

Local Development Framework Panel 051119

## **Copeland Borough Local Plan Issues and Options Draft 2017-2035**

**EXECUTIVE MEMBER:** Councillor Mike Mcveigh

**LEAD OFFICER:** Chris Hoban, Strategic Planning Manager.

**REPORT AUTHOR:** Leanne Parr, Principal Strategic Planner.

### **1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To inform Members of the production of the new Local Plan Issues & Options Draft and to request the Panel support the report to Full Council on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2019 which seeks agreement to commence an 8 week public consultation on the Draft.

### **2 RECOMMENDATION**

That Members consider the Issues and Options Draft Report and approve it to be presented at Full Council on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2019 with the recommendation for the commencement of an 8 week public consultation.

### **3 INTRODUCTION**

- 3.1 Planning applications must be determined in accordance with the Development Plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise. At present the Development Plan for Copeland comprises the Copeland Local Plan 2013-2028: Core Strategy and Development Management Policies Document, adopted in 2013, and a number of "Saved policies" from the 2001-2016 Local Plan.
- 3.2 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) states that policies in Local Plans should be reviewed to assess whether they need updating at least once every five years, and should then be updated as necessary.
- 3.3 As a number of significant changes to national planning policy and guidance have occurred since the production of the Council's Core Strategy, the Strategic Planning team has commenced work on a new Local Plan which, once adopted, will replace the Core Strategy and Saved Policies.

### **4 THE NEW LOCAL PLAN**

4.1 The new Local Plan will:

- Describe what sustainable development means for the borough
- Identify the scale of development for the borough
- Identify the settlements where development is expected to take place (and the scale of development in those places) to promote sustainable communities

- Provide detailed policies for different types of development (e.g. housing, employment, town centre) and design to promote high quality development
- Provide a framework for protecting and enhancing the borough’s natural and built environment (e.g. landscapes, biodiversity, listed buildings and conservation areas)
- Allocate land for different development uses... and protection

## 5 ISSUES AND OPTIONS DRAFT

5.1 The production of an Issues and Options Draft is the first step in the Local Plan process. It identifies the key issues facing the Borough and sets out alternative options for addressing them.

5.2 The options in the Draft have been derived through a review of baseline information about the Borough. This information is set out in the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report which will be published alongside the Draft.

5.3 The Local Plan will cover the following topics and will be informed by a number of evidence base documents:

**Table 1: Local Plan Topics**

Development Strategy	Housing	Economy & Employment	Nuclear
Built Environment	Natural Environment	Healthy Communities	Tourism
Contributions	Climate & Coastal Change	Infrastructure	Transport
Heritage	Design	Retail & Leisure	Communications

**Table 2: Local Plan Evidence Base Documents**

Annual Monitoring Report	Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment
Infrastructure Delivery Plan	Strategic Housing Market and Objectively Assessed Needs Assessment
Economic Development Needs Assessment	Transport Modelling
Employment Land Study	Transport Improvements Study
Economic Viability Assessment	Retail Study
Landscape Character Assessment	Wind Energy Technical Document
Open Space Assessment and Strategy	Health Impact Assessment (Integrated with the Sustainability Appraisal)
Green Infrastructure Strategy	Gypsy and Traveller Needs Assessment
Village Services Survey	Strategic Flood Risk Assessment
Heritage Impact Assessment	Sports and Playing Pitch Strategy
Local Housing Needs Assessment	

## 6 CONSULTATION

- 6.1 The Issues and Options Draft has been produced through engagement with relevant Council departments. Members of the LDF Panel and Planning Panel have also played an important role by participating in a number of Local Plan workshops held over the previous two months. At the workshops a number of the key issues were explored and the wording of the options tested.
- 6.2 Should Council approval be granted, the Draft will be subject to an 8 week public consultation. During this time we will seek views on the options set out and will ask whether there are any additional issues should be considered in the Local Plan.
- 6.3 The Strategic Planning team will contact everyone on its consultation database to notify them of the consultation and explain how they can get involved. Advertisements will also be placed in the local press, on the Council’s website and social media pages. Copies of the Draft will be available for viewing in Council buildings and in local libraries.

**7 NEXT STEPS**

- 7.1 Responses to the consultation will be made publically available and will inform, along with the evidence base, the next draft of the Local Plan (the Preferred Options Draft).
- 7.2 The Preferred Options Draft will set out the policies and allocations which are being taken forward and will also explain why alternative options have been discounted. This document will then be subject to a public consultation which may include public drop-in events.
- 7.3 The stages to produce the Local Plan are set out below. It is anticipated that adoption of the Local Plan will take place towards the end of 2021.



**CONCLUSION**

- 7.4 The Council is required to have an up-to-date Local Plan and the production of an Issues and Options Draft is the first step in this process. Public consultation is key to ensure the Plan considers all the issues facing the Borough and to ensure the policies and allocations in the Local Plan are the most appropriate.

**APPENDICES**

Appendix A – Copeland Borough Local Plan Issues and Options Draft