

Regulatory and Other Committee

Open Report on behalf of South Kesteven District Council

Report to:	South Lincolnshire and Rutland Local Access Forum
Date:	20 April 2016
Subject:	South Kesteven Local Plan

Summary:

To provide an update on the technical and supporting documents prepared as part of progress with the new Local Plan for South Kesteven.

Recommendation(s):

That the report be noted.

Background

The new Local Plan needs to set out South Kesteven District Council's planning strategy and related policy proposals for the district for a period of 25 years, from 2011 to 2036. It will provide the overall strategy for sustainable growth and development, establishing a clear framework of policies to guide the scale, location and details of new development and managing change within the district. The South Kesteven Local Plan will replace the Core Strategy, Site Allocation and Policies DPD and any remaining saved policies from the 1995 Local Plan.

The Local Development Scheme (LDS) sets out the timetable for Local Plan preparations. The current timetable seeks to prepare a consultative Local Plan for public consultation in September 2016. Following on from this, the Local Plan would be submitted to the Secretary of State by Spring (March-April 2017) and adoption by Autumn (Nov-Dec 2017). There are some risks to this timetable, but these are being factored in accordingly and any departures from the LDS will be reported to Members at the first opportunity.

TECHNICAL EVIDENCE BASE

Work is on-going to review the evidence base for the new Local Plan. Whilst much of the evidence for the new Local Plan is readily available, some key elements of the evidence base do need to be initially put in place or appropriately updated. These include:

Grantham and Stamford Capacity and Constraints Studies – new technical studies examining the limits to development in and around each town, taking account of defined constraints. Finalised reports have been approved so that their technical conclusions can now carry appropriate weight in respect of any relevant Development Management decision making pending the production of the new Local Plan.

Grantham Transport Strategy 2014 progress review – this has been updated by the County Council from the previous Transport Strategy for Grantham which was published in 2007. The County Council have requested that it is considered and approved by our Cabinet.

Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) – the initial draft of the SHMA was produced in 2014 and formed an integral part of the new Local Plan Regulation 18 scoping document which was subject to public consultation between January and March this year. Additional work has been commissioned to revise this objectively assessed housing need for the District, taking account of the latest 2012 ONS housing projections alongside undertaking an economic growth scenario assessment.

Five year housing land supply assessment – a review of the district's housing land supply as at April 2015 has been concluded and shows that there is an identifiable and deliverable housing land supply of 4197 homes expected to come forward over the next 5 years, which equates to a current 5.8 years of supply.

Employment Land capacity study – this has been produced to support the new Local Plan as well as support a new draft Economic Development Strategy for the district.

Retail study – as with the Employment Land study, a draft has been received and is being checked for factual accuracy. Again, this will be included in a further report to Cabinet in the near future.

Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment – a joint study with Rutland County Council has commenced. It is anticipated we will have initial findings from the study by Feb 2016, with a final report by end of March 2016.

Wildlife Sites and Habitats Survey – this work was commissioned in 2014. It will take through to 2017 to finalise as there are only specific times of the year when some sites and habitats can be surveyed. The work is being prioritised in terms of site surveys to ensure the LDS remains on schedule.

Village Services and Facilities Survey – this piece of work will update the existing evidence base behind the current Local Service Centre assessments. This evidence will be used to help identify which settlements can and cannot reasonably accept growth and development, informing the subsequent allocations process for the Local Plan. The surveys have been issued to all Parish Councils for their completion, results from this evidence collection process, are expected in January 2016.

OTHER ISSUES TO BE CONSIDERED

There is an essential legal requirement for the authority to prepare and maintain up to date local planning policies. The Council also has a duty to ensure a rolling five-year supply of deliverable housing land. Failure to do so makes the Council potentially vulnerable to speculative proposals for inappropriate development in inappropriate locations.

There is also a Duty to Co-operated placed on the Council to engage and involve neighbouring authorities and arrange of statutory organisations in the production of a new Local Plan.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

There will be costs associated with the preparation of the Local Plan these are included within existing approved budgets for South Kesteven District Council.

RISK AND MITIGATION

Risk has been considered as part of this report and no specific high risks have been identified at this stage.

ISSUES ARISING FROM IMPACT ANALYSIS

To date, the Regulation 18 consultation document has been made available in accordance with the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). The SCI was subject to a full equality impact assessment as part of its preparation. The Regulation 18 consultation document was a summary of the initial Local Plan consultation, and this report sets out how the new Local Plan will be prepared following this. No new or amended policies are included within either the scoping document or this report, therefore any further impact analysis is not required at the present time. An impact analysis of the policies and proposals to be included in the Local Plan will be undertaken as and when they are prepared.

CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

None arising out of this report.

COMMENTS OF FINANCIAL SERVICES

The costs associated with the preparation and delivery of the Local Plan will be met from in-year budgets and will be incorporated into future service budgets as appropriate.

COMMENTS OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES AT SOUTH KESTEVEN DISTRICT COUNCIL

In accordance with the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended), the Council has a statutory duty to prepare planning policies, which

has been reinforced through the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the Localism Act 2011.

Consultation

a) Policy Proofing Actions Required

n/a

Background Papers

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

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