

Report of	Meeting	Date
Central Lancashire Planning Local Plan Coordinator	Central Lancashire Strategic Planning Joint Advisory Committee	25.01.2021

## CENTRAL LANCASHIRE LOCAL PLAN UPDATE

### RECOMMENDATION(S)

1. To note the contents of this report.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REPORT

2. This report provides an update on the progress of the development of the Central Lancashire Local Plan.

Confidential report Please bold as appropriate	Yes	No

### REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

(If the recommendations are accepted)

3. None, for information only.

### ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

4. None.

### LOCAL PLAN PROGRESS – ISSUES AND OPTIONS OUTCOMES REPORTS

- 1.1 Outcomes reports have been prepared summarising the responses received to the main Issues and Options Consultation and the Youth Questionnaire. The Central Lancashire Local Plan Issues and options consultation ran from Monday the 18th November 2019 until Friday 14th February 2020.
- 1.2 The outcomes reports will be published on the Central Lancashire Local Plan website and we are also proposing to notify stakeholders that it has been published and is available to download online.

### PREFERRED OPTIONS DEVELOPMENT

- 1.3 The Local Plan team have been progressing work on developing the Preferred Options plan. This work has focused on a limited number of areas initially whilst waiting to hear on the planning white paper, however it has been agreed at the JAC on 10th November, that the team should progress with developing the plan in line with existing planning guidance. This is based on the time considered

necessary for any changes to come through parliament to enact changes to the planning system. Both Members and Officers agreed that there is a need to progress work to ensure we can work towards delivering and up to date NPPF compliant Local Plan and secure a five year housing land supply across all 3 councils.

- 1.4 Draft policies and an updated Vision and Objectives are currently being worked on and it is intended to bring draft policies to the Working Group in the Spring.

## **SITE ASSESSMENT WORK**

- 1.5 Work on Site Assessment has progressed and all 3 councils have or are nearly at, completion of their initial review of the additional sites received as part of call for sites 3, and any additional sites which came back in to consideration following the update to the SHELAA methodology which took account of comments received through the Issues and Option consultation.
- 1.6 The Central Team are now starting to undertake a more detailed assessment of these sites, looking at their suitability for potential allocation in the Local Plan, with a view to visiting sites with potential for allocation in the Spring. This work will take account of the findings of the recently completed Strategic Flood Risk Assessment.
- 1.7 The comments received on sites through the consultation process will also be used to assist in the assessment of sites. Information has been received on a number of the site suggestions from local communities close to the development, as well as statutory consultees and land promoters.
- 1.8 Once the potential sites have been assessed, the Central Team will review the land requirements for Housing and Employment needs and assess whether there is sufficient land identified to meet this need. Should insufficient land be available, we will need to revisit the approach set out in the SHELAA to consider other land options.

## **2. EVIDENCE DOCUMENTS**

### **STRATEGIC FLOOD RISK ASSESSMENT (SFRA)**

- 2.1 A draft SFRA was presented to members at the last meeting. This has now progressed and been reviewed in detail by officers from the 3 Councils and a final report is expected towards the end of January.

### **HOUSING STUDY**

- 2.2 An update to the Housing Study, prepared by Consultants Icen, was expected to be undertaken in 2020 to reflect the economic growth aspirations of the region leading on from work being undertaken to support the Greater Lancashire Plan. However, delays were incurred in commissioning that way

due to Covid, and that, coupled with the consultation the Planning White Paper and updates to the Standard Method, have meant it is considered pertinent to hold off updating this work which would otherwise be abortive effort at this time.

- 2.3 The update to this work will now be planned towards the end of 2021 to allow for the findings on the economic work, and outcomes from the recent consultation to be known, particularly those which affect the proposed changes to the standard method.

#### **HOUSING NEEDS STUDY**

- 2.4 Preston and Chorley Councils are partnering to commission a Housing Needs Study, South Ribble having undertaken a similar study in 2020. This study will look in more detail at housing needs of specific areas of Chorley and Preston and of the type of housing that is required. Work is expected to be commissioned in spring 2021.

#### **CENTRAL LANCASHIRE TRANSPORT MASTERPLAN**

- 2.5 LCC have completed the baseline work and ready to move forward with testing options once these are ready. This work will commence following the completion of the SHELAA assessments and identification of sites to be taken forward. This work will identify any issues arising from the options presented and infrastructure needs which could be associated with their allocation.

#### **CLIMATE CHANGE**

- 2.6 Work has progressed with County and they are currently procuring work to undertake a carbon assessment of Lancashire. which will provide evidence on achieving the goal of being net carbon zero. This work will look at a range of options to delivering net zero and identify those likely to be most effective in achieving this goal.
- 2.7 Work at a local level is continuing alongside this research and we will look to undertake further research as necessary to help inform how the Local Plan can effectively address the issue of climate change. Money has been allocated to undertaking further work, and this will follow on from the work undertaken at the County level. The carbon assessment work being undertaken is extremely costly and it is not considered an effective use of funds to undertake this work independently. Any local research will need to take account of what actions are agreed Lancashire wide to ensure that we can tie into that work and deliver a consistent approach to managing the effects of climate change across the region, not just within Central Lancashire. The actions taken elsewhere will have a direct impact on the situation in Central Lancashire, therefore it is important to work with the other Lancashire authorities and relevant agencies.

#### **LOCAL PLAN VIABILITY**

2.8 As stated previously, we propose to appoint consultants to undertake work on assessing viability of the Local Plan. Consultants will be appointed to undertake work on plan viability and Community Infrastructure Levy review. This will be a jointly commissioned piece of work and run concurrently with the Local Plan Timetable. Procurement of this work will commence following completion of the initial assessment of sites by the home teams.

### 3. LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

3.1 We are still progressing with the existing Local Development Scheme as approved in January 2020. However, given the next round of consultation is timetabled for June 2021, it is unlikely that a draft plan will be available by that time and we will need to delay this stage. This is down to a couple of issues, but mainly the need to account for the work being undertaken at the County level and, more importantly, to ensure that the Local Plan is able to assess any implications on housing need as a result of changes to the standard methodology. To ensure the Preferred Options document identifies sufficient land, we will need to know what the change to the methodology will be and seek agreement across the three Councils as to how we distribute that need before we are able to consult on this document.

3.2 As this information is not yet available, it is considered necessary to delay consultation to ensure that this stage of plan making is able to address this issue, once this is known, the timetable will be updated accordingly. The key milestones for the Local Plan in the current LDS are set out below for information. The deadline for delivering Local Plans by 2023 is still in place, and as such we will do what we can to seek delivery by that time.

3.3 We are currently reviewing this timetable and looking at home we can progress the timetable to still meet the 2023 deadline. An update on this will be prepared for future meetings.

Key Stage	Timescale
Stage one Issues and Options Consultation	November 2019 to February 2020
Stage two Preferred Options Consultation	June 2021 to August 2021
Stage three Publication Draft	October 2022 to December 2022
Stage four Submission	March 2023
Adoption	December 2023

### 4. DUTY TO COOPERATE DISCUSSIONS

4.1 To ensure that we meet our duty to cooperate requirements we are continuing to engage with relevant bodies on the development of the Local Plan. LCC

continue to be a key partner and discussions with them on a number of issues will continue throughout plan preparation. We have also had received requests for DtC agreements with neighbouring areas to discuss housing numbers, we will continue to engage with these authorities as necessary to ensure we meet this requirement.

**Contact for Further Information:**

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Central Lancashire Local Plan Team