

CABINET

DATE	14 June 2023
REPORT OF	Councillor Stewart Swinburn, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Transport
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	Carolina Borgstrom, Director for Economy, Environment, and Infrastructure
SUBJECT	Local Plan Review – Preparation Timetable
STATUS	Open
FORWARD PLAN REF NO.	CB 06/23/10

CONTRIBUTION TO OUR AIMS

The current Local Plan was adopted in March 2018. The Plan supports the Council's priorities of 'Stronger Economy and Stronger Communities'.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides information on the review of the North East Lincolnshire Local Plan. The timetable for the review forms an important element of the Local Development Scheme which sets out the overall timeframe for the review, identifying key milestones.

The report also includes a summary report of the engagement undertaken on the Scoping and Issues paper which marked the first informal stage in the preparation process and provided the first opportunity for engagement in the process.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Cabinet:

1. Approves the timescale for publication in the Local Development Scheme, set out in appendix A and authorises the Director of Economy, Environment and Infrastructure in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Transport to so implement such timescale.

REASONS FOR DECISION

The Council has a duty to maintain an up-to-date local plan. The National Planning Policy Framework stipulates local plans should be reviewed at least every five years and then updated as necessary. A cabinet decision in October 2021 recommended work on the review be restarted after a pause to reflect on proposed planning reforms. The publication of the Scoping and Issues paper marked the first informal stage in that review process. The council has a requirement to publish a Local Development Scheme which sets out the timeframe for undertaking the review.

1. BACKGROUND AND ISSUES

Local plan review

- 1.1 Much of the Local Plan continues to operate effectively and the evidence that supports many of the on-going policies remain up to date. The principles for the review that were originally agreed were:
- Maintain a single all-encompassing local plan
 - Maintain a pro-growth strategy which supports the council's economic strategy
 - Produce a plan which is viable and deliverable
 - Revise the plan only where necessary to address the changes to the NPPF or where the need has been highlighted by other evidence.
- 1.2 The Government has recently set out changes to the planning system and National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) which will have an impact on the consideration of the local plan review. (Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill – reforms to national planning policy, published 22 December 2022.) These changes include transitory arrangements relating to councils progressing local plan reviews. Under these arrangements plan makers will have until 30 June 2025 to submit their local plans, for independent examination under the existing legal framework; this will mean that existing legal requirements and duties, will still apply. Furthermore, 31 December 2026, is the latest date for any old-style local plans to be adopted.

Local development scheme

- 1.3 The timescale for incorporation in the local development scheme has been progressed based on completing the review process under the proposed transitional arrangements set out by Government. Under these arrangements plans would need to be submitted to the Secretary for State for examination no later than 30 June 2025. Failure to meet this cut-off date would require the council to switch to the production of a new style plan under the revised legislation. The transition arrangements also identify that where a local plan is more than five years old when the new legislation is introduced authorities would need to immediately commence work on a new style plan.
- 1.4 The timescale identifies the key milestones in the preparation process identifying the stages at which consultation will be undertaken. This will include:
- Draft plan – this is the first statutory consultation stage of the review, where the Council will set out its draft revisions to the policies set out in the adopted 2018 Local Plan
 - Submission draft – this statutory consultation stage is the final opportunity to make representations on what the Council considers to be the version of the local plan it would adopt
 - Submission – the council submits to the Secretary of State the version of

the local plan it would adopt along with any representations received during the submission draft consultation period and the supporting evidence base documents for independent examination

- Examination – the examination is held in public and run by the appointed Planning Inspector. The timetable for which is set out by the Inspector, he or she may ask for additional information to be provided or prepared. It is their opportunity to clarify any concerns they may have before they provide their recommendations
- Adoption – subject to any recommendations from the Planning Inspector the revised local plan will be adopted. At this time the current 2018 Local Plan will be superseded.

Consultation and engagement

- 1.5 The Government sets out the minimum statutory consultation requirements all local planning authorities must follow when preparing and reviewing a local plan. Councils can carry out additional informal public engagement if they wish.
- 1.6 All the consultation and engagement undertaken as part of the local plan review will be carried out in accordance with both the national guidelines and the adopted 2020 Statement of Community Involvement. This sets out who and how we intend to engage with and by what means.
- 1.7 The council has undertaken an initial round of informal public engagement on a Scoping and Issues paper. This took place between the 26 September and 7 November 2022. A summary report on this engagement is attached at Appendix B.

2 RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES

- 2.1 Progressing the local plan review does present some risks to the council, particularly when the Government is pressing forward changes to the planning system through the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill and other legislation and policy. Whilst many of the more radical changes aired in the Planning White Paper (2020) have been dropped significant changes are still being proposed.
- 2.2 There is now greater clarity over the exact scope and timing of the planning reforms (albeit in a consultation document), including detail of the proposed transition period. However, there remains a risk that the council may fail to submit a plan by the proposed 30 June 2025 transition deadline, or that the new legislation comes into force before the local plan has reached the submission stage.

3 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 3.1 The preparation of the Local Development Scheme incorporating the timescale set out in Appendix A is a requirement of the current local plan process. The timescale set out is based upon progressing the current review and provides the timetable for progressing the review through to adoption.
- 3.2 No other options are considered based on progressing under the current legislation.

4 REPUTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATIONS

Liaison with the Council's communications service has and will continue to be undertaken, covering both the informal public engagement period and formal statutory consultation requirements involved in the local plan review. In addition, it seeks to identify the communication channels to be used to promote and increase awareness of the local plan review.

5 FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The costs of preparing the local plan review documents and carrying out the various engagement periods will be funded by Equans.

There will be a requirement to update some of the background evidence documents which inform the local plan, the need for which will be defined by the scope of the review. The costs for updating these documents will be shared between the Council and Equans.

6 CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IMPLICATIONS

The local plan includes policies that will affect future development in the Borough. This will therefore have implications on the lives of people living in the area and the opportunities that are available to them.

7 CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

The local plan includes many policies that have climate and environment implications. The Government has strengthened the approach to these aspects as part of its changes to the planning system and is introducing new legislation through the Environment Bill. The local plan review will need to address these changes.

8 CONSULTATION WITH SCRUTINY

The proposed changes identified in the local plan review will be considered by Scrutiny in due course. Due to the wide scope of the local plan consultation held with all Scrutiny panels throughout the local plan review process.

9 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct financial implications to the council because of this report.

10 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

As set out in the body of the report, the Council is required to carry out periodic reviews of the local plan in line with regulatory and policy requirements and maintain an up-to-date local plan. Failure to produce and update this scheme would result in a failure to meet the Council's legal obligations.

The return to Cabinet prior to submission to the Secretary of State is prudent and reasonable, as is regular engagement through the scrutiny process in the intervening period.

11 HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct HR implications.

12 WARD IMPLICATIONS

All wards are affected.

13 BACKGROUND PAPERS

Cabinet report of 8 September 2022

(<https://democracy.nelincs.gov.uk/meetings/cabinet-rescheduled-from-24th-august/>)

Cabinet report of 6 October 2021

(<https://democracy.nelincs.gov.uk/meetings/cabinet-5/>)

Cabinet report of 10 June 2020

(<https://democracy.nelincs.gov.uk/meetings/cabinet-51/>)

Statement of Community Involvement (<https://www.nelincs.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-policy/statement-of-community-involvement/>)

North East Lincolnshire Local Plan 2013 to 2031, adopted March 2018

(<https://www.nelincs.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-policy/the-local-plan/>)

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COUNCILLOR STEWART SWINBURN

PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT

North East Lincolnshire

Local Plan Review

Local Development Scheme

May 2023



Working in partnership

1	Introduction	4
2	The current adopted development plan	8
3	Other relevant documents	10
4	Resources and project management	14
5	Risk assessment	16
6	Timetable	22

Introduction

- 1.1** Local planning authorities are required under section 15 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended)⁽¹⁾ to prepare a Local Development Scheme, which must specify:
1. the development plan documents, for example local plans which are to be development plan documents
 2. the subject matter and geographical areas to which each development plan document is to relate
 3. which development plan documents (if any) are to be prepared jointly with one or more other local planning authorities
 4. any matter or area in respect of which the authority has agreed (or propose to agree) the constitution of a joint committee under section 29
 5. the timetable for the preparation and revision of the development plan documents
- 1.2** The Local Development Scheme must be made available publicly and kept up to date to ensure local communities and interested parties can keep track of progress.
- 1.3** The Government has set out proposed changes to the planning system and National Planning Policy Framework which will have an impact on future local plan reviews. There is now greater clarity over the exact scope and timing of the planning reforms (albeit in a consultation document), including detail of the proposed transition period. Under these arrangements councils have until 30 June 2025 to submit their local plans to the Secretary of State for independent examination using the existing legal framework. Furthermore 31 December 2026 is the latest date for any 'old-style' local plans to be adopted.

About this Local Development Scheme

- 1.4** The council produced its first Local Development Scheme in 2012, followed by subsequent revisions in 2014, 2015, and 2016. These related to the current Local Plan (adopted in March 2018).⁽²⁾
- 1.5** The council remains committed to having an up to date local plan therefore, in line with current national legislation the council commenced a review of its adopted Local Plan in 2020.⁽³⁾
- 1.6** This new Local Development Scheme reflects the existing statutory regulations and stages for the plan process and sets out the council's intention to submit its Local Plan review for examination before the 30 June deadline, as set out in the transitional

1 <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2011/20/section/111/enacted>

2 <https://www.nelincs.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-policy/the-local-plan/>

3 <https://www.nelincs.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-policy/local-plan-review/>

arrangements in the government consultation document Levelling-Up and Regeneration Bill: reforms to national planning policy. This is the first Local Development Scheme for the Local Plan review.

- 1.7** This Local Development Scheme sets out the timetable for the production of new or revised documents that will form the Local Development Plan for the whole of North East Lincolnshire. It sets out the timetable for the preparation of the Local Plan review over a period to Summer 2026, noting that it is likely to be reviewed at a future date should the awaited reforms for a new planning system come into effect.

The current adopted development plan

2.1 The current adopted development plan is the North East Lincolnshire Local Plan 2013 to 2032 which was adopted in March 2018.⁽⁴⁾

Supplementary Planning Documents

2.2 The adopted Local Plan is supported by a number of existing adopted Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD) all of which were subject to public consultation.⁽⁵⁾

2.3 Current adopted Supplementary Planning Documents are:

- Wind energy - adopted June 2019
- Stallingborough Interchange employment site - adopted September 2020

2.4 Technical Advice Notes (TAN)⁽⁶⁾ which set out the details for implementing local plan policies.

2.5 Current Technical Advices Note are:

- First Homes - adopted December 2022

2.6 Additionally part of the Lincolnshire Wolds falls within North East Lincolnshire and has a management plan that is adopted by all local authorities within their area, This is used as a material consideration for planning applications and can be viewed at: <https://www.lincswolds.org.uk/our-work/management-plan>.

4 <https://www.nelincs.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-policy/the-local-plan/>

5 <https://www.nelincs.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-policy/supplementary-planning-documents/>

6 <https://www.nelincs.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-policy/technical-advice-notes/>

Other relevant documents

Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)

- 3.1** The North East Lincolnshire Statement of Community Involvement (2020)⁽⁷⁾ sets out the council's approach to public and key stakeholder participation in all planning matters, including the preparation of the local plan, supplementary planning documents and arrangements for consultations on planning applications.
- 3.2** The current Statement of Community Involvement incorporates the 'North East Lincolnshire Commitment' which was adopted by the council and NHS North East Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group in 2019.
- 3.3** The council is required to carry out a review of its Statement of Community Involvement within five years of its adoption, our first Statement of Community Involvement was adopted in 2006, we updated it in 2013 and again in 2020.

Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessment (SA and HRA)

- 3.4** The Local Plan review documents (including evidence base) will be subject to a Sustainability Appraisal, which will also incorporate the requirements of the EU Directive 2001/42/EC on Strategic Environmental Assessments. The Sustainability Appraisal will help identify and evaluate what effects the document and proposed plans are likely to have on social, economic and environmental conditions of an area, and help to ensure that the plan takes account of sustainable development objectives.
- 3.5** The first part of this work is the preparation of a Scoping Report which is subject to consultation with specific statutory bodies (Environment Agency, Highways England and Historic England).
- 3.6** The UK Conservation (Habitats & etc.) Regulations as amended result in an Appropriate Assessment being required for all plans likely to have a significant effect on a European site. Habitats Regulations Assessments, including Appropriate Assessment as necessary, will be undertaken as part of the Local Plan review.
- 3.7** Both of the above documents will be carried out at key stages of the Local Plan review and will accompany consultation drafts of the plan for public comment.

North East Lincolnshire Council plan

- 3.8** The 'council plan'⁽⁸⁾ sets out the council's priorities and vision for North East Lincolnshire. The local plan is responsible for delivering those of a spatial nature.

7 <https://www.nelincs.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-policy/statement-of-community-involvement/>

8 <https://www.nelincs.gov.uk/your-council/council-plan-vision-and-aims/>

Authority monitoring report

- 3.9** The council will publish monitoring information on its website on an annual basis relating to the previous monitoring year (running from 1 April to 31 March). This will provide updates on the status of the Local Development Scheme timetable, progress on the Local Plan review, reports on public consultations, duty to co-operate statements, neighbourhood planning and borough-wide statistics on planning topics such as housing, employment, environment and transport.
- 3.10** Further monitoring information is available on the North East Lincolnshire Data Observatory.⁽⁹⁾

Policies map

- 3.11** The council is required to produce a Policy Map which shows the location of development proposals in all current, adopted development plan documents on an ordnance survey base map. This currently includes five policy maps which accompany the adopted 2018 Local Plan:
- Plan area
 - Urban area inset maps
 - Town centre inset maps
 - Inset maps
 - Minerals

Community Infrastructure Levy

- 3.12** Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a mechanism introduced under the Planning Act 2008 with the intentions of providing a consistent approach to determining financial contributions from new development towards local infrastructure provision. Further revisions to national policy and regulation in 2018 and the approach to viability assessments affecting plan making, meaning that at this early stage of the Local Plan review process, it is unclear whether implementing a Community Infrastructure Levy charge would be beneficial to North East Lincolnshire. This issue is further complicated by measures proposed as part of wider planning reforms to replace both the Community Infrastructure Levy and Section 106 planning obligation agreements with a new infrastructure levy. Nevertheless, the council will review this issues as part of the Local Plan review and, if required, will be included in a future review of this Local Development Scheme.

9 <https://www.nelincsdata.net/>

Neighbourhood plans

- 3.13** At the time this new Local Development Scheme was published there are no adopted Neighbourhood plans in the North East Lincolnshire area nor have any Neighbourhood Forums been designated.

Resources and project management

Resources

- 4.1** North East Lincolnshire Council has a strong corporate commitment to the preparation and adoption of a Local Plan review. The council entered into a partnership with Equans in 2010 to move forward with its improvement agenda, aimed at meeting and delivering top performing services for the communities it serves.
- 4.2** The Local Plan review will be produced by the council's partner Equans, and led by the Spatial Planning Team, which currently consists of:
1. Spatial Planning Team Manager (1 FTE)
 2. Senior Planning Officer (0.5 FTE)
 3. Spatial Planning Officer (Administration) (1 FTE)
 4. Mapping and Technical Support Officer (1 FTE)
- 4.3** The importance of the work is recognised and supported across the authority with input and expertise from other teams across the council and the use of outside specialist consultants (where appropriate) along with engagement with stakeholders, organisations and the public to help inform the development of the plan.

Budget

- 4.4** The budget for the Equans planning services makes allowance for the anticipated costs of the Local Plan review production, excluding the cost of the Planning Inspector appointed to carry out the examination which will be covered by the council.

Project management

- 4.5** The council has established a management and reporting structure to support the delivery of the Local Plan review. This includes; a Local Plan Board, made up of Councillors from across the political parties, briefings for Senior Officers on key pieces of research of new national policy and, Scrutiny Panel workshops.
- 4.6** In addition it will be the responsibility of the council's Cabinet to approve the publication of the Local Plan review documents for consultation. Ultimately both the Cabinet and Full Council will be responsible for approving the adoption of the Local Plan review document.

Risk assessment

5.1 The timings set out in this Local Development Scheme are indicative and based on assumptions. It may be necessary to make further amendments to the timetable. An assessment of potential risks has been undertaken and details of their impact and likelihood alongside mitigation measures are set out in Table 5.1 'Risk assessment'.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation
Changes to, or new legislation or national planning policy	High	High Additional work required to ensure compliance, including evidence base document updates May result in work carried out having to start again	Keep up to date on emerging national context and respond to changes early Respond to proposed policy shifts highlighting potential local consequences
Evidence base work takes longer than expected	Medium	Medium Slow progress causes slippage in the programme Evidence base challenged or undermined	Recruitment of specialist officers or consultants Staff to undertake additional training
Volume of work greater than anticipated, for example higher level of representations than expected, or significant interest in preparing Neighbourhood Plans	Medium	High Causes slippage in the programme Cost implications	Ensure timetable is realistic with some flexibility built in Monitor progress against the Local Development Scheme Consider additional resources or reprioritise work

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation
Local Plan review programme to ambitious	Medium	Medium Key milestones in programme not met	Ensure Local Development Scheme is realistic Monitor progress against the Local Development Scheme timetable
Failure to recruit and retain qualified, well- motivated staff	High	High Reduced capacity causing slippage in the programme or failure to prepare documents	Take prompt action to fill vacancies with staff with required skills Pay recruitment or retention incentives Consider use of consultancy or agency staff
Insufficient budget to finance the project	Medium	Medium Work cannot be progressed Objectives on quality compromised	Budget and costs to be kept under review
Spatial planning team required to do other unforeseen work	High	High Diverts members of the team from the Local Plan review and causes slippage in the programme	Ensure the Local Plan review remains a corporate priority Identify key staff to be 'shielded' from other work Increase the size of the team Involve members of staff from the wider planning team
Failure to secure agreement of full council to Local Plan review	Low	High Delays in decision making	Build sufficient flexibility into the strategy and timescales

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation
		Causes slippage in the programme	<p>The impact of elections cannot be predicted and mitigation is limited</p> <p>Work closely with all elected Members to raise awareness of the Local Plan, and to secure an up to date plan that complies with National Planning Policy Framework</p>
Problems arising from joint working, compliance with the duty to cooperate and Statement of Common Ground	High	<p>High</p> <p>Causes slippage in the programme</p>	Close working with other authorities and council departments to detect issues early in the process
Planning Inspectorate unable to meet the timescale for the examination and/or reporting	Medium	<p>Medium</p> <p>Examination and/or report is delayed</p> <p>Key milestones in programme not met</p> <p>Deadlines under the transition arrangement not met</p>	Maintain regular contact with the Planning Inspectorate to ensure early warning of any problems
Submitted document fails the test of soundness or duty to cooperate at examination	Low	<p>High</p> <p>Document cannot be adopted without additional work</p>	<p>Develop sound technical evidence base. If necessary, go back to an earlier stage, revise the plan and re-submit</p> <p>Seek advice from Planning Inspectorate and be prepared to make modifications</p> <p>Consider the need for an external health check before document is submitted</p>

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation
Legal challenge	Medium	High Adopted document quashed Additional workload	Ensure procedures, legislation and regulations are complied with throughout the process Close working relationship with council's legal team and external legal support are required

Table 5.1 Risk assessment

Timetable

- 6.1** The council is committed to a review of its current Local Plan. Work on the review commenced in 2021.
- 6.2** Table 6.1 'Local Plan review project plan' outlines the process, role and content of each element of the review. Table 6.2 'Local Plan review key stages' sets out the timetable for the Local Plan review, identifying key milestones.

Subject and content	<p>North East Lincolnshire Local Plan</p> <p>Matters to be reviewed include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. future development in the Borough to 2042 2. conformity of adopted policies with national policy 3. the natural environment 4. climate change, flooding and energy 5. design and amenity 6. employment, housing and, town and local centres 7. infrastructure and biodiversity 8. health and wellbeing 9. minerals and waste
Status	Local Plan (Development Plan Document (DPD))
Chain of conformity	To conform with the National Planning Policy Framework
Geographical coverage	Borough-wide
Lead officer	Spatial Planning Manager (Equans)
Management	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Head of Development Services (Equans) 2. Assistant Director for Housing and Infrastructure
Political management	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Local Plan Board 2. Scrutiny Panels 3. Cabinet resolution for each statutory public consultation 4. Cabinet and Full Council resolution for submission and adoption
External resources	LUC is engaged to provide Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations advice

Community engagement	Engagement with stakeholders and members of the community takes place in accordance with the requirements set out in the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 ⁽¹⁰⁾ , as amended, and the council's Statement of Community Involvement ⁽¹¹⁾
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Table 6.1 Local Plan review project plan

Key stage	Timing
Local Plan review commenced	<p>An assessment using the Planning Advisory Service (PAS) Toolkit was carried out in 2019 to identify which areas of the adopted Local Plan needed updating, if any</p> <p>Initial decision to commence a review made in June 2020. However, due to the Governments proposed reforms to national planning policy this work was paused</p> <p>In October 2021, the council's Cabinet agreed that work on the review should be restarted</p>
Identifying the scope of the review Complete	<p>A Scoping and Issues Paper was prepared and published for an initial informal stage of public engagement to establish the scope of the local plan review and to identify the issues that need addressing.</p> <p>The engagement period ran from Monday 16 September to Monday 7 November 2022</p>
Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessment	Relevant appraisals and assessments will be carried out throughout the Local Plan review process
Evidence gathering	May 2023 to March 2025
Publication (Regulation 18)	October to December 2023

10 <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2012/767/contents/made>

11 <https://www.nelincs.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-policy/statement-of-community-involvement/>

Key stage	Timing
Publication of a local plan (Regulation 19 and 20)	August to October 2024
Submission of plan for examination (Regulation 22)	January to March 2025
Examination (Regulation 24)	April 2025 to June 2026
Main modifications consultation	January to March 2026
Receipt and publication of Inspector's report (Regulation 25)	April to June 2026
Adoption (Regulation 26)	September 2026

Table 6.2 Local Plan review key stages

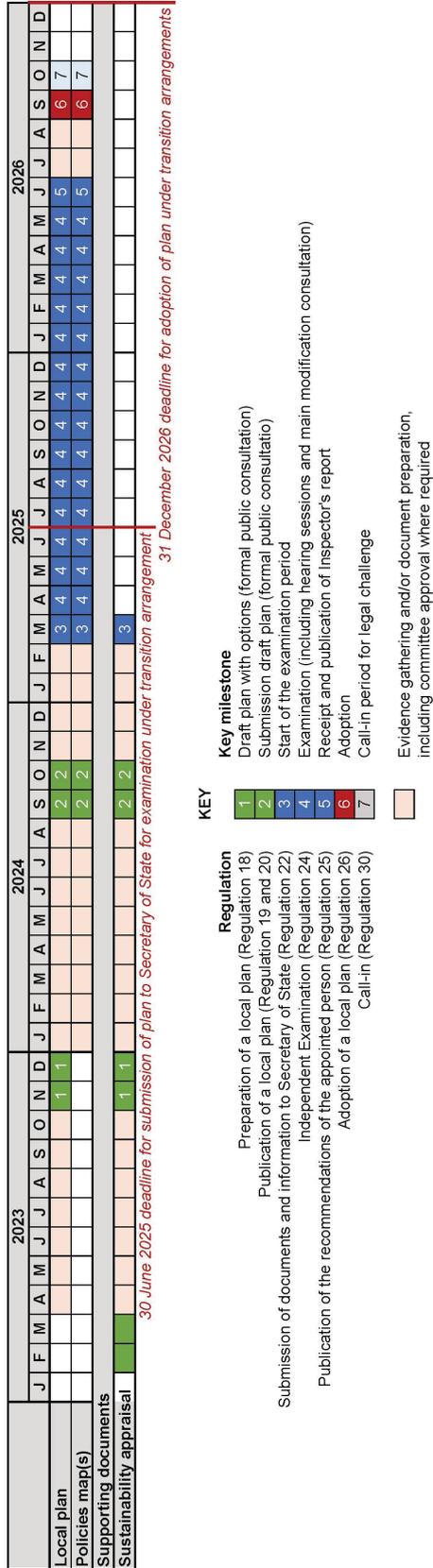


Figure 6.1 Timetable overview

Published/printed May 2023
by North East Lincolnshire Council
In partnership with EQUANS New
Oxford House
2 George Street
Grimsby
DN31 1HB

North East Lincolnshire

Local Plan Review

Statement of consultation and engagement

May 2023



Working in partnership

1	Introduction	4
■	Consultation and engagement undertaken	
2	2022 - Scoping and issues paper	8
3	2022 - Call for sites	14
4	2023 - Sustainability Appraisal scoping report	16
■	Appendices	
A	Deposit locations	19

Introduction

- 1.1 The current North East Lincolnshire Local Plan was adopted in 2018. The council is required by national legislation, policy, and guidance, to review its local plan within five years of its adoption.
- 1.2 This statement of consultation sets out details of how the early informal scoping and issues stage was undertaken and provides a summary of the main issues raised in the responses received. It also includes details of the consultation undertaken as part of the Sustainability Appraisal of the local plan.

Context

- 1.3 An initial decision was made in 2020 to commence the review however, this was paused due to the Government's proposed planning reforms. Work was recommenced late 2021 and the first informal stage of public engagement undertaken in Autumn 2022. It is anticipated work on the review will take around three years to complete and will be carried out in several stages, including:
 1. Scoping and issues – an early informal engagement stage aimed at establishing the areas of the adopted Local Plan that need reviewing and updating
 2. Draft plan – a formal statutory consultation seeking views on our first draft of the updated local plan document and suggested changes to the draft policies it contains
 3. Submission draft – a formal statutory consultation stage, the final opportunity to comment on what the Council considers to be the version of the local plan document it would adopt
 4. Examination - the submission draft document, along with all the representations received, and the evidence base documents will be submitted to the Secretary of State so that a public examination of the plan can be undertaken by an independent Planning Inspector
 5. Adoption - follow receipt of the Planning Inspectors report on the examination the Council will adopt the Local Plan. At this point the current 2018 Local Plan will be superseded.

Statement of community involvement

- 1.4 The Government sets out through various pieces of legislation, regulations and guidance the minimum requirements all local planning authorities must follow in relation to all planning matters. The adopted Statement of Community Involvement⁽¹⁾ provides additional information as to how North East Lincolnshire Council will engage with stakeholders, businesses and individuals as part of the preparation of its planning policy documents, including the Local Plan review.

1 <https://www.nelincs.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-policy/statement-of-community-involvement/>

- 1.5** This statement of consultation includes details of how the council met the requirements set out in legislation and the adopted Statement of Community Involvement (2020).

Duty to cooperate

- 1.6** The 'duty to cooperate' is set out in Section 110 of the Localism Act 2011, and applies to all local planning authorities (LPAs), national park authorities and county councils in England.
- 1.7** A separate statement will be prepared detailing how the council has fulfilled this obligation, this will be published on the council's website and form part of submission documents at the examination.

2022 - Scoping and issues paper

- 2.1** The publication of the Scoping and issues paper in September 2022 marked the early informal public engagement stage of the local plan review. Aimed at establishing the areas of the adopted Local Plan that need reviewing and updating.
- 2.2** This period of informal public engagement was due to take place between Monday 26 September and Friday 4 November 2022, However, due to technical issues experienced launching the event on our online consultation portal the deadline for submitting responses was extended until 5pm on Monday 7 November 2022.

Document availability

- 2.3** Copies of the Scoping and issues paper were made available for viewing in both electronic and paper versions. Electronic versions of the paper were available to view and download from:
1. the council's website⁽²⁾, including a copy of the response form
 2. the consultation portal⁽³⁾, where responses could be submitted electronically
- 2.4** Everyone who had registered their contact details on the local plan portal were notified directly of the engagement event.
- 2.5** Paper copies of the Scoping and issues paper were available to view at the following locations:
1. North East Lincolnshire Council Municipal Office reception
 2. Equans reception, New Oxford House, Grimsby
 3. Grimsby library
 4. Cleethorpes library
 5. Waltham library
 6. Immingham library
 7. Tea in the Park, Grant Thorold Park
 8. The Gingerbread House, Humberston
 9. Scartho community hub
- 2.6** Paper copies could also be requested, a charge of £5 was made to cover the cost of printing.

Events

- 2.7** A series of informal drop-in sessions were held, these provided the opportunity to speak to an officer and find out more about the local plan process and how to get involved. Initially these included:

2 <https://www.nelincs.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-policy/local-plan-review/scoping-and-issues/>

3 <https://nelincs-consult.objective.co.uk/kse/>

1. Monday 10 October at Immingham Library between 9am and 5pm
2. Tuesday 11 October at Grimsby Library between 8:30am and 5:30pm
3. Wednesday 12 October at Cleethorpes Library between 8:30am and 5:30pm

2.8 Following feedback asking for additional sessions to allow people who work to attend, the following sessions were added:

1. Saturday 15 October at Grimsby Library between 9am and 1pm
2. Tuesday 18 October at Cleethorpes Library between 6pm and 8pm
3. Friday 21 October at the Civic Centre hub, Immingham between 6pm and 8pm
4. Saturday 22 October at Immingham Library between 9am and 1pm
5. Tuesday 25 October at Grimsby Town Hall between 6pm and 8pm
6. Saturday 29 October at Cleethorpes Library between 9am to 1pm

Press releases and social media

Public notice

2.9 A public notice setting out the details of the engagement period and where to view the documents was published in the Grimsby Telegraph on 26 September 2022.

Social media and press releases

2.10 The use of social media as part of the publicity for the Local Plan review has been embraced. Whilst the use of this type of media for the collation of responses is not considered practical it is a suitable means for promoting that documents are available for the public to comment on at both the informal engagement and future statutory consultation stages. Along with press releases the following posts were released:

- Tuesday 27 September - Everything you need to know about the Local Plan review and how to take part
 - Press release
- Thursday 29 September - Have your say!
 - Facebook
 - Twitter
 - LinkedIn
- Thursday 6 October - Highlighting the borough's environmental vision
 - Press release
- Sunday 9 October - Want to know more about the Local Plan?

- Facebook
- Sunday 9 October - Have your Say!
 - Instagram
 - Twitter
 - LinkedIn
- Tuesday 11 October - Want to know more about the Local Plan?
 - Facebook
 - LinkedIn
 - Instagram
- Tuesday 25 October - Want to know more about the Local Plan?
 - Facebook
 - LinkedIn
 - Instagram
 - Twitter
- Friday 28 October - Last week for you to send in feedback
 - Press release

Other publicity

- 2.11** Information about the Local Plan review and how to get involved also appeared in the Autumn copy of the council's 'Discover North East Lincolnshire' magazine which was distributed to all households in the borough.

Summary of the main issues raised

2.12 Comments were received by letter and email, and not anonymous, have been processed and added manually by the Spatial Planning team to the consultation portal, where they can all be viewed.⁽⁴⁾

2.13 Responses were received from 117 individuals⁽⁵⁾ however, this includes a number of anonymous emails, officers are trying to collate additional contact details relating to these as due to the statutory nature of the Local Plan review process anonymous responses can not be accepted. A total of 641 comments have been processed. A summary of the main issues raised during the informal public engagement is set out below.

- new homes should be affordable
- brownfield land should be developed first
- empty homes need to be brought back into use
- protection of green spaces
- clarity on what 'urban' means
- support for low carbon agenda, energy efficiency, alternative energy sources
- importance of infrastructure requirements, including schools, medical centres etc
- more charging points for electric vehicles
- reduce light pollution
- population has fallen, needing less housing
- modernise town centre, protect villages from development
- self build plots might break up the 'identikit' developments
- improve existing infrastructure, roads, rail, public transport and cycle routes
- employment has declined, larger businesses have closed, reuse employment land for employment or housing
- skills aimed at local businesses
- expansion of further education facilities
- improved access to green spaces
- regenerate the town centre, making it a safe. secure and welcoming place to visit
- design quality is a matter of opinion, things should look nice but last
- protection and enhancement of heritage assets and their settings

4 <https://nelincs-consult.objective.co.uk/kse/>

5 This residents, businesses, landowners, and agents.

2022 - Call for sites

- 3.1** As part of the initial Scoping and issues stage of the local plan review a call for sites was undertaken.⁽⁶⁾ Developers, landowners, and other interested parties were invited to put forward sites with potential for future development, this included sites with the potential for the delivery of Biodiversity Net Gains (BNG).
- 3.2** The purpose of the call for sites exercise was to gain up to date information about land that has the potential for housing, employment, or mixed uses development and whether it is suitable to be allocated as part of the local plan review. Information relating to 42 sites was received, the majority of which provided updates on information already held. This information will now be assessed as part of the preparation of a Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment document. The results of which will be published on the council's website and will form part of the evidence base for the local plan review.

Please note

The submission of a site through the call for sites exercise **does not mean that the site will be allocated.** Nor that planning permission will be granted.

6 <https://www.nelincs.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-policy/local-plan-review/scoping-and-issues/call-for-sites/>

2023 - Sustainability Appraisal scoping report

- 4.1** The purpose of the Sustainability Appraisal is to identify and report on the likely social, economic and environmental effects of the plan and the extent to which sustainable development is expected to be achieved through its implementation.
- 4.2** There are five main stages to preparing a Sustainability Appraisal, these are:
1. Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope of the appraisal (Scoping report)
 2. Developing and refining options and assessing effects
 3. Preparing the sustainability appraisal report
 4. Consulting on the emerging local plan and the sustainability appraisal report
 5. Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the local plan
- 4.3** A Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report was prepared by Land Use Consultants, and published for consultation and sent to the prescribed statutory bodies for their consideration.⁽⁷⁾ The consultation ran from Friday 3 February to Friday 17 March 2023. The purpose of this consultation was to seek their views in relation to the scope and level of detail to be included in the Sustainability Appraisal of future stages of the local plan review. A copy of the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report was also made available on the council's website.⁽⁸⁾
- 4.4** The comments received mainly related to:
- additions to the relevant plans and programmes and baseline information
 - site assessment criteria recommendations for a few of the Sustainability Appraisal Objectives
- 4.5** These will be addressed as part of the Sustainability Appraisal Report for the next stage of the Local Plan review.

7 Natural England, Environment Agency and Historic England.

8 <https://www.nelincs.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-policy/sustainability-appraisal/>

Appendices

Deposit locations

A.1 Copies of the documents were made available to view both online and in person at the following locations.⁽⁹⁾

Location	Scoping and issues paper	Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report
Council website ⁽¹⁰⁾	Y	Y
Consultation portal ⁽¹¹⁾	Y	N
North East Lincolnshire Council Municipal office reception	Y	N
EQUANS reception, New Oxford House, Grimsby	Y	N
Central library	Y	N
Cleethorpes library	Y	N
Waltham library	Y	N
Immingham library	Y	N
The Gingerbread House, Humberston	Y	N
Scartho community hub	Y	N
Tea in the Park, Grant Thorold Park	Y	N

Table A.1 Document locations

9 During their normal opening hours.

10 <https://www.nelincs.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-policy/local-plan-review/>

11 <https://nelincs-consult.objective.co.uk/kse/>

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