



Doncaster Council

Report

Date: 9th July 2019

To the Mayor & Members of the Cabinet

PUBLICATION (REGULATION 19) OF THE DONCASTER LOCAL PLAN 2015-2035

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)	Wards Affected	Key Decision
Mayor Jones	All	Yes

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This report briefly summarises the next stage of the Local Plan process which is known as 'Publication' in line with Regulation 19 of The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. The Doncaster Local Plan 2015-2035 (Regulation 19 Publication Version) is appended to this report alongside an electronic link to the Interactive Policies Map for reference and further information as to its detailed content. Key site allocations for housing, employment and minerals, as well as all the other Local Plan land use allocations and designations can be found via the online Interactive Policies Map (link provided within this report). The Publication version of the Local Plan must be published for a minimum of 6 weeks to allow for Representations to be made by any interested parties.
2. This is a statutory stage and it is not therefore classed as 'consultation' because any responses received at the end of the period for representations to be made are submitted (Regulation 22) to the Government, alongside the Local Plan and all of its supporting evidence base, to be Examined by a Planning Inspector. Opportunities to influence the Local Plan have therefore been available to all stakeholders throughout the course of the plan's progress to date and, where possible and appropriate, have already been incorporated into the draft plan.
3. The Local Plan Publication version is now progressing through the Council's internal approvals processes and any final comments on content, or any wider aspect of the Local Plan process, are therefore now being sought. Members of the Cabinet are asked to recommend the Local Plan to Full Council on 25th July 2019 where a full resolution is required before the Publication version can be published for the statutory stage. Subsequent indicative timescales are then set out to see the Local Plan through to Adoption in Summer 2020 (which will require another Full Council decision) before it can be used to determine all future planning applications.

EXEMPT REPORT

4. This report is not exempt.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Members of the Cabinet are asked to:

- 1) Note the contents of this report and the appended Doncaster Local Plan 2015-2035 (Regulation 19 Publication version) and the Interactive Policies Map;
- 2) Provide any final comments or areas in need of further planning policy clarification through the Local Plan; and,
- 3) Recommend the Local Plan to Full Council for a decision to approve the Local Plan (Regulation 19 Publication – June 2019 version) prior to commencing the statutory Publication Stage (Regulation 19);

Members of the Cabinet should also note that Full Council will be asked to:

- 4) Approve the Local Plan (Publication version Regulation 19) so that it can be published for its statutory 6-week stage later this summer;
- 5) Support the Local Plan to be Submitted (Regulation 22) to Government for its Independent Examination in Public, unless any unforeseen and significant issues are arising post Publication that would require reconsideration of the Local Plan. It is proposed that any non-material minor amendments (such as typographical, mapping, formatting, desktop publishing and design of the Local Plan) deemed necessary before the plan is Submitted will be delegated to, and made by the Assistant Director of Development in consultation with the Local Plan lead Portfolio Holder; and,
- 6) Authorise that the Assistant Director of Development, in consultation with the Local Plan lead Portfolio Holder, be authorised to request that the Local Plan Inspector recommends any main modifications to the Submission version of the plan (if necessary) in order for the plan to be legally compliant and found sound in accordance with Section 20(7c) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004;
- 7) Following this, that the same authority is given for consultation on any such main modifications and consequential changes to the Submission version of the Local Plan so that a post-Examination Adoption version can be finalised in advance of taking the Local Plan back to Full Council for approval to be adopted.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?

6. Having an up-to-date Local Plan will ensure we are planning for enough new homes and jobs for both the current and future citizens of Doncaster and provide certainty for where investment and development is being planned over the next 15+ years. As well as how much development, the Local Plan will help ensure it is the right sort of development in the most appropriate locations to meet the housing and economic growth needs of the Borough in a sustainable manner, including help provide a much needed supply of new affordable homes. Policies will ensure that we not only see the development that is required, but that it is also of a sufficiently high quality and help raise the level of design across Doncaster to the benefit of everybody. The Local Plan helps bring forward much-needed physical,

social and green infrastructure to help improve the quality of lives further for our communities through a better-connected borough that helps foster healthier lifestyles. Protection is provided to our much-valued greenspaces, biodiversity and heritage assets, countryside and natural environment. Policies seek to help make the borough more resilient in the future from the challenges presented by climate change, which has the potential to impact negatively on all of our citizens. The plan also ensures there is a sufficient supply of minerals resources to support development growth and infrastructure projects.

BACKGROUND

What is the Doncaster Local Plan 2015-2035?

7. The Local Plan will be the new Development Plan for the whole Borough of Doncaster containing both strategic and detailed planning policies and proposals to guide the future of development over the next 15+ year plan period to 2035. When adopted, it will be used to determine all future planning applications against, alongside national planning policy, and any Neighbourhood Plans that have been prepared in line with the Localism Act, plus any other material planning considerations. It will replace the two substantial existing Development Plan documents being the Unitary Development Plan (1998 saved policies) and Local Development Framework Core Strategy (2012). Any Neighbourhood Plans being prepared in the near future will need to be in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the Local Plan.

8. The Local Plan deals with the full range of planning policy themes (housing, employment, retail, design, transport, community facilities, countryside, biodiversity, heritage, minerals etc) with the exception of waste which is covered via the existing and separate Joint Waste Development Plan Document (2012). More specifically, the Local Plan includes:

- a portrait of the borough as it is now, its development needs and challenges, a vision of what it could be like in the future; and a set of objectives to achieve this;
- a list of proposed development sites (known as “allocations”) for new housing, employment, minerals and other development to meet the borough’s needs;
- a set of strategic and detailed policies that will guide development and investment decisions across the borough and be the starting point for decisions on future planning applications; and,
- a Policies Map of the borough that will show the location of the development site allocations and define the boundaries of towns and villages, existing residential and employment areas, town and district centres, Green Belt and other countryside, green spaces, conservation areas, wildlife sites, areas for mineral extraction, and so on.

Why does Doncaster need a Local Plan?

9. An up-to-date Local Plan is essential to provide clarity to communities and developers about where development should be built and where not, so that growth is planned rather than the result of speculative planning applications. Lack of certainty for the development industry can lead to decisions not to invest in the borough and displacement to adjacent market areas where the policy position may

be clearer. Without a Local Plan, planning in the area will be determined in line with national planning policy's much-heralded presumption in favour of sustainable development. This provides a "tilted balance" in favour of granting planning permission, unless the proposal causes significant and demonstrable harm which may lead to development taking place in unplanned, unwanted locations.

10. The Core Strategy was examined and subsequently adopted by Doncaster Council before the new Coalition Government's 2012 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). At the end of December 2018, just 22% of Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) had not yet published (or examined/adopted) a post 2012 NPPF compliant Local Plan; this currently leaves us in the bottom 22% where there is a risk of Government intervention in the plan-making process. As Doncaster's current policies become increasingly of a certain vintage, it leaves the LPA vulnerable to increased speculative applications which it may wish to refuse. This can lead to an increase in Appeals and the associated resource implications that need to go into this process (plus possible award of costs in addition to Officer time and expert witnesses/Barrister representation etc).

What is the Government's intervention in the plan-making process?

11. The Government is clear that LPA's are expected to have up-to-date plans in place to guide development within their area to plan for the infrastructure, homes and jobs that communities need. In a 2015 Ministerial Statement it was stated that *"In cases where no Local Plan has been produced by early 2017 – five years after the publication of the NPPF – we will intervene to arrange for the Plan to be written, in consultation with local people, to accelerate production of a Local Plan."* Further details were published in February 2016 including the Government's proposed criteria for intervention. These namely are where: the least progress in plan-making has been made; policies in plans had not been kept up to date; there is high housing pressure; and, intervention would have the greatest impact in accelerating Local Plan production.

12. It is clear that where LPA's are not making sufficient progress producing or reviewing their plans, the Government will intervene, resulting in plans written for them by Whitehall and/or looking to County Councils or Combined Authorities to take over drafting of Local Plans where such an option exists. To date, 15 LPA's have been subject to Government intervention.

What are the Headlines/Key Principles of note from the Doncaster Local Plan 2015-2035?

13. The following is a very brief synopsis of the Doncaster Local Plan, with full details being available through the Local Plan (Regulation 19 Publication Version – June 2019) at Appendix 1:

- The plan will guide all development proposals over the **plan period which runs to 2035**, so will provide for 15 years from the date the plan is adopted in line with national policy;
- A **vision for the borough** by 2035 is provided, followed by a number of **strategic objectives** for how this vision will be achieved;
- There are **72 planning policies** (some strategic and some detailed) that will be used to determine all planning applications against when adopted;
- The Local Plan provides sufficient **housing sites to deliver at least 920**

net new homes each year which ensures not just enough housing to meet the needs of Doncaster's population, but also to ensure there is a sufficient population to contribute towards the planned economic growth and job numbers in line with the aspirational and ambitious Sheffield City Region Strategic Economic Plan;

- Housing is directed to our **17 largest and most sustainable Towns and Villages** in line with a **sustainable settlement hierarchy**;
- Elsewhere (**40 smaller villages**) development is generally limited to infilling, although there is some flexibility to bring forward small scale housing, including affordable housing, in appropriate locations subject to conditions;
- Sufficient **employment land** is allocated to meet the plan period requirement of **481 hectares** including maximising our location on the strategic transport network with strategic sites along the M18/A1(M) corridor and the Airport as well as providing **opportunities for higher productivity jobs** in sectors such as advanced manufacturing;
- **Additional housing around the Airport** is conditionally supported subject to significant job creation at Doncaster Sheffield Airport if the latter is in line with the ambitions of the Airport Masterplan;
- The Local Plan provides for the ambitions of the **Urban Centre Masterplan and key transformational projects in the Town Centre**, whilst still providing flexibility to allow for the rapidly changing role and function of our Town Centres with ever changing retail habits;
- Key **physical infrastructure and transport proposals** are included, such as the North Doncaster A1-A19 Link Road, Dearne Valley to A1(M) Improvements; M18 J5 Hatfield Link Road, A630 West Moor Link Duelling; East Coast Main Line connected Rail Station at Doncaster Sheffield Airport; Askern Railway Station; and, the route of HS2 (Safeguarded under Direction of Secretary of State so must be shown);
- The Local Plan has been prepared with engagement from social infrastructure providers, such as **Doncaster Council School Admissions Team**, to identify where developer contributions will be required to increase both primary and secondary school capacity over the plan period;
- Local Plan policies relating to a direct cost to a developer have been prepared and tested for viability and iterative amendments made to **ensure development viability will not be put at risk from excessive developer contributions e.g. a variable affordable housing policy requirement**;
- Policies will seek to increase standards of **design and quality of the built environment** raising aspirations in the process;
- Around 1,000 new homes are proposed on land currently designated as **Green Belt** in order to meet the housing requirement and bring forward balanced sustainable growth around the borough. This has required demonstration of exceptional circumstances and will be highly scrutinised at Examination;
- Large parts of the Borough are at high risk of **flooding** where national policy seeks to avoid new development where possible. The plan only proposes more vulnerable housing sites in such locations where they are already permissioned (or sufficiently advanced through Planning) and it has been demonstrated through the planning application process (including a site specific flood risk assessment) that the development will be viable and safe for its occupiers for its lifetime and not increase flood risk elsewhere. This has been done in agreement and in consultation with the Environment Agency as part of the Development Management process

- to establish appropriate mitigation;
- Assets such as **heritage** (conservation areas, listed buildings) **biodiversity** (local wildlife sites and sites of special scientific interest) and our **greenspaces** and wider **natural environment** and **countryside** are identified and protected, and enhanced where possible;
- The plan ensures a **sufficient supply of minerals** will come forward to enable planned growth and development and infrastructure projects to materialise. Doncaster has a reserve of 51.7 million tonnes of limestone equating to a 30-year land bank and as such is not proposing to allocate sites for limestone extraction. The reserve of sand and gravel is 5.6 million tonnes, with a land bank of 18 years, as such two sites are allocated for sand and gravel extraction;
- The Local Plan also has to contain **policies for energy minerals** such as on-shore gas and oil, showing the locations of licence areas, existing sites and how the exploration, appraisal and commercial development of energy minerals will be determined;
- All of the decisions in the Local Plan have been taken informed by a **comprehensive evidence base**, much of which is already published, and includes **Sustainability Appraisal** and **Habitats Regulations Assessment** which are legal requirements;
- Doncaster Council has also needed to have regard to further legal requirements that we have met under the **Duty to Cooperate** so that we can demonstrate we have sought to discuss **strategic cross boundary issues** with our neighbouring authorities and sufficiently engaged with other prescribed bodies such as the statutory consultees.

What are the next steps to progress the Doncaster Local Plan?

14. Subject to no significant issues arising through the following stages, then members of the Cabinet are asked to note and support the following timetable through to Full Council and beyond to Adoption (which will be the next and final time the plan is taken to Full Council after the 25th July 2019 assuming no major new issues arise before then):

- Thursday 25th July 2019 – Full Council;
- August 2019 – Publication (Regulation 19 - statutory minimum of 6 weeks but due to clash with summer holidays proposed to extend to a period until the end of September 2019);
- Winter 2019 – Submission to Government (Regulation 22);
- Spring 2020 – Examination
- Summer 2020 – Inspector’s Report & Adoption of the Local Plan (Full Council decision)

OPTIONS CONSIDERED

15. At this relatively advanced stage of the process (Regulation 19) it is considered that there are only really two options now available for the Local Plan, as follows:

- Option 1 (Recommended) – Agree that the Local Plan Publication Version (Regulation 19) should proceed for a full resolution by Full Council to publish the draft Local Plan for the statutory minimum of 6 weeks followed by Submission (Regulation 22) to Government for Examination, subject to no major significant issues being raised

following the period for Representations to be received. Publication allows for any interested parties to provide Representations on whether the plan has been prepared in accordance with the relevant legal and procedural requirements and that the plan meets the tests of soundness (being: positively prepared; justified; effective; and, consistent with national policy).

- Option 2 (Not Recommended) – Do not agree the Local Plan Publication Version should proceed to Full Council.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION

16. Option 1 is recommended to ensure timely progress can be made with the next stages of the Local Plan, which is a key statutory stage in the process. Reasons for the need to progress the Local Plan have been clearly set out in the main body of this report. Once at Publication stage, the Local Plan starts to carry a greater level of material weight in the determination of planning applications and reduces the likelihood of government intervention as progress will be able to be demonstrated and Doncaster will move out of the bottom 22% of Councils who have not yet published/examined/adopted an up-to-date Local Plan.

IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL’S KEY OUTCOMES

17. The Local Plan is considered to impact on Doncaster Council’s following key outcomes:

	Outcomes	Implications
	<p>Doncaster Working: Our vision is for more people to be able to pursue their ambitions through work that gives them and Doncaster a brighter and prosperous future;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better access to good fulfilling work • Doncaster businesses are supported to flourish • Inward Investment 	<p>The Local Plan provides confidence for investors and will directly ensure sufficient employment land is available for the future to help ensure jobs will be attracted/created in the borough whilst also raising the bar in terms of productivity in line with the Inclusive Growth Strategy. Existing employment sites and areas/employers/jobs are also afforded protection through the plan.</p>
	<p>Doncaster Living: Our vision is for Doncaster’s people to live in a borough that is vibrant and full of opportunity, where people enjoy spending time;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The town centres are the beating heart of Doncaster • More people can live in a good quality, affordable home • Healthy and Vibrant Communities through Physical Activity and Sport • Everyone takes responsibility for keeping Doncaster Clean • Building on our cultural, artistic and sporting heritage 	<p>The Local Plan will ensure sufficient houses are delivered to provide for the housing needs of both the current and future population including addressing housing needs such as affordable housing, housing for an increasingly ageing population, accessible housing etc. The importance of the Town Centre and key transformational projects and sites identified through the Urban Centre Masterplan is supported through the plan including providing flexibility to</p>

		address rapidly changing roles and functions of Town Centres
	<p>Doncaster Learning: Our vision is for learning that prepares all children, young people and adults for a life that is fulfilling;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every child has life-changing learning experiences within and beyond school • Many more great teachers work in Doncaster Schools that are good or better • Learning in Doncaster prepares young people for the world of work 	<p>The Local Plan has been prepared with input from a vast array of stakeholders including infrastructure providers and those who are responsible for planning for the educational needs of the borough. Housing sites have been assessed with a view to likely impacts on schools and contributions identified where capacity issues are prevalent. Local Plan policies allow for continued contributions to improving/expanding our schools (and any other infrastructure for that matter related to the development) and these have been tested for viability as part of the plan-making stage. Sites for new schools are identified in the plan (e.g. as part of the Unity Project)</p>
	<p>Doncaster Caring: Our vision is for a borough that cares together for its most vulnerable residents;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children have the best start in life • Vulnerable families and individuals have support from someone they trust • Older people can live well and independently in their own homes 	<p>The Local Plan seeks to bring forward new housing that will help future occupiers remain in their homes independently, and for as long as practicably possible, such as a certain requirement to be built in accordance with Building Regulations Part M4(3)</p>
	<p>Connected Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A modern, efficient and flexible workforce • Modern, accessible customer interactions • Operating within our resources and delivering value for money • A co-ordinated, whole person, whole life focus on the needs and aspirations of residents • Building community resilience and self-reliance by connecting community assets and strengths • Working with our partners and residents to provide effective leadership and governance 	n/a

RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

18. The Local Plan has been prepared in accordance with the Local Development Scheme (as updated) which includes a full risk register. Risks have been monitored on a regular basis throughout the preparation of the Local Plan to date and reported through the appropriate structures of the Local Plan Project/Project Management Team. The single most notable risk at present is

considered to be the need to put in place an up-to-date development plan for the Borough as soon as practicably possible for reasons as set out in the main body of this report. In particular, paras. 11-12 of this report has highlighted that the Government has already started to intervene in plans where Authorities are not making progress to ensure that Local Plans are coming forward in these areas. The need to make expedient progress with the Local Plan has been identified as a significant governance issue in the Council's 2018/19 Annual Governance Statement.

19. Additional risks worth noting are considered to be:

- Potential for further planning policy reforms (particularly in respect to planning for housing need) by Government which may be different to the current understanding on the intended national policy position and the Standard Methodology for calculating housing need which is currently an interim solution; and,
- The Government's revised National Planning Policy Framework's transitional arrangements for Examining Local Plans came into force for all plans submitted after 24th January 2019. As such, there are few, if any, Authorities whom have yet been through the full Examination process under the new planning framework. Experience shows that changes to national policy can be tested through the Courts with subsequent decisions which are then legally binding on all and must be adhered to which can therefore lead to delays later in the process.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS [HL 20/06/2019]

20. Local Authorities are required by legislation to prepare a Local Plan to set the local planning framework for their district. The current Local Plan Unitary Development Plan (UDP) adopted July 1998 was intended to cover the period until 2001 (although it provided for some development requirements including housing and employment land well beyond this period). Some of the UDP policies have been 'saved' indefinitely by the Secretary of State until such time as a new plan is put in place, however, given the length of time since adoption, the saved policies cannot be considered to be up to date and thus the weight to be afforded to the policies is reduced.

21. Failure to have an up to date local plan in place limits the Council's ability to influence the quantum, location and quality of development in its area. The Government have made clear that they expect Council's to have a local plan in place.

22. The recently enacted Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017 provides for intervention in the local plan making process. The Secretary of State has indicated that he will use these powers to intervene in the case of 15 Councils who have failed to meet their deadlines for publishing local plans. He went on to say, *"the remaining authorities who are not making progress on their plan-making and fail to publish a plan for consultation, submit a plan to examination or to keep policies in plans up to date are on notice that consistent failure to make sufficient progress will no longer be tolerated. My Department will begin formally considering the case for intervention as deadlines are missed"*. As a consequence, the threat of intervention into Doncaster's Local Plan would be more immediate than previously

anticipated should the Council fail to make progress towards submitting a plan for examination by a Local Plan Inspector.

23. The Council has produced the Proposed Submission version of the Plan in line with the statutory requirement to do so. This version of the Plan is the version that the Council intends to submit to the Secretary of State for independent Examination, prior to it being formally adopted.

24. The Council is required by statute to invite representations on the Proposed Submission Documents (i.e. the Plan, the Sustainability Appraisal and other relevant supporting documents) over a 6 week period prior to Submission to the Secretary of State. These representations should be on matters of soundness and legal compliance only, but in practice are not restricted to these matters – although these are the only matters the inspector can consider at the Examination.

25. The Local Plan Inspector, whose role is to assess whether the plan has been prepared in accordance with the Duty to Cooperate, legal and procedural requirements, must regard the Local Plan as sound. The soundness tests are as follows:

- Positively prepared – the plan should be prepared based on a strategy which seeks to meet objectively assessed development and infrastructure requirements, including unmet requirements from neighbouring authorities where it is reasonable to do so and consistent with achieving sustainable development;
- Justified – the plan should be the most appropriate strategy, when considered against the reasonable alternatives, based on proportionate evidence;
- Effective – the plan should be deliverable over its period and based on effective joint working on cross-boundary strategic priorities; and
- Consistent with national policy – the plan should enable the delivery of sustainable development in accordance with the policies in the National Planning Policy Framework.

Should the Inspector be concerned whether any of the above tests are satisfied during or prior to examination, then he/she may decide that the examination cannot be completed without additional work being undertaken (such as the need for further sustainability appraisal of alternative options), this may necessitate consideration of a suspension of the examination or, in the worse case scenario, withdrawal of the Plan.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS [DR 18/06/2019]

26. There are no financial implications arising directly from the approval of the Local Plan. Having a local plan in place should help protect the Council from the costs of appeal against planning decisions, which can be considerable where legal representation and expert witnesses are required.

27. The Council is likely to be involved in the delivery of significant projects towards realising the vision of the borough presented in the plan, with a number being mentioned in the body of the report, e.g. M18 J5 Hatfield Link Road and A630 West Moor Link. Financial implications for these have either already been considered as part of other decisions or will need to be reviewed as the projects

develop further. On-going financial advice must be sought throughout the process. The Local Plan should help with the prioritisation of projects when resources are stretched.

28. The Local Plan will also influence the nature and value of developer contributions to the Council that are required for planning obligations in lieu of direct resolution by the developer (e.g. section 106 contributions). As planning obligations are directly relevant to the proposed development the financial implications to the Council for the subsequent delivery of those obligations will also need to be considered on an individual basis, especially as the contributions are often combined with other resources in a wider project (e.g. West Moor Link).

HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS [DK 18/06/2019]

29. There are no direct HR Imps in relation to this report, but if in future staff are affected or additional specialist resources are required then further consultation will need to take place with HR.

TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS [AM 17/06/2019]

30. There are no anticipated technology implications in relation to this report. The author has confirmed that the Local Plan consultation database relates to the 2,500+ contacts within the Idox Uniform database whom have requested to be kept informed of progress with the local plan.

HEALTH IMPLICATIONS [CT 18/06/201]

31. The linkages between health and the built and natural environment have long been established and the role of the environment in shaping the social, economic and environmental circumstances that determine health is increasingly recognised and understood.
32. An ever-increasing body of research indicates that the environment in which we live is inextricably linked to our health across the life course. For example, the design of our neighbourhoods can influence physical activity levels, travel patterns, social connectivity, mental and physical health and wellbeing outcomes.
33. Doncaster is ranked as the 39th most deprived area in England and the 3rd most deprived area in the Yorkshire and Humber region. Good spatial planning is key to ensuring the best outcomes for Doncaster residents. Every planning decision impacts on the health and wellbeing of the people that live in our communities either positively or negatively. To address this Public Health and Planning have worked together to introduce the requirement for a Health Impact Assessment into the draft Local Plan. This is a tool that can be used to estimate and assess the possible health and wellbeing implications, both intended and unintended, of development and planning proposals, and explore potential actions that could be taken to maximise positive and minimise negative impacts.
34. Public Health has also provided input into the development of the new policies to ensure the health and wellbeing of our communities is reflected in the planning process going forward. This is a significant development in reuniting planning

and public health. In addition a health chapter (13) has been included in the draft local plan.

35. Public Health also carried out a Health Impact Assessment on the draft policies and comments have been well received by planning with amendments being made to some policies in line with recommendations. (A copy of the Health Impact Assessment is available from Public Health).
36. Planning decisions are based on policy; therefore the policies must be in favour of improving health and wellbeing for our residents and robust enough to ensure opportunities to challenge decisions going forward are minimised.
37. Public Health agrees Option 1 to proceed.

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS [JC 17/06/2019]

38. Publication of the Local Plan will, like all the previous stages of the process so far, be in line with the Statement of Community Involvement which seeks to give all sections of the community the chance to take part in the planning process at the earliest opportunity so that decisions can take account of the range of community views and reflects, as far as possible, the concerns and aspirations of the people affected by them. A Due Regard Statement was prepared at the outset of the Local Plan and is a 'living document' which has been updated throughout the course of the preparation of the plan so far, and will continue to be updated over the rest of the process.
39. The Local Plan consultation database already includes a wide cross section of groups and individuals (2,500+ contacts). The vision, objectives and policies in the Local Plan recognise the diversity of the Doncaster population and the overall need to improve skills levels and improve the quality of life. The Local Plan includes a wide range of monitoring indicators to help demonstrate that the plan is being successfully delivered. If not, then there is scope to review and revise any parts of the plan in line with national planning policy.

CONSULTATION

40. The emerging Local Plan has been subject to three significant rounds of full public consultation to date which are regarded as being Regulation 18 – Preparation of a Local Plan, as follows:
 - Issues & Options – summer 2015;
 - Homes & Settlements – spring 2016;
 - Draft Policies & Proposed Sites – autumn 2018.
41. During these consultation stages Officers have met with and attended various workshops, meetings, briefings, and events to publicise the Doncaster Local Plan and engage our stakeholders on its content. We have sought views on numerous matters including: the vision for the borough and our strategic objectives for how we want to see the borough grow and evolve; how development should be distributed in a sustainable manner; how much development we should be planning for; which are the most sustainable sites to accommodate such growth; and, what strategic and detailed planning policies are required to guide development decisions in the future.

42. Engagement with stakeholders has included: our Communities; Team Doncaster; Doncaster Council Elected Members; Town and Parish Councils; Various Doncaster Council Teams; Infrastructure providers; Statutory Consultees, Doncaster Property Forum; Developers, Landowners and their Agents; neighboring and/or Sheffield City Region Local Planning Authorities; to name but a few.
43. Consultation methods and techniques have been undertaken in conformity with the Local Plan's Statement of Community Involvement, including electronic notification to everybody on the Local Plan database (currently over 2,500 live contacts) and publicity using press notices and social media in addition to the above as well as other techniques as appropriate. As part of the autumn 2018 consultation proposed sites in the Local Plan (that were not yet subject to Planning) had site notices posted up at the site to publicise with our communities exactly which sites are being identified and for what land uses; this in itself generated a significant and unprecedented response.
44. Throughout this time, key parts of the Local Plan evidence base have also been published for comments and other consultations have taken place, for example we consulted on our proposed site selection methodologies for how to select development sites in November 2015. Our responses to this, alongside the three main stages set out above, have been published along the way (with the responses to the last autumn 2018 consultation being published alongside the Publication version of the Local Plan this summer).
45. In line with the Council's constitutional requirements, the preparation of the draft Local Plan has been scrutinised by Doncaster Council's Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee (OSMC - 29th May 2019 - Meeting adjourned and reconvened 7th May 2019). The Committee's role was to provide its views on the robustness of the processes used to develop the draft plan including the evidence base, consultation and engagement and the extent to which the Plan sets an aspirational but achievable vision for the Borough. A copy of the recommendations made by OSMC and the response from the Executive are located at Appendix 3. Doncaster Council's Planning Committee were asked to note the draft Regulation 19 Local Plan and the indicative timetable to progress through to Adoption (30th May 2019 – Meeting adjourned and reconvened 10th May 2019). The Local Plan was taken back to Planning Committee for noting on 25th June 2019 following a series of further Elected Member Seminars that were held in early June 2019 to engage with Members further on the draft Local Plan. Planning Committee voted unanimously to note the Local Plan at that meeting.
46. For completeness, Appendix 4 sets out a summary of the additions to the Local Plan that have derived from the Council's internal approvals processes (April – June 2019), including the Member Seminars.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

47. The following form appendices to this report:
 - Appendix 1 – Doncaster Local Plan 2015-2035 (Regulation 19 Publication Version – June 2019);
 - Appendix 2 – Doncaster Local Plan – Site Allocation Summary Maps with

Interactive Policies Map available via -

[HTTP://DMBC.MAPS.ARCGIS.COM/APPS/WEBAPPVIEWER/INDEX.HTML?ID=2ABB73FA583A41F4B785443A4C3D2B39](http://DMBC.MAPS.ARCGIS.COM/APPS/WEBAPPVIEWER/INDEX.HTML?ID=2ABB73FA583A41F4B785443A4C3D2B39)

- Appendix 3 – OSMC’s Letter to the Executive & the Executive’s Response; and;
- Appendix 4 – Summary of additional changes to Local Plan Publication Version as a result of the Council’s Internal Approvals Process (April-June 2019)

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