EXECUTIVE MEMBER: Councillor Lena Hogg
LEAD OFFICER: Chris Hoban
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PURPOSE OF REPORT
To inform members of the summaries of the responses received as part of the Site Allocations and Policies Plan and accompanying Sustainability Appraisal consultation process formally held between January and March 2015.

RECOMMENDATION
That Members note and accept the summary of the consultation process provided.

1.0 INTRODUCTION
1.1 The Copeland Local Plan 2013-2028 is now entering an advanced stage. The Core Strategy and Development Management Policies were adopted in December 2013 and the Council is now in the process of identifying land to deliver the development requirement identified in the Core Strategy: the Site Allocations and Policies Plan.

1.2 This report is intended to remind Members of the production process to date; to inform Members of the summary of comments made to the Site Allocations and Policies Plan Preferred Options and accompanying Sustainability Appraisal; and to inform Members of the next steps.
2.0 THE SITE ALLOCATIONS AND POLICIES PLAN AND ACCOMPANYING SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL

2.1 The Core Strategy and Development Management Policies document has gone through three iterations, beginning with an Issues and Options paper (May 2009), then the Preferred Options (May 2010) and finally the Pre-Submission Draft (May 2012). All of these documents were the subject of public consultation, which helped inform the development of each subsequent document including the Site Allocations and Policies Plan and accompanying Sustainability Appraisal.

2.2 The Site Allocations and Policies Plan Preferred Options document invited respondents to comment on:

- Taking forward the strategic policies of the Local Plan Core Strategy, adopted in 2013;
- Choosing which sites in the identified supply are suitable to be allocated now for development over the next 15 years;
- Evaluating the supply of land available for employment development;
- Ensuring there is enough space and other recreational land to support a good quality of life and that it is protected from development.

3.0 PRODUCING AND CONSULTING ON THE SITE ALLOCATIONS AND POLICIES PLAN AND ACCOMPANYING SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL

3.1 Copeland Borough Council produced the Sites Allocations and Policies Plan Preferred Options and associated Sustainability Appraisal documents for consultation in January 2015. The purpose of the plan is to identify the extent and location of new development sites and related planning policies for the borough of Copeland. The Sustainability Appraisal considers the broader environmental, social and economic effects of development potential.

3.2 Under Regulation 33(2) (c) of The Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004 (as amended) authorities are required to supply a statement of the issues raised in the representations. The Site Allocations and Policies Plan Consultation Responses summary report, which can be referred to in appendix one, provides an overview of those written responses received relating to the following areas:

- The proposed site allocation policies, which addresses a total of 47 questions;
- The sites which the Council has proposed for allocation;
- The 55 new site submissions made by respondents;
- Written responses to the accompanying Sustainability Appraisal document.

3.3 During the consultation period the Council received over 450 responses including:
- 55 New Site Submission forms;
- 411 Site Comment forms;
- 18 Preferred Options Questionnaires;
- 27 Sustainability Appraisal Comments.

Most responses to the questionnaire were from landowners and agents, local residents and community groups and local, regional and national agencies.

3.4 The Council will consider these responses, together with other matters that have arisen since the consultation such as ministerial statements, changes to the Planning Practice Guidance, and developments associated with the Moorside project when producing the next draft of the Site Allocations and Policies Plan.

4.0 NEXT STAGES OF COMPLETING THE LOCAL PLAN 2013-2028

4.1 Officers will now consider the comments received as part of the Site Allocations and Policies Plan Preferred Options consultation process and start to produce a draft plan for further public comments which we anticipate will be ready for approval to be published in late Spring/early Summer 2016.

4.2 Following that consultation the Council will then consider comments made once again and a final draft will be submitted to the Secretary of State for public examination. Prior to submission, the plan will be published and advertised so that anyone not happy with it can object to the Secretary of State and have their concerns considered by the Inspector appointed to examine the plan. This is in accordance with Regulation 19 (Publication stage) consultation.

4.3 The Site Allocations and Policies Plan will form the final part of the Local Plan, with the Core Strategy and the Development Management Policies having been adopted in December 2013.

APPENDICES

Appendix One: Site Allocations and Policies Plan Preferred Options Summary of Consultation Responses

BACKGROUND PAPERS

The Site Allocations and Policies Plan Preferred Options and Sustainability Appraisal consultation documents can be found in the Member’s Room.