

COPELAND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME 2021

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PURPOSE OF REPORT

To inform Members of a number of minor updates to the adopted Local Development Scheme 2020. The updated timescales and additional scope are outlined here and have been brought together in the Local Development Scheme 2021 for Member approval.

RECOMMENDATION

That Members approve the Local Development Scheme 2021 as the Council's work programme for completing the production of the *Copeland Local Plan 2021-2038*. This can then be presented to Full Council on 7th December for formal adoption.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Local Development Scheme, the programme for producing the new Copeland Local Plan, was approved by Full Council on 19th November 2019.
- 1.2 It was subsequently updated in September 2020 to account for Covid-19, changes to national policy and also to bring forward the production of the Shopfront Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document (SPD).
- 1.3 Since then there have been some factors that have required a further review of that document to inform the final stages of producing the Local Plan, and they are presented in the report.

2.0 CHANGES FROM THE 2020 LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

- 2.1 There are two main changes to the previously approved document as follows:

Updated timescale to reflect additional round of Focussed Consultation

- 2.2 Due to the large response to the Preferred Options consultation and updates to the Local Plan evidence base there were quite a number of changes between the Preferred Options and Publication Draft versions of the Local Plan.
- 2.3 Many of these changes are relatively minor and/or updates to projects or policies etc. which can easily be incorporated into the Publication Draft. However, a number are potentially more significant, and as such, in September Full Council approved a 5-week Focussed Consultation to gather public views on the more significant changes that might be made. This consultation took place between 15th September and 17th October.
- 2.4 The introduction of this additional consultation stage has meant that the preparation stages for the Local Plan have taken a little longer than previously stated, but it is hoped that by consulting on the significant changes before finalising the Plan it should hopefully reduce the number of objections to the Publication Draft of the Local Plan.
- 2.5 This should save the Council time and money in the longer run.

Highlighting the Potential for Additional, Addendum Regulation 19 Consultation Prior to Submitting the Plan to the Secretary of State

- 2.6 A key part of the Local Plan evidence base, the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA), was commissioned for Cumbria in early 2020 to identify the needs of the gypsy and traveller community for sites in Copeland. It had been hoped that the work would be complete by the Autumn of 2020, however Covid-19 restrictions and lock downs severely limited the ability of consultants to talk to the gypsy and traveller communities to understand their needs and requirements.
- 2.7 As such we are still awaiting final confirmation of the needs for Copeland (which could be between 1 and 12 pitches), and this is expected to be provided in the next week or two. Once this need is known officers can

consider the most appropriate site(s) to meet the need, if any are required for allocation.

- 2.8 Once identified the preferred site, if required, will be presented to LDF Panel and Full Council for approval, with a separate Addendum consultation taking place in February/March 2022.
- 2.9 Taking these steps will ensure that there are no delays to the Local Plan's submission, by holding the main Local Plan consultation as soon as possible and giving sufficient time to collate and consider all consultation responses to submit the Plan by the end of April. Delaying the consultation until the gypsy and traveller need is known and a site identified would have delayed the submission until June or July.
- 2.10 Taking the factors above into account the new milestones for the Local Plan are as follows:
- Consultation on the Publication Draft – January/February 2022
 - Consultation on Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocation (if required) – February/March 2022
 - Submission to the Secretary of State – 29th April 2022
 - Examination – Summer/Autumn/Winter 2022
 - Adoption – March 2023
- 2.11 The full Local Development Scheme 2020 can be found at Appendix 1. It is recommended that Members support this new programme.

APPENDICES

- Appendix 1: Draft Local Development Scheme 2021