



Doncaster Council

Report

**Date: 8 September
2021**

To Members of the Cabinet

ADOPTION OF THE DONCASTER LOCAL PLAN 2015-2035

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)	Wards Affected	Key Decision
Cllr Nigel Ball, Cabinet Member for Public Health, Leisure, Culture and Planning	All	Yes

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This Report provides an update on the Doncaster Local Plan 2015-2035. The Plan has been in preparation for several years, including numerous rounds of full public consultation. The draft Local Plan was approved by Full Council in July 2019 to be published for final comments before being submitted to Government for its independent Examination in Public. The Council submitted the Local Plan in March 2020 and an independent Planning Inspector was appointed by the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to examine the 'soundness' and legal compliance of the Plan. The Council has now received the Inspector's Final Report. With a number of changes made to the Plan identified as being necessary through the Examination to address issues raised by the Inspector, the Council can now look to adopt the Local Plan via resolution of Full Council. The changes alluded to above have already been subject to full public consultation earlier this year and the Inspector took on board those comments when preparing his Final Report. Following adoption of the Local Plan, the current development plan (consisting of the saved policies from the Unitary Development Plan 1998, and its supporting Policies Maps, and Local Development Framework Core Strategy 2012) will be replaced. The Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham Joint Waste Plan will remain in place, and part of the development plan, until superseded by a new Joint Waste Plan in due course. The Council will also need to review the current suite of Supplementary Planning Documents as they currently hang-off Unitary Development Plan, and/or Core Strategy, policies that will no longer be in place.

EXEMPT REPORT

2. This report is not exempt, but the appendix to it is exempt because it contains exempt information including legal advice and is not for public inspection by virtue www.doncaster.gov.uk

of Paragraph 5 of Part 1 of Schedule 12(a) of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended.

RECOMMENDATIONS

3. For the reasons set out through subsequent sections of this report, Members of the Cabinet are recommended to note and consider the contents of this report, and then recommend that the Local Plan should be adopted via subsequent resolution of Full Council (Option 1). The Local Plan becomes part of the development plan for Doncaster, and its policies given full development plan weight for the purposes of determining planning applications.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?

4. 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 or so years. As well as the quantity of 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 helping to 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?

5. 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 plan period to 2035. 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. Upon adoption, it will replace the two existing Development Plan documents, being the Unitary Development Plan (1998 saved policies and supporting Policies Maps) and Local Development Framework Core Strategy (2012). Any Neighbourhood Plans being prepared will need to be in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the Local Plan. The Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham Joint Waste Plan will remain in place, and part of the development plan, until superseded by a new Joint Waste Plan in due course.

6. The Local Plan deals with the full range of planning policy themes (climate change, 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 development sites (known as “allocations”) for new housing, employment, minerals and other development to meet the Borough’s needs; and,
- 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.

7. Although not strictly part of the development plan, a supporting interactive Policies Map of the Borough has also been prepared. This shows the location of the Local Plan’s development site allocations and defines 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. Some of these layers are shown for information purposes as opposed to the Local Plan actually making decisions on them.

Why does Doncaster need a Local Plan?

8. The Government expects all Local Planning Authorities to have up-to-date Local Plans in place. Despite proposals to reform the current Planning system, which are awaiting further clarification and the relevant legislation following publication of the White Paper in summer 2020, the Government has made clear the importance of getting a Local Plan in place under the current system.

9. Local Plans are 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 the 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.

How has the Local Plan been Prepared?

10. Full Council made a decision in Autumn 2014 to commence work on a new Local Plan for the Borough. There has been a number of consultations since this time in line with the relevant Regulations (see ‘Consultation’ section of this Report for more details). A further resolution by Full Council in July 2019 approved the Publication Version of the Plan to be published for final comments (known as Representations) as well as for the Plan to be submitted to Government for its independent Examination in Public. Delegated authority was given to the Portfolio Holder, in consultation with the Assistant Director of Development, to make any changes necessary in order for the Plan to be found ‘sound’ (known as Main Modifications), including approval to undertake full public consultation on them.

11. In March 2020, the Council submitted the draft Local Plan for its Examination in Public and an independent Planning Inspector (William Fieldhouse, BA (Hons) MA MRTPI) was appointed by the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to examine the Plan. Despite the World Health Organisation declaring a global pandemic just days after the Plan was submitted, the Council worked with the Planning Inspectorate to make sure the Examination stayed to timetable, cumulating in the country's first Blended Hearing sessions being held in October, through to early December 2020. Participants took part in the Hearings through a mixture of in person attendance in the Council Chamber following strict social distancing, and/or via a video link feed. The Hearings were also broadcast in real time on the Council's website for anybody to view and archived afterwards for future reference.

12. During the Examination there were a number of parts of the Plan that were identified as being in need of changes to respond to issues being raised by the Inspector. This is the nature of the process and the vast majority of, if not all, Local Plans have Main Modifications made to them through the Examination. The Council drafted the changes identified as being necessary to make the Plan sound (known as a Schedule of Main Modifications). A separate Schedule identifying consequential changes to the Policies Map was also published. A number of minor or additional changes were also proposed, but these were not subject to Examination, being of the nature of factual changes or non-material minor corrections. A full public consultation on the changes was held in February-March 2021.

13. In preparing his Final Report and finalising the changes necessary to make the Plan 'sound' the Inspector considered comments from the February 2021 consultation. The Inspector's Report, accompanied by an Appendix containing the final Schedule of Main Modifications, was received by the Council on 30 June 2021 and this completed the Examination of the Plan.

What are the Headline Conclusions from the Inspector's Final Report?

14. The Inspector's Report concludes that the Doncaster Local Plan 2015-2035 as submitted, with the changes made as per the Schedule of Main Modifications, is 'sound' and legally compliant and therefore capable of being adopted by resolution of Full Council. The Report is binding and therefore it is recommended that the Council now adopts the Local Plan with the Main Modifications as per the Schedule. The Inspector's Report itself provides a summary of what are considered to be the main changes necessary (see Non-Technical Summary on pages 5-6 of his Report).

15. The Inspector concludes that the Council has satisfied all of the legal requirements as per the relevant legislation, and for each stage of the plan-making process. This includes:

- meeting our requirements with respect to the Duty-to-Cooperate (demonstration of joint working with stakeholders throughout the Plan's preparation on strategic matters);
- carrying out appropriate and sufficient public consultation (the Inspector notes more consultation was undertaken than the minimum required by the legislation);
- The Plan was informed by a proportionate and objective Sustainability Appraisal that was started early in the process and continued throughout the

subsequent stages;

- A Habitats Regulation Assessment was prepared which demonstrates the Plan will not impact on the integrity of our protected sites/Special Protection Areas (such as Thorne-Hatfield Moors); and,
- The Plan will contribute to the mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change.

16. With respect to some of the findings relating to the 'soundness' of the policies and development allocations in the Plan, the Inspector's conclusions include:

- The Plan provides 33 strategic policies that are rightly identified as such and will provide a framework for all Neighbourhood Plans to be in general conformity with;
- 1% per annum job's growth and the amount of employment land being planned for (481ha) is aspirational but deliverable;
- A minimum of 920 new homes per annum is a substantial uplift from the Government's standard local housing need figure and is based on proportionate evidence and can be regarded as aspirational but deliverable given the number of new homes built in recent years;
- Achieving a total of 920 new homes per year is likely to mean that the identified need for affordable homes can be met;
- The strategic approach, settlement hierarchy and broad distribution of development are justified and consistent with national policy and will be effective in helping to achieve sustainable development;
- The Inspector is satisfied the housing allocations in the Plan are all justified in terms of flood risk;
- Likewise, the Inspector concludes the strategic distribution employment allocation at Junction 6 M18 Thorne North is consistent with national policy relating to the flood risk sequential test. The employment site allocations and policies relating to existing employment sites and various forms of economic development are justified, effective and consistent with national policy;
- The Inspector is satisfied that the Council has demonstrated there are exceptional circumstances to justify the removal of 8 sites from the Green Belt for housing development;
- The Council's viability evidence is proportionate and up to date having regard to relevant national policy and guidance. That evidence indicates that the cumulative cost of all policy requirements in the Plan is unlikely to undermine the delivery of the majority of the housing allocations;
- The Plan's approach to town centres and main town centre uses is justified and consistent with national policy and will be effective in ensuring that identified development needs can be met;
- The approach to future development in and around the Airport has been found to be sound (following a number of detailed changes to the policy to make matters clearer and the policy more effective therefore);
- Policies relating to transport infrastructure and sustainable travel are justified and consistent with national policy, and will be effective in ensuring that developments are provided with safe and suitable access for all users, promoting sustainable transport, and providing a framework for the provision of transport infrastructure;
- Policies in the Plan are justified, consistent with national policy and should be effective in meeting needs and achieving well designed places;
- The Plan's policies relating to the natural and built environment are justified,

- effective and consistent with national policy;
- Policies relating to pollution, contamination, low carbon and renewable energy, and agricultural land, soil and water resources are justified, effective and consistent with national policy; and,
- The Plan contains justified policies that will be effective in facilitating the sustainable use of minerals in accordance with national policy.

17. Following the safe receipt of the Inspector's Final Report, the Council has prepared a Final Adoption Version of the Local Plan (September 2021) which takes on board all of the Main Modifications identified as being necessary. As alluded to above, a number of minor non-material amendments have also been made to the Plan to correct typographical errors or factual errors. Improvements for presentational reasons have also been made, such as giving all the site allocations a consecutive and logical final referencing system. Likewise, as set out above, there have been a number of changes needed to the Policies Map which were consequential to the Main Modifications to the Plan so the Council has also updated the interactive map ready for adoption. In line with the relevant legislation, Sustainability Appraisal (SA) has been undertaken at each stage of the Plan-making process and a Final SA Post Adoption Statement is required to be published alongside adoption of the Plan. There is a period of 6 weeks from the date that the decision to adopt the Plan is taken for any legal challenges to be made.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED

18. At this final stage of the plan-making process there are only 2 options identified as being available, albeit Option 2 is not considered as being reasonable for the reasons detailed below:

- **Option 1 – (Recommended) – Adopt the Local Plan** – The Local Plan is adopted and has full development plan status/weight for determining all planning applications and the Unitary Development Plan (1998 saved policies and supporting Policies Maps) and Local Development Framework Core Strategy (2012) are replaced entirely; or,
- **Option 2 – (Not recommended) – Do not adopt the Local Plan** – The Local Plan is not adopted and such a decision would essentially mean the Council would have to withdraw the Local Plan.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION

19. Option 1 is strongly recommended as being the only reasonable option to take at this final stage of the Local Plan process which has been several years in the making. Receipt of the Inspector's Final Report confirms the Local Plan is legally compliant and 'sound' and so is capable of being adopted. Previous sections of this report have set out the importance of having an up-to-date Local Plan in place to make sure planning decisions are capable of being made following a development plan-led approach. Government guidance states that, while the Local Planning Authority is not legally required to adopt its local plan following examination, it will have been through a significant process locally to engage communities and other interests in discussions about the future of the area, and it is to be expected that the authority will proceed quickly with adopting a plan that has been found sound.

20. Option 2 is not recommended. Such a decision would effectively mean the Council would have to withdraw the Plan and go back to the start of the process and commence work on a new evidence base/Plan. Given Government Planning reforms, there would be uncertainty as to whether a new Plan could be done in time under the current system, so inevitable delays of several years could be anticipated before having a Local Plan in place. During this time, planning applications would need to continue to be determined in line with out of date UDP and Core Strategy policies which provide less certainty for investors, and our communities, as to where new development will/will not be supported. The Local Planning Authority would be vulnerable to having to support development which we would otherwise not wish to approve, with refusals likely to be over turned by an Inspector at Appeal with a possible award of costs. There would be no up-to-date strategic policy framework for Neighbourhood Plans to be prepared, and financial and reputational implications for the Council attached to such a decision. The Government continue to monitor where Local Plans are not being put in place and some Council's have seen intervention by the Secretary of State where expedient progress has not been made.

21. The Local Plan includes a comprehensive framework of Monitoring Indicators at Appendix 12 of the document which will help monitor how effective the policies and proposals in the Plan are. This commitment is further referred to directly in the Local Plan itself, such as at page 188 for example. There is some in-built flexibility to the Plan already to help respond to changes in circumstances. The Plan states that the Council will prepare an Annual Monitoring Report to assess the performance and effectiveness of the Plan, and check on progress towards meeting the Plan's objectives. Regulations prescribe what information the Annual Monitoring Report must contain. National planning policy states that policies in Plans should be reviewed to assess whether they need updating at least once every five years from adoption date (so can be sooner), and should then be updated as necessary to ensure that policies remain relevant and effectively address the needs of the local community. Planning guidance states that most local plans are likely to require updating in whole or in part at least every five years and that reviews should be proportionate to the issues in hand.

IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL'S KEY OUTCOMES

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</p>

		Plan.
	<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 are supported through the Plan, including providing flexibility to address rapidly changing roles and functions of Town Centres</p>
	<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 Parts M4(2) and 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 	<p>n/a</p>

RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

22. 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 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, 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 was identified as a significant governance issue in the Council's 2018/19 Annual Governance Statement. There is also a risk that the adoption of the Local Plan will be challenged, full details are set out in Appendix 1 to this report.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS [SC 22.07.2021]

23. If there is a decision to adopt a local plan such a decision must be made by a resolution of the council under s23 (5) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 ("the Act").

24. There is no statutory requirement to adopt a local plan which has gone through examination in public and been found legally compliant and sound, and no

statutory time period within which to adopt the plan once the inspector's final report has been issued, however there are significant risks to the Council of not doing so as set out in the body of the report and further below.

25. As such a decision (not to adopt) would have the effect of the Council deciding to withdraw the plan, the Council would run the risk(s) of: government intervention, decisions on planning applications being made in line with national planning policy's presumption in favour of sustainable development which provides a "tilted balance" in favour of granting planning permission (leading to developments in unwanted/unplanned locations), the time and cost of preparing a new local plan, and the risk of legal challenges (by way of judicial review) by aggrieved site promoters and developers with an interest in bringing forward sites which are allocated for development in the local plan.

26. The legislation makes no provision for taking a decision not to adopt a plan which has been found legally compliant and sound, however robust planning justifications would be required to support such a decision, the consequence of such a course would be that the plan making process would go back to the beginning and set back the adoption of a new plan by several years.

27. At any time prior to the adoption of a local plan, the Secretary of State has powers by virtue of s21(4) of the Act to intervene and require the document be submitted to him for his approval, thereby taking the decision out of the Council's hands. The Secretary of State also has powers under section 27(5) (b) of the Act to direct the Council to consider adoption of the Local Plan.

28. A local plan once adopted will form part of the development plan for the Borough and the Council must consider all relevant planning applications against the policies within it and there is a requirement under regulation 10A of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 to review the plan within 5 years of adoption.

29. There is a small window of six weeks for an aggrieved party to challenge by way of judicial review a decision to adopt the local plan under s113 of the Act.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS [OB 22.07.2021]

30. There are no financial implications arising directly from the adoption 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.

31. The Council is likely to be involved in the delivery of significant projects towards realising the vision of the borough presented in the plan. 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. The Local Plan should help with the prioritisation of projects.

32. 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.

HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS [DK 20.07.2021]

33. 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 19.07.2021]

34. There are no technology implications in relation to this report.

HEALTH IMPLICATIONS [CT 21.07.2021]

35. Public Health has worked closely with Planning Policy colleagues to incorporate health and wellbeing into the draft Local Plan policies. A representative of Public Health also participated in the Local Plan Inspection process.

36. Influencing the way that developers approach creating new buildings and places will be vital if we are to maximise our potential to create environments where it is easy to live a healthy life. This can only be achieved by putting emphasis health and wellbeing in Local Plan policies.

37. The relationship between Public Health and Planning has been strengthened further through this process and there is commitment to ensure that the impacts of development on health and wellbeing to be explored through processes such as the Health Impact Assessment.

38. Public Health supports Option 1 to support the Local Plan.

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS [JC 16.07.2021]

39. Each stage of the Local Plan's process has been 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 has been a 'living document' updated throughout the course of the preparation of the Plan.

40. 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. Annual monitoring will be undertaken to check the Plan's performance as well as to assist in identifying whether the Plan (or certain parts of it) will be in need of a formal Review.

CONSULTATION

41. The Local Plan was subject to three significant rounds of full public consultation which were 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

42. The Local Plan was published under Regulation 19 in July 2019 for final representations to be made by anyone with an interest in the Plan. These comments were all published in full (and summarised) and made available for the Inspector's attention. The Inspector makes reference in his Final Report to the Council's Regulation 22(1)(c) Statement of Consultation and that this report thoroughly demonstrates how the consultation carried out during the various stages of Plan preparation was in compliance with the Council's Statement of Community Involvement adopted in July 2015. More stages of consultation were held than required by the regulations.

43. During these consultation stages, Officer's met and attended various workshops, meetings, briefings, and events to publicise the Doncaster Local Plan and engage our stakeholders on its content. We sought views on numerous matters including: the vision for the Borough and our strategic objectives for how we wanted 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 were the most sustainable sites to accommodate such growth; and, what strategic and detailed planning policies were required to guide development decisions in the future.

44. 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; neighbouring and/or Sheffield City Region Local Planning Authorities; to name but a few.

45. 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 were being identified and for what land uses; this in itself generated a significant and unprecedented response.

46. The final round of consultation was the Main Modifications stage in February-March 2021. As set out above, the response to this consultation informed the Inspector's Final Report.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

47. The following background papers/documents are to be read in conjunction with this report:

- Doncaster Local Plan 2015-2035 - Adoption Version September 2021 – available to view here:
<https://dmbcwebstolive01.blob.core.windows.net/media/Default/Planning/Documents/Local%20Plan/Submission/Local%20Plan%20Adoption%20Version%20September%202021.pdf>

[n%20Sept%202021_FINAL.pdf](#)

- Doncaster Local Plan 2015-2035 - Policies Map – available to view here:
<https://dmbc.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=9e84afee16aa4746ac8cda448ab85f2c>
- The Planning Inspector's Final Report on the Examination of the Doncaster Local Plan 2015-2035 – 30 June 2021 – available to view here:
<https://dmbcwebstolive01.blob.core.windows.net/media/Default/Planning/Documents/Local%20Plan/Doncaster%20LP%20Report%20-%20final.pdf>
- Appendix to the Planning Inspector's Final Report – Main Modifications – available to view here:
<https://dmbcwebstolive01.blob.core.windows.net/media/Default/Planning/Documents/Local%20Plan/Doncaster%20LP%20Appendix%20-%20final.pdf>

GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

None

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