

**NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**LOCAL PLAN COMMITTEE – 27 FEBRUARY 2019**

Title of report	<b>LOCAL PLAN REVIEW – UPDATE</b>
Contacts	<p>Councillor Trevor Pendleton 01509 569746 <a href="mailto:trevor.pendleton@nwleicestershire.gov.uk">trevor.pendleton@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Planning Policy Team Manager 01530 454677 <a href="mailto:ian.nelson@nwleicestershire.gov.uk">ian.nelson@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</a></p>
Purpose of report	To inform members of number of responses to the recent consultation on the local plan review and to update members on other matters related to the Local Plan review.
Council Priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Building Confidence in Coalville</li> <li>- Homes and Communities</li> <li>- Businesses and Jobs</li> </ul>
Implications:	
Financial/Staff	The cost of the review is met from existing budgets for 2018/19 and appropriate budgetary provision will be sought as part of the budget process for 2019/20.
Risk Management	A risk assessment of the project has been undertaken. As far as possible control measures have been put in place to minimise these risks, including monthly Project Board meetings where risk is reviewed.
Equalities Impact Screening	An Equalities Impact Assessment of the Local Plan review will be undertaken as part of the Sustainability Appraisal.
Human Rights	None discernible
Transformational Government	Not applicable
Comments of Head of Paid Service	The Report is Satisfactory
Comments of Section 151 Officer	The Report is Satisfactory

Comments of Deputy Monitoring Officer	The Report is Satisfactory
Consultees	None
Background papers	Report to Local Plan Committee of 7 November 2018 <a href="https://minutes-1.nwleics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=344&amp;MId=1949&amp;Ver=4">https://minutes-1.nwleics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=344&amp;MId=1949&amp;Ver=4</a> Local plan Review – emerging options consultation <a href="https://www.nwleics.gov.uk/pages/emerging_options">https://www.nwleics.gov.uk/pages/emerging_options</a>
Recommendation	<b>THAT THE LOCAL PLAN COMMITTEE:</b>  <b>(I) NOTES THE LEVEL OF RESPONSES TO THE RECENT CONSULTATION ON THE LOCAL PLAN; AND</b> <b>(II) PROGRESS ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE EVDIENCE BASE</b>

## 1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Members will recall that at the 7 November 2019 meeting of this committee it was agreed to undertake a further consultation in respect of the emerging Local Plan.
- 1.2 The consultation took place between 12 November 2018 and 11 January 2019.
- 1.3 A copy of the consultation document can be viewed from the link referred to in the section above on Background Papers. The document covered the following issues and included a series of questions to help guide responses:
- Making sure that we have sufficient land for housing (questions 1 to 6)
  - Making sure we have sufficient land for employment (questions 7 to 12)
  - Should we change the settlement hierarchy? (questions 13 to 15)
  - Where will new development go? (questions 16 and 17)
  - How can the review consider the issue of self and custom build housing? (questions 18 to 23)
  - How can the review address issues relating to health and wellbeing? (questions 24 to 30)
- 1.4 A total of 62 responses were received from a range of organisations.
- 1.5 The table at Appendix A identifies the number of responses received to each of the questions. It can be seen that all of the questions attracted some responses. The greatest concentration of responses was in respect of the issue of housing requirements, although the single biggest number of responses was in respect of the questions relating to where development should go, question 16 attracting 38 responses and question 17 attracting 36 responses.

- 1.6 Officers have begun the process of reviewing the comments received and this will be the subject of a detailed report to the next meeting of this committee in June 2019.

## **2.0 OTHER MATTERS**

- 2.1 The Strategic Growth Plan has now been signed off by all of the local authorities. This is an important step forward as its provisions are intended to guide the preparation of Local Plans. Discussions regarding a Statement of Common Ground (previously referred to as a Memorandum of Understanding) are also taking place.
- 2.2 Reports elsewhere on this agenda outline the outcomes from the Employment Land review study and the Retail capacity Study.
- 2.3 The development of other aspects of the evidence base is continuing. For example, a landscape study is well underway, whilst officers are assessing those sites put forward as part of the Strategic Housing and Employment land Availability Assessment (SHELAA) consultation.
- 2.4 The government has yet to publish the outcome of its recent consultation in respect of technical updates to national policy and guidance, particularly in relation to housing. Therefore, there remains uncertainty regarding the issue of possible housing requirements.

## Summary of Number of Responses to Emerging Options Consultation

Question	Number of responses
Question 1 - Should the plan build in a flexibility allowance?	33
Question 2 - If we build in flexibility should the plan include a 'buffer' to the housing requirement figure when deciding how much land to allocate for new housing or should we identify reserve sites?	34
Question 3 - If we were to include a 'buffer' what would be an appropriate figure?	33
Question 4 - If we were to identify reserve sites under what circumstances should sites be released?	30
Question 5 - Should the review build in the potential for sites to be developed which go beyond the end of the plan period?	31
Question 6 - Are there any other ways that the plan can build in flexibility?	26
Question 7 - Is the HEDNA an appropriate evidence base on which to formulate our employment land policies?	18
Question 8 - Which of the options set out above would best address the outstanding need for employment land?	19
Question 9 - Are there any other options that we could consider?	15
Question 10 - Is the Strategic Distribution Study an appropriate evidence base on which to formulate our strategic B8 employment land policies?	15
Question 11 - What should our preferred approach be to deal with strategic B8?	18
Question 12 - Are there any other options that we could consider?	9
Question 13 - Do you agree that the settlement hierarchy policy should be amended so as to allow for some development in small villages where it can be demonstrated that it is to meet the needs of somebody with a local connection?	35
Question 14 - Do you agree with the suggested criteria for identifying somebody with a local connection? Are there any additional criteria which should be included?	14
Question 15 - Are there any other options which we should consider if we are to address local needs? Do you agree with our assessment of these options?	20
Question 16 - Is this general approach to site assessment methodology an appropriate one?	38
Question 17 - Are there any specific criteria that we should include when assessing sites?	36
Question 18 - Should we include a specific policy on self and custom build?	25
Question 19 - Which of the options do you prefer and why?	27
Question 20 - If a percentage approach is supported, what threshold and percentage would you apply and why?	15
Question 21 - Should the Council allocate sites for self and custom housebuilding properties only and/or seek to identify opportunities for self and custom plots as part of allocated housing sites?	21