



**Policy, Finance and
Development
Committee**

**Tuesday, 20
September 2016**

Matter for Decision

Title: North West Leicestershire Local Plan - Publication Version

Author: Adrian Thorpe (Planning, Development and Regeneration Manager)

1. Introduction

- 1.1 North West Leicestershire District Council has published its draft Local Plan. This report sets out the comments of the Borough Council in relation to the Local Plan.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that Members approve the comments set out in paragraphs 3.4 to 3.7 of this report as Oadby and Wigston Borough Council's formal response to the publication version of the North West Leicestershire District Council Local Plan.

3. Information

- 3.1 North West Leicestershire District Council is preparing a new Local Plan. The Plan will cover the period to 2031 and will identify new sites for housing and employment.
- 3.2 The Plan was placed on public consultation for a six week period between Monday 4 July and Monday 16 August 2016. Due to the timings of the Borough Council's Committee Meetings the comments set out in the report have already been submitted to North West Leicestershire District Council as officer comments. The outcome of Members consideration of the officer comments will be communicated to North West Leicestershire District Council.
- 3.3 Policy, Finance and Development Committee previously agreed to submit comments to North West Leicestershire District Council in December 2015 in response to a public consultation on an earlier draft of the Local Plan. The comments set out in this report are, in general, consistent with the comments previously made.
- 3.4 Paragraphs 47 and 159 of the National Planning Policy Framework requires local planning authorities to assess their full objectively assessed housing needs, working with neighbouring authorities where Housing Market Areas (HMA) cross administrative boundaries.
- 3.5 North West Leicestershire District Council has published its Local Plan ahead of the completion of the Leicester and Leicestershire Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment (HEDNA) which has been jointly commissioned by all of the Leicester and Leicestershire local authorities and the LLEP and is currently underway. The HEDNA will establish the Objectively Assessed Need (OAN) for Leicester and Leicestershire and each of the constituent local authorities. Once the OAN is known, this will enable each of the constituent local authorities to assess its ability to meet its OAN. If any local authority is unable to meet its OAN then the remaining local authorities will need to agree arrangements to meet the unmet need under the duty to co-operate. The outcome of this process will inform the plan target to be included in the individual local plans of each local authority and the associated planning policies.

- 3.6 In the case of North West Leicestershire District Council, its publication Local Plan precedes this process and as such, the most recent OAN for North West Leicestershire published and agreed at HMA level (through the 2014 Strategic Housing Market Assessment and subsequent Memorandum of Understanding) is a figure of 350 dwellings per annum. This is significantly different to the figure of 520 dwellings per annum identified in Policy S1 of the publication Local Plan. The evidence upon which the figure of 520 dwellings per annum is based has been commissioned solely by North West Leicestershire District Council (Review of Housing Requirements 2011-31, JG Consulting, 2016) and therefore is not in accordance with the collaborative process outlined above. As such it is difficult to corroborate the outputs of this study in the context of the rest of the HMA.
- 3.7 The Leicester and Leicestershire local authorities have also worked collaboratively to consider the options for aligning local plans in Leicester and Leicestershire and their implications for each district, and to agree wording on review triggers to be incorporated into Local Plans. Policy S1 of the publication Local Plan falls short of this agreement in that it only provides a commitment that North West Leicestershire District Council will bring forward an early review of its Local Plan in the event of an identified additional need in North West Leicestershire. The reference solely to 'need in North West Leicestershire' does not take into account, for example, any unmet need arising from other local authorities and any work to agree the scale and distribution of this which may also lead to a position whereby North West Leicestershire District Council should bring forward an early review of its Local Plan. In addition, the policy should also include the timescale within which the Council would look to commence such a review.

Background Documents:-

North West Leicestershire Local Plan Publication Version, June 2016
National Planning Policy Framework, March 2012

Email: Adrian.thorpe@oadby-wigston.gov.uk

Tel: (0116) 257 2645

Implications	
Financial (CR)	No significant implications.
Legal (AC)	No significant implications.
Risk (AT)	No significant implications.
Equalities (AT)	No significant implications.
	Equality Assessment:-
	<input type="checkbox"/> Initial Screening <input type="checkbox"/> Full Assessment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable