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**Executive Summary – North East Lincolnshire Draft Local Plan 2022-2042**

**Introduction**

The Local Plan is a key document that will guide the changing use of land in North East Lincolnshire – shaping development and growth in future years.

By law, every council with responsibilities for planning must have a Local Plan, which looks forward for at least the next 15 years. It must then review that plan every five years – taking account of revisions in national planning policy and changing local priorities.

North East Lincolnshire’s existing Local Plan was adopted in 2018 and is the document that is now under review. Suggested amendments have been made and form this revised Draft Plan. The next stage of the process is this consultation when local people are asked to look at the draft document and give their views.

This consultation period, which ends on Friday 8 March, provides an opportunity for everyone in North East Lincolnshire and beyond to think about how places should evolve over time.

The contents of this Draft Plan with its supporting evidence, will ultimately shape what areas are developed and the form of those developments looking forward to 2042. It also looks at what areas are safeguarded from development of any kind. It is important that the draft, and indeed any Local Plan, should be read as a whole, rather than a series of individual policies to fully understand how they will influence future development.

Once this consultation is finished, there are still a number of stages to go through before the revised Local Plan is adopted. Until that time, which is likely to be 2026, the existing Local Plan remains in place as it is.

**Format of the document**

The structure of the Local Plan has been revised to give greater prominence to aspects of climate change and enhancement of the natural environment whilst remaining a plan for growth - striving to capture the opportunities for more employment.

**Setting the key requirements**

The Local Plan starts by looking at our future development needs. It is important to consider this before we look at how these needs may be met.

The Plan sets out options related to forecasts of employment growth, and options related to housing need. It is important in considering these options, to examine the alignment (link) between the number of new jobs that are predicted to be created across North East Lincolnshire and the number of new homes that should be built to give people taking those jobs the opportunity to live here as well as work here. This is something the Government expects to see in a Local Plan.

The council has set out that it is mindful to support an employment requirement of 4,560 jobs over the plan period and set the housing requirement at 415 dwellings per annum. (If these options are accepted then there would of course be a need to be flexible).

**Where development will take place**

Having determined the needs, the next choice to be made is to consider in broad terms, where the development takes place.

When we look at jobs and employment, for example, the development is likely to be on the estuary land between the ports of Immingham and Grimsby and the existing employment estates across the borough. From a housing perspective the Draft Plan presents options for consideration. The council has indicated that it is mindful to support an option that would see a tighter constraint on development in, what are termed the ‘arc settlements’ (Healing, Laceby, Waltham, New Waltham and Humberston) with development of large urban extensions together with a strong urban focus. Under all options presented, brownfield sites will be given priority where there is evidence that sites are viable and achievable.

**Key elements of the Draft Plan**

Many of the policies in the Draft Plan are not subject to change or only minor changes to reflect shifts in national policy. These are clearly identified in the document.

More significant revisions have been made to Policies related to energy and low carbon living (Strategic Policy 8), Green space and recreation (Policy 2) including the option to identify areas for designation as “Local Green Spaces”, Skills (Policy 6), Affordable housing (Strategic Policy 18). In addition, policies relating to town, district and local centres have been rewritten to provide more concise wording.

* New Policies have been included in the Draft Plan to recognise changing priorities. The introduction of a ‘green wedges policy’ is being considered (Draft Strategic Policy 3) This policy has a number of elements:
	+ To give greater protection to the gaps between settlements in key areas of concern;
	+ To safeguard areas that provide buffers between incompatible uses;
	+ To connect areas of recreation, to protect areas that serve as a green lung stretching into urban areas;
	+ The protection of wildlife sites to support wildlife corridors. A policy has also been proposed to specifically address health and wellbeing (Policy 1).

**How to comment**

* The draft plan is a consultation document and your comments are important. The easiest way to comment is via our web-based Consultation portal ([www.nelincs-consult.objective.co.uk/kse/](https://nelincs-consult.objective.co.uk/kse/) ), this is simple and user friendly and will allow you to submit your comments directly alongside the relevant sections of the online document.
* You can download a copy of the response form from the consultation portal <https://nelincs-consult.objective.co.uk/kse/>) or the Council’s website (<https://www.nelincs.gov.uk>) Complete the form and return to Spaitalplanning@nelincs.gov.uk.
* Alternatively you can email your specific comments to spatialplanning@nelincs.gov.uk or write to us at: Equans, Municipal Offices, Town Hall Square, Grimsby, DN31 1HU.

The Local Plan public drop-in sessions will take place at the following locations:

* Cleethorpes Library, Wednesday 24 January, 10am-1pm
* Grimsby Library, Thursday 1 February, 2pm-5.30pm
* Immingham Library, Saturday 3 February, 10am-1pm
* Cleethorpes Library, Tuesday 20 February, 2pm-5.30pm
* Immingham Library, Thursday 22 February, 1pm-4pm
* Grimsby Library, Saturday 24 February, 9am-1pm