

COPELAND LOCAL PLAN 2017-2035: ISSUES AND OPTIONS CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

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PURPOSE OF REPORT

The programme to review the Copeland Local Plan 2013-2028 was approved at Full Council on 20th June 2017. The first stage of this process is to consider the scope of the review and the main issues that the Local Plan will need to consider.

This report will give Members the opportunity to consider and discuss the strategic issues that result from the low rates of housebuilding in Copeland in recent years and the options that can help to boost house building and ensure the Local Plan is robust and effective into the future to support the growth ambitions and opportunities of the borough.

RECOMMENDATION

That Members consider and approve the *Draft Copeland Local Plan 2017-2035 Issues and Options* consultation document. Once approved by LDF Working Party it is recommended that the document be presented to Full Council on 12th September for a six week public consultation.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 A review of the *Copeland Local Plan 2013-2028: Core Strategy and Development Management Policies* was approved at Full Council on 20th June 2017, with the work programme outlined in the *Local Development Scheme 2017*.
- 1.2 The first stage of this review is to consult on the Issues and Options that have emerged following the Housing Market Intelligence work and the announcement that the Council can no longer demonstrate a five year supply of housing sites. The Issues and Options will outline the scope for the main areas to be reviewed to ensure the Copeland Local Plan is deliverable, and which may result in a fundamental change to the development strategy that is currently proposed.
- 1.3 It should be noted that the whole of the Plan will be considered through the review process and updated as appropriate, but it is envisaged that many of the updates will be relatively minor, except those that are discussed in this Issues and options consultation.

- 1.4 The updated Local Plan will cover the period from 2017 to 2035, as 2017 is the baseline for the new evidence base that informs it and 2035 will be 15 years following the date it is adopted.

2.0 THE MAIN ISSUES AND OPTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED

- 2.1 The policies that carry less weight due to the Council no longer having a five year supply of housing sites are: ST2, SS1, SS2 and SS3. The strategic Issues and Options from these policies that are discussed in the consultation document are:

- The number of homes we should be planning for
- How any additional growth, which would largely result from opportunities at Moorside and its supply chain should be accounted for and enabled
- The settlement hierarchy/where development should take place
- The distribution of development
- The use of settlement boundaries

- 2.2 In addition to this there are a number of other strategic issues that can be considered at this time, including:

- How to provide appropriate land to support economic development and employment in Copeland
- Identifying suitable areas for wind energy developments

- 2.3 It should be noted that any issues that were part of the *Copeland Local Plan 2013-2028: Site Allocations and Policies Plan Preferred Options* consultation will not be repeated at this stage. Instead, the responses to that consultation will be considered alongside the Issues and Options as the Council develops the Preferred Options for the *Copeland Local Plan 2017-2035*, which will be completed in Spring 2018.

- 2.4 The *Copeland Local Plan 2017-2035: Issues and Options* consultation document can be found at Appendix 1.

3.0 THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

- 3.1 The consultation will be accompanied by a questionnaire for people to complete, which is designed to keep the focus on the large strategic issues at this time.

- 3.2 It is proposed that the Issues and Options consultation take place for six weeks.

- 3.3 Representations received will be analysed and used to inform the Preferred Options of the *Copeland Local Plan 2017-2035*, which will represent the Council's draft policy framework and site allocations for development up to 2035.

APPENDICES

- Appendix 1: Draft Copeland Local Plan 2017-2035: Issues and Options Consultation Document (to follow)