



Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council

Forward timetable of consultation and decision making

Scrutiny Commission 22 July 2021

Wards affected: All Wards

Hinckley and Bosworth Local Plan 2020 to 2039

Report of Director (Environment & Planning)

1. Purpose of report

1.1 To update Members as to progress with the development of a new Local plan.

2. Recommendation

2.1 That Members note the contents of the report and the progress made on the Councils new Local Plan.

3. Background to the report

3.1 The adopted development plan for Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council consists of the:

- Hinckley and Bosworth Core Strategy (December 2009)
- Site Allocations and Development Management Policies (July 2016)
- Hinckley Town Centre Area Action Plan (March 2011)
- Earl Shilton and Barwell Area Action Plan (September 2014)

3.2 The Development Plan is moving towards the end of its plan period of 2026, and the housing policies contained within it are now considered out of date because the housing target was derived from the now abolished Regional Spatial Strategy. Although the target of 450 new homes per year is similar to the current target of 444 derived from the Governments standard method. The development allocations in the current Plan have on the whole come forward and been developed or benefit from planning consent. The exceptions are the two SUEs at Barwell and Earl Shilton.

- 3.3 It is therefore appropriate that the Council move towards putting in place a new Development Plan for the area. A number of consultations have been undertaken and reported back to Members. Those consultations were:
- Scope, Issues and Options Consultation – January to March 2018
 - New Directions for Growth Consultation – January to March 2019
- 3.4 In May 2019 the new administration asked officers to continue compiling the evidence base for the new Plan to inform the new strategy and allocations. This is nearly complete with outstanding work required on the highway modelling which is being undertaken by Leicestershire County Council working with Highways England, and the Infrastructure Capacity Study being undertaken by Ove Arup. These reports were originally scheduled to be complete by the end of May but have not yet been finalised.
- 3.5 The Duty to Co-operate is a statutory duty on local planning authorities ‘to engage constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis’ with other authorities/bodies in the preparation of local plans on strategic planning matters. The extent to which the duty has been complied with will be tested at local plan examinations. Where an inspector isn’t satisfied that the authority has met the duty, the local plan will fail examination. It is therefore particularly important that it is evidenced there has been effective continuous constructive engagement to support local plans and a “Statement of Common Ground” (SoCG) help demonstrate this. Executive considered and approved a SoCG in May 2021 relating to housing and employment land needs to help underpin the development of Local Plans across Leicestershire. As work is undertaken to consider the strategic distribution of new housing and employment land the SoCG will get updated. There may also need to be further SOCG developed on other strategic matters.
- 3.6 The current LDS sets out the following timeline:

Stage	Target date
Consultation on the Scope and Issues and Options (Regulation 18)	January-February 2018
Public consultation on New Directions for Growth paper	January- February 2019
Public consultation on Draft Plan (Regulation 19)	March-April 2021
Submission to Secretary of State (Regulation 22)	September 2021
Estimated programmed date for examination	January 2022
Programmed date for adoption	October 2022

- 3.7 In February 2021 the Council participated in a session with officials from MHCLG and a follow up with the Planning Advisory Service in March 2021. MHCLG were comfortable with the work the Council were doing and also the progress to date on its Local Plan, and noted that the Council had adopted 4 Development Plan Documents in a little over 10 years, significantly more than most other LPAs. PAS were also satisfied that the Council were moving in the right direction and undertaking the correct approach. They did however raise concerns about undertaking a Submission version consultation this summer (Regulation 19) without the approving Committee having before it the finalised evidence base.
- 3.8 Officers have considered the advice from PAS and examined the timetable closely. It was agreed that a further non statutory consultation should take place this summer followed by the statutory Reg 19 submission version consultation later this year. Once the plan is submitted to the Secretary of State (regulation 22) the timetable of the subsequent stages is heavily dependent on the Planning Inspectorate. The proposed timetable is set out here:

Stage	Target date
Public consultation on Draft Plan (Regulation 18)	July-August 2021
Public consultation on submission Draft Plan (Regulation 19)	December-January 2021
Submission to Secretary of State (Regulation 22)	March 2022
Estimated programmed date for examination	August 2022
Programmed date for adoption	January 2023

- 3.9 A non-statutory consultation enables the Council to gather views about the proposed development strategy as well as input on detailed policies. It is not considered appropriate to consult on preferred sites at this stage until the work on Highways and infrastructure capacity has been completed. The consultation document therefore includes the following:
- A draft development strategy for residential land uses including the minimum number of homes to be provided in the Borough and how this is proposed to be distributed within a settlement hierarchy
 - A draft development strategy for employment land uses
 - Identification of land that is sensitive to future development such as Green Wedges, environmental designations, heritage etc
 - Options and opportunities for adapting to Climate Change and enhancing biodiversity and green infrastructure
 - Detailed development management policies for use in determining planning applications

- 3.10 The proposed Local Plan has been informed by the previous consultation exercises, the evidence base completed to date and the Sustainability Appraisal (link attached to the Sustainability Appraisal work to date).
- 3.11 The draft plan was reported to the Planning Policy Member Working Group for comment on the 19th May and again on the 8th June.
- 3.12 The consultation document and supporting work can be found on the Councils web pages: <https://www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk/localplanreview>

4. Exemptions in accordance with the Access to Information procedure rules

- 4.1 N/A

5. Financial implications

- 5.1 To be reported at the meeting.

6. Legal implications

- 6.1 To be reported at the meeting.

7. Corporate Plan implications

7.1 People

- Help people to stay healthy, be active and feel well
- Recognise diversity and celebrate what unites us
- Take measures to reduce crime and antisocial behaviour and protect people from harm

Places

- Keep our borough clean and green
- Make our neighbourhoods safer
- Protect and improve our parks and open spaces for everyone across the borough
- Improve the quality of existing homes and enable the delivery of affordable housing
- Inspire standards of urban design that create attractive places to live
- Support and celebrate our cultural and heritage facilities and events for the benefit of residents and businesses alike

Prosperity

- Boost economic growth and regeneration by encouraging investment that will provide new jobs and places to live and work all over the borough
- Support the regeneration of our town centres and villages
- Support our rural communities

- Work with partners to raise aspirations of residents and provide opportunities for training, employment and home ownership
- We will support our tourism partners in promoting our local attractions

8. Consultation

8.1 Consultation started on the 30th June and will last for 8 weeks. All individuals and organisations on the consultation database will be informed and invited to comment. The consultation has been advertised through social media and the Council website. Parish Councils, the County Council and statutory organisations will also be invited to comment.

8.2 Some face to face engagement events are currently being established, as well as some virtual sessions with stakeholders such as Parish Councils.

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 the officer's 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
S.15 Failure to successfully adopt and deliver the Local Development Scheme (LDS)	Ensure that the Local Plan progresses in line with the most up to date LDS.	Director for Planning and Environment
DLS 37 Consult with customers and stakeholders	Consultation and engagement is carried out in line with the council's published Statement of Community Involvement	Head of Planning
DLS 39 Develop partnership working.	Work with neighbouring authorities within the HMA and adjoining the borough to prepare and agree Statements of Common Ground on cross boundary issues such as housing distribution and unmet need.	Head of Planning
DLS 42 Meet the need of Gypsies and Travellers in the borough: failure to do so leads to illegal incursions.	Robust evidence of need and potential delivery options will be prepared to underpin relevant Gypsy and Traveller policies within the new Local Plan	Head of Planning
DLS 50 Compliance and regulation	Preparation of the Local Plan must be in accordance with the relevant legislation and guidance.	Head of Planning

10. Knowing your community – equality and rural implications

- 10.1 The Local Plan is relevant to all communities within Hinckley and Bosworth borough. Once the plan is submitted for formal Examination it will be accompanied by an Equality Impact Assessment.

11. Climate implications

- 11.1 The borough's new Local Plan to 2039 will need to reflect legislation and national planning guidance on Climate Change as well as the council's own ambitions. It will include a specific section on Climate Change with distinct policies on Mitigation and Adaptation to Climate Change, Flood Risk, Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems and Renewable and Low Carbon Energy. There are also climate change relevant policies under the Transport Theme (EV Charging) and Green Environment (Biodiversity). In addition, adapting and mitigating climate change is a key theme that runs throughout the other policies where appropriate. The whole plan will be subject to a Climate Change Assessment to ensure all possible opportunities to respond to climate change challenges have been taken and identify any gaps still to address.

12. Corporate implications

12.1 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
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Background papers:

- Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal consultation - https://www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk/info/1004/planning_policy_and_the_local_plan/1315/local_plan_review_2020_to_2039/5
- Council Report 12/06/18 – Directions for Growth Local Plan Review – Scope, Issues and Options Consultation Comments and Next Steps
- Council Report 16/07/19 – New Directions for Growth Consultation Comments and Next Steps
- Report to Executive, 10th May 2021 “Leicester & Leicestershire Authorities - Statement of Common Ground relating to Housing and Employment Land Needs (March 2021)”

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