

**SUBJECT:** CENTRAL LINCOLNSHIRE JOINT STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE/LOCAL PLAN ANNUAL REPORT 2023/24

**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 2023 through to 31st March 2024.

## 2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The Joint Planning Committee reached its fourteenth year over the course of 2023/24. This year has followed the adoption of the second Central Lincolnshire Local Plan in April 2023.

## 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 2023/24:
- 4.2 The AGM meeting took place on [26 June 2023](#) (please click the links in the bulleted list below to view the items considered), with Cllr Wright (North Kesteven District Council) being voted in as Chair for the year. At the meeting the following items were considered:
- Local Plans Team Annual Report;
  - Central Lincolnshire Budget Update; [and](#)
  - Draft Planning Obligations SPD for consultation.
- 4.3 At this meeting, the Committee approved the annual report as a fair reflection of the activity of the Committee over the year. The Committee also approved the budget for the Local Plans Team for 2023/24 and agreed with the recommendation to undertake a review of the contribution levels from the Central Lincolnshire

authorities. It also approved the draft Planning Obligations SPD to go out to consultation.

- 4.4 The Committee's meeting was postponed from 18 September to [16 October 2023](#) to allow for the responses to the Planning Obligations Consultation to be collated and reviewed by officers. At this meeting the Committee considered items on:
- Planning Obligations SPD Proposed for Adoption; and
  - Update on Government Consultation on changes to Plan-making.
- 4.5 The Committee considered the responses to the consultation on the draft Planning Obligations SPD and decided to adopt the document. The Committee received a detailed update on the proposals from Government to change the plan-making system. This was followed by a discussion about the impacts of the proposals and what this would mean for Central Lincolnshire. The Committee noted the government proposals.
- 4.6 The next and final meeting took place on [18 March 2024](#). At this meeting the Committee formally recognised the contributions of Cllr Metcalfe to the joint Committee to mark his retirement. It also considered items on:
- Local Plans Update, Authority-wide Design Code and Local Development Scheme;
  - Biodiversity Net Gain update; and
  - 2024-29 Central Lincolnshire Housing Delivery Plan.
- 4.7 The Committee noted the contents of the Local Plans update and approved the Local Plans Team to start preparing an Authority-wide Design Code and approved the publication of a revised Local Development Scheme and Local Plans Timetable. The Committee noted a report and presentation on Biodiversity Net Gain, including an in-depth discussion about the new rules with the shared Principal Ecologist. The Committee also approved the publication of the 2024-29 Central Lincolnshire Housing Growth Delivery Plan.
- 4.8 Since the Local Plan was adopted in April 2023, the Local Plans Manager has successfully recruited two Planning Policy Officers, one Principal Planning Policy Officer and one Principal Wildlife and Ecology Officer to the team. This provides a full accompaniment of staff for the core Local Plan and statutory Biodiversity Net Gain Duties at this time.
- 4.9 These roles are now well established and are officers are progressing planning activities across Central Lincolnshire, strengthening the service of the Local Plans Team and assisting in the implementation of the plan.
- 4.10 The Team has also been successful in securing government funding to deliver an integrated mapping and engagement system to further enhance the service. This is currently in the early stages of being set up.
- 4.11 **Forward Look**
- 4.12 Since the Local Plan was adopted, the focus has been on rebuilding the team and on establishing monitoring arrangements for the plan. Significant progress has

been made with these with all vacant roles now being filled and a monitoring framework having been developed and agreed with officers at the districts.

4.13 The Central Lincolnshire Team continue to support development management colleagues at the Central Lincolnshire Partner Authorities in applying the plan in decision-making.

4.14 Work has also now commenced on preparing an Authority-wide Design Code and setting up the mapping and engagement system and this will involve a number of stages of engagement this year as the Design Code is shaped and developed as a framework for Central Lincolnshire.

4.15 With the new change in National Government there is much uncertainty about what will happen with planning at a national level. This situation will be closely monitored and a key aim of the Local Plans Team will be to be ready to act to ensure that Central Lincolnshire has robust and up to date planning policy.

#### 4.16 **Budget Position**

4.17 Appendix 1 to this report sets out the expenditure for last financial year (2023/24) and compares it against the expected expenditure for the year.

4.18 This shows that there was a substantial underspend of £56,286 (£284,414 spent against an anticipated £340,700). This underspend was a result of factors including staffing costs being lower than expected, partly due to recruitment not completing until part way through the year and consultancy costs being lower than expected

4.19 As was reported in last years report, and as agreed by Central Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee, the next budget review cycle will consider the funding levels from the Partner Authorities and the role of establishing and maintaining a reserve fund for future years. For the 2025/26 financial year additional partnership funds must be secured to ensure that the partnership is fully funded over the forecast 10-year term.

4.20 At its committee meeting on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2024, the Central Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee will be considering a budget report prepared by the Local Plans Manager with input from Chief Finance Officers (including Lincoln) and Heads of Planning Officers (including Lincoln) with a proposal to have a phased increase in partner contributions starting at £138,000 in 2025/26 up to £153,533 in 2028/29.

### **Strategic Priorities**

#### **5.**

##### 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 MTFS as the Local Plan is applied.

The revised partner contributions from 2025/26 onwards, as set out in paragraph 4.20 above, will result in the following budget increases over the current MTFS period:

	<b>2025/26</b> <b>£</b>	<b>2026/27</b> <b>£</b>	<b>2027/28</b> <b>£</b>	<b>2028/29</b> <b>£</b>
Current MTFS	98,900	100,880	102,900	104,960
Revised contribution	138,000	145,067	148,333	153,533
<b>Increase</b>	<b>39,100</b>	<b>44,187</b>	<b>45,433</b>	<b>48,573</b>

These increases will need to be factored into the revised MTFS 2025-2030 and will form part of the next annual budget setting process. Corresponding savings in other cash-limited budgets will be required to offset these increases.

### 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 2023/24

**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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