

Council

10th October 2013

Report of the Cabinet Member for Transport, Planning and Sustainability

City of York Local Plan Preferred Options Consultation Petitions and consultation update

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to inform members of the petitions with over 1,000 signatures submitted to the Council on the subject of the Local Plan. The report summarises the petitions and indicates the next steps in producing the Local Plan.

Consultation on the Local Plan

2. Consultation on the Local Plan Preferred Options ran for 8 weeks from 5th June until 31st July 2013. During that period, we held 14 public exhibitions, a staff exhibition at West Offices, 16 meetings with prescribed bodies and key groups and an event was held at the Bar Convent with potential developers for key sites. This was coupled with a high level of media coverage in the local, regional and national press (including the York Press, Yorkshire Post, The Economist and Telegraph).
3. Additionally, a leaflet advertising the consultation and letting people know how they could comment on the proposals was distributed to every household. Specific consultees including Natural England, English Heritage, the Highways Agency, neighbouring authorities and parish councils were contacted by email or letter to inform them of the consultation process. We also wrote to or emailed approximately 1800 groups, businesses and individuals who previously registered an interest in planning in York, to make them aware of the consultation.
4. A copy of the main documents was available for the public to view in each CYC library and in West Offices reception. A list of evidence base

documents and how they could be viewed was also provided. A link was created from the Council homepage to a new Local Plan Preferred Options page. The new webpage set out what the document was, listed the consultation documents and provided details on the consultation.

Petitions

5. Four of the petitions received as part of the Local Plan consultation contain over 1,000 signatures and therefore need to be considered at Council. A summary of the petitions is set out below.

- **Cllr Ann Reid – see Council Meeting 18th July 2013 agenda item 6 (ii)**
2302 signatures
I/We the undersigned oppose Labour's plans to use Green Belt land across York to build 22,000 houses over the next 15 years.

- **Dunnington Parish Council**
1323 signatures
We the undersigned petition the City of York Council to stop the building of a permanent 15 pitch Gypsy/Traveller site using land at Common Lane and Hassacarr Lane in Dunnington, York. It's located on Green Belt land, adjacent to Hassacarr Nature Reserve and will have a major impact on the people living in the surrounding area, homes and businesses. There are plenty of areas around York that would be suitable for these traveller locations that would not affect local residences and businesses. City of York Council needs to support our petition and keep residents happy by providing areas and communities that people feel content to live in.

- **“Save the Green Belt” Petition (Cllr Ann Reid - see Council Meeting 18th July 2013 agenda item 6 (ii))**
1084 signatures
We the undersigned object to the proposals in the council's Local Plan for the development of land lying between Wetherby Road and Knapton village. We believe that the site should continue to be included in the Green Belt as it protects the rural setting of the western approach to the city which would otherwise begin to merge with the outer ring road.

- **Gypsy & Travellers site, Malton Road, Huntington**

1036 signatures

We the undersigned petition the council to stop the building of a permanent site for 20 pitches (20-80 caravans) on a 3 acre plus site, Huntington York. The placement of this site right at the heart of an established community, locating it immediately adjacent to homes, a nature reserve and businesses would not be appropriate in this locality, by virtue of its potential impact on Huntington & Heworth residents. We believe it is hard to conceive of a more inappropriate proposal.

6. In addition, two e-petitions running on democracy.york.gov.uk also covered issues relating to the Local Plan and have received over 1,000 signatures each, as detailed below:

- **Say No to the proposed plans of a 16 acre permanent travellers site in Knapton York**

1204 signatures (closed 1st September 2013)

We the undersigned petition the council to stop the building of a permanent site for 20 static caravans on a 16 acre site, Knapton York. The council of York want to build it for 'show men ' as a permanent home. The site is bigger than the whole village of knapton put together. Its green belt land and the owner hasn't even been approached about the proposal. This will have a major impact on the people living in the surrounding area, homes and businesses. There are plenty of areas around York that would be suitable for these traveller locations that would not affect local residences and businesses in the York area. York Council needs to support our decisions and keep residents happy by providing areas and communities that people feel content to live in.

(It should be noted that this e-petition was submitted after the end date of the Local Plan consultation).

- **Protect York's Greenbelt**

1232 signatures on 2nd October 2013 (closes 31st December 2013)

We the undersigned petition the council to amend the draft Local Plan and save a number of traditionally Greenbelt-protected sites from being developed upon. The sites which have been earmarked by the Council for large scale housing development include Holme Hill and various plots of land at Clifton Moor, Osbaldwick, Copmanthorpe, Woodthorpe, Haxby and Monks Cross. We want to see the character of our villages surrounding

York protected. We acknowledge the need for more housing in York, but believe the figure of 22,000 homes to be too high and the loss of over 1000 acres of Greenbelt land to be unsustainable. We believe it is absolutely vital that Brownfield sites are used first.

(It should be noted that this e-petition does not close until 31st December 2013).

Next Steps

7. Officers are currently analysing and summarising all of the responses received during the Local Plan consultation including both policy comments and those relating specifically to sites. This information will form the basis of a report to the Local Plan Working Group in due course and will inform future stages of the Local Plan.

Options

8. This is primarily an information report, requiring no decision from Council.

Corporate Priorities

9. The option outlined above accords with the following priorities from the Council Plan:
 - Create jobs and grow the economy
 - Get York moving
 - Build strong communities
 - Protect the environment

Implications

10. The following implications have been assessed.
 - **Financial** – *Work on the Local Plan is funded through the Local Plan Reserve.*
 - **Human Resources (HR)** – *The production of a Local Plan and associated evidence base requires the continued implementation of a comprehensive work programme that will predominantly, although not exclusively, need to be resourced within CES.*

- **Equalities** – *An assessment was undertaken for the Local Plan and will continue to be undertaken during the life time of the plan.*
- **Legal** – *The Local Plan has been produced in a way that reflects strategy and regulatory requirements. In due course Council will be asked to approve a plan which will be subject to examination by a member of the Planning Inspectorate before being finally adopted. Members must only finally make their mind up on whether particular sites should or should not be included with particular designations once the plan comes before them for approval.*
- **Crime and Disorder** - *None*
- **Information Technology (IT)** - *None*
- **Property** - *None*
- **Other** – *None*

Risk Management

11. In compliance with the Council's risk management strategy, the main risks in producing a Local Plan for the City of York are:

- The potential damage to the Council's image and reputation if a development plan is not adopted in an appropriate timeframe.
- Risks arising from failure to comply with the laws and regulations relating to Planning and the SA and SEA processes and not exercising Local control of developments.
- Risk associated with hindering the delivery of key projects for the Council and key stakeholders.
- Financial risk associated with the Council's ability to utilize planning gain and deliver strategic infrastructure.

12. Measured in terms of impact and likelihood, the risk associated with this report have been assessed as requiring frequent monitoring.

Recommendations

13. This report is to inform members of the petitions over 1000 signatures on the subject of the Local Plan and no recommendation is required.

Contact Details

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Cabinet Member for Planning,
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Report
Approved



Date 1/10/13

Specialist Implications Officer(s)

N/A

Wards Affected: *List wards or tick box to indicate all*

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

None