

SUBJECT: CENTRAL LINCOLNSHIRE JOINT STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE/LOCAL PLAN ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23

DIRECTORATE: COMMUNITIES AND ENVIRONMENT

REPORT AUTHOR: TOBY FORBES TURNER, PLANNING POLICY MANAGER

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 2022 through to 31st March 2023.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The Joint Planning Committee reached its thirteenth year over the course of 2022/23. This year has seen the successful examination and adoption of the second Central Lincolnshire Local Plan.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Local Plan (adopted in April 2023) 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 84 policies which guide decision makers i.e. planning committee on future planning applications for the City.

4. Summary of Progress

Note: clicking on the dates below will take you to the relevant CLJSPC meeting minutes, or alternatively go to:

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

- 4.1 The following progress occurred in 2022/23:
- 4.2 The AGM meeting took place on [6 June 2022](#) (please click the links in the bulleted list below to view the items considered), with Cllr Metcalfe (City of Lincoln) being voted in as Chair for the year. At the meeting the following items were considered:
- [the Local Plans Team Annual Report](#);
 - Local Plan Process/Consultation Update – verbal update, no report; and
 - [the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan Budget Update](#).
- 4.3 At this meeting the Committee approved the annual report as a fair reflection of the activity of the Committee over the year, noted the update on the Local Plan and approved the budget and staffing structure for the Local Plans Team

4.4 As the plan was at examination the meeting on 19 September was cancelled and the subsequent meeting took place after the examination hearings had completed on [9 January 2023](#). At this meeting the Committee considered an item on:

- [The Statement of Community Involvement](#).

4.5 The Statement of Community Involvement is a document which sets out how and when consultation will take place during the preparation of Local Plans and other planning documents, during planning applications and in the preparation of neighbourhood plans. It is required by legislation and needs to be updated every 5 years. The Committee approved the Statement of Community Involvement for adoption.

4.6 The next and final meeting took place on [13 April 2023](#). At this meeting the Committee considered items on:

- [Central Lincolnshire Local Plan Adoption](#);
- [Local Plan Supporting Guidance](#); and
- [Update to CLJSPC Memorandum of Understanding and Standing Orders](#).

4.7 The Committee adopted the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan, incorporating changes recommended by the Inspectors and other minor changes presented, and endorsed the Policies Map. The Committee also approved the supporting guidance on Biodiversity Net Gain and Energy Efficiency in buildings for publication and approved the updated Standing Orders, also recommending that the updated Memorandum of Understanding be approved by each of the Partner Authorities.

4.8 **Forward Look**

4.9 At the end of a plan-making cycle there is an important opportunity to regroup, reflect on the work undertaken and start to plan for the future. In the coming year, the focus of work will be around implementation of the plan, reviewing evidence, rebuilding the Local Plan Team following the end of the Peterborough SLA. This will include:

- Working closely with Districts in ensuring consistent and efficient implementation of the Local Plan. This will likely include the publication of additional informal guidance notes.
- Working closely with Districts to address the emerging challenges from Biodiversity Net Gain which will become mandatory in November for major developments and small developments in April 2024.
- Completing the recruitment to the team following the end of the Peterborough SLA in March, and developing a project plan for reviewing evidence.
- Keeping up to date with changes to national policy and legislation.

4.10 **Local Plans Team Staffing Overview**

4.11 Since the last annual update in 2022, the SLA for staffing of the Local Plans from Peterborough City Council is no longer in place. In response to this change two new officers were recruited to the team this spring, with one post remaining vacant. Therefore at present the Local Plans Team is operating with 3 Planning Policy

Officers and one manager – significantly fewer than when the Joint Planning Unit was established, and also fewer than when the SLA was in place.

- 4.12 To ensure that the Local Plans Team is effective going forward, and in response to an absence of interest in the advertised posts from officers with significant experience, the fourth position in the team is being revised to principal level. Following a successful recruitment process, a suitably qualified and experienced Principal level officer was appointed in August. Whilst there will be cost implications from this revised role, it will remain within budget for the three year budget period.

4.13 **Budget Position**

- 4.14 As part of the budget review process, a review of the future work programme of the Joint Committee and the structure of the Local Plans Team required to support it has also been undertaken.

- 4.15 Overall, since the creation of the Central Lincolnshire Partnership in 2010, the Partner Authorities have secured a 42% reduction in the budget costs associated with Local Plan making, as per the following summary of contribution costs:

- 4.16 2010: Partner Authority contribution: £171,400
2014: Partner Authority contribution: £146,000
2020: Partner Authority contribution: £98,900

- 4.17 Appendix 1 to this report sets out the expenditure for last financial year (2022/23) and compares it against the expected expenditure for the year. This shows that there was a significant underspend of £61,256 (£368,844 spent against an anticipated £430,100). This underspend was a result of factors including:

- Examination costs being lower than expected
- Staffing costs being lower than expected
- Consultancy costs (including from the Peterborough SLA) being lower than expected

- 4.18 As was reported, and as agreed by Central Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee, in the budget review in 2022, the next budget review cycle (now in two years' time) will need consider the funding levels from the Partner Authorities and the role of establishing and maintaining a reserve fund for future years. For the 2026/27 financial year or before, additional partnership funds must be secured to ensure that the partnership is fully funded over the forecast 10-year term.

5. **Strategic Priorities**

5.1 Let's drive inclusive 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 all kinds of 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 be 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.

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 sets in place a number of ambitious policies which seek to reduce carbon emissions from new developments as well as encouraging renewable energy that will seek to reduce the impact 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.

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

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 applicable

7.2 (ii) Key risks associated with the preferred approach

None

8. Recommendation

8.1 That this Annual Report be noted by members as a fair summary of activity of the CLJSPC during 2022/23

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

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