

Broads Local Plan Update and Way Forward – Preparing the Preferred Options
Report by Planning Policy Officer

Summary: This report discusses the Issues and Options consultation, the process towards producing the Preferred Options of the Local Plan as well as proposes an updated Local Development Scheme be adopted. The report discusses improvements to two Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Objectives.

Recommendations:

- (i) That the report be noted and that the version 3 Local Development Scheme is adopted by Planning committee.
- (ii) That the Planning Committee agrees for the changes to the SA Objectives to be consulted on.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The consultation period for the Issues and Options version of the Broads Authority Local Plan was from 16 February 2016 to 8 April 2016 and, the next stage in the production of the Local Plan is the Preferred Options version.
- 1.2 This report discusses the Issues and Options consultation, the process towards producing the Preferred Options of the Local Plan as well as proposing an updated Local Development Scheme be adopted.

2 Issues and Options Consultation

- 2.1 The consultation ended on 8 April 2016.
- 2.2 Headlines from the consultation are given below:
 - 41 people completed the Survey Monkey questionnaire
 - Around 70 people attended the three drop in sessions at Stalham, Oulton and Brundall
 - Around 30 email or letter representations were received
 - 5 under 16s attended the youth session
- 2.3 The number of consultation responses received is satisfactory and raise some good points. Some useful discussions came out of the drop in events.

3 Towards the Preferred Options

- 3.1 The Preferred Options version of the Local Plan will contain draft policy wording for the public and stakeholders to consider. There will be a Habitats Regulation Assessment on the policy approaches as well as detailed Sustainability Appraisal.
- 3.2 There is much work to be completed in relation to evidence base studies to support the policies in the Local Plan and these will cover a wide range of issues including, housing, employment and flood risk. These studies are being progressed.
- 3.3 In order to give Members the opportunity to keep apprised of the work which is underway it is intended that bite-sized pieces of the Local Plan Preferred Options will be presented to Planning Committee over the coming months. The regular presentation of a number of sections will better enable discussion of the work in more detail than presentation of one single large document at the end. This is likely to involve the discussion of evidence base as well as the direction of the policy approach to reflect the evidence base. It is intended that at the November Planning Committee, the final version of the Preferred Option is presented.

4 Local Development Scheme – Version 3

- 4.1 On recent assessment of the Local Development Scheme (version 2 adopted in June 2015), it was considered that the timeline between Issues and Options and Preferred Options is unrealistic. It is therefore proposed to keep the same end date of potential adoption as early 2018, but to move the Preferred Options consultation back from August to November 2016.
- 4.2 The proposed version 3 of the Local Development Scheme is at Appendix 3 and members are recommended to agree and adopt this time line.
- 4.3 It should be noted that it is not uncommon to amend Local Development Schemes as various issues emerge during the production of the Local Plan which can cause delays. It is considered that the new Local Development Scheme should allow ample time for the production of the Preferred Options stage. The Local Development Scheme could be reviewed after the Preferred Options stage to reflect comments received.

5 Sustainability Appraisal Objectives – minor amendments.

5.1 The Sustainability Appraisal (SA) was initially scoped in November 2014¹. After using the SA Objectives at the first stage of producing the Local Plan² and also using them in relation to assessing flood risk, it has become apparent that two of the SA Objectives could be improved to be clearer in their wording as well as more consistent with the NPPF. In particular, SOC6 as worded could only be applied to the provision of new services rather than assessing the location of a site and its accessibility to existing services.

5.2 The two SA Objectives it is proposed to improve are:

- SOC6: To improve the quality, range and accessibility of community services and facilities.
- ENV10: To achieve the highest quality of design that is innovative, imaginable, and sustainable and reflects local distinctiveness.

5.3 The proposed new SA objectives are:

- ENV10: To achieve the highest quality of design that is innovative, ***imaginative***, and sustainable and reflects local distinctiveness.
- SOC6a: To improve the quality, range and accessibility of community services and facilities
- ***SOC6b: To ensure new development is sustainability located with good access by means other than a private car to a range of community services and facilities.***

5.4 It is proposed to consult with Environment Agency, Historic England, Natural England, our district and county councils as well as RSPB, New Anglia LEP, Wild Anglia and Marine Management Organisation for a period of 4 weeks as this is a small change to the SA.

6 Financial Implications

6.1 The cost of the production of the Local Plan is budgeted for.

Background papers: None

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Appendices: APPENDIX 1 – Draft Local Development Scheme Version 3

¹ The Sustainability Scoping Report is here: <http://www.broads-authority.gov.uk/planning/planning-policies/development/future-local-plan>

² The Interim Sustainability Scoping Report (Feb 2016) is here: http://www.broads-authority.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0011/710858/Broads-Local-Plan-Issues-and-Options-Interim-SA-Final.pdf

