



Hinckley & Bosworth
Borough Council

A Borough to be proud of

FORWARD TIMETABLE OF CONSULTATION AND DECISION MAKING

SCRUTINY COMMISSION
COUNCIL

8 November 2018
27 November 2018

WARDS AFFECTED: ALL WARDS

New Directions for Growth – Further Options Consultation Local Plan Review

Report of Director (Environment and Planning)

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) requires, strategic policies in Local Plans to be reviewed every five years to be considered “up to date” and are aligned with legislation and regulations and continue to identify and meet the strategic development needs for their area. The Borough’s Core Strategy, which contains our strategic policies was adopted in 2009 is now “out of date” and therefore is overdue for review. The review of the Local Plan commenced with the Scope, Issues and Options consultation undertaken over 8 weeks between January and March of this year.
- 1.2 This report seeks to gain Members endorsement of a further stage of consultation aimed at developing a new spatial development strategy for the borough. The New Directions for Growth consultation seeks to explore the options from the first consultation further, along with exploring the potential for development areas not in the existing urban areas in order to relieve some of the current development and infrastructure pressures felt in these areas. A further Call for Sites exercise will be run in connection with this consultation so that alternative sites may be submitted to the council and assessed for future development potential. Although this consultation will be a non-statutory stage of the Local Plan Review process it will complement the Scope, Issues and Options stage and help to formulate the most appropriate strategy for delivering growth.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That Members endorse the New Directions for Growth – Local Plan Review consultation document.
- 2.3 That Members agree:
- (i) The undertaking of a period of consultation (6 weeks) on the New Directions for Growth - Local Plan Review document during January and February 2019 (exact dates to be determined).

- (ii) To delegate to the Head of 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.

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.
- 3.2 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 recent update to the National Planning Policy Framework (2018). In addition, our strategic housing policies contained in the adopted Core Strategy are now out of date following the publication of the Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment (January 2017) which provides the most up to date evidence of housing need across Leicestershire.
- 3.3 The review of the Local Plan commenced in early 2016 with focused engagement with parish councils and developers via workshops, alongside continued evidence gathering and working with Members.
- 3.4 NPPF, Planning Practice Guidance and Local Planning Regulations 2012 (as amended) dictate the process for Local Plan-making. The first statutory stage of the Local Plan review was the preparation and publication for consultation of the Directions for Growth, Scope Issues and Options document. The document set out proposed directions for growth, the scope, issues and options for the new local plan at a borough level but also reflected the emerging county-wide strategic development strategy – the Leicester and Leicestershire Strategic Growth Plan.
- 3.5 An update of the outcomes from Local Plan Review Scope, Issues and Options consultation was reported to Council on 12 June 2018. The report stated that over 840 comments were received to the consultation from around 80 submissions. These have been from a range of stakeholders including statutory consultees, Parish Councils, businesses, residents, developers and interest groups. From the comments received in relation to the options for growth, it was evident that not one option solely would be able to address the full identified housing and economic growth needs across the borough, whilst supporting the borough's urban and rural areas and provide all the likely infrastructure needs to meet growth.
- 3.6 Following further discussion at Planning Policy Member Working Group meetings about the future direction for development and areas where land was being submitted for development pressure, it became clear that there was a desire to explore the potential for further options beyond the urban area. Hence the preparation of the New Directions for Growth consultation and further call for sites in the hopes of unlocking potential alternate development options not yet taken in to consideration.
- 3.7 Due to the need to explore options beyond the urban area, Members of the Planning Policy Member Working Group asked officers to undertake further focussed engagement with Parish Councils. Requests and invitations to meet with and work with Parish Council's at focussed seminars in the autumn were sent out and followed

up. Unfortunately the take up from Parish Councils to do further engagement with the policy team (supported by the Rural Community Council) has been very disappointing despite further requests being made by the team. Only 5 out of the 24 Parish Councils responded and expressed an interest in doing this. A further attempt to engage direct with parishes will be made during the New Directions for Growth consultation period. The team will also have a presence at the Rural Conference on 20 November 2018.

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

4.1 Open session

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (CS)

5.1 In the current financial year, £189,000 has been set aside for costs relating to the Local Plan. Consultation costs and amendment costs to documents will be met from these budgets. Any additional financial 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 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 None

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
DLS 37 Consult with customers and stakeholders: failure to do so leads to non compliance of Statement of Community Involvement.	Ensure consultation to meet statutory requirements ensuring it is all inclusive	Head of Planning
DLS 44 Five year housing land supply: failure leads to speculative unplanned housing developments plus additional costs incurred due to planning appeal process	Member engagement/training has taken place Regular Member briefings at Planning Policy Member Working Group Quarterly update reports to Planning Committee regarding strategic housing developments	Head of Planning
DLS 50 Failure to keep up to date or not complying with latest legislation and regulations could lead to damage to council reputation, intervention by MHCLG and potential prosecution.	Policy team in place to ensure policies are aligned to latest Government requirements.	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.	Ensure the LDS is kept up to date and publicised on the Council's website.	Head of Planning

10. KNOWING YOUR COMMUNITY – EQUALITY AND RURAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 The 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: Draft New Directions for Growth consultation paper

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