

SOUTH HOLLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report of: South East Lincolnshire Joint Policy Unit Manager

To: South East Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee (the Joint Committee)

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

Subject: South East Lincolnshire Local Plan: Draft Local Plan

Purpose: To seek approval of the Draft Local Plan for the purpose of public consultation

Recommendations:

- 1) That Members consider the contents of this report and the attached Appendices A and B;
- 2) That Members agree to approve, in principle, the contents of Appendix A and B, with or without revisions, for the purpose of public consultation;
- 3) That, following 2) above, authority be delegated to officers to make any necessary changes to the content of Appendix A in respect of matters relating to presentation or factual correction or updating; and
- 4) That the final version of Appendix B forms part of the published supporting documentation accompanying subsequent stages of Local Plan preparation.

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 At its last meeting on 11 September, 2015, the South East Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee (the Joint Committee) considered the first of two reports relating to the approval of the contents of the Draft Local Plan for the purpose of public consultation. This first report dealt with the contents of the 'Policies Map Insets' for all seventy-five settlements in the proposed South East Lincolnshire spatial strategy (see Policy 2 in Appendix A).
- 1.2 Following approval of the Policies Map Insets with amendments in September, the primary purpose of this report is now to seek approval of the contents of the Draft Local Plan 'written statement' (which forms Appendix A) for the purpose of public consultation. The written statement contains all the Draft Local Plan policies, many of which find spatial expression in the previously-approved Policies Map Insets.
- 1.3 The preparation of the written statement has taken slightly longer to prepare than originally programmed and, consequently, the planned public consultation exercise relating to the full contents of the Draft Local Plan is now scheduled to commence on **Friday, 8 January 2016 and last for six weeks** (see section 8.0 of this report for further information).

2.0 WRITTEN STATEMENT

- 2.1 The written statement which forms Appendix A to this report sets out the vision for South East Lincolnshire, the strategic priorities for the area and thirty-two policies to guide the development and use of land within it. Most of the policies can be split into two categories: those providing strategic direction and those providing general guidance on day-to-day

development-management matters. The remainder relate to site-specific proposals for development.

- 2.2 Within the written statement, each boxed policy is followed by a section setting out the 'justification' for it. Prior to each policy box is an 'options considered' section which details the different approaches to policy formulation that have been considered. The choice of preferred option has been informed by a process of 'sustainability appraisal'. A second process of sustainability appraisal has then been applied to the emerging policy to inform its final wording.

3.0 BACKGROUND PAPER

- 3.1 In support of the preparation of the written statement, officers have prepared a further draft background paper which forms Appendix B to this report. Titled 'A strategy for the delivery of a further phase of the Spalding Western Relief Road and major housing growth in Spalding', the document provides the justification for the Draft Local Plan Policy 13: 'A sustainable urban extension for housing development in Spalding'.

4.0 OPTIONS

- 4.1 Members can choose to accept the contents of Appendices A and B.
- 4.2 Alternatively, Members can suggest changes to the documents which would enhance their utility.
- 4.3 Finally, by not approving the documents (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.

5.0 REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

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

6.0 EXPECTED BENEFITS

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

7.0 IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Carbon Footprint / Environmental Issues

- 7.1.1 This report concerns the general location of future housing and other developments across South East Lincolnshire which will have implications for carbon footprint/environmental issues.

7.2 Constitution & Legal

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

7.3 Contracts

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

7.4 Corporate Priorities

7.4.1 The completed South East Lincolnshire Local Plan will help to deliver corporate priorities relating to the development and use of land and buildings.

7.5 Crime and Disorder

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

7.6 Equality and Diversity / Human Rights

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

7.7 Financial

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

7.8 Health & Wellbeing

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

7.9 Risk Management

7.9.1 Failure to achieve the timely adoption of the South East Lincolnshire Local Plan could prejudice the Joint Committee's ability to retain control over its preparation.

7.10 Safeguarding

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

7.11 Staffing

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

7.12 Stakeholders / Consultation / Timescales

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

8.0 PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THE DRAFT LOCAL PLAN

8.1 As stated in paragraph 1.3 of this report, formal consultation on the Draft Local Plan will commence on Friday, 8 January 2016 and last for six weeks. All comments must be received by 5 pm on Friday, 19 February 2016.

8.2 The consultation documents will include the Draft Local Plan (comprising the Policies Map Insets and written statement) and the Joint Committee-approved background papers.

8.3 In order to provide further assistance in understanding the contents of the Draft Local Plan, the following documents will be available to supplement the documents making up the Local Plan evidence base:

- a non-technical summary of the sustainability appraisal;
- an interim statement on the 'duty to cooperate'; and
- a draft version of the South East Lincolnshire Infrastructure Delivery Plan.

8.4 Public consultation events will be held at the following locations from 3.30 to 7.30 pm:

- Pinchbeck Village Hall, *Wednesday 13 January*;
- Sutton Bridge Curlew Centre, *Friday, 15 January*;
- Long Sutton Market House, *Monday, 18 January*;
- Kirton Town Hall, *Wednesday, 20 January*;
- Donington Ruby Hunt Centre, *Friday, 22 January*;
- Sutterton Village Hall, *Monday, 25 January*;
- Gedney Hill Memorial Hall, *Tuesday, 26 January*;
- Holbeach Community Centre, *Thursday, 28 January*;
- Surfleet Village Hall, *Tuesday, 2 February*; and
- Cowbit Village Hall, *Wednesday, 10 February*.

8.5 Details relating to a public consultation event in Swineshead remain to be confirmed.

8.6 Permanent displays will be held at the Boston Borough Council and South Holland District Council offices during normal open hours.

Background papers:- None

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This report refers to a Mandatory Service

Appendices attached to this report:

Appendix A: Draft Local Plan

Appendix B: Local Plan Background Paper: A strategy for the delivery of a further phase of the Spalding Western Relief Road and major housing growth in Spalding