

Copeland Local Plan 2021-2038: Pre-Publication Focussed Consultation

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PURPOSE OF REPORT

To present the significant potential changes to the Copeland Local Plan Preferred Options document that will require a short, focussed consultation prior to the completion of the Council's final draft of the Copeland Local Plan: The Publication Draft.

Once agreed, it is proposed that these significant potential changes will be subject to a 4 week consultation to understand wider stakeholder and community views and the draft Local Plan will then be updated accordingly.

RECOMMENDATION

That Members consider and approve the significant potential changes to the Preferred Options document.

The approved significant potential changes will then form a consultation document that will be presented to Full Council with a recommendation to approve a four week focussed consultation in September and October 2021.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Council consulted on the Preferred Options for the Copeland Local Plan in late 2020. Since that time officers have been reviewing the comments received and updating the evidence base to support and inform the final draft of the Local Plan; the Publication Draft.
- 1.2 This work has identified a number of potential changes that could be made to the Preferred Options draft in order to make the final draft of

the Local Plan, the Publication Draft, more sustainable, robust and deliverable.

- 1.3 The majority of these potential changes are relatively straight forward updates, additions or changes to elements of policies or supporting text, and as such can easily be incorporated in the Publication Draft.
- 1.4 However, there are a number of more significant potential changes that may need further consideration before deciding whether to incorporate them into the Publication Draft of the Local Plan.
- 1.5 It is therefore proposed to undertake a short, four week, focussed consultation on the significant potential changes during September and October. This will enable the Council to gather public and stakeholder feedback on them before completing the Publication Draft of the Local Plan at the end of the year.
- 1.6 It is good practice to consult on significant changes, and doing so now should also reduce objections to the Publication Draft and help the Public Examination of the Local Plan run more smoothly.

2.0 THE CONTENT OF THE FOCUSED 4 WEEK CONSULTATION

- 2.1 As mentioned the majority of the changes to the Preferred Options document will be relatively straight forward to incorporate into the final draft of the Local Plan. As the Local Plan is a large document it is proposed to draw out the significant potential changes and hold a focussed consultation that just considers those potential changes.
- 2.2 Examples of potential changes that are considered to be significant include:
 - Changes to the development strategy and settlement hierarchy
 - Potential new policies
 - Preferred Options policies that may be deleted
 - Where a Preferred Options policy may be significantly changed
 - Potential new site allocations
 - Preferred Options allocations which may be removed
 - Revisions to settlement boundaries
- 2.3 The issues from the Preferred Options and emerging evidence have already been discussed with Members through briefing sessions earlier

in the summer, and a draft consultation document outlining the significant proposed changes will be prepared to review at the meeting.

- 2.4 Once agreed, these significant changes will be pulled together into a relatively short, focussed consultation document that will be presented to Full Council on 7th September with a recommendation to approve them for a four week public consultation.

3.0 CONCLUSION

- 3.1 The Preferred Options consultation, and updates to the Local Plan evidence base have identified a large number of changes to be made to the Local Plan. While most of these are relatively minor and can easily be incorporated into the Local Plan some
- 3.2 It is good practice to carry out a short consultation with the public and other stakeholders in order to fully understand the implications of these potential changes before deciding whether to incorporate them all into the Publication Draft of the Local Plan.
- 3.3 As a result it is recommended to hold a 4 week focussed consultation on the significant potential changes that might feature in the Publication Draft of the Local Plan in order to gather views before completing the final draft of the Local Plan.

APPENDICES: None