

Broads Local Plan: Issues and Options Update
Report by Planning Policy Officer

Summary: Consultation on the Issues and Options document as the first stage of the Broads Local Plan preparation is proposed in February 2016. This report updates members on progress.

Recommendation: That Members note the report.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 As the Issues and Options version of the Broads Local Plan nears its consultation stage (early February 2016), this report updates members on the progress to date as well as setting out what to expect as the document is finalised and progresses through the committee cycle.

2 Progress to Date

- 2.1 The **Statement of Community Involvement** was adopted by Planning Committee in November 2014¹. This sets out how the public will be involved in determining planning applications and in the production of the Local Plan and Broads Plan.
- 2.2 The **Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report**² was the subject of consultation with the requisite bodies (namely Historic England, the Environment Agency and Natural England) in October/November 2014.
- 2.3 The **Local Development Scheme**³ was adopted by Planning Committee in July 2015. This sets out the timeline for the production of the Local Plan.
- 2.4 **Second and Holiday Home study work** is underway currently, in order to help understand the situation in the Broads Authority Executive Area and the immediate area around the Broads.

¹ http://www.broads-authority.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0006/576609/Final-Adopted-Statement-of-Community-Involvement-November-2014.pdf

² <http://www.broads-authority.gov.uk/planning/planning-policies/development/future-local-plan>

³ http://www.broads-authority.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/608665/Broads-Local-Plan-LDS-July-2015.pdf

- 2.5 Work has been undertaken in **assessing settlements** and their access to services and facilities, to inform the way forward with development boundaries and a settlement hierarchy. This work is currently in draft form.
- 2.6 The **Mooring and Riverbank Stabilisation Guide** (draft at time of writing) have been the subject of consultation and will be recommended for adoption at Full Authority in due course.
- 2.7 The **Broads' Objectively Assessed Housing Need** is being produced as part of a joint working programme with Breckland, Broadland, Norwich, South Norfolk and North Norfolk Councils. This is due to be delivered by the end of September and will set out how many dwellings are required in the Broads Executive Area between 2012 and 2036.
- 2.8 The actual Issues and Options document is being drafted. Each chapter will discuss a particular theme, identify the issue and identify three broad options to address that issue. It is not for this stage of the production of the Local Plan to produce policy wording, but to explore the issues. Policy wording and alternative options will be produce in the Preferred Options stage.

3 The Next Stages

- 3.1 The **key dates** leading up to the consultation on the Issues and Options are as follows:
- Internal circulation prior to committees: November 2015
 - Navigation Committee: 10 December 2015
 - Planning Committee: 8 January 2016
 - Full Authority: 22 January 2016
- 3.2 Regular informal meetings will be held with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Planning Committee to keep them up to date with progress.
- 3.3 A report will be brought to the 8 January 2016 meeting of the Planning Committee setting out the draft Issues and Options document. Subject to Planning Committee approval, this will be referred to Full Authority to authorise for consultation.
- 3.4 It is likely that the consultation will begin at the start of February 2016 and last for 8 weeks. Regulations require 6 weeks consultation, but an extra two weeks enables the public more time to respond to this important stage of the Local Plan production. This consultation stage is aligned with the first consultation stage on the Broads Plan.

4 Financial Implications

- 4.1 As well as Officer time, the likely costs of producing the Local Plan were set out in section 5 of this report: http://www.broads-authority.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/584783/Financial-Performance-and-Direction-ba100715.pdf

5 Conclusion

- 5.1 The Broads Local Plan Issues and Options document is progressing well and is set for consultation in February 2015.

Background papers: None

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Appendices: None