

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| <b>SUBJECT:</b>       | <b>CENTRAL LINCOLNSHIRE JOINT STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE/LOCAL PLAN ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21</b> |
| <b>DIRECTORATE:</b>   | <b>COMMUNITIES AND ENVIRONMENT</b>  |
| <b>REPORT AUTHOR:</b> | <b>TOBY FORBES TURNER, PLANNING POLICY MANAGER</b>  |

## 1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To provide members with an annual report detailing work undertaken by the Central Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee (CLJSPC) over the period April 1st 2020 through to 31st March 2021.

## 2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The Joint Planning Committee reached its eleventh year over the course of 2020/21. This year has been very challenging with the COVID-19 pandemic which has significantly impacted on the local plan process, but more importantly on the planning and development sector, introducing uncertainty over what will be deliverable in the short term and what measures may be necessary to address COVID-19 in local plans.
- 2.2 However, substantial progress has been made with the development of the plan which has led to the Consultation Draft Local Plan being produced ready for public consultation starting the end of June 2021.

## 3. Background

- 3.1 The Local Plan (adopted in April 2017) sets out the planning policies for Central Lincolnshire (including the City) and this involves allocating parcels of land for development as well as identifying land which should be protected from development. The Plan includes a set of 57 policies which guide decision makers i.e. planning committee on future planning applications for the City

## 4. Summary of Progress

Note: clicking on the link below will take you to the relevant CLJSPC meeting minutes:

<https://democracy.n-kesteven.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CId=729&Year=0>

- 4.1 The following progress occurred in 2020/21:
- 4.2 The AGM meeting took place on 15 June 2020, with Cllr Wright (North Kesteven) being voted in as Chair for the year. This was the first of a series of virtual Committee meetings held through the year. At the meeting the following items were considered:
- the Local Plans Team Annual Report;

- the Local Plan Progress Update; and
  - the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan Budget Update.
- 4.3 The subsequent meeting took place on 21 September 2020. At this meeting the Committee considered items on:
- the revised Local Development Scheme;
  - Key Policy Direction of the Local Plan; and
  - Changes to Planning Being Consulted Upon by Government.
- 4.4 The next meeting took place on 15 March 2021. At this meeting the Committee considered items on:
- Local Plan – Facilitating a Net-Zero Carbon Central Lincolnshire; and
  - Local Plan Policy Update.
- 4.5 **Forward Look**
- 4.6 In the coming year, it is anticipated that the local plan will enter the final stages of the plan-making process. This will include:
- commencing the Regulation 18 Consultation on the Draft Local Plan in the summer, subject to approval by the Committee;
  - consideration of the responses and amending the plan where needed;
  - finalising the plan and supporting evidence;
  - seeking approval from the Committee for the submission version of the plan before undertaking the final Regulation 19 public consultation; and
  - submission of the plan for examination.
- 4.7 The focus of activity for the Local Plans Team over the coming year will be to continue to progress the Local Plan review in a timely and efficient manner, and to continue other statutory functions and reporting, such as the Five Year Land Supply, reviewing any changes to national policy and responding to neighbouring council's plans. This will include developing a better understanding of the implications of the recent mandate from CLJSPC around embedding climate change initiatives within the Local Plan, as well as maintaining a watching brief on the impacts of COVID-19 on national planning policy and likely implications of both on the contents of the plan and the time table for adoption.
- 4.8 The work of the Local Plan Team will include:
- Progressing and finalising key evidence for the Local Plan;
  - Drafting the Local Plan;
  - Undertaking the Regulation 18 'Further Draft' consultation on the Local Plan;
  - Carrying out statutory plan-making functions such as fulfilling the Duty to Cooperate and undertaking a Sustainability Appraisal and a Habitats Regulations Assessment; and
  - Maintaining existing functions such as responding to neighbouring plan consultations, producing and publishing the five year land supply report, providing planning application and appeals support where requested, and dealing with queries from the public

- 4.9 There is still some uncertainty relating to COVID-19 and how it might impact the process, but given the progress made with vaccinations and the road out of lockdown, there can be positivity that the process will not be unduly impacted.
- 4.10 Further uncertainty comes from the prospect of changes to the planning system as set out in the Planning White Paper in 2020 and the prospect of new legislation in the not-too-distant future. However, this need not impact our progress on the Local Plan but officers will continue to keep a close eye for any emerging news.
- 4.11 The focus of activity for the Local Plans Team over the coming year will be to manage this process with consultations, managing and reviewing the comments received, review of the plan and evidence and all of the associated work required to get the plan ready for submission. Alongside this the team will continue other statutory functions and reporting, such as the Five Year Land Supply, reviewing any changes to national policy and responding to neighbouring council's plans.

## **5 Budget position**

- 5.1 The budget for 2020/21 is set out in Appendix 1. This represents the second year of a three year budget approved by Members of the Joint Planning Committee on the 13th January 2020, and which is designed to ensure that the Joint Partnership is adequately supported to facilitate the Local Plan making process. Overall, the Local Plans budget is in a healthy position.

## **6. Strategic Priorities**

### **6.1 Let's drive economic growth**

The Local Plan continues to support sustainable levels of growth and regeneration for the City and Central Lincolnshire area and will provide a positive planning policy approach to help stimulate local economic growth.

### **6.2 Let's reduce inequality**

The Local Plan sets a target for and supports the provision of affordable housing across Central Lincolnshire thereby helping reduce housing inequality across the City.

### **6.3 Let's deliver quality housing**

The Local Plan sets ambitious but deliverable targets for the provision of new houses across the City through specific site allocations contained in Policy LP48 (Sustainable Urban Extensions) and Policy LP49 (Residential allocations in the Lincoln area). Policy LP11 in the Local Plan sets a target for and supports the provision of affordable housing across Central Lincolnshire.

### **6.4 Let's enhance our remarkable place**

At the heart of the Local Plan sits the vision of 'a prosperous, stronger and sustainable Central Lincolnshire' and this vision and the policies contained within the plan will help to achieve enhancing the City through growth and regeneration.

## **7. Organisational Impacts**

### **7.1 Finance (including whole life costs where applicable)**

The Local Plan contains policies that will have longer term financial implications for the City and Council as a whole most notably housing growth including affordable housing, infrastructure provision, employment and regeneration. The financial implications will be incorporated into the Medium Term Financial Strategy as the Local Plan is applied.

The Council's MTFS provides for an annual contribution to the Joint Planning Committee of £98,900.

### **7.2 Legal Implications including Procurement Rules**

None arising from this report

### **7.3 Equality, Diversity and Human Rights**

The Public Sector Equality Duty means that the Council must consider all individuals when carrying out their day-to-day work, in shaping policy, delivering services and in relation to their own employees.

It requires that public bodies have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination
- Advance equality of opportunity
- Foster good relations between different people when carrying out their activities

The Local Plan is accompanied by an Integrated Impact Assessment that assesses the potential impact of proposals (strategies, policies, programmes, projects, plans or other developments) on issues that previously may have been assessed separately, such as economic, environmental, sustainability, equal opportunities and health and wellbeing.

## **8. Risk Implications**

### **8.1 (i) Options Explored**

Not applicable

### **8.2 (ii) Key risks associated with the preferred approach**

## **9. Recommendation**

9.1 That this Annual Report be noted by members as a fair summary of activity of the CLJSPC during 2020/21

**Is this a key decision?** No

**Do the exempt information categories apply?** No

**Does Rule 15 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules (call-in and urgency) apply?** No

**How many appendices does the report contain?** 1

**List of Background Papers:** None

**Lead Officer:** Toby Forbes Turner, Planning Policy Manager  
Telephone (01522) 873804