



WARDS AFFECTED: ALL WARDS

1. **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To inform Members of the current progress of the Local Plan 2006 – 2026 and to outline the key milestones.

2. **RECOMMENDATION**

That Members note the contents of the report.

3. **BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT**

3.1 This report is in response to a request from Scrutiny Commission which read:

“Update on planning policy matters including site allocations/gypsy & travellers/core strategy”

Core Strategy

3.2 The Core Strategy sets out the general vision and spatial strategy for the delivery of the Local Plan (2006 – 2026). It outlines the broad locations for housing development, employment, retail and transport development and assigns a minimum housing figure for most settlements within the borough up to 2026. The Core Strategy was confirmed to be in accordance with the East Midlands Regional Plan and was adopted in December 2009.

3.3 The Core Strategy in conjunction with the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies DPD and the Earl Shilton and Barwell Area Action Plan when adopted will help sustain a 5 year supply of housing land.

Site Allocations and Development Management Policies DPD

3.4 This DPD identifies specific sites for particular uses, such as housing, employment, retail and open space that will deliver the aims and vision of the Core Strategy. It also contains key development management policies for use in day-to-day decision making on planning applications such as design guidance, conservation and protection of open spaces.

3.5 The Site Allocations was consulted upon in February 2009 and received a total of 13,500 representations which predominantly focused upon the gypsy and traveller allocations within the document. The gypsy and traveller allocations will now be dealt with via a separate document which is outlined below. The 13,500 representation have been summarized and are contained within the Preferred Option Consultation Report.

3.6 Potential designations for rural and urban settlements are currently being re-evaluated to take account of Preferred Option consultation responses, updated national policy and evidence bases and recent planning decisions. Housing allocations will only be made in those settlements which have a residual housing

requirement. The settlement boundaries will be amended within this document to take account of permissions granted.

- 3.7 The draft development management policies and accompanying supporting text have been reviewed by Development Control Officers, these will now be subject to review and amendment through a cross-party member working group in March 2013.
- 3.8 The submission version of the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies DPD will be reported to Members over the summer prior to public consultation in late summer early autumn 2013.

Earl Shilton and Barwell Area Action Plan

- 3.9 The strategy for the future development of the two settlements including the two sustainable urban extensions is set out in the adopted Core Strategy. The AAP will allocate land for the two sustainable urban extensions, and will set out in more detail the framework for future development in the two settlements.
- 3.10 In addition it will provide development management policies for design guidance, conservation and protection of open space for use in the day to day assessment of planning applications within the settlements of Earl Shilton and Barwell.
- 3.11 The emerging AAP and its supporting evidence bases are being used to inform discussions with the Barwell SUE applicant and will be utilised where appropriate during the decision making process on the planning application.
- 3.12 The submission version of the AAP is currently being compiled incorporating, in particular, the results of the highways modelling work using the Leicester and Leicestershire Integrated Transport Model. The results are being used to inform the Barwell SUE application.
- 3.13 The submission version of the AAP will be reported to Members prior to public consultation in late summer early autumn 2013 alongside the Site allocations and Development Management Policies DPD.

Gypsy and Traveller Allocations DPD

- 3.14 This document will allocate sites for gypsies and travellers to meet the needs of the borough. These allocations were previously identified in the Preferred Options Site Allocations and Generic Development Control consultation document.
- 3.15 A large number of representations were received on these allocations which highlighted the requirement for more up-to-date evidence and further consultation. In order to undertake this work and progress the Site Allocations DPD the gypsy and traveller allocations were removed and a separate Gypsy & Traveller Allocations DPD will be developed.
- 3.16 Following the publications of the new Government guidance on the assessment of gypsy and traveller needs and the allocation of sites a new assessment to determine the needs of gypsies and travellers within the borough has been undertaken. This study was extended to assess the existing sites within the borough and whether the sites were capable of intensification or extension to meet the natural population growth of the residents of the sites. This study is currently being finalised and will be reported to Members in the summer. It will inform the preferred option version of the Gypsy and Traveller Allocations DPD that will be consulted upon in early 2014.

Market Bosworth Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP)

- 3.17 The NDP will form one of the central planning policy documents guiding development in Market Bosworth. In conjunction with the adopted Core Strategy, NDP's form a central element to the Localism Bill and wider agenda.
- 3.18 These plans are community led local planning documents which will be initiated and produced by parish or community forums, in-line with the objectives of the Core Strategy and with assistance from the planning authority.
- 3.19 The Market Bosworth Neighbourhood Forum submitted to the Borough Council its application for the designation of the NDP boundary for the purposes of preparing a NDP. This boundary follows that of Market Bosworth parish boundary. The public consultation on the appropriateness of the proposed boundary was completed on 21 January 2013. In addition the Market Bosworth Neighbourhood Forum, who is preparing the plan, conducted a public drop-in session on 25 January 2013 to gather views and aspirations from the community for the NDP.
- 3.20 At Council on 21 February 2013 members approved the proposed Market Bosworth neighborhood area boundary for the purposes of producing a Neighbourhood Development Plan. The Market Bosworth NDP area is now a designated planning entity for the purposes of producing a NDP.

Evidence Bases

- 3.21 It is fundamental that all elements of the Local Plan (2006 – 2026) are underpinned by evidence, therefore the following evidence bases have been prepared to inform the next stage of document production;
 - Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey
 - Site Allocations and Generic Development Control Policies Preferred Option Consultation Report
 - Community, Cultural and Tourism Facilities Review
 - Open Space, Sport and Recreational Facilities Review
 - Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment
 - Green Wedge Review
 - Renewable Energy Capacity Study
 - Employment Land and Premises Review
 - District, Local and Neighbourhood Centre Review
 - Areas of separation Review
 - Assessment of New Green Wedge Allocations Topic Paper

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS [PE]

In relation to the Site Allocations and Development Management DPD and the Earl Shilton and Barwell Area Action Plans, sufficient funds for these documents have been planned for and are available through the LDF reserve.

However, with regard to the Gypsy & Traveller Allocations DPD, while the costs of the assessment referred to in paragraph 3.16 were covered, should the DPD be developed, a supplementary budget will need to be requested to cover the costs of same. The reason why the funds were not accounted for in the LDF Reserve is because the Gypsy and Traveller allocations were originally intended to be a part of the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies DPD.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS (AB)

None as this report is for noting only.

6. CORPORATE PLAN IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The delivery of the Hinckley and Bosworth Local Plan facilitates the delivery of the following aims of the Corporate Plan 2009 – 2014:

- Cleaner and greener neighbourhoods
- Thriving economy
- Safer and healthier borough
- Strong and distinctive communities
- Decent, well managed and affordable housing

7. CONSULTATION

The documents which make up the Local Plan 2006 - 2026 are all subject to periods of consultation at key stages of document production which will be undertaken in line with the Councils adopted Statement of Community Involvement.

8. RISK IMPLICATIONS

It is the Council's policy to proactively identify and manage significant risks which may prevent delivery of business objectives.

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.

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
Following the publication of the NPPF and the introduction of the requirement to have a 5 year housing land supply (including either a 5% or 20% buffer) the importance of delivering the allocation documents is fundamental so that the development pressure on rural areas is reduced.	Adopt the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies DPD and the Earl Shilton and Barwell AAP expediently.	Sally Smith

9. KNOWING YOUR COMMUNITY – EQUALITY AND RURAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 The documents contained within the Local Plan 2006 – 2026 have borough wide implications.

10. CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

By submitting this report, the report author has taken the following into account:

- Community Safety implications - None identified
 - Environmental implications – None identified
 - ICT implications - None identified
 - Asset Management implications - None identified
 - Human Resources implications - None identified
 - Planning Implications - Contained within the body of the report
 - Voluntary Sector - None identified
-

Background papers: Local Development Scheme Timetable (July 2012)

Contact Officer: Sally Smith (Ext. 5792)

Executive Member: Councillor Bray