Welcome

Welcome to the first Planning Policy Newsletter. We intend to produce a series of newsletters to inform you of progress with our Local Development Framework, and to provide an update on any national or regional planning issues that may impact on North West Leicestershire and surrounding areas.

What’s in this Issue?

The following topics are addressed in this issue, through which we will endeavour to explain the planning policy process.

• Who we are
• Regional Plan
• What is the Local Development Framework?
• What have we done?
• What are we going to do?
• Core Strategy Update
• Evidence Base
• Other Documents of interest
• Feedback and further information

The Team

The Planning Policy Team forms part of the Place Shaping function within the Environment Directorate of the Council. The Place Shaping Department also includes Building Control, Development Management and Urban Design. The Planning Policy Team’s roles and contact details are listed below:

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Context

The Development Plan is made up of the Regional Plan (also known as Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS)), which covers the whole East Midlands region and is produced by the Regional Assembly, and Development Plan Documents (DPDs), which are produced by local planning authorities within the Local Development Framework (LDF). The Core Strategy is the principal DPD.

Regional Plan

What is it?
The East Midlands Regional Plan was published in March 2009 and it provides a broad development strategy for the East Midlands up to 2026. The Regional Plan is produced by the East Midlands Regional Assembly (EMRA) and the final version is issued by the Government.

The Regional Plan forms a key element of the Development Plan. It identifies the scale and the broad distribution of new housing and priorities for the environment, transport, infrastructure, economic development, agriculture, energy, minerals and waste treatment and disposal. Along with national Planning Policy Statements, the Regional Plan provides the context for the preparation of Local Development Frameworks, Local Transport Plans, and Minerals and Waste Local Development Documents throughout the region.

A copy of the Regional Plan can be viewed by clicking on the link below.
http://www.gos.gov.uk/goem/planning/regional-planning/

What stage is it at?
Although the Regional Plan has only recently been published, the Government has asked the Regional Assembly to undertake a Partial Review of the Regional Plan to focus on the following key issues:

- Revised housing figures
- Affordable housing
- Transport
- Climate Change

The consultation period for the Partial Review began on the 30th June 2009 and ends on the 6th October 2009. The consultation document can be viewed here.

The Consultation Document sets out a range of options and questions on a number of key issues. In addition, a number of supporting documents are also available on the Regional Assembly’s website. The District Council will respond as a consultee. Any comments you have on the Partial Review should be sent to the Regional Assembly.
**The Local Development Framework (LDF)**

The Local Development Framework, or 'LDF', is the term used to describe a set of documents which will set out the District Council’s planning policies for the District. As these new documents are adopted by the Council, they will eventually replace the North West Leicestershire Local Plan, which was itself adopted in 2002.

Whereas the Local Plan was a single document, the LDF will consist of a number of different documents, some of which (Development Plan Documents or DPPs) will, together with the Regional Plan, provide the basis for planning decisions. The policies in DPDs may also be supported by more detailed guidance in the form of Supplementary Planning Documents.

In addition to the documents to be prepared by the District Council, Leicestershire County Council are responsible for preparing Waste Disposal and Minerals extraction documents. The diagram opposite sets out the documents that make up the LDF. The Regional Plan is identified on the illustration as the Regional Spatial Strategy.

**What have we done?**

### Statement of Community Involvement

Community involvement is an important part of the process of preparing the LDF. The aim of the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) is to strengthen community involvement in planning over time. It also aims to improve overall representation and involvement across all sections of the community.

The SCI sets out the following:

- How the Council hopes to involve partners, interested parties and the community (including hard to reach groups) in the production of the LDF and major development decisions
- How we propose to encourage people to take part and give their views

The SCI was submitted to the Secretary of State in November 2005. Following receipt of the Inspector's Report in June 2006, the SCI was formally adopted by the Council on 3 October 2006. The SCI can be viewed by clicking on the link below:

What are we going to do?

Timetable
The Local Development Scheme (LDS) sets out the timetable for the preparation of the Local Development Framework Documents. The two key documents to be prepared are:
• The Core Strategy DPD
• The Site Allocations and Development Management Policies DPD

The Council’s current LDS can be viewed here: [Local Development Scheme 2007](#)

The Council has proposed to review the LDS. A copy of the report that went to Cabinet on the 16th September 2008 can be viewed below: [Local Development Scheme Cabinet Report September 2008](#)

We are currently consulting with the Government Office and hope to bring the revised LDS into effect as soon as possible.

Core Strategy Update

What is it?
The Core Strategy is the overarching document within the LDF and, once adopted, will set out the vision, strategic objectives and spatial strategy for future development within North West Leicestershire.

What’s happened so far?
The following brief outlines what has happened so far:

November 2005 – Issues and Options
Consultation document published as a first step towards preparing the Core Strategy. This consultation generated 67 responses covering a range of issues. Responses to the consultation can be viewed [here](#).

Autumn 2006 – a number of meetings and workshops took place with a range of key stakeholders.

December 2006 – those respondents to the Issues and Options consultation were invited to attend workshops in Ashby de la Zouch to discuss a range of issues. More details of the workshops can be viewed [here](#).

Summer 2007 – a further consultation document was published, which identified a number of key issues and possible Vision and Objectives. The consultation document can be viewed [here](#).

Since the 2007 consultation, a number of changes have been made to the LDF system, including the removal of the requirement for a preferred options stage. In addition, the Regional Plan has been adopted.

November 2008 – A Further Consultation Document was published seeking views on a number of issues including:
• The Development Strategy
• The Green Wedge in Coalville
• Affordable Housing
• Gypsies and Travellers
• East Midlands Airport and Donington Racetrack
• Town Centres and Shopping
A copy of the Further Consultation Document can be viewed [here](#).
Where are we now?
We received 4,154 responses to the further consultation on the Core Strategy. Of these, a significant number were standard responses:

- 500 express concern about the possibility of development on the Green Wedge and the potential implications on infrastructure as a result of new development;
- 480 are opposed to development at Greenhill Farm, Coalville;
- 450 oppose the potential Strategic Freight Rail Interchange on land west of Junction 24 of the M1;
- 200 object to the scale of development in Ibstock;
- 380 object to the overall scale of housing development in the district;
- 1,500 have been received entitled ‘Ashby Local Development Survey’. This takes the form of series of options, but it has not been possible to work out fully the results from these so far. However, it is clear that the overwhelming response is that Option 1 (i.e. the Coalville focus option) is supported;
- 200 suggest that a fifth alternative in respect of the Development Strategy should be included, which preserves the Green Wedge and keeps Whitwick and Thringstone separate from Coalville.

Initial findings from the Core Strategy Further Consultation were presented to Cabinet members on the 16th June 2009. A copy of the June Report can be viewed here.

A further report was considered by Cabinet on the 14th July 2009 and can be viewed here.

A further report to Cabinet will be considered on 20th October 2009.

The Council plans to undertake a short period of consultation following this to obtain the views of the public and other stakeholders. This will not involve public meetings or exhibitions but will be an opportunity for further comment and reflection prior to the Council determining the ‘Submission Document’ (see below).

Next steps
The next formal stage in the process will be for the Council to determine what should go into the Submission Document, which ultimately will be sent to the Secretary of State for approval. It is currently anticipated that this decision will be made in January 2010. This will be a decision of the whole Council. It is appreciated that in view of the significance of the Core Strategy in setting out the Council’s future planning policies for the district, that the consideration as to what goes into the Submission Document will be controversial.
Evidence Base

A key aspect of the new planning system is that policies and proposals should be supported by a robust evidence base.

All evidence base documents can be accessed by clicking on the links below, except for the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment which has a separate link.

http://www.nwleics.gov.uk/development%5Fplanning/DisplayArticle.asp?ID=4881

The current evidence base consists of the following documents:

- Core Strategy Further Consultation Sustainability Appraisal - May 2009
- Core Strategy Further Consultation Habitats Regulations Assessment - June 2009
- PTOLEMY Transport Assessment - June 2009
- Strategic Flood Risk Assessment - August 2008
- Leicester and Leicestershire Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) – December 2008
- Leicester and Leicestershire Employment Land Study – November 2008
- Coalville Transport Assessment – July 2008
- PPG17 Open Space Audit – July 2008
- Climate Change Study – May 2008
- Retail Capacity Study Update – October 2007
- Housing Land Availability Assessment – July 2007
- Retail Capacity Study – June 2005
- Employment Land Study – May 2005
- Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment – March 2009 http://www.nwleics.gov.uk/development%5Fplanning/DisplayArticle.asp?ID=9405

Other Documents of Interest

Site Allocations and Development Management Policies

Once the Core Strategy is adopted the Council intends to start work on the second key LDF document. This is the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies DPD. This will identify sites for development as well as setting out the Council’s policies for Development Management.

As part of this the Council proposed to produce a separate Development Control Policies DPD. However, it has now been decided to incorporate this into an Allocations and Development Management Policies DPD.

In regard to Development Control Policies an Issues and Options Consultation was undertaken in December 2005, a copy of the Issues and Options Consultation is available to view below:

Development Control Policies Issues and Options Consultation Document
Annual Monitoring Report
The Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) contains information on the progress we have made on our Local Development Scheme and whether policies are still achieving their objectives. The District Council is required to produce an AMR each year which must be submitted to the Government.

The 2008 AMR can be viewed by clicking on the link below:
http://www.nwleics.gov.uk/development_planning/documents/AMR%5F2008%5FFinal3%2Epdf

Feedback and Further Information

How to get involved
If you would like to get involved in the preparation of our LDF, your details can be included on the Council’s contact database. This will ensure you are notified of progress and consultations regarding the LDF. There is a form on the following page that can be printed, completed and returned to the Council. Alternatively, email your details to planning.policy@nwleicestershire.gov.uk

Feedback
In order to make subsequent newsletters/e-mails as informative and timely as possible we are seeking your views on how our communication can be most effective

Have you found the newsletter useful? Do you have any suggestions on how we can improve it?

Ways to Contact us:

By Post:
Planning Policy & Sustainability,
North West Leicestershire District Council,
Council Offices, Whitwick Road
Coalville, Leicestershire, LE67 3FJ

By E-mail:
planning.policy@nwleicestershire.gov.uk

By Telephone:
01530 454676 or 01530 454684

Data Protection Act 1998
• Please refer to the North West Leicestershire District Council’s Privacy Policy
• Personal data supplied will be used in accordance with North West Leicestershire District Council’s notification under the Data Protection Act 1998 and in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 for the purpose of Advertising, Marketing, Public Relations, General Advice Services.
• The District Council will treat all information as confidential and is committed to respecting your privacy.
• You have a right to access your personal data and rectify any inaccuracies.
• For further information on how your information is used, how we maintain the security of your information and your rights to access information that we hold on you, please contact:

  Data Protection Officer,
  North West Leicestershire District Council,
  Council Offices,
  Whitwick Road,
  Coalville,
  Leicestershire,
  LE67 3FJ

  E-Mail customer.services@nwleicestershire.gov.uk
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How to get involved
If you would like to get involved in the preparation of our LDF, your details can be included on the Councils database. This will ensure you are notified of progress and consultations regarding the LDF.

If you wish to be kept informed, please complete this Application Contact Form

How would you prefer to be contacted?

[ ] Post  [ ] E-mail

How often would you like to be contacted by the planning policy department?

[ ] Quarterly  [ ] When there is something major to report

Are you a

[ ] Local Resident  [ ] Landowner  [ ] Developer  [ ] Local Business  [ ] Member of a local organisation

DATE

[ ] [ ] / [ ] [ ] / [ ] [ ] [ ]

Post To:
Planning Policy & Sustainability,
North West Leicestershire District Council,
Council Offices,
Whitwick Road,
Coalville,
Leicestershire, LE67 3FJ