIPTION OF DECISION

- 2.1 Cabinet is requested to:-
 - 1) Accept the proposed modifications to the draft AAP set out in Appendix A and
 - 2) Refer this report to Planning and Highways Committee and also to the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee for advice and consideration in accordance with the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules.

3.0 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Members will recall that the Publication Draft AAP was approved by Cabinet on 20 July 2016 in advance of a statutory public consultation exercise which was held from 8 August 2016 to 10 October 2016.
- 3.2 The IAMP represents a significant strategic economic development project for the region. Promoted jointly with South Tyneside Council, it is a core component of the City Deal and one of the major investment priorities set out by the North East Local Enterprise Partnership in the Strategic Economic Plan.
- 3.3 At the very heart of IAMP is an ambition by both Councils to create a world class business environment for the automotive supply chain, advanced manufacturing and knowledge based industries creating high-quality jobs in an attractive, resilient and sustainable environment. In doing so, IAMP will make a significant contribution to the economic success of Sunderland, South Tyneside and the North East Region.

- 3.4 The IAMP covers an area of around 100 hectares, with a proposed further 50 hectares set aside for future expansion and 135 hectares along the River Don corridor retained for environmental enhancement.
- 3.5 It is proposed that the IAMP is located immediately north of the Nissan plant. Sixty percent of the IAMP site is within Sunderland with the remaining 40 percent in South Tyneside. A location and draft proposals plan is included in Appendix B
- 3.6 The IAMP has been designated as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) by the Secretary of State. This means that it will follow a specific process to obtain the necessary planning approvals by means of a Development Consent Order (DCO) that will be determined by the Planning Inspectorate. The DCO will be submitted by IAMP LLP, the joint venture company set up by both Councils, in its specific role as scheme promoter. This is entirely separate to the Councils' role as relevant Local Planning Authorities (LPA). For the avoidance of doubt, this report is presented to Cabinet in its LPA role.
- 3.6 The whole of the proposed site for the IAMP is within the designated Green Belt as set out in the Unitary Development Plan and South Tyneside's Local Development Framework. The Publication Draft Plan presented to Cabinet on 20 July 2016, set out the "exceptional circumstances" required to remove the site from the Green Belt. In this respect, this means that any application for a DCO will need to successfully demonstrate very special circumstances. Following detailed discussions with the Planning Inspectorate it was determined that the most appropriate way forward would be for the two Local Planning Authorities to prepare a joint AAP that would run alongside the DCO process and set the spatial policy context for IAMP.

4.0 THE IAMP AAP PUBLIC CONSULTATION

- 4.1 Statutory public consultation on the AAP took place between 8 August 2016 and 10 October 2016. A comprehensive consultation exercise was undertaken to involve as many people as possible. This included;
- Sending letters/email/leaflets to Sunderland and South Tyneside Local Plan database consultees which includes residents, landowners, developer, statutory bodies and interest groups.
 - Sending leaflets to communities in close proximity to IAMP
 - Sending letters to all Members and MPs of the 2 local authority areas
 - Arranging 8 events from Tuesday 16 August 2016 until Thursday 15 September 2016. To encourage a wide demographic, these events were held at different times of the day and at different locations. In total 67 people attended these events.
 - Encouraging responses to the consultation via a number of channels including;
 - hard copies of the consultation questionnaire which were distributed at the events and held at venues across the two boroughs;
 - an online version of the consultation questionnaire was advertised on the two Council websites and the dedicated IAMP website; and
 - a Freepost address and telephone number was provided

- 4.3 In total 38 responses were received from a range of local residents, businesses, neighbouring authorities, landowners within the proposed IAMP site and statutory consultees.
- 1.4 Generally the IAMP was supported and considered to make a positive contribution to the North East economy. There were a few concerns particularly around the impact of Brexit, the release of Green Belt land for development, the scale and the impact on the A19 and environmental concerns.
- 1.5 Officers have considered all of the representations made to the AAP and new evidence and have proposed a number of minor modifications to enhance clarity of the AAP policies, policies map and supporting text, as well as within the supporting Background Technical Papers. Officers are currently preparing a Consultation Report which summaries the Comments made and the Councils response. This will be considered by Cabinet in January 2017. These proposed modifications are set out in Appendix A.
- 1.6 The main changes proposed in response to the public consultation feedback have involved strengthening Policies S1 and S3 in relation to ensuring a comprehensive development and the principal uses permissible within the IAMP and the merging of Policies S5 and S6 regarding ancillary uses and the Hub into a single policy. Enhancements to the AAP's integral monitoring framework are also proposed. However, these amendments are not considered to constitute 'major' modifications, and thus they can reasonably be proposed as 'minor' inconsequential modifications with no need to carry out further public consultation on them prior to submission of the AAP.

5.0 NEXT STEPS

- 5.1 Subject to Cabinet approval of the schedule of modifications in Appendix A, and any advice and comments received from Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee and Planning and Highways Committee, officers will prepare an amended draft AAP and associated supporting documents for presentation to Cabinet and Council in January 2017.
- 5.2 It is proposed that Council approval will be sought to submit the AAP to the Secretary of State in advance of an independent Examination in Public.

6.0 REASON FOR DECISION

- 6.1 The decision is required to facilitate the modification of the AAP for the IAMP following the recent public consultation, and to progress the Plan through the stages of the Policy Framework procedure.

7.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 7.1 The adoption of the AAP is a key component of both Sunderland and South Tyneside Councils' ambition to enable the development of the IAMP. The submission of the draft Plan for public examination is a statutory stage in the process required to bring the Plan forward. The AAP, when adopted, will form part of the suite of documents that will constitute the statutory Local Plan for the city and as such must be declared sound by a Planning Inspector following the public examination. At that examination, the Inspector will take into consideration representations made during the statutory consultation stage and consider any minor modifications made to the Publication Draft. The proposed modifications set out in this report represent the Councils' response to those submissions. Not to modify the Plan following the consultation stage would increase the risk of the Plan being found unsound at examination. The alternative option of not modifying the draft AAP is therefore not recommended.

8.0 RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS AND CONSULTATIONS

8.1 Environment and Sustainability

A Sustainability Appraisal has been produced for the AAP and was published alongside the Publication Draft document.

The environment and sustainability of IAMP has been a key consideration for the project since its inception and as a consequence both Councils have placed real significance in early engagement with key agencies and local environmental groups. These include the North East Local Nature Partnership, the Environment Agency, Natural England, Durham Wildlife Trust and the Local Access Forums. Alongside this there has been ongoing dialogue with the ecology officers in neighbouring local authorities.

The production of the Publication Draft AAP was informed to a significant extent by a technical environment and ecology study that provides detailed evidence in support of its policies and designations.

Creating a sustainable, ecologically sensitive business environment is a key objective of IAMP.

8.2 Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

8.3 Legal Implications

The AAP has been progressed in accordance with the requirements of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.

8.4 Human Rights

There are no human rights implications directly arising from this report.

8.5 Equalities and Diversity

An equalities assessment has been undertaken as part of the IAMP assessment.

8.6 Duty to Cooperate

The duty to co-operate was created in the Localism Act 2011. It places a legal duty on Local Planning Authorities and public bodies to engage constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis to maximise the effectiveness of Local Plan preparation in the context of strategic cross boundary matters. This duty applies to the AAP.

The importance of the duty to co-operate in the plan making process should not be underestimated and compliance with this duty will inevitably be a key consideration at the Examination in Public.

There has been extensive dialogue between Sunderland and South Tyneside Councils and neighbouring Councils throughout all stages in the preparation of the AAP to date. A key forum for these discussions has been the regular meetings of the North East Combined Authority Heads of Planning Group and the South of Tyne Planning Policy Officers Group (also attended by officers from Durham, Gateshead and South Tyneside Councils).

It will be important to maintain these channels of communication and joint working going forward.

9.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

IAMP AAP Publication Draft – Report of Representations
<http://www.sunderland.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=10133>

10. APPENDICES

Appendix A

- International Advanced Manufacturing Park -Area Action Plan
Schedule of Proposed Modifications

Appendix B

- IAMP AAP Publication Draft – Incorporating Proposed Modifications