

Open Report on behalf of Richard Wills, Executive Director for Environment and Economy

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| Report to: | Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee |
| Date: | 29 October 2015 |
| Subject: | Central Lincolnshire Further Draft Local Plan |

Summary:

This report updates Members on the progress of the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan and its implications for the County Council.

Actions Required:

The Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee is invited to consider and comment on the contents of this report. These comments will be forwarded to the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan Team for their consideration.

1. Background

1.1 Members may be aware that the preparation of the Local Plan involves three draft stages, each with public consultation, followed by independent examination and finally adoption. The first round consultation took place October - November 2014. A timetable was agreed by the Central Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee (CLJSPC) for the remaining stages, including the second round consultation intended for 15 October – 25 November 2015. This Local Plan is the version officers recommended to the CLJSPC on 7 September 2015 and forms the basis of the consultation. The Plan is attached at Appendix A and the Policies Map and Inset Maps are available for inspection at:

<http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/central-lincolnshire/interactive-map/120659.article/>

1.2 Since the end of the consultation on the first draft, considerable officer resource has been expended on a wide range of tasks, not least:

- Reviewing carefully all comments received as part of the first round consultation, and undertaking further research and/or amending the Local Plan as appropriate;
- Undertaking various background work, such as a Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA);

- Comprehensive appraisal of all reasonable options for site allocations, together with determining a recommended set of such allocations to consult upon; and
- Considering and responding to national planning policy changes.

Content of the Second draft Local Plan

1.3 The main policies may be summarised thus:

- It is a plan which welcomes growth in jobs (15,071 or 11,894 FTE net new jobs), homes (36,960) and supporting infrastructure.
- The plan acknowledges that 9,000 of the near 37,000 homes are already 'committed' (i.e. built or with consent), meaning under 30,000 homes need to be found.
- Growth is recommended to be focused in or adjacent to our major urban areas of Lincoln, Sleaford and Gainsborough, with 64% of the growth identified for the Lincoln Strategy Area, to match the 64% of Central Lincolnshire's population which lives in that area.
- Limited growth is identified in our villages, with a proposal to 'cap' growth in our smaller villages unless that village expressly wants more growth.
- Policies to ensure infrastructure is delivered alongside growth, with specific infrastructure requirements listed for the major sustainable urban extensions.
- Policies to protect the special features of Central Lincolnshire, including Green Wedges, Local Green Spaces, Wolds AONB and heritage assets.
- Measures to ensure homes are built and designed for all in our community, including affordable homes, accessible homes (for those with mobility difficulties) and 'selfbuild'.
- Support for sustainable transport measures as well as highway improvements.

Key issues for Lincolnshire County Council

1.4 LCC supports the overall approach to encouraging and managing growth in Central Lincolnshire. There are a number key issues for the County Council to consider:

- The number of homes (1,540 p.a.) and additional population proposed over the plan period (2012 – 2036) is unprecedented over such a long period of time and is a challenging target.

- Although the preferred spatial strategy is one of urban concentration, a significant amount of new development will occur in our market towns and larger villages.
- There will be increased pressure placed on LCC's budgets and resources in a time of austerity in the following ways:
 - Social Services – in addition to the national trend of an ageing population, Central Lincolnshire is considered an attractive destination for retirees in-migrating from more expensive parts of the country;
 - Children's Services – additional schools and nurseries will be required to meet the growing population along with the necessary teachers and support staff;
 - Transport – increased traffic and demands on public transport will require additional investment in roads, bus services and cycle provision;
 - Health – although a NHS responsibility, additional GP surgeries will be required and provided via the planning process.
- Reductions in central government departmental spending will be offset by greater demands on the private sector through developer contributions (Community Infrastructure Levy and Sc 106 undertakings).

Consultation Stage

1.5 This is the second stage in a lengthy process of producing a new Local Plan. This Further Draft captures the key issues that we already know about and has attempted to deal with the concerns raised at the earlier Preliminary Draft stage. Unlike the Preliminary Draft, this Further Draft includes proposed specific allocations for new development.

- First Draft of Local Plan for consultation (the 'Preliminary Draft Local Plan') - October 2014
- Second Draft of Local Plan for consultation (the 'Further Draft Local Plan') - October 2015
- Final Draft Local Plan for consultation (the 'Proposed Submission' Draft Local Plan') - March - April 2016
- Examination of Local Plan May – November 2016
- Adoption of Local Plan - December 2016

2. Conclusion

2.1 Seen in the round, this ambitious plan will eventually elevate Lincoln and its environs to a city the current size of Norwich and Cambridge, with high quality jobs to support the growing population and increased tax revenues available to fund the necessary physical and social infrastructure required for sustainable and civilised living.

3. Consultation

a) Policy Proofing Actions Required

N/A

4. Appendices

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| These are listed below and attached at the back of the report | |
| Appendix A | Central Lincolnshire Further Draft Local Plan (Maps available at http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/central-lincolnshire/interactive-map/120659.article/) |

5. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Phil Hughes, who can be contacted on 01522 554806 or phil.hughes@lincolnshire.gov.uk .