

SOUTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE JOINT STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

Report of: South East Lincolnshire Joint Policy Unit Manager

To: South East Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee (the Joint Committee) – 24 July 2015

(Author: Gary Alexander, South East Lincolnshire Joint Policy Unit Manager)

Subject: South East Lincolnshire Local Plan: Spatial Strategy Background Paper

Purpose: To seek approval for the Spatial Strategy Background Paper to inform further work on the preparation of the South East Lincolnshire Local Plan including future public consultation exercises

Recommendations:

- 1) That Members consider the contents of this report and the attached Draft Spatial Strategy Background Paper;
- 2) That Members agree, with or without revisions, to approve the Draft Spatial Strategy Background Paper; and
- 3) That the final version of the Spatial Strategy Background Paper forms part of the published supporting documentation accompanying subsequent stages of Local Plan preparation.

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The preparation of the emerging South East Lincolnshire Local Plan (the Local Plan) has, to date, involved the consideration of a wide range of evidence (including the results of public consultation), issues and processes, and this will continue to be the case as progress is made towards final adoption of the Local Plan. In order to inform full appreciation of the reasoning behind the courses of action that have been, and will be, taken in respect of some of the key aspects of plan preparation, there is a need to produce some 'background papers' on certain matters. These will serve to supplement the more subject-specific bodies of evidence in explaining to the public at large, various interest groups and, in particular, the independent Inspector at the Local Plan Examination, how emerging and final Local Plan proposals have been determined.
- 1.2 The 'Spatial Strategy Background Paper' which forms **Appendix 1** to this report is the first of what will be several such documents to be presented to the Joint Committee for approval. By seeking Joint Committee approval at the earliest opportunity, these papers can be brought into the public domain and, thereby, help to lend transparency to the process of preparing the Local Plan and support more effective engagement with all concerned during formal periods of public consultation. Moreover, in gaining Joint Committee approval for these papers, both Members and officers become better placed to reach agreement on how certain, often complex, matters should be addressed.

1.3 The Spatial Strategy Background Paper sets out some of the fundamental changes in the direction of Local Plan preparation that have taken place since public consultation on 'The Combined Preferred Options and Sustainability Appraisal Report' was undertaken in May/June of 2013. It particularly focuses on the proposed revised settlement hierarchy for South East Lincolnshire (detailed in section 7 of the Background Paper), which will serve to provide residential development opportunities across a wider range of settlements, notwithstanding previous concerns about the issue of flood risk.

2.0 **OPTIONS**

2.1 Members can choose to accept the contents of the Draft Spatial Strategy Background Paper which, in the main, are a factual statement of plan-preparation activities.

2.2 Alternatively, Members can suggest changes to the document which would enhance its utility.

2.3 Finally, by not approving the document (the 'Do Nothing' option), Members would lend uncertainty to the plan-preparation process which could lead to delays in meeting the Local Plan timetable agreed by the Joint Committee at its last meeting.

3.0 **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

3.1 The reasons for the recommendations are to provide local planning authority approval on the future course of Local Plan preparation.

4.0 **EXPECTED BENEFITS**

4.1 By approving the recommendations, Members will serve to support the preparation of the Local Plan in accordance with the published timetable.

5.0 **IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 **Carbon Footprint / Environmental Issues**

5.1.1 It is the opinion of the Report Author that there are no implications.

5.2 **Constitution & Legal**

5.2.1 It is the opinion of the Report Author that there are no implications.

5.3 **Contracts**

5.3.1 It is the opinion of the Report Author that there are no implications.

5.4 **Corporate Priorities**

5.4.1 It is the opinion of the Report Author that there are no implications.

5.5 **Crime and Disorder**

5.5.1 It is the opinion of the Report Author that there are no implications.

5.6 **Equality and Diversity / Human Rights**

5.6.1 It is the opinion of the Report Author that there are no implications.

5.7 **Financial**

5.7.1 It is the opinion of the Report Author that there are no implications.

5.8 **Health & Wellbeing**

5.8.1 It is the opinion of the Report Author that there are no implications.

5.9 **Risk Management**

5.9.1 It is the opinion of the Report Author that there are no implications.

5.10 **Safeguarding**

5.10.1 It is the opinion of the Report Author that there are no implications.

5.11 **Staffing**

5.11.1 It is the opinion of the Report Author that there are no implications.

5.12 **Stakeholders / Consultation / Timescales**

5.12.1 It is the opinion of the Report Author that failure to approve the Draft Spatial Strategy Background Paper may serve to impact on officers' ability to meet the Local Plan timetable milestones set out in the statutorily-prepared South East Lincolnshire Local Development Scheme.

6.0 **WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED**

6.1 All wards are affected as it relates to the preparation of the South East Lincolnshire Local Plan

Background papers:- None

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This report refers to a Mandatory Service

Appendices attached to this report:

Appendix 1 : South East Lincolnshire Local Plan: Spatial Strategy Background Paper