



COUNCIL

Monday 8 September 2025

Subject: Adoption of the Dunholme Neighbourhood Plan Review

Report by:

Director - Planning, Regeneration and Communities

Contact Officer:

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Purpose / Summary:

To adopt the Dunholme Neighbourhood Plan Review

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That Members formally agree to adopt (make) the Dunholme Neighbourhood Plan Review in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012.

That the newly adopted (made) Dunholme Neighbourhood Plan Review September 2025, replaces the Dunholme Neighbourhood Plan adopted January 2017, to form part of the West Lindsey Development Plan for Dunholme parish area.

IMPLICATIONS

Legal:

This work is a duty under the Localism Act 2011 and the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012.

Regulation 18A of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012, stipulates that a neighbourhood plan (NP) must be made (adopted) within eight weeks of the referendum, which was held on 24 July 2025. This requirement will be met if the Council adopts the Dunholme Neighbourhood Plan Review (DNPR) at its meeting on 8 September 2025.

Financial: FIN-65-26-MT-MK

For neighbourhood plan reviews requiring an examination and new referendum the Council receives a grant of £20k from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to help support its neighbourhood planning role in the district. A claim of £20k will be submitted for the DNPR when the funding window reopens.

Staffing:

Internal resources are in place to deal with neighbourhood planning and therefore there are no HR implications.

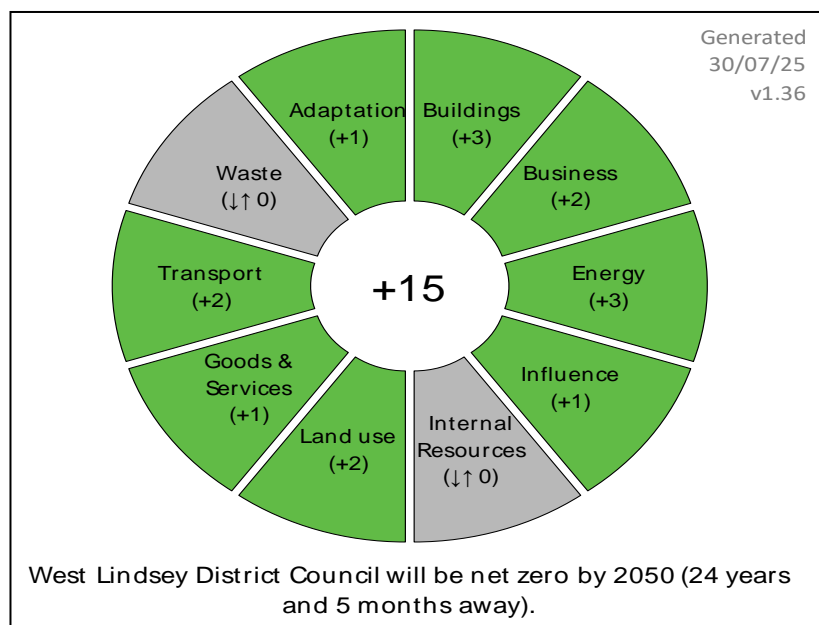
Equality and Diversity including Human Rights:

The DNPR has been examined under the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations for any issues relating to equality and diversity.

Data Protection Implications: n/a

Climate Related Risks and Opportunities:

The DNPR scored well when it was evaluated using the Council's Climate, Environment, and Assessment tool. Please see below. The DNPR's approach to buildings including their construction and the provision of green/blue infrastructure received a positive result.



The DNPR has been the subject of a Strategic Environmental and Habitats Regulations Assessment Report which concluded that the DNPR would be unlikely to give rise to any significant effects on protected sites.

Section 17 Crime and Disorder Considerations:

The DNPR expects new green space to be safe and useable for residents.

Health Implications:

The DNPR protects local green spaces within the village which are used for sports and informal recreation that help improve the health of the local population.

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

Risk Assessment : n/a

Call in and Urgency:

Is the decision one which Rule 14.7 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules apply?

i.e. is the report exempt from being called in due to urgency (in consultation with C&I chairman)

Yes

☐

No

x

Key Decision:

A matter which affects two or more wards, or has significant financial implications

Yes

x

No

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report seeks Members' approval to adopt (make) the Dunholme Neighbourhood Plan Review (DNPR) as part of the West Lindsey Development Plan. The report follows the DNPR's successful referendum which was held on 24 July 2025.
- 1.2 The DNPR would be the third review of a NP to be adopted within the district. There are seven other NPs being reviewed, all at different stages of preparation.

2. Background

- 2.1 NPs were introduced in the Localism Act 2011. They are important and powerful tools that give parish and town councils the statutory planning powers to shape how their communities develop. A NP is a document written by parish/town councils that sets out planning policies for a parish area which are used to help decide planning applications.
- 2.2 There are legal steps to creating a NP, for the first time, which must be followed, and they are: area designation, plan preparation, consultation, examination, referendum, and finally adoption (making).
- 2.3 Where a NP is being reviewed it does not need to redesignate its area. For later steps, if the review involves material modifications which change the nature of the NP it would require examination and referendum. A referendum is not required for a NP review which includes material modifications, but they do not change the nature of the NP. For a NP which has only minor modifications there is no requirement for an examination, referendum or readopting of the NP. It would be authorised under the scheme of officer delegation.
- 2.4 Following a successful examination and/or referendum, it is a requirement that the NP should be adopted by Full Council for it to formally become part of the West Lindsey Development Plan for that NP area alongside the Local Plan. In the case of a NP review, this would see it replacing the original NP for that area.
- 2.5 As part of the Development Plan, the adopted NP would be given full weight in helping determine future planning applications within its parish. Planning law requires that applications for planning permission be determined in accordance with the Development Plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

3. Decision & Reasoning

- 3.1 Having completed preparation and consultation steps on the DNPR, Dunholme Parish Council (PC) submitted the plan to the Council for examination in July 2024 and comments were invited from the public and stakeholders.

- 3.2 The Council, in agreement with the PC, appointed an independent examiner to determine whether the DNPR met legal requirements and, as it was a NP review, if an examination was sufficient or if it should also go to a referendum.
- 3.3 The Examiner's Report concluded that the DNPR met legal conditions, and that subject to the modifications proposed in the report, the DNPR should proceed to a referendum, as it contained significant changes to the original plan. The DNPR was examined alongside the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan and was prepared in accordance with EU obligations or Convention rights.
- 3.4 The Examiner's Report was considered under the Council's delegated powers, and it was agreed that the DNPR should proceed to a referendum and if successful should be recommended for adoption (making) by the Council.
- 3.5 The DNPR referendum met the requirements of the Localism Act 2011. It was held on 24 July 2025 in Dunholme and posed the question:
- 'Do you want West Lindsey District Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Dunholme to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?'***
- 3.6 At the referendum 88.70% of residents who voted were in favour of the DNPR. Legislation requires that the Council must make the NP if more than half of those voting have voted in favour of it. Greater than 50% of those who voted were in favour of the DNPR being used to help decide planning applications in the plan area.

The results of the referendum were:	Votes Recorded	Percentage
Number of votes cast in favour of 'yes'	259	88.70%
Number of votes cast in favour of 'no'	32	10.96%
Number of ballot papers rejected	1	0.34%

Electorate	1886
Ballot Papers Issued	292
Turnout	15.48%

- 3.7 In accordance with national planning guidance, an adopted (made) DNPR should be given full weight in the determination of planning applications within the parish area.
- 3.8 West Lindsey District Council strongly supports parish/town councils with their NPs. With the adoption of the Dunholme NP Review, West Lindsey will have 27 adopted NPs covering a large part of the district. For the latest on NPs in West Lindsey please go to:

[Neighbourhood planning | West Lindsey District Council \(west-lindsey.gov.uk\)](https://www.west-lindsey.gov.uk/neighbourhood-planning)

4. Recommendation:

- 4.1 That Members formally agree to adopt (make) the Dunholme Neighbourhood Plan Review in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012.**
- 4.2 That the newly adopted (made) Dunholme Neighbourhood Plan Review September 2025, replaces the Dunholme Neighbourhood Plan adopted January 2017, to form part of the West Lindsey Development Plan for Dunholme parish area.**