



3 September 2012

Full Council

Subject: Report on the responses to the Central Lincolnshire Partial Draft Core Strategy consultation.

Report by:

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Purpose / Summary:

The Council's to the Central Lincolnshire Draft Core Strategy

RECOMMENDATION(S): that Members agree the following:-

1) Based on the information gathered at the Extraordinary Council meeting, it is recommended that members agree the following consultation response to be provided to the Central Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee on the Central Lincolnshire Partial Draft Core Strategy:

Response to the Central Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee on the Central Lincolnshire Draft Core Strategy Consultation by West Lindsey District Council

1. That the policies allow for flexible and sustainable growth of all types of development eg housing, employment, infrastructure etc. in all settlements, regardless of size or existing range of facilities, to ensure that they remain sustainable in the long term or improve their sustainability over time.
2. That the housing needs of all of the local community are taken into account when new housing is being planned for

settlements.

3. That housing is encouraged as an economic driver across the area.
4. That regeneration of the priority areas for West Lindsey (areas within Gainsborough and the former RAF communities) continues to be supported in its own right and is not prejudiced by new housing developments, including the proposed urban extensions, to the detriment of existing housing.
5. That the growth of employment and other economically important developments is given equal weight in planning decisions as housing growth across the whole area, urban and rural.
6. That broadband connectivity is fully identified as a basic requirement in the district, particularly in more remote rural areas to assist with a community's sustainability and that this is recognised in the infrastructure delivery plan.
7. That a full range of transport solutions to address local needs are developed through the Core Strategy and infrastructure delivery plan processes.
8. The tourism or the visitor economy is recognised in the Core Strategy as an important element in the sustainability of the rural economy of the district.
9. That more green public open space is supported by the Core Strategy in new developments and that it is accessible to the whole community.
10. That the Core Strategy recognises and addresses a sustainable rural economy includes the needs of agriculture, agricultural diversity and sustainability and that agriculture is specifically identified and/or listed within policy CL22 along with other rural economic activities.

IMPLICATIONS

Legal: None as a result of this report

Financial : None as a result of this report

Staffing : None as a result of this report

Equality and Diversity including Human Rights :

*NB: A full impact assessment **HAS TO BE** attached if the report relates to any new or revised policy or revision to service delivery/introduction of new services.*

Risk Assessment : None as a result of this report

Climate Related Risks and Opportunities : encompassed within the Draft Core Strategy

Title and Location of any Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

Documents located within the Development and Neighbourhoods department and on the West Lindsey website

Call in and Urgency:

Is the decision one which Rule 14 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules apply?

Yes

No

Key Decision:

Yes

No

1. Introduction

As members are aware, the Partial Draft Core Strategy for Central Lincolnshire is currently out for informal consultation which ends on 10 September 2012. An Extraordinary Council meeting and member workshop was held on the 1 August 2012 to help shape this Council's response to the document. This report outlines the issues members raised at the Extraordinary Council meeting, provides an assessment of those issues and makes a recommendation on the issues which should form the basis of a response on the document to the Central Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee.

A number of issues were raised that go beyond the scope of the Central Lincolnshire Core Strategy which concentrates on the spatial framework for the development of the area over the next 20 years. These include rural development and social infrastructure across the area.

This is valuable information that will be used in conjunction with the area profiles and to form the basis for area visions and plans, as outlined in section 5 of this report.

2. Priorities from Members' Workshop

Top priorities from workshop across district	Officer Response	Recommended Response to Core Strategy Consultation
Sustainable communities both existing and new – rural and town locations, maintain/enhance existing and create new	Sustainable communities are a central theme in the Core Strategy. It is recognised that all communities need to be sustainable and that there are different solutions to different sized settlements.	Recommended response: That the policies allow for flexible growth of all types eg housing, employment, infrastructure etc. in all settlements, regardless of size or range of facilities, to ensure that they remain sustainable in the long term or improve their sustainability over time.
Providing housing for specific needs eg elderly, families, young people	The Core Strategy recognises the need for a range of sizes and mix of new housing of a good quality.	Recommended response: That the housing needs of a local community are taken into account when new housing is being planned for settlements.

Using housing as an economic driver	The whole focus of the Core Strategy is about growth within Central Lincolnshire over the plan period, including substantial housing growth in the central Lincolnshire area. Therefore the policies will enable growth which in turn will support the local economy.	Recommended response: That housing is encouraged as an economic driver across the area.
Regeneration of existing poor quality housing	The Core Strategy has identified that each local authority area will have its individual regeneration needs and supports this in general terms. This will be for the individual councils to determine through their regeneration strategies (for example the Sleaford Master Plan and Gainsborough Regained)	Recommended response: That regeneration of the priority areas for West Lindsey (areas within Gainsborough and former RAF communities) continues to be supported in its own right and is not superseded by new housing to the detriment of existing housing.
Encourage a range of employment types and industries and link to housing growth	The Core Strategy, through a number of policies actively encourages economic growth within existing urban areas, rural areas and in a range of industries and employment types.	Recommended response: That economic growth is given equal weight as housing growth across the whole area, urban and rural.
Broadband connectivity and speeds	This is one of the elements that falls within the infrastructure delivery plan.	Recommended response: That broadband connectivity is fully identified as a basic requirement in the district, particularly in more remote rural areas to assist with a community's sustainability.
Transport – provision of more public transport and infrastructure.	Transport in all its forms is contained with the Core Strategy.	Recommended response: That a full range of transport solutions to address

		local needs are developed through the Core Strategy and infrastructure delivery plan process.
Encourage tourism including cycle ways, footpaths/ bridleways, waterways, heritage	The tourism potential of the area is recognised in the Core Strategy as 'A Sustainable Visitor Economy'.	Recommended response: The tourism or the visitor economy is recognised in the Core Strategy as an important element in the sustainability of the rural economy of the district.
Protect green space/ develop more green space accessible to community	A quality environment is a key part of the Core Strategy.	Recommended response: That more green public open space is supported by the Core Strategy in new developments and that it is accessible to the whole community.

3. Further Comments

Members had the opportunity after the workshop session to bring up any further issues that they felt hadn't been dealt with through the workshop sessions.

Members' Issues	Officer Response	Recommended Response to Core Strategy Consultation
The Core Strategy doesn't give sufficient weight to the needs of agriculture and farm diversification.	The Core Strategy recognises the need for a range and diversity of economic activities within the rural areas as these are very important to the sustainability of the rural economy, however it doesn't specifically mention agriculture within the Policy and should.	Recommended response: That the Core Strategy recognises and addresses a sustainable rural economy includes the needs of agriculture, agricultural diversity and sustainability and that agriculture is specifically identified and/or listed within policy CL22 along with other rural

<p>That the Core Strategy is too 'Lincoln-centric' and not relevant to the rural wards. Potential to unlock growth in the rural areas.</p>	<p>The urban area of Lincoln is a key driver for a range of growth and service provision in the whole of the central Lincolnshire area. Therefore it does form a significant part of the Core Strategy.</p> <p>In addition the Core Strategy also includes proposals for significant growth in Gainsborough (10,000 homes) and Sleaford.</p> <p>The Core Strategy also recognises that the rural areas of Central Lincolnshire located in North Kesteven and West Lindsey will require growth within the plan period to meet their needs. The document proposes that 9,500 homes are located with the rural area in the plan period. The precise location of this growth will be determined by a later "site allocations" document.</p>	<p>economic activities.</p> <p>Recommended response: None (for inclusion as evidence for West Lindsey District Council area visions and plans)</p>
<p>Ensuring that there is housing available for local people within their communities.</p>	<p>A key part of the delivery of the Core Strategy is the Housing Strategy which sits alongside this document. The Policies included have been derived from close working with housing and planning teams across the three districts and significantly strengthens the requirements for a range of affordable</p>	<p>Recommended response: None (for inclusion as evidence for West Lindsey District Council area visions and plans)</p>

	housing solutions.	
Relief road around Gainsborough to carry the extra cars resulting from the growth of Gainsborough.	A transport modelling exercise was carried out as part of the evidence base for the development of the urban extensions around Gainsborough. This indicated that there was enough capacity, with improvements to key junctions, within the road system of Gainsborough to cope with the growth envisaged during the period of the plan - up to 2031. This work will be kept under review as the implementation of the "Sustainable Urban Extensions" continues around Gainsborough.	Recommended response: None (for inclusion as evidence for West Lindsey District Council area visions and plans)
Vision for a new bridge over the River Trent.	This was also reviewed as part of the evidence for the growth of Gainsborough. Again it was identified that there was enough capacity in the existing network to support the growth identified for the plan period.	Recommended response: None (for inclusion as evidence for West Lindsey District Council area visions and plans)
A more central station for Gainsborough.	There were a number of options put forward regarding the development of a more central station in Gainsborough. A range of stakeholders were involved including Network Rail. The outcome of this was that there was little appetite by regional and national organisations to alter the rail network in Gainsborough due to the low levels of usage compared to national	Recommended response: None

	levels. However this can be kept under review as the growth proposals are implemented	
Upgrade the A15	Lincolnshire County Council are currently reviewing the Local Transport Plan for the County	Recommended response: None (for inclusion as evidence for West Lindsey District Council area visions and plans)
Analysis of the demographic profiles of the population increase in West Lindsey.	Once the more detailed census information is published officers will be carrying out more in-depth analysis.	Recommended response: None (for inclusion as evidence for West Lindsey District Council area visions and plans)

4. Recommendations

Based on the information gathered at the Extraordinary Council meeting, it is recommended that members agree the following consultation response to be provided to the Central Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee on the Central Lincolnshire Partial Draft Core Strategy:

Response to the Central Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee on the Central Lincolnshire Draft Core Strategy Consultation by West Lindsey District Council

- 1. That the policies allow for flexible and sustainable growth of all types of development eg housing, employment, infrastructure etc. in all settlements, regardless of size or existing range of facilities, to ensure that they remain sustainable in the long term or improve their sustainability over time.**
- 2. That the housing needs of all of the local community are taken into account when new housing is being planned for settlements.**
- 3. That housing is encouraged as an economic driver across the area.**
- 4. That regeneration of the priority areas for West Lindsey (areas within Gainsborough and the former RAF communities) continues to be supported in its own right and is not prejudiced by new housing developments, including the proposed urban extensions, to the detriment of existing housing.**
- 5. That the growth of employment and other economically important developments is given equal weight in planning decisions as housing growth across the whole area, urban and rural.**
- 6. That broadband connectivity is fully identified as a basic**

requirement in the district, particularly in more remote rural areas to assist with a community's sustainability and that this is recognised in the infrastructure delivery plan.

- 7. That a full range of transport solutions to address local needs are developed through the Core Strategy and infrastructure delivery plan processes.**
- 8. The tourism or the visitor economy is recognised in the Core Strategy as an important element in the sustainability of the rural economy of the district.**
- 9. That more green public open space is supported by the Core Strategy in new developments and that it is accessible to the whole community.**
- 10. That the Core Strategy recognises and addresses a sustainable rural economy includes the needs of agriculture, agricultural diversity and sustainability and that agriculture is specifically identified and/or listed within policy CL22 along with other rural economic activities.**

5. Next steps

As discussed in the introduction, the information gathered as part of the extraordinary Council meeting is valuable and helps us to formulate a vision and plans to address the needs for each of the six areas of the district when combined with the information gained from the area fora.

An officer scoping exercise to understand what the area plans are about is scheduled for September, to be reported back to the internal Localism Board in October.

Once further information is available Councillors will be informed and involved through area management updates.