



Central Lincolnshire Local Plan Review

What this means for your Neighbourhood Plan

In January 2019 the Central Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee decided to embark upon a review of the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan. This decision was taken in response to a number of national planning policy changes and in response to land supply challenges.

For those communities with an adopted neighbourhood plan, or that are in the process of producing a neighbourhood plan, this can create uncertainty over what to expect from the review and how it will impact on the neighbourhood plan.

This note is intended to provide some clarity for communities on what to expect from the Local Plan review.

Why is the Local Plan being reviewed now?

The [National Planning Policy Framework \(NPPF\)](#) was updated in July 2018¹ and there were also significant updates to the national [Planning Practice Guidance](#). These have introduced a number of new requirements for Local Plans, some of which the current 2017 Local Plan does not satisfy. The new NPPF has also introduced a new standard method for calculating housing need which would provide a more realistic housing requirement than that included in the 2017 Local Plan. When this is combined with the difficulty in delivering housing on some allocated sites, it is clear that action is needed now to ensure that an adequate housing land supply position can be maintained in the future. Failure to act now could result in speculative applications and appeals being lodged in the coming years and unplanned development taking place across Central Lincolnshire.

What is being changed in the Local Plan?

The precise detail of what will change is not yet known but the Issues and Options consultation which is taking place in June and July 2019 sets out a number of areas where changes are proposed. Whilst there may be further changes necessary as a result of evidence being developed in support of the plan, this consultation document provides the clearest direction of travel for the plan at the current time. Some of the key areas being proposed for review include the overall housing requirement (proposal 6); changes to the settlement hierarchy (proposal 5); the approach and threshold for housing site allocations (proposals 9 and 10); the approach to resetting growth in small and medium villages (proposal 11); and a change of approach for identifying and protecting Important Open Spaces (proposal 19). However, many of the other proposals may also have particular interest or implications for your parish.

¹ Further changes were also made in February 2019.

What is the timeframe for the Local Plan review?

The [Local Development Scheme](#) sets out the proposed timeframe for the review of the Local Plan. This shows that the plan is intended to be adopted in late 2021. It also shows that the draft plan is intended to be consulted upon in early 2020 – it is at this consultation stage where neighbourhood planning groups will be able to see the contents of the proposed Local Plan.

What does this mean for our plan and what is the status of the adopted Local Plan?

For groups producing a neighbourhood plan and intending to submit it before the new Local Plan is adopted, the current adopted Local Plan should be used to consider against the basic conditions. If you intend to submit your plan around the time when the plan is expected to be adopted, it is recommended that you get in touch with your liaison at the district council who should be able to advise of the appropriate steps for your circumstances.

Should we continue with the production of our plan given the uncertainty?

The new Local Plan does not need to be in place for you to progress your plan, but you should be mindful of the progress on that plan and what it contains. Work on neighbourhood plans may also be used to help inform policy choices in the Local Plan as it could help you to frame your responses to stages of consultation on the Local Plan or could provide useful local evidence to assist with site selection for example. By keeping up to date with the progress on the Local Plan, you can help to make sure your neighbourhood plan is in general conformity with the strategic policies of the emerging Local Plan as well as with the adopted Local Plan. This can help to ensure it still carries weight in decision making after the new Local Plan is adopted. In short, there is no reason why you need to stop working on your plan. If you have any questions on this, it is recommended that you contact your liaison at the district council.

Can we influence the policies in the new Local Plan?

Yes. Made and emerging neighbourhood plans and their evidence may inform work on policy development in the new Local Plan. You should also respond to consultations on the new Local Plan to provide detailed comments on the proposed policies that may affect their area as all of these will be taken into account. These responses should include details of locally gathered evidence which supports your response

We have a made neighbourhood plan, what will happen when the new Local Plan is adopted?

The new Local Plan will not necessarily result in your plan being out of date. Policies that are consistent with the strategic policies of the new Local Plan can still be used. It is only where there is conflict that your policies may hold less weight in decision making. It will not be possible to consider the exact impacts on your neighbourhood plan until the new Local Plan and its policies have been drafted and published – this is expected to have been completed in early 2020. The new Local Plan will be clear on which policies are strategic so it should be fairly straight-forward to consider what impact the new Local Plan will have. If you are in doubt, it is recommended that you contact your district council who will be able to assist or advise further. The production of the new Local Plan may provide a logical opportunity for you to review whether your neighbourhood plan would benefit from a review.

Can we use evidence being produced in support of the local plan to underpin our neighbourhood plan?

The new Local Plan will be accompanied by detailed and robust evidence on a variety of subjects. It could well be that some of this will be suitable to support the policies in your neighbourhood plan. National policy advises the sharing of evidence between Local Plans and Neighbourhood Plans as a sensible and cost-effective way of developing planning policies. As such, all documentation produced in support of the Local Plan will be placed on the Central Lincolnshire website and may be used to inform policies in neighbourhood plans.

How can I make sure that I am kept up to date on the progress with the new Local Plan?

You may get in touch with the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan Team to register your interest and to be added to the consultee database. This will mean that you are notified of stages of consultation and key progress on the plan. The Local Plan Team can be contacted at talkplanning@central-lincs.org.uk to arrange this. Alternatively you may register directly on the consultation portal at www.central-lincs.inconsult.uk.

For details of how your personal data will be treated please read our privacy notice at <https://www.n-kesteven.gov.uk/central-lincolnshire/contact/>.