



Local Plan Task Group
Wednesday, 1st July, 2020 at 11.00 am
in the Remote Meeting on Zoom and available for the
public to view on WestNorfolkBC on You Tube - Zoom
and You Tube

Reports marked to follow on the Agenda and/or Supplementary Documents

1. **Local Plan Review - Update on Progress** (Pages 2 - 4)

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Local Plan Review – update on progress

Report of Planning Policy Manager

1. Introduction

1.1 Until the lockdown the Local Plan Task Group (LPTG) was having regular meetings to progress changes to the Local Plan Review (LPR) document in the light of consultation responses and Government requirements. Significant progress had been made to revise sections of the LPR with the aim of publishing a revised version (the 'Pre-Submission' version) in the autumn. Clearly circumstances have prevented Member meetings to review further changes.

1.2 However, officers have been progressing their analysis of comments and have continued writing suggested amended text and policies. We have also been preparing up to date monitoring of housing permissions and completions as at 1 April, which is a vital component of the LPR, and enable us to plan with certainty for the correct number of houses / sites needed in the LPR. In addition studies supporting the LPR continue, these will support the plan process.

2. Work undertaken on the LPR since March

2.1 Housing trajectory – As mentioned above. This also gives the 5yr land supply figure, and inputs to the Housing Delivery Test. (A separate report on the agenda will give details of this work).

2.2 Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (updating)– An analysis of factors affecting 'sustainability' in the Borough, it is agreed by the statutory bodies (Natural England etc), and ensures we measure the correct features when appraising the value of having a Plan.

2.3 Continuing analysis of consultee comments and drafting revisions to policy / text wording – This is the biggest task and is what Members have previously seen presented to Task Group meetings.

2.4 There are still outstanding pieces of work which support the LPR, among these awaiting completion are:

- BC Climate change studies
- Strategic Housing Market Assessment
- Older persons study

- Gypsy accommodation requirements

2.5 There are other supporting documents such as Local Plan Viability; Habitat Regulation Assessment; which whilst commissioned await a final draft plan version to conclude their work. Where possible officers have included emerging conclusions into the redrafting work undertaken.

3. Proposal for taking the LPR forward

3.1 It has become apparent in undertaking this work that significant changes have occurred since the consultation in March last year, principally around the housing requirement, which affects every aspect of the next version of the LPR such that an incremental approach of dealing with chapters or topics on a rolling basis is less efficient than producing **one new combined document**. To have a draft of the whole LPR document enables each set of topic policies to be seen in the context of the whole plan.

3.2 We hope this will enable Members to take an overview of the LPR document. It still requires reference back to the consultation responses and the Sustainability Appraisal to enable Members to take a balanced view of the changes proposed, but these will be available electronically.

3.3 The attached diagram, at Appendix 1, shows how the process to a Cabinet ready plan might happen. Essentially officers would present a whole draft plan (rather than sections at a time) and Members can debate the whole document (over a number of meetings) in the context of consultation responses and the sustainability appraisal results and any new evidence.

3.4 Our Local Development Scheme (the LPR timetable) notes we should publish a draft revised plan in the autumn. The dates on the diagram show a very tight timetable to achieve this. Notwithstanding the current pandemic useful progress has been made with the Review, and the suggestions above seem a way to consolidate that work.

APPENDIX 1

Local Plan Review outline of process to achieve a draft final document by the Task Group.

As separate paper on the Agenda, page 48.