

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL

CORPORATE LEADERSHIP TEAM'S REPORT TO ECONOMY AND PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

18 March 2023

Report Title: Borough Local Plan Update

Submitted by: Deputy Chief Executive

Portfolios: Strategic Planning

Ward(s) affected: All

<u>Purpose of the Report</u> To provide an update on the Borough Local Plan.	<u>Key Decision</u> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<u>Recommendation</u> That Committee: 1. Members note the update on the progress of developing a Borough Local Plan.	
<u>Reasons</u> To provide an update on the progress of developing a Local Plan. To ensure that the process of adopting a Local Plan is undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act and the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended).	

1. Background

- 1.1 The Local Plan sets the vision and framework for how the borough will grow up to 2040. It sets out targets for the number of jobs and homes to be delivered in the borough and a spatial strategy to guide development to the most sustainable locations.
- 1.2 The Economy & Place Scrutiny Committee, at its meeting on the 12 December 2022, requested that a standing item be added to future meeting agendas to provide an update on the current position with regards to the emerging Borough Local Plan.
- 1.3 As was previously reported, consultation on the First Draft Local Plan ended on the 14th of August 2023. At the last couple of Economy & Place Scrutiny Committee meetings (on the 21 September and 07 December 2023 respectively), a report was received on the consultation process on the First Draft Local Plan and the main headline topics that have been commented on by respondents.

2. Issues

- 2.1 A Cabinet meeting on the 16 January 2024, approved the following recommendations: -

That Cabinet:

1. Notes the summary of the main issues raised to the consultation on the First Draft Local Plan which took place from the 19 June to the 14 August 2023 and the Council's initial response as set out in the Consultation Report (Appendix

2. Authorises the Deputy Chief Executive, in consultation with the Strategic Planning Portfolio Holder, to recommend to Council at its meeting on the 24 July 2024 that it approves the Final Draft Local Plan (at Regulation 19 stage), the Sustainability Appraisal, Habitats Regulation Assessment and supporting documentation for public consultation in line with the approved Local Development Scheme.

3. Subject to the outcome of consultation, and if no matters are raised that materially impact upon the Plan strategy, authorise the Deputy Chief Executive in consultation with the Strategic Planning Portfolio Holder to submit the Final Draft Local Plan and supporting documents to the Secretary of State for formal examination by the end of 2024.

- 2.2 Following the Cabinet meeting held on the 16 January 2024, the next formal steps for the Local Plan are as follows: -

- Thursday 11 July 2024 – Special meeting of Economy and Place Scrutiny Committee to consider the Local Plan.
- Wednesday 24 July 2024 – Full Council meeting to consider the Local Plan. Members at the Full Council meeting will be asked to approve the Final Draft Local Plan (at Regulation 19 stage) and associated documentation for six weeks public consultation.

Comments from the Special Economy and Place Scrutiny Committee will be considered at the Full Council meeting.

- 2.3 Subject to approval at Full Council, the Final Draft Local Plan will be consulted upon over the summer / autumn 2024 before the Plan, its evidence base and consultation responses submitted at the Regulation 19 consultation stage are submitted to the Secretary of State for formal examination. The submission of the Plan is anticipated to take place by the end of 2024.

- 2.4 A consultation report on the First Draft Local Plan stage was also considered by Cabinet on the 16 January 2024. The consultation report is attached as an appendix to this report for Members of the Economy and Place Scrutiny Committee to note.

- 2.5 Turning to progress on the Local Plan, consultants have now been appointed to support the Plan in the following work areas: -

- Housing and Economic Needs Assessment
- Infrastructure Delivery Plan

- Habitats Regulations Assessment / Sustainability Appraisal (incorporating Equality Impact Assessment)
- Strategic Employment Needs Assessment
- Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showperson Accommodation Assessment
- Strategic Flood Risk Assessment / Water Cycle Study
- Viability Assessment
- Strategic Transport Assessment

2.6 Alongside the above, the planning policy team will also be working on the following activities associated with the Local Plan: -

- Reviewing consultation responses
- Ongoing Duty-to-Co-operate discussions
- Monitoring
- Work on housing land supply
- Work on Green Belt and Exceptional Circumstances
- Updating the Strategic Housing and Employment Land Availability Assessment and Site Selection work including site deliverability, availability and suitability
- Updating the Local Plan in readiness for the Final Draft Local Plan, including policies and sites

3. Recommendation

3.1 That Members note the update on the progress of the Local Plan.

4. Reasons

4.1 To provide an update on the progress of developing a Local Plan. To ensure that the process of adopting a Local Plan is undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended).

5. Options Considered

5.1 The Council has already expressed its clear intention through its Local Development Scheme (Local Plan Timetable) and through the progress on the Local Plan to date that it intends to put in place a comprehensive set of up-to-date planning policies for the Borough.

6. Legal and Statutory Implications

6.1 In accordance with section 20 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) the Council has a statutory duty to prepare planning policies and maintain an up to-date development plan. Secondary legislation contained in the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 provides additional guidance on Plan making.

7. Equality Impact Assessment

7.1 The Local Plan will be supported by an Equality Impact Assessment. This will consider how development proposed and planning policies impact on different groups in the community.

8. Financial and Resource Implications

- 8.1 The preparation of the Local Plan is resourced through the Planning Policy budget.

9. Major Risks & Mitigation

- 9.1 Changes in National Policy, Legislation and Guidance - The Levelling-Up and Regeneration Act now has Royal Assent. The Act will have implications for the formulation of future Local Plans. The Government has outlined that Councils have until 30 June 2025 for 'old style' Plans to be submitted for examination (to be adopted by 31 December 2026).
- 9.2 On the 19 December 2023, the government published a revised National Planning Policy Framework. The implications of changes made through the revised National Planning Policy Framework will be kept under review during the development of the Final Draft Local Plan.

10. UN Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDG)

- 10.1 As the Local Plan is primarily focused on the use of land, overall levels of growth and the relationship to the environment and infrastructure then several of the UN Sustainable Development Goals will overlap with the aims of the Plan.



11. Key Decision Information

- 11.1 This report provides an update on the Borough Local Plan. Decision reports associated with the formal consultation and submission of the Local Plan will affect all wards in the Borough.

12. Earlier Cabinet/Committee Resolutions

- 12.1 Cabinet – 6 June 2023 – Cabinet decision to consult on the First Draft Local Plan - [Agenda for Cabinet on Tuesday, 6th June, 2023, 2.00 pm – Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council \(newcastle-staffs.gov.uk\)](https://newcastle-staffs.gov.uk/agenda-for-cabinet-on-tuesday-6th-june-2023-2.00-pm-newcastle-under-lyme-borough-council)
- 12.2 Cabinet 17 October 2023 - update following consultation on the First Draft Local Plan and consideration of Local Development Scheme - [Agenda for](#)

- 12.3 Cabinet 16 January 2024 – consultation report on First Draft Local Plan -
[Agenda for Cabinet on Tuesday, 16th January, 2024, 2.00 pm – Newcastle-
under-Lyme Borough Council \(newcastle-staffs.gov.uk\)](https://newcastle-staffs.gov.uk)

13. **List of Appendices**

- 13.1 Appendix 1: Consultation Report

14. **Background Papers**

- 14.1 Local Development Scheme (2023 – 2026) - [Local development scheme –
Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council \(newcastle-staffs.gov.uk\)](https://newcastle-staffs.gov.uk)