

SOUTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE JOINT STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

Report of: The South East Lincolnshire Joint Policy Unit Manager

To: South East Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee –
2 August 2013

(Author: Gary Alexander, Joint Policy Unit Manager)

Subject: Planning Advisory Service Review of the emerging South East
Lincolnshire Local Plan

Purpose: To inform members of the contents of the draft report

Recommendation:

That Members note the contents of this report and the attached Appendix containing the Planning Advisory Service Draft Report.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Members will recall that, at its meeting on 5th April 2013, the South East Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee (the Joint Committee) resolved to approve the contents of the **Combined Preferred Options and Sustainability Appraisal Report** (Committee Version [April 2013]) for the purpose of public consultation subject to making a small number of amendments. This decision represented a significant milestone in the current preparation of the Strategy and Policies Development Plan Document element of the South East Lincolnshire Local Plan (Local Plan).
- 1.2 In view of this progress, and having regard to the increasing complexity of the requirements relating to Local Plan preparation, particularly following the publication of the Government's National Planning Policy Framework, officers decided to ask the Local Government Association's Planning Advisory Service (PAS) to undertake a free 'Plan Review and Risk Assessment' of the work undertaken to date. Following this request, PAS appointed consultants, POS Enterprises Ltd, to undertake the assessment on its behalf.
- 1.3 The assessment has involved a 'high-level appraisal' of evidence documents and the Combined Preferred Options and Sustainability Appraisal Report supplied by the Joint Policy Unit Manager, a workshop with officers from the Joint Policy Unit and Lincolnshire County Council (held on 10 June) and the preparation of a draft report, the purpose of which is to identify areas of risk for the Joint Committee and the Joint Policy Unit to consider in progressing preparation of the Local Plan. Officers are currently in the process of responding to the consultants in respect of a few minor queries and factual corrections.

2.0 THE DRAFT REPORT

2.1 The draft report is attached as **Appendix A** for information and the Joint Policy Unit Manager will discuss its principal findings with Members at the meeting. Suffice it to note, the draft report represents a favourable critique of the Local Plan work undertaken to date but concludes that the key risks in respect of future work are in relation to:

- *being able to demonstrate successful cooperation with neighbouring local planning authorities beyond South East Lincolnshire;*
- *allied to that, setting a housing target which is defensible at examination;*
- *developing adequate evidence on plan-wide viability, particularly in relation to the strategic development locations;*
- *incorporating coherent mechanisms for the delivery of the plan strategy and dealing with contingencies, particularly in relation to the two large sustainable urban extensions and the potential role of neighbourhood development plans; and*
- *dealing with the dependencies between development and infrastructure.*

Background papers:- None

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Key Decision: No

Exempt Decision: No

Appendices attached to this report:

Appendix A: South East Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee – Review of the emerging local plan