

**The Local Plan affects
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#LocalPlanMySay**



Introduction

The North West Leicestershire Local Plan was adopted on 21 November 2017. It sets out a strategy for delivering the homes, jobs and infrastructure needed in the district between 2011 and 2031.

The council committed to start a review of the plan within three months of the date of adoption. This consultation is the first step in reviewing the plan in accordance with Government regulations (Regulation 18 of the Local Plan Regulations 2012).

Why are we reviewing the Local Plan so soon after it was adopted?

There are two main reasons why an immediate review is required:

- A shortage of employment land up to 2031 compared to what is needed (as identified in our Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment HEDNA)
- The possible need to accommodate additional housing arising from unmet needs in Leicester city.

In addition to the above, the draft Leicester and Leicestershire Strategic Growth Plan, which has emerged since the Local Plan was prepared, represents a change which will influence the future planning of the district.

What is the Strategic Growth Plan and how does this fit in with the current consultation on the Local Plan review?

We are working together with all of the other local planning authorities in Leicestershire on a Strategic Growth Plan to guide future development across Leicestershire up to 2050.

It is the authorities' collective 'offer' to government and other partners for how (together) we can deliver the new homes, jobs, services and infrastructure which the city and county requires.

A draft Strategic Growth Plan was published for consultation in January 2018. It sets out an ambitious but realistic and achievable growth agenda with a focus upon:

- Delivering new housing
- Supporting the economy
- Identifying essential infrastructure
- Protecting our environment and built heritage

The consultation on the Strategic Growth Plan runs until 5 April 2018 and can be seen online at www.llstrategicgrowthplan.org.uk

It is hoped that a final Strategic Growth Plan will be produced towards the end of 2018.

The review of the Local Plan will need to take account of the final Strategic Growth Plan.

The review period

The adopted Local Plan covers the period 2011-2031. Whilst we have made enough provision for housing during this time, we know that we haven't identified enough employment land compared to what is needed. A review to 2031 could, therefore, be largely limited to addressing the shortfall in employment land.

However, an end date of 2036 would allow more time between adoption and the end of the plan period, reducing the likely need for a further review earlier than the statutory requirement that plans be reviewed within five years of adoption.

This would represent a more efficient use of resources and provide certainty and stability for a longer period.

Therefore, we have concluded that the Local Plan review should go up to 2036.

Consultation question 1

Do you agree that the review should cover the period to 2036? If not why not?

The policies that will be reviewed

As the Local Plan was adopted in November 2017 most of it will not need to be reviewed – this will therefore be a 'partial' review.

The main matters which will need to be reviewed are:

- Housing, employment and shopping needs and allocations
- Infrastructure requirements as a result of new development.

In addition, the Inspector who examined the adopted Local Plan identified two other potential matters that a review could address:

- A review of the boundaries of the Area of Separation between Coalville and Whitwick
- The identification of Local Green Spaces.

We may also be a need to include new policies to address emerging national issues or gaps in existing policies including:

- Self and custom build housing
- Public health implications of new development
- Space standards in new housing developments
- Creating local employment opportunities.

The policies that will be reviewed

It is important to note the review will also need to take in to account the following:

- The Strategic Growth Plan and any subsequent agreements that are made with the other Leicestershire authorities in respect of the distribution of new housing and employment
- The outcome of the Government's review of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) which sets out the Governments planning policies with which the Local Plan has to be consistent. The Government has stated that a draft review of the NPPF will be published by Easter 2018, with the final version later in 2018.

The precise contents of the plan will be finalised after this consultation, once we have everyone's views, and to take account of the above factors when they are finalised.

Consultation question 2

Do you agree with our assessment of which policies need to be reviewed? If not, why not?

The evidence

The reviewed Local Plan will need to be supported by an appropriate evidence base.

Some aspects of the evidence base used to support the adopted Local Plan will still be up-to-date and relevant (e.g. HEDNA), but there will be a need to update some (e.g. retail capacity). In addition, some new evidence may be required.

A list of the main evidence base documents used to support the adopted Local plan is attached at Appendix A.

In addition, the following mandatory assessments will need to be undertaken:

- Sustainability Appraisal

Systematically assesses the potential environmental, economic and social impacts of the Local Plan to ensure that it contributes to the objective of achieving sustainable development.

The Sustainability Appraisal will incorporate a Strategic Environmental Assessment to meet legal requirements (European Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment - SEA Directive);

- Habitats Regulations Assessment

Required to ensure that the Local Plan does not adversely impact upon the River Mease Special Area of Conservation (and any other similar areas designated under the Habitats Directive, but which are not within North West Leicestershire)

- Viability study

Assesses the impact of the Local Plan policies and proposals from a viability perspective to ensure that the developments required to deliver the plan are viable.

Consultation question 3

(a) Which parts of the existing evidence base do you consider:

(i) – remain relevant

(ii) – need to be updated or replaced (and why)

(b) Are there any other evidence base studies which are required, and if so, why?

Timetable for the review

How will the Local Plan review be prepared and what is the timetable?

The plan will go through a set process of preparation, involving a number of key stages. This will include examination by an independent Planning Inspector.

Stage 1

We are at the first stage in preparing the new Local Plan. This document identifies the sort of policies that may be needed in order to guide the future development of the district.

Stage 2

In autumn 2018 we will give local people and key stakeholders the chance to comment on our emerging thoughts about what the plan should say.

Stage 3

After considering all the feedback we get from our consultation at stage 2, we will prepare what is known as the publication (pre-submission) plan.

This document will be what we consider to be ready for independent examination and is that which we would ultimately like to adopt. We will then undertake another round of consultation to allow local people and other interested parties to be able to see the Local Plan and express their views.

We expect this to happen in autumn 2019.

Stage 4 onwards

After we've had feedback on the publication version of the plan, we will submit it to the Planning Inspectorate, hopefully in late 2019 along with all the comments received at stage 3.

The Planning Inspectorate will then arrange an examination, which is likely to be held in Spring 2020. At this stage an independent Planning Inspector will assess whether the plan is 'sound' (see below).

Our aim is to have the reviewed Local plan adopted by the end of 2020.

Appendix A

Adopted North West Leicestershire Local Plan

Principal Evidence Base Documents

Evidence	Date
Economic	
Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment	Jan 2017
North West Leicestershire Local Growth Plan 2014 -2018	Feb 2015
Leicester and Leicestershire Strategic Distribution Study 2014	Nov 2014
Leicester and Leicestershire Economic Partnership Economic Growth Plan 2014-2020	Mar 2014
Assessment of Employment Sites – August 2010	Aug 2010
Regeneration Strategy Coalville, The Prince’s Foundation for the Built Environment	
Retail	
Ashby de la Zouch and Coalville Town centres Assessment of Retail operator Demand	May 2016
North West Leicestershire Retail Study - 2015 Update	Feb 2015
North West Leicestershire Retail Study – 2012 Update	Mar 2013
Tourism	
Tourism Strategy Leicester and Leicestershire 2011-2016	2011
Environment	
River Mease	
Developer Contributions Scheme 2 (DCS2)	Jun 2016
River Mease DCS2 (Appendix 1)	Jun 2016
Developer Contribution Scheme 1(DCS1)	Oct 2012
River Mease DCS1 (Appendix 1)	Oct 2012
River Mease SSSI/SAC Restoration Plan	May 2012
River Mease SAC Water Quality (Phosphate) Management Plans	Jun 2011

<i>Charnwood Forest</i>	
Charnwood Forest Regional Park – Topic Paper 1 – Origins and Objectives	Oct 10
Charnwood Forest Regional Park – Topic Paper 2: The Planning Process	Oct 10
Revised Vision Statement for a Charnwood Forest Regional Park	Jun 2009
Charnwood Forest Landscape - Character Assessment	Oct 2008
<i>The National Forest</i>	
The National Forest Strategy 2014 - 2024	2014
<i>National Forest Guide for Planners and Developers</i>	Nov 2012
<i>Ecology</i>	
Ecological networks	May 2015
<i>Hydrology</i>	
Strategic Flood Risk Assessment 2015	Feb 2015
Strategic Flood Risk Assessment – Climate Change Addendum	Nov 2016
Detailed Water Cycle Study	July 2012
Scoping and Outline Water Cycle Study	Mar 2010
<i>Climate Change</i>	
Wind Development Suitability Study	Feb 2016
Wind Development Suitability Study – small scale wind mapping	Feb 2016
Wind Development Suitability Study – medium and large scale wind mapping	Feb 2016
<i>Housing</i>	
Housing & Economic Development Needs Assessment	Jan 2017
Leicester and Leicestershire Housing Market Area – Joint Statement of Cooperation	Jan 2017
Strategic Housing Land Availability – Methodology	2016
Strategic Housing Land Availability Schedule of Sites	2016
Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Gypsy and Traveller Assessment Refresh	May 2013

Infrastructure	
Infrastructure Delivery Plan	Jun 2016
Settlement Fringe Assessment	
Settlement Fringe Assessment	Aug 2010
Transport	
General	
Leicestershire County Council 6 C's Design Guide 2013	2013
Leicestershire Local Transport Plan (LTP3)	Apr 2011
Cycling	
North West Leicestershire Cycling Strategy Part 1- Coalville Final Draft	Apr 2012
East Midlands Airport	
East Midlands Airport Sustainable Development Plan 2015	2015
Aviation Policy Framework	Mar 2013
UK Aviation Forecasts 2013	Jan 2013
Rail	
High Speed Rail: Investing in Britain's Future – Phase Two: The Route to Leeds, Manchester and beyond	Jan 2013
Leicester-Burton study	May 2016

All documents can be viewed at
www.nwleics.gov.uk/stages_of_preparation_of_the_local_plan_2011_2031

How will the Local Plan be assessed?

To be found sound at examination a plan must be:

Positively prepared

The plan should be prepared based on a strategy which seeks to meet objectively assessed development and infrastructure requirements, including unmet requirements from neighbouring authorities where it is reasonable to do so and consistent with achieving sustainable development.

Justified

The plan should be the most appropriate strategy, when considered against the reasonable alternatives, based on proportionate evidence.

Effective

The plan should be deliverable over its period and based on effective joint working on cross-boundary strategic priorities.

Consistent with national policy

The plan should enable the delivery of sustainable development in accordance with the policies in the National Planning Policy Framework.

How do I comment on this consultation?

Your comments will be used to finalise the scope of the plan and help us identify any further evidence requirements.

Please respond by **Wednesday 4 April**.

You can answer the consultation questions online at www.nwleics.gov.uk/localplanmysay

You can email your answers to planning.policy@nwleicestershire.gov.uk

Or you can write to

Planning Policy

North West Leicestershire District Council

Council Offices

Coalville

Leicestershire

LE67 3FJ

How do I keep in touch?

We maintain a database of people who are interested in the Local Plan and which we use for consultation purposes. If you wish to be added to this, you can submit your details through our website or send us your contact details (name, address and, if available email address) via email or by post to the addresses above.