



Hinckley & Bosworth
Borough Council

A Borough to be proud of

FORWARD TIMETABLE OF CONSULTATION AND DECISION MAKING

Scrutiny Commission
Council

23 November 2017
07 December 2017

WARDS AFFECTED: ALL WARDS

Directions for Growth – Issues Scope and Options Local Plan Review, Local Development Scheme and Statement of Community Involvement

Report of Director (Environment and Planning)

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The Borough's Core Strategy was adopted in 2009 and it is good practice to regularly review planning policies to ensure they are aligned with legislation and regulations. In addition, current Government thinking as set out in the recent Housing White Paper will expect local planning authorities to review their plans at least every five years. The purpose at this stage is to seek views on the scope, issues & options to include in the review and this marks the first stage of preparing a plan.
- 1.2 The report seeks to gain Members endorsement of the new Directions for Growth - Local Plan Review document; revised Local Development Scheme and, the revised Statement of Community Involvement. A suite of evidence studies to support and underpin the policies within the revised Local Plan are and will be prepared and made available at appropriate points throughout the process. A Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report has been prepared by external consultants for this stage. Additionally, a separate report on the draft Strategic Growth Plan has been produced and should be read as a companion document. This is the subject of a separate report.
- 1.3 To seek authority to carry out statutory consultation in relation to the above documents and Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report produced in accordance with The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012, in January 2018.

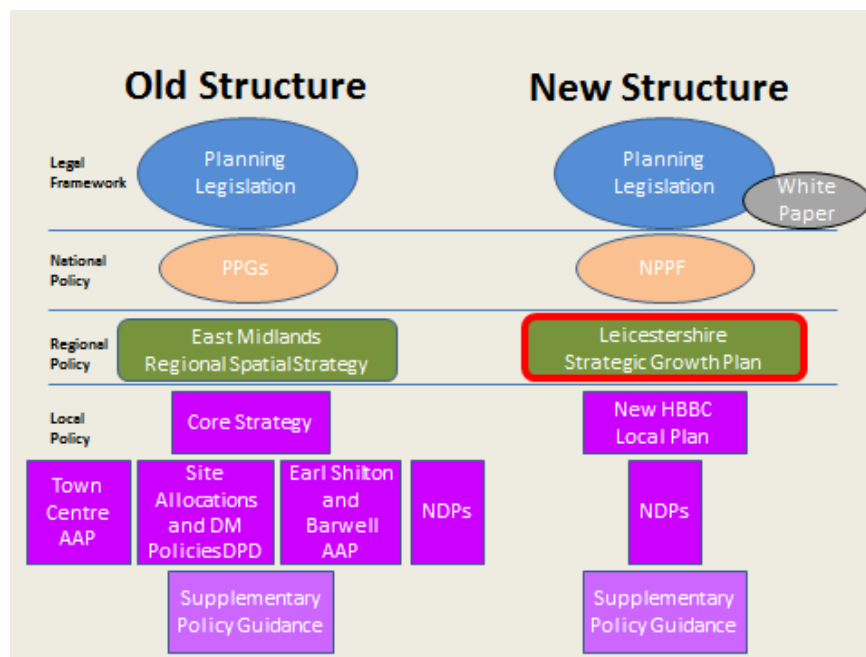
2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That Members endorse the Directions for Growth - Local Plan Review, revised Statement of Community Involvement and revised Local Development Scheme documents.
- 2.3 That Members agree:

- (i) The undertaking of a period of consultation on the Directions for Growth-Local Plan Review document, Local Development Scheme, Statement of Community Involvement during January 2018. The Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report and Statement of Community Involvement will be also be available to comment on as part of the consultation.
- (ii) To delegate to the Director (Environment and Planning) in liaison with the relevant Executive Member to make minor drafting/presentational changes to the documents in order to assist with clarification and/or explanation prior to it being published for consultation.
- (iii) To delegate authority to the Director (Environment and Planning) in liaison with the relevant Executive Member to amend the Local Development Scheme timetable as required.

3. BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT

3.1 The Core Strategy (adopted in 2009 and covering the period 2006-26) set the overarching strategic planning strategy and vision for Hinckley and Bosworth Borough. It reflected national and regional planning policy guidance at that time, which included the East Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy and various Planning Policy Statements and Guidance Notes. The Local Plan needs updating in order to effectively guide future development growth across the Borough as well as reflect government policy and legislative changes since its adoption. This includes the National Planning Policy Framework (2012) and the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. The chart below diagrammatically represents the changes.



3.2 The Corporate Plan 2017-2021 vision for the Borough is as ‘a place of opportunity’. The Directions for Growth-Local Plan Review is, amongst others, an opportunity to refresh local planning policy and align it to delivering this vision and key corporate ambitions of People, Place and Prosperity. Although the Directions for Growth-Local Plan Review is for a longer period than the Corporate Plan period, it seeks to deliver several Corporate Plan aims as set out below in Section 7.

- 3.3 Appendix 1 is a copy of the Directions for Growth-Local Plan Review recommended document for public consultation. National planning policy, regulations and legislation dictate the Local Plan-making process and this document is prepared as required under Regulation 18.¹ Government has also stated its expectation for local planning authorities to have a Local Plan in place for their area and where a plan is not in place, it has stated its intention to prepare plans for those authorities.
- 3.4 The draft Directions for Growth–Local Plan Review document was previously presented to SLT on 17 August 2017 and Executive (as an informal item) on 23 August 2017 but was not accompanied by the Statement of Community Involvement and Local Development Scheme at that time as they had not been finalised. It was felt that as the Statement of Community Involvement and Local Development Scheme are pertinent to the preparation of a new Local Plan it was sensible to consider all three together through the democratic process.
- 3.4 Recommendations (i) & (ii) in this report are in line with the Council’s published Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). However, the consultation and preparation of the plan has now fallen behind that published in the Local Development Scheme. This is because the preparation of the Directions for Growth-Local Plan Review is being aligned with the timetable for production of the Strategic Growth Plan to allow for them to be progressed in concert. Both the review LDS and SCI documents (Appendices 2 & 3) have now been updated and views will be sought on the SCI as part of the consultation.
- 3.5 While the document at Appendix 1 sets out the directions for growth, scope, issues and options for the new local plan at a borough level, this is within the context of an emerging county-wide strategic development strategy – the draft Strategic Growth Plan for Leicester and Leicestershire. The draft Strategic Growth Plan document is being produced on behalf of the seven district & borough councils, the city of Leicester, Leicestershire County Council and the Leicester & Leicestershire Economic Partnership. Once adopted, the two will be complimentary documents.
- 3.6 The first stage of the Directions for Growth-Local Plan Review focuses on developing the evidence base. A key piece of evidence is the Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment (HEDNA), which was published in January 2017. The HEDNA identifies the housing and economic development needs across the Leicester and Leicestershire Housing Market Area (HMA) and Functional Economic Market Area (FEMA) and compares this with known supply from local authorities existing plans. The distribution of the resultant housing shortfall across the HMA is yet to be agreed between the HMA authorities. This agreement will be established within a Memorandum of Understanding between all the HMA authorities. In the absence of an agreed distribution of the HMA shortfall, the Objectively Assessed Housing Need for Hinckley and Bosworth, as set out in the HEDNA study forms the basis for the Direction for Growth-Local Plan Review document.
- 3.7 Alongside the evidence gathering, scoping and review has involved identifying those parts or policies of the existing plan where change is required such as housing, but also includes the spatial strategy. The purpose of this stage of plan preparation is to seek views on the scope of the review, the issues that ought to be taken into account and the options that should be considered. This stage of the process does not seek to identify a preferred option, nor does it represent a full and detailed assessment of the merits, or otherwise, of the options. In seeking views, we will also be urging our

¹ Regulation 18, Town and Country Planning (Local Planning)(England) Regulations 2012(as amended)

communities and stakeholder to state their preferences for where in the Borough and at what level, they would like to see growth take place.

3.8 The Directions for Growth-Local Plan Review document sets out the Council's proposals for:

- the purpose and details of the consultation
- the evidence base requirements
- the cross boundary and strategic issues that will need to be considered
- directions for potential growth including an indication of the likely level of growth needed
- broad locations/spatial distribution which ought to be considered when deciding where to deliver growth

3.9 A separate report on the draft Strategic Growth Plan is being considered by Council alongside this report. At this stage, we are seeking to start consultation on the Directions for Growth – Local Plan Review (and accompanying documents) in January 2018 in concert with a similar consultation start date for the draft Strategic Growth Plan. Consultation on both will be during January /February 2018 and will close on the same date for both.

4. EXEMPTIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ACCESS TO INFORMATION PROCEDURE RULES

4.1 Open session

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS [IB]

5.1 In the current financial year £160,920 has been set aside for Local Development Scheme costs. Consultation costs and amendment costs to documents will be met from these budgets. Additional Implications arising from the consultation process will require approval in accordance with financial procedure rules.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS [MR]

6.1 Set out in the body of the report

7. CORPORATE PLAN IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The options/proposals will contribute to the delivery of the following Corporate Plan priorities:

- People
 - Give children and young people the best start in life and offer them the opportunity to thrive in their communities
- Places
 - Make our neighbourhoods safer
 - Improve the quality of existing homes and enable the delivery of affordable housing
 - Inspire standards of urban design that create attractive places to live
- Prosperity
 - Boost economic growth and regeneration...places to work and live all over the borough.
 - support the regeneration of our town centres and villages
 - support our rural communities
 - work with partners to raise...employment and home ownership

8. CONSULTATION

- 8.1 No external consultation has been undertaken in preparing this report. However the Planning Policy Members Working Group have been provided with opportunities to influence and shape the content of the Directions for Growth-Local Plan Review document and comments are reflected as far as possible.

9. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 It is the Council's policy to proactively identify and manage significant risks which may prevent delivery of business objectives.
- 9.2 It is not possible to eliminate or manage all risks all of the time and risks will remain which have not been identified. However, it is officers opinion based on the information available, that the significant risks associated with this decision / project have been identified, assessed and that controls are in place to manage them effectively.
- 9.3 The following significant risks associated with this report / decisions were identified from this assessment:

| Management of significant (Net Red) Risks | | |
|---|--|------------------|
| Risk Description | Mitigating actions | Owner |
| The Directions for Growth-Local Plan Review is not considered to be legally compliant | Ensure development of Local Plan follows the LDS timetable and is produced in accordance with NPPF guidance, including soundness checks. Where necessary to revise and publicise revised LDS timetable | Head of Planning |
| Review of the Directions for Growth-Local Plan Review falls significantly behind the published Local Development Scheme [due to aligning its timetable to the Strategic Growth Plan timetable], with the result that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> available evidence becomes dated and less reliable – requiring a need to commission updates/new studies. Increasing challenge to 5 year land supply position, leading to speculative development proposals or more challenges of planning decisions. | Directions for Growth consultation should be launched in January 2018, and if required run for a longer period of time so that it closes at the same time as the draft Strategic Growth plan consultation. | Head of Planning |
| The Local Development Scheme (LDS) is not up to date. The LDS is required under section 15 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 as amended by the Localism Act 2011). It must be made available publically and kept up to date. | Prepare an updated LDS and publicise this on the Council's website. Seek Members agreement to delegate authority | Head of Planning |

| | | |
|---|--|------------------|
| | to the Director (Environment and Planning) and relevant Executive Member) to amend LDS timetable as required. | |
| The requirement for a Statement of Community Involvement was established as part of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and they are prepared to set out how the public and stakeholders etc will be involved in the preparation of local planning documents and planning applications. | Members agreement to delegate authority to the Director (Environment and Planning) and relevant Executive Member) to make minor drafting/presentational changes. | Head of Planning |

10. KNOWING YOUR COMMUNITY – EQUALITY AND RURAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 The Directions for Growth-Local Plan Review addresses issues associated with development and will provide a framework in which to manage growth across the borough.
- 10.2 Engagement with stakeholders and other local authorities is an integral part of the plan making process, and the council is required to demonstrate this through to Examination in Public.
- 10.4 This report does not result in direct implications for Equalities, Rural Communities, and Environmental.

11. CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 By submitting this report, the report author has taken the following into account:
- Community Safety implications
 - Environmental implications
 - ICT implications
 - Asset Management implications
 - Procurement implications
 - Human Resources implications
 - Planning implications
 - Data Protection implications
 - Voluntary Sector

Background papers: Directions for Growth – Local Plan Review
Local Development Scheme 2016-2021
Statement of Community Involvement

Contact Officer: Kirstie Rea, Planning Manager (Policy) ext. 5857
Executive Member: Cllr M Surtees