

Special Healthy, Safe, Clean and Green Communities Scrutiny Committee

30th November 2016

Consultation Draft Local Plan and relationships with Health and Wellbeing

Report of the Interim Planning Policy Manager

This report is public

Purpose of the Report

- To outline the main elements of the Council's Consultation Draft Local Plan in relation to Health and Wellbeing, together with the details of the consultation process.

1 Report Details

Background

- 1.1. Members will be aware that the Council adopted commenced a six week consultation on the Consultation Draft Local Plan on the 31st October 2016, running to 12th December 2017.
- 1.2. This followed on from the following consultation milestones:
 - a) Initial Consultation on what the Plan should contain (Oct/Nov 2014)
 - b) Consultation on Preferred Options and Reasonable Alternatives (Oct/Nov 2015)
 - c) Consultation on the Draft Plan (Sept/Oct 2016)
 - d) Consultation on Publication Plan (June/July 2017)
 - e) Submission (Nov 2017)
 - f) Adoption (Sept 2018)
- 1.3. Within this, milestones a). and d) represent the statutory stages of consultation which are specified within the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012, whereas milestones b). and c). represent locally selected stages of consultation to ensure the Council secures meaningful public engagement in the process and is aware of potential 'showstoppers' that could delay the preparation of the Local Plan in advance of the Publication Plan.
- 1.4. Members will be aware of the progress to date in relation to the identification of strategic options for local housing and employment targets. Consideration has been ongoing in relation to the proposed allocation of specific sites for the distribution of the required development within the Local Plan for Bolsover District.

Consultation to date

- 1.5. Whilst there has been significant consultation to date, as set out above, this is a really important stage in relation to the future of infrastructure planning and our work on the Infrastructure Plan which will need to go alongside the Local Plan.
- 1.6. This is the first stage where we have made it clear exactly where development should be going, which should enable all forms of infrastructure providers to identify how best to meet the future needs of our communities.
- 1.7. Specific approaches are currently being made to infrastructure providers including Public Health at Derbyshire County Council and the Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG's) to ensure that the integration of development, infrastructure and services is achievable.
- 1.8. The Consultation Draft Local Plan is essentially the last informal consultation period whereby the comments received are for the Council to consider and determine how to act upon. The Draft (Publication) stage which will follow, has a formal consultation stage where the comments received will be submitted to the independent Inspector as part of the Local Plan examination.
- 1.9. Whilst the Consultation Draft Local Plan is a large document, containing 10 chapters which have not been seen in this form before, it is important to note that the approach, aims and intention of the Plan are all matters that the local plan steering group (LPSG) have been very involved in, and follow the approaches agreed at Planning Committee meetings. Below, I have pulled out the main elements of the plan in relation to Health and Wellbeing.
- 1.10. However, it should be noted that apart from specific references, Health and Wellbeing is indelibly linked to many elements of the Plan. Sustainability is partly related to issues around good access to facilities, for all. Housing has long been seen as a major element in health and certainly in relation to the quality of affordable housing and ensuring that people have access to accommodation which can be kept dry and warm at a reasonable cost. The environment and its protection is also recognised as having key impacts on Health and Wellbeing through providing attractive places for recreation and exercise. Widening the nature of employment throughout the district also can increase the potential for people with health issues to be able to access the job market and play a more active role in society.
- 1.11. Within Chapter 2, the Spatial Portrait, the Plan looks at the main characteristics of the district and relies heavily on our evidence base. It considers the physical setting and connections the area has and our environmental and cultural heritage as well as health issues. It looks at our communities and services, economy and employment. It highlights the main key issues including the need to:
“**improve health outcomes** in a district with an above average percentage of retired people, and people suffering poor health”
- 1.12. Chapter 3 addresses the Vision and objectives of the Plan. In simple terms, the Plan is looking to create a sustainable district. Part of the vision is that:

“Local people will have benefited from the opportunities for a healthier lifestyle, improved job opportunities, more housing, and the increase in facilities that this can help to deliver”.

- 1.13. This chapter then identifies 16 Objectives which are seen as the stepping stones that need to be addressed in order to realise the vision. They cover issues such as sustainability, regeneration and climate change together with environments such as the Countryside, town centres and the historic environment.
- 1.14. Objective K is specifically on Health and Wellbeing. It aims to improve health outcomes, and increase life expectancy for residents by addressing the economic and environmental factors underpinning health and well being. This will be achieved by:
 - a) working with healthcare partners to deliver new and improved health and social care facilities
 - b) promoting healthy lifestyles and address obesity and levels of physical activity
 - c) encouraging walking and cycling
 - d) improving access to the countryside and recreational, leisure and cultural activities
 - e) providing opportunities for people to enjoy the natural environment and value the biodiversity it supports.
- 1.15. As outlined above, it is possible to link many aspects of the Plan to Health and Well being issues. A particularly difficult area however lies in the issue of contributions from developers in order to help deliver infrastructure
- 1.16. This issue is addressed Chapter 9, Implementation and infrastructure delivery. There are two proposed policies within this section, an overarching policy in relation to Section 106 requirements and a policy requiring the provision of Employment and Skills Plans on significant development sites
- 1.17. S106 allows local planning authorities to consider whether proposals that may otherwise be refusible due to a lack of infrastructure could be made acceptable through the use of a planning obligation. Planning obligations should only be used where it is not possible to address unacceptable impacts through a planning condition
- 1.18. The main issues in relation to the provision of Health and Well being infrastructure, revolves around how any requests for funding can be judged to meet the legal requirements, which are that contributions must be:
 - a) necessary to make the development acceptable in planning terms;
 - b) directly related to the development;
 - c) fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind to the development.
- 1.19. Policy II 1 states that in order to aid plan delivery, planning obligations will be sought where the implementation of a development would create a need to provide additional or improved infrastructure, amenities or facilities or would exacerbate an existing deficiency. The identification of this need will be assessed on a case by case basis but will be guided by the latest version of the Council’s Infrastructure Study and Delivery Plan. The policy goes on to recognise the importance of social infrastructure, in particular:

- a. education (primary, secondary and further phases);
- b. health (primary and secondary care and pharmacy services);
- c. emergency services (ambulance, fire and police).

1.20. However, the Council also must recognise that in an area where the viability of development is often limited, even where requests for contributions may meet those tests, the Council will need to determine between a number of competing requests for funding.

Consultation

1.21. The current consultation is part of the informal, non statutory work which develops the local plan following the commencement of the new plan with the earlier consultation under Regulation 18 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. It should be the last non statutory consultation, until we produce the publication draft local plan under regulation 19 of the Act.

1.22. As such, this is a very important stage. It is our opportunity to gauge and consider the public reaction to our proposals and amend and improve them, prior to us moving to the statutory consultation under Regulation 19, where the comments will be considered by the independent Inspector at examination.

2 Conclusions and Reasons for Recommendation

- 2.1 The report outlines the general linkages between the Consultation Draft Local Plan and Health and Wellbeing issues.
- 2.2 This is an opportunity for this committee to engage within the Local Plan consultation process.

3 Consultation and Equality Impact

- 3.1 Officers involved in the preparation of this report were: the Interim Planning Policy Manager.
- 3.2 Members of the Local Plan Steering Group and Planning Committee were consulted with in terms of bringing the Local Plan forward and formal public consultation was with the agreement of the Planning Committee.
- 3.3 An Equality Impact Assessment will be required in advance of publishing the Publication Draft Local Plan.

4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

- 4.1 Not applicable

5 Implications

5.1 Finance and Risk Implications

5.1.1 .Not applicable

5.2 Legal Implications including Data Protection

5.2.1 Not applicable.

5.3 Human Resources Implications

5.3.1 Not applicable

6 Recommendations

6.1 It is recommended that the report be noted and that consideration be given to any comments that may be made as part of the consultation process.

7 Decision Information

Is the decision a Key Decision? (A Key Decision is an executive decision which results in income or expenditure to the Council of £50,000 or more or which has a significant impact on two or more District wards)	Yes/No
Is the decision subject to Call-In? (Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)	No
District Wards Affected	None
Links to Corporate Plan priorities or Policy Framework	The new Local Plan will identify suitable areas for development to help to deliver the Council's Growth Agenda. It will assist both developers and local residents by providing certainty about the way the district will develop over the Plan period. It therefore contributes to the following Corporate Aims and their identified priority actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Unlocking Our Growth Potential (main aim);• Supporting Our Communities to be Healthier, Safer, Cleaner and Greener.

8 Document Information

Appendix No	Title
Background Papers (These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Cabinet (NEDDC) or Executive (BDC) you must provide copies of the background papers)	
Report Author	Contact Number
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Report Reference –