

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>CENTRAL LINCOLNSHIRE LOCAL PLAN PRE-SUBMISSION CONSULTATION</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 brief Executive members about the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan (CLLP) Pre-Submission Consultation Draft and recommend a formal response on behalf of the Council.

## **2. Executive Summary**

- 2.1 The next version of the CLLP has been produced for pre-submission public consultation with exact dates still to be confirmed but likely starting 15<sup>th</sup> March through to 9<sup>th</sup> May 2022. Once adopted, the CLLP will replace the current Local Plan which was adopted in April 2017.
- 2.2 There are a total of 84 Policies contained within the Pre-Submission Consultation Draft version of the Local Plan with key policies including those related to climate change, housing, biodiversity, retail and employment (see Appendix 1). Following this round of consultation, the Draft Plan will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for public examination which is estimated to take place in Autumn 2022 with the plan hopefully adopted in Spring 2023.

## **3. Background**

- 3.1 In January 2019, the Central Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee (CLJSPC) took the decision to undertake a review of the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan. The decision to review the Local Plan was based on a number of factors including significant changes to National Planning Policy, revisions to how housing needs figures are calculated for Local Plans and changes to the types of homes that should be planned for in development plans. These changes cumulatively taken, meant significant elements of existing Local Plan are effectively not in conformity with national policy and open up the risk to challenge to the Plan particularly around the issue of 5 years housing land supply.
- 3.2 The first public facing stage of the review took place between 6<sup>th</sup> June 2019 and 18<sup>th</sup> July 2019 with the Issues and Options public consultation where the general principles and wider themes for the new Local Plan were consulted on for a period of 6 weeks. The second round of public consultation took place between 30 June and 24 August 2021 with the Draft Local Plan consultation which included site allocations. Executive members received a report on this consultation at their meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> July 2021.

- 3.3 The Local Plan is now entering a more advanced stage as it enters its final round of public consultation with exact dates still to be confirmed but likely starting 15<sup>th</sup> March through to 9<sup>th</sup> May 2022. It is important to understand this particular round of consultation as the Local Plan has reached a more formal stage. Although the consultation is open to everybody the crucial aspect to understand is that all representations/comments that people wish to make are not subsequently considered by officers or the Central Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee but instead are considered by an independent Planning Inspector during the public examination phase of the Plan.
- 3.4 Consultees are asked to respond to specific questions around issues of ‘soundness’ of the plan and whether the plan has been ‘positively prepared’ and ‘consistent with national policy’. These are questions which are legally required under this part of the plan making process.
- 3.5 The table below sets out the estimated timetable going forward following this final round of public consultation:

<b>Timescale (estimate)</b>	<b>Local Plan Process</b>
June 2022	After the close of consultation, officers will upload all representations to the Central Lincolnshire website, summarise key issues raised, publish all evidence base material and ‘submit’ the Local Plan to the Planning Inspectorate
Oct-Dec 2022	As soon as the Local Plan is ‘submitted’, the plan is entirely in the hands of an Inspector appointed to ‘examine’ the plan. The Inspector will consider all representations received and will hold a ‘hearing’ session as part of the examination, whereby those who wish to verbally raise their objections with the Inspector will get their chance to do so. Officers will sit at all days of the ‘hearing’ to defend the contents of the Local Plan.
Estimate March 2023	The Inspector will prepare an Inspector’s Report which will contain a list of ‘main modifications’.
Estimate April 2023	The Local Plan will become adopted replacing the 2017 Central Lincolnshire Local Plan and be used to help determine all future planning applications

#### **4. CLLP Pre-Submission Version**

- 4.1 The last version of the plan seen by Executive members was the Consultation Draft produced for consultation June-August 2021. The consultation focused on an online consultation hub which contained all of the key documents including the plan and provided direct links to maps showing the geographic representation of the plan and supporting evidence. Hard copies of the key documents were placed at Council receptions and at libraries across Central Lincolnshire.

- 4.2 Nearly 400 people or organisations responded to the consultation with in-excess of 2,000 comments in relation to the policies in the plan or the supporting information.
- 4.3 Following the consultation on the draft Local Plan in the summer of 2021, Local Plan officers went through all of the responses received and reviewed each policy in light of the comments received. Officers in the Local Plan Team held discussions with officers at the districts (including Development Management Teams) to go through the policies and have agreed a number of proposed changes to the plan and the policies within it. In some instances, additional evidence work has also been undertaken which will be completed to publish alongside the Local Plan when it is consulted upon in the spring.

#### 4.4 Main Changes of Note

At their meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022, members of the Central Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee received a report which provided a high-level summary of changes that are proposed to be made to policies throughout the plan in response to the previous consultation and following discussions between officers from each of the partner authorities.

- 4.5 The table below identifies some of main changes of note which have been made to policies including policies around Climate Change:

Old Policy No.	New Policy No.	Policy Title	Changes
N/a	S6	Design Principles for Efficient Buildings	New policy proposed to embed the energy hierarchy (presented in paragraph 3.2.3 in the draft plan) into policy. This will seek designs to prioritise orientation, built form, built fabric, and then heat supply sources and generation of renewable energy to ensure buildings are as efficient as they can be.
S6	S7	Reducing Energy Consumption - Residential Development	Changes proposed to take account of the new Policy S6 above. Proposals to amend the monitoring requirements for major developments in response to concerns about deliverability.
S7	S8	Reducing Energy Consumption – Non Residential Buildings	Changes proposed to take account of the new Policy S6 above. Proposals to amend the monitoring requirements for major developments in response to concerns about deliverability

S8	S9	Decentralised Energy Networks and Combined Heat and Power	Additional supporting text provided to highlight government work being undertaken to identify heat network zones to assist in understanding how this policy may be applied in relevant cases.
S10	S11	Embodied Carbon	Additional requirement added to prioritise the retention, repair, refurbish and re-use of buildings over demolition and rebuild to reduce the wastage of embodied carbon.
S13	S14	Renewable Energy	<p>2km buffers proposed to be added to settlements outside of Central Lincolnshire which are equivalent of those where 2km buffers applied within Central Lincolnshire (Small Villages and larger). One additional airfield at Temple Bruer has been brought to the attention of the Local Plan Team and has been added to the mapped constraints with a 5km buffer, consistent with other airfields. No other changes are proposed to the initial sieve criteria.</p> <p>Some minor wording changes proposed to the policy to make it clearer, but not changing the thrust or coverage.</p> <p>Additional proposed requirement for ground-based PV to maximise opportunities for biodiversity net gain.</p>
S17	S18	Electric Vehicle Charging	No changes proposed at this time, but Government recently announced intentions to update the building regulations to require EV charging in new dwellings. Progress on this will continue to be monitored
S18	S19	Fossil Fuel Exploration, Extraction, Production or Energy Generation	Whilst objections from LCC are noted regarding the remit of this local plan in relation to fossil fuel exploration, extraction or production, given this is such a key factor in

			delivering a carbon net zero region it is proposed to be retained but with changes to the supporting text and policy to make it clear that it does not relate to 'County development'
S46	S47	Accessibility and Transport	Supporting text proposed to be updated to take account of the LTP5 which is being produced by LCC. Additional requirements for strategic transport infrastructure in relation to impacts on level crossings and better road and rail interaction and delivering biodiversity net gains in highways infrastructure are proposed to be added
S60	S61	Biodiversity Opportunity and Delivering Measurable Net Gains	Proposed update to supporting text in relation to the Environment Act and to add information in about the Natural England Biodiversity Metric which the government appears to be supporting. Some additional minor wording is proposed to aid clarity.  Updates proposed to the policy to bring it more in line with the Environment Act and better align to the Local Nature Recovery Strategy and generally make the policy more deliverable.
S75	S76	Residential Development from Sustainable Urban Extensions	Figures for delivery of housing from SUEs will be updated taking into account the latest monitoring information available.
		Site allocations	Comments against sites considered and status has been reviewed. Sites that have or are nearly complete have been removed as allocations, sites with permission for 10 or more dwellings between 1 April 2020 and 31 March 2021 have been added as allocations. Some additional changes have also been made but there are also some ongoing

			assessments before the situation is finalised on some sites.
S76	S77	Housing Sites - Lincoln Urban Area	COL/CAS/002 – Land at Yarborough Leisure Centre, Lincoln – site subject of a live application for student accommodation so proposed to be removed as a housing site allocation.

4.6 The plan was brought before the Central Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee on 28<sup>th</sup> February where members gave approval for the Pre-Submission version of the Plan to be publicly consulted on for a period of 7 weeks with final dates to be confirmed but likely starting 15<sup>th</sup> March 2022 until 9<sup>th</sup> May 2022.

#### 4.7 **City Council Formal Response**

4.8 As mentioned in paragraph 3.3, this round of consultation is markedly different compared to previous consultations and reflects the more advanced nature of the Local Plan. In terms of the consultation response form, consultees are asked to respond to specific questions around issues of ‘soundness’ of the plan, whether the plan is ‘justified’, has been ‘positively prepared’, is ‘consistent with national policy’ and ‘legally compliant’. These are questions which are legally required under this part of the plan making process. (See Appendix 2)

4.9 Officers from the City Council’s Planning Team, led by the Planning Policy Manager have been closely involved in the Local Plan review process from the outset working alongside officers from the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan Team. This has helped ensure that the draft Local Plan contains policies which provide a positive planning framework for decision makers and will help to promote and support the continuing levels of sustainable growth for Lincoln, and Central Lincolnshire as a whole. Continuing support for the Local Plan at this stage will help ensure its successful journey through to formal adoption.

#### 4.10 **Next Steps**

4.11 As set out in the table in para 3.5, following this final round of public consultation the Local Plan will be taken forward to the next stage in the process including an examination in public and ultimately through to successful adoption of the plan which is estimated in Spring 2023.

### 5. **Strategic Priorities**

#### 5.1 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.

## 5.2 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.

## 5.3 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 and supports the provision of affordable housing across Lincoln.

## 5.4 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.

## 5.5 Let's address the challenge of climate change

The Local Plan contains an ambitious range of policies which aim to help tackle and mitigate the impacts of climate change.

# 6. **Organisational Impacts**

## 6.1 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.

## 6.2 Legal Implications including Procurement Rules

None arising from this report.

## 6.3 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.

## **7. Risk Implications**

### **7.1 (i) Options Explored**

Not supporting the Pre-Submission Local Plan could result in the Plan being delayed or in a worst-case scenario not being adopted which could weaken the Council's ability plan for the City's growth in a sustainable manner.

### **7.2 (ii) Key Risks Associated with the Preferred Approach**

None.

## **8. Recommendation**

8.1 Members are recommended to support the Pre-Submission version of the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan and agree to officers responding to the consultation by agreeing that the Plan has been 'Positively Prepared, is 'Justified', is 'Effective', is 'Consistent with national policy' and is 'In compliance with the Duty to Co-Operate' as set out in Appendix 2.

**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?** 2

**List of Background Papers:** None

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