



Report of	Meeting	Date
Central Lancashire Planning Policy Officers	Central Lancashire Strategic Planning Joint Advisory Committee	3 rd September 2019

CENTRAL LANCASHIRE LOCAL PLAN REVIEW UPDATE

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To provide members with an update on the progress of the review of the Central Lancashire Local Plan.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

2. To note the contents of the report.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REPORT

3. This is a periodic update on Central Lancashire Local Plan Review including:
 - Programme
 - Evidence Gathering
 - Consultation

Confidential report Please bold as appropriate	Yes	No
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REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S) (If the recommendations are accepted)

4. To note the contents only

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

5. None.

MEMORANDUM OF INTENT (PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT)

6. The draft Memorandum of Intent (which sets out arrangements for matters concerning finance, procurement and staffing) requires signature by all 3 councils.

PROGRAMME

7. The programme for the new Local Plan follows our published (statutory) Local Development Scheme (LDS) and the next key milestone in the programme will be the Issues and Options consultation planned for Autumn 2019. The programme has slipped as a result of the length of time taken to undertake the first iteration of the SHELAA.

Therefore, it is proposed that a revised Local Development Scheme is prepared and will be brought to the next JAC meeting in October 2019 for endorsement prior to formal approval and publication thereafter by the three councils.

8. The current forecasted date for adoption of the new Central Lancashire Local Plan is currently Summer 2022 however its vis likely this will now slip back and so this will be reviewed, and a new programme will be presented to JAC in October.

EVIDENCE: HOUSING

9. Icen Projects Consultancy have been commissioned to undertake an additional housing study which will provide the necessary housing need analysis required by the new NPPF and will also provide robust evidence for an appropriate distribution of housing across the three local authorities.
10. Icen have produced an interim paper for internal use only which will form the basis of a workshop meeting with the consultants plus the relevant directors and Planning Policy Managers from the three councils.
11. Members are engaged in discussions regarding housing distribution and this work therefore is evolving.

EVIDENCE: GYPSY AND TRAVELLER ACCOMODATION ASSESSMENT

12. This is now complete, and the final report has been uploaded to all three council websites and the Central Lancashire Local Plan Website.

EVIDENCE: STRATEGIC FLOOD RISK ASSESSMENT

13. JBA Consulting are undertaking the update to the Level 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) for Central Lancashire. This is a crucial piece of evidence which is used to influence the spatial location of development in the new local plan. JBA are progressing with the work and following comments from the Steering Group they have provided a final draft version of the functional floodplain, which is a crucial element of the SFRA. With this in place they will be able to move forward to assess sites received through the Call for Sites exercises.
14. There have been issues with communication from Lancashire County Council (LCC) as the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA), who are a key partner on the Steering Group. We have received some information from them but have reached a point where we need to progress the SFRA, so the consultants are checking whether outstanding information from LCC is absolutely essential or whether they can progress without this. In addition, some of the information provided by LCC is not in an easily useable format and the consultants will be assessing what further work is required to be able to use it. This is outside the scope of their contract so details of any additional costs will need to be agreed between the 3 authorities, and a variation of the contract is likely to be required. Ultimately additional costs will need to be met by LCC and they have accepted this.

INTEGRATED ASSESSMENT SCOPING REPORT

15. The Integrated Assessment (IA) is an iterative process undertaken throughout the local plan process which brings together into a single framework a number of assessments of the social, environmental and economic impact of planning policies, incorporating the

statutory requirements of Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA), Health Impact Assessment (HIA) and Equalities Impact Assessment to present a common and fully integrated assessment of the Local Plan policies.

16. The Scoping Report as prepared represents the first stage of the Integrated Assessment and is currently with the three statutory consultees of The Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England.
17. This first scoping stage identifies the relevant plans, policies, programmes and objectives that will inform the Integrated Appraisal and the Local Plan and identifies baseline information; identifies key sustainability issues and problems; and proposes an IA framework consisting of objectives, against which the Local Plan can be assessed as it evolves.
18. It is important to note that IA is an iterative and on-going process, and therefore stages and tasks may be revisited and updated or revised as the plan develops, to take account of updated or new evidence as well as consultation responses. The consultation is predominantly by email and the consultation runs for eight weeks from Monday 12th August until midnight on Monday 7th October.

OPEN SPACE RECREATION SPORTS ASSESSMENT (OSSRA)

19. The final separate evidence documents (play pitches standards, playing pitch assessment, open space assessment and strategy action plan) are now complete and have been published on the council's websites.
20. As the Central Lancashire Open Space Strategy Action Plan includes such a long list of schemes, many of which aren't capital schemes, there will be a need for each council to undertake an exercise to distil the action plan into an Infrastructure Delivery Scheme.
21. The Infrastructure Delivery Scheme will need to set out what the scheme is and a more accurate estimate of costs, as this will feed into the Local Plan in a number of ways, including the plan viability. For example, officers at Chorley have produced a 'Chorley Open Space Sports Recreation Action Plan' which will go to Executive Cabinet in October for approval to consult.

TRANSPORT

22. Chorley Council has commissioned WYG to produce a Highways and Transport Strategy which will supplement the refresh of a Central Lancashire Transport and Highways Masterplan being undertaken by LCC and a draft part one report has been provided which will be updated as the new Central Lancashire Local Plan progresses and as the site allocations and proposal maps are finalised.
23. LCC have confirmed that the Central Lancashire Transport and Highways Masterplan will be updated, and they have commissioned Jacobs Consultants to assist.
24. This is great timing for the new Local Plan as it will ensure that transport and spatial planning are fully aligned and that the transport impacts of new development over the plan period are fully considered.
25. This initial work involves Jacobs undertaking a detailed baseline evidence review to understand the current state of play in relation to issues/opportunities/constraints impacting on transport in Central Lancashire, including consideration of wider datasets that may influence transport and connectivity, such as relevant spatial, population, economic, social data.

26. Jacobs on behalf of LCC, are keen to understand some of the spatial / land use themes emerging from the Local Plan to inform the review and enable LCC to feed into the emerging Local Plan policies should some key issues or constraints be drawn out of our analysis.
27. Therefore, officers from the Central Lancs Local Plan team along with the three policy home teams and representatives from Jacobs, will be meeting in early September to start this engagement and regular updates on this work will be provided to JAC.

CALL FOR SITES

28. The Call for Sites exercise as part of local plan-making is a public consultation to identify new land for development and the purpose is to identify potential sites that can be technically assessed for their suitability, availability and achievability (including viability) for housing and economic development to meet identified needs. Stakeholders (which can include landowners, agents, developers, members of the public and elected members) were able to submit sites for consideration and whilst intended to generate sites for future development, sites were also submitted for protected uses.
29. A third Call for Sites will be opened as part of the Issues and Options consultation.

GREENBELT ASSESSMENT

30. Members are advised that there is no justification at this stage for the councils to commission a Green Belt assessment. As part of the site assessment work (SHELAA), officers will consider the potential future supply of land and take account of the need for specific uses including housing and employment. It is only when it becomes apparent there is an inadequate supply of land to meet identified need, will a Green Belt assessment need to be considered. Members will be fully informed throughout this process.

RISK

31. A comprehensive risk register is in place and currently there are no significant identified risks to the project. As the project progresses, any key risks will be reported.

Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
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