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Stoke-on-Trent and Newcastle-under-Lyme

Joint Local Plan Issues Summary Guide

Working together to shape the future of our area



This leaflet is a short summary of the Joint Local Plan - Issues Consultation Document which sets out the issues that need to be considered when developing Stoke-on-Trent and Newcastle-under-Lyme in the future.

It also explains how you can have a say on the sort of issues that are affecting both areas and which are set out in the consultation document.

What is a Local Plan?

A local plan is a framework that guides the long term future growth of an area over a period of 15 to 20 years, including how much development there should be, where it should go, and how land should be used.

The plan will help to guide planning application decisions, setting out what will and will not be permitted. It will look at housing provision, jobs and infrastructure. It will also guide regeneration and make sure that the area's heritage and natural environment are protected.

Stoke-on-Trent City Council and Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council are preparing a new Joint Local Plan that will eventually replace the existing Joint Core Spatial Strategy (2009). The plan will ensure that the city and borough take shape in a way that meets the needs of residents and businesses, as well as attracting new investment to the area, up to the year 2033.

Why is this being done together?

We are working together on a new Joint Local Plan because the two areas share many of the same issues. So, their development needs can be best met by planning comprehensively, whilst retaining the distinctiveness of each area. National planning policy also encourages local authorities to work together.

Why are we consulting the public?

We are in the early stages of preparing the plan and need your views to make sure it reflects the needs and aspirations of local people. We want to share with you some of the issues our research has highlighted, as these are likely to influence the way Newcastle-under-Lyme and Stoke-on-Trent develop.

This is an opportunity for you to look at the evidence and issues and give your thoughts on how we might plan for the future of Stoke-on-Trent and Newcastle-under-Lyme. We also want you to tell us whether you think the issues recognised are the right ones.



The full document is available at local libraries and council centres as well as online at:
stoke.gov.uk/jointlocalplan and
newcastle-staffs.gov.uk/jointlocalplan

What are the key issues?

The Issues Consultation Document details the main challenges that our evidence says the area may face over the coming years and which the new Joint Local Plan will need to address.

The document is split into eight key themes and broadly covers the issues identified in the following summary:-



Housing

- Housing requirements - between 1,177 and 1,504 dwellings per year across the two areas.
- Creating a stronger, more balanced housing market and addressing outmigration and out commuting.
- Addressing problems with empty properties and delivering affordable housing, especially for specialist groups such as the elderly, students, gypsies and travellers.



Economy

- Employment land need - between 190 and 313 hectares over the plan's period.
- Delivering a good quality supply of employment land that benefits both the needs of businesses and the labour force.
- Tackling employment site problems such as ground conditions, contamination and access.
- Ensuring that the skills of the local workforce match the needs of businesses and inward investment opportunities and to improve local job prospects.



City, town and other centres

- Working towards a new distinctive hierarchy of main centres incorporating a range of uses, including shops, restaurants, housing and employment.
- Ensuring out of town developments do not weaken the identity and character of existing centres but provide a complimentary role to main centres.
- Clarifying and supporting the role of local and rural service centres.



Transport

- Improving walking and cycling routes.
- Increasing use of public transport.
- Addressing traffic congestion.
- Maximising transport connectivity to other parts of the county and improving connections within the conurbation.



Health and communities

- Ensuring high quality environments that are well designed and connected.
- Ensuring that the location of development positively influences health.
- Ensuring developments maximise and connect green spaces and cycling routes.



Heritage

- Recognising and understanding the importance of heritage buildings and their surroundings.
- Securing funding opportunities and increasing the attraction of heritage assets.
- Recognising the urban and rural settlement pattern and integrating new development.



Natural and rural environment

- Balancing the need to plan for new development with the protection and improvement of local, natural assets.
- Identifying brownfield land biodiversity and a quality greenspace network.
- Protecting rare species and designated sites and enhancing the landscape character of the area.
- Ensuring a balance between the quality and quantity in the future management of green infrastructure.



Energy and climate change

- Understanding the areas' strengths for alternative sources of energy.
- Promoting renewable and low carbon energy sources.
- Reducing emissions by increasing the use of sustainable transport and development locations.
- Ensuring that new development takes into account sources of flooding.

What are the next steps?

Once we have established the areas' most important planning and development issues, we can begin to develop the vision, aims and objectives of the Joint Local Plan and look at the options to address the issues. This will be in the summer of 2016.

Taking the evidence and feedback into account, we will then draw up a Draft Joint Local Plan for you to comment on. This will be in summer 2017.

A full timetable of the process can be found online at both councils' websites.

How can I get involved?

The future of the area is important for everyone who lives, works or visits here. The Joint Local Plan will affect you in a variety of ways: from new housing, roads, shops, businesses and schools. This is a great opportunity to get involved and have your say - your views matter.

There is a lot of information in the consultation paper and supporting documents, so you may only want to look at one or two sections, depending on what you are interested in. You can respond to as many or as few issues set out in the consultation document as you like.

You can comment by filling in a short feedback form, which is available:

- to complete online at **www.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk/jointlocalplanform**
- by emailing **localplan@stoke.gov.uk**
- by calling **01782 236339**
- from one of our unmanned exhibitions from **15 February** held at:

Newcastle-under-Lyme

The Guildhall – ST5 1PW

Madeley Centre – CW3 9DE

Kidsgrove Service Centre – ST7 4EL

Stoke-on-Trent

1 Smithfield, Hanley, ST1 4FA

Stoke Civic Centre – ST4 1HH

Tunstall Children's Centre, ST6 6AP

Longton Local Centre – ST3 1NW

During this consultation, Stoke-on-Trent City Council are coordinating the comments.

Please return hard copies of completed forms to **Planning and Transportation Policy, Planning Services, Place Directorate, Civic Centre, Glebe Street, Stoke-on-Trent, ST4 1HH.**

The deadline for responses is **5pm Tuesday 29 March 2016**. Unfortunately, responses received after this date will not be considered.

Where can I find out more?

More information about the Joint Local Plan the evidence we have gathered and an update on its progress can be found online at:

stoke.gov.uk/jointlocalplan

newcastle-staffs.gov.uk/jointlocalplan