

AGENDA ITEM 12.1

STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report to Cabinet

1st December 2015

TITLE:	Local Plan - Consultation Update and Revised Timetable
PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	Councillor Wain – Planning, Development and Property
CONTACT OFFICER:	Dai Larner – Executive Director (Place)
WARDS INVOLVED:	N/A

Appendices Attached

Appendix A: Local Plan Timetable

1. **Reason for the Report:** To provide an update to the site options consultation held between 6th July and 14th September 2015 and a revised timetable to allow additional time to respond to comments.

2. **Recommendation**
 - 2.1 That the Cabinet notes the consultation update.
 - 2.2 That the Cabinet approves the timetable for the Local Plan (Appendix A).

3. **Executive Summary**
 - 3.1 Consultation on site options and development/infill boundaries was undertaken by the Council between 6th July and 14th September 2015. Public consultation was held over 10 weeks and involved a number of methods identified in the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI).
 - 3.2 The Council has received almost 5,500 responses to this consultation,

which is the highest number of responses ever received to a Local Plan consultation in Staffordshire Moorlands. The Council is in the process of acknowledging and summarising all the responses received.

3.3 Councillor workshops have been arranged for Thursday 10th December 2015 to consider the responses received and other matters relating to the sites identified in the consultation and others that have been proposed through the consultation. These will be arranged in four separate sessions over the day. The following report details the settlements each workshop will cover and the information which will be available. Separate sessions are to be made available for parish and town councils the following week.

3.4 The report recommends a revised timetable to accommodate the significant amount of responses received at this stage (Appendix A). It is anticipated that consultation will take place on preferred options in April 2016 and will still allow the Local plan to be submitted to the Secretary of State by February 2017. This will meet the deadline set out in the recent Housing and Planning Bill.

4. **How this report links to Corporate Priorities**

4.1 The Local Plan will link with and helps deliver all of the Council's priority outcomes.

5. **Options and Analysis**

5.1 Option 1 – Agree the timetable

Recommended – Agreeing the timetable will allow officers to deal properly with the significant amount of representations received to the consultation and respond to any issues raised. It will also allow Councillors adequate time to consider the detail of each site.

5.2 Option 2 – Do not agree the timetable.

Not recommended – If the Council decides not to make changes to the timetable this may not give enough time for issues raised at this stage to be adequately considered before the Preferred Options stage. This could result in inadequate consideration of the views expressed by respondents and increase the risk of the Local Plan being found unsound, or delayed as rounds of consultation may need to be repeated at a later stage.

6. **Implications**

6.1 Community Safety - (Crime and Disorder Act 1998)

The Local Plan will contain policy measures to reduce crime and the fear of crime through design and layout.

6.2 Workforce

None.

6.3 Equality and Diversity/Equality Impact Assessment

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Council's Diversity and Equality Policies. The Local Plan itself will be subject to and Equalities Impact Assessment as part of the Sustainability Appraisal.

6.4 Financial Considerations

The cost of preparing and publishing the Local Plan will be borne within the existing Forward Plans budget.

6.5 Legal

The preparation of a Local Plan is a statutory requirement. The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011) and the Town and Country Planning Regulations 2012 set out the requirements for the preparation of the Local Plan.

6.6 Sustainability

The Local Plan will be subject to a full Sustainability Appraisal.

6.7 Internal and External Consultation

The Local Plan will be prepared through extensive internal and external consultations.

6.8 Risk Assessment

See 'Options and Analysis' section above.

7. **Background and Detail**

Consultation Responses

7.1 Consultation on site options and development/infill boundaries was undertaken by the Council between 6th July and 14th September 2015. The consultation also invited comments on:

- draft town centre boundaries and primary and secondary frontages for the towns;
- broad policy areas subject to review;
- the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA); and

- a proposed amendment to the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI); and
- proposed a 'call for sites' for all land uses.

7.2 The consultation met the requirements set out in the adopted SCI. Public consultation was held over 10 weeks which is longer than the usual 6 week statutory consultation. Consultation involved the following methods:

- notifying all contacts on the consultation database including statutory consultees and other organisations;
- leaflet to all households and businesses in the District;
- site notices;
- newspaper advert;
- media releases;
- publication of a draft consultation booklet on the Council's online portal;
- all supporting documents available on the Council's website;
- Consultation booklets and supporting documents available to view at the libraries and the one-stop shops;
- Supporting members of the public using the online consultation portal;
- Drop in sessions at Werrington, Biddulph, Leek, Cheadle, Kingsley and Blythe Bridge;
- Posters, booklets and maps sent to Parish and Town Councils; and
- Social media posts on twitter / Facebook

7.3 The Council has received almost 5,500 responses to this consultation. This is the highest number of responses the Council has ever received to a development plan consultation. The table below indicates the number of responses received at previous stages for the Staffordshire Moorlands Core Strategy and High Peak Local Plan for comparison.

Development Plan Stage	No of reps received
SMDC Core Strategy Issues and Options Consultation (2007)	235
SMDC Core Strategy Draft Preferred Options (2008)	997

SMDC Core Strategy Publication (2009)	268
SMDC Core Strategy Addendum (2010)	785
SMDC Core Submission (Revised 2011)	1298
HPBC Local Plan Preferred Options	780
HPBC Local Plan Submission Local Plan	572

7.4 Consultation responses were submitted to the Council by three methods: email; paper responses and letters; and via the Council's online system. The table below indicates the breakdown between these different methods and indicates a very high response rate to the consultation using the Council's online consultation portal.

Email Responses	Online Consultation Portal	Paper response forms / letters
585	2748	2125
11%	50%	39%

7.5 The Council is in the process of acknowledging all the responses received. Responses made via the online consultation portal have been processed and are available to view on the Council's website. A number of other responses received during the first few weeks of the consultation were also uploaded onto the Council's website. All the other remaining letters, response forms and emails will be able to view on the Council's website in due course.

Councillor Workshops

7.6 Councillor workshops to consider sites have been arranged for Thursday 10th December 2015 as follows:

Session 1 :9.30 – 11.00

Leek, Cheddleton, Wetley Rocks, Blackshaw Moor, Consall, Heaton, Longsdon, Leekbrook, Meerbrook, Rushton Spencer, Rudyard

Session 2 :11.30 – 13:00

Biddulph, Biddulph Moor, Brown Edge, Endon, Bagnall, Stanley, Stockton Brook

Session 3: 13:30 – 15:00

Cheadle, Kingsley, Boundary, Dilhorne, Froghall, Kingsley Holt, Whiston

Session 4: 15:30 – 17:00

Alton, Blythe Bridge & Forsbrook, Ipstones, Waterhouses, Werrington and Cellarhead, Upper Tean, Bradnop, Caverswall & Cookshill, Cotton,

Checkley, Draycott, Foxt, Hollington, Hulme, Lower Tean, Oakamoor, Swinscoe, Winkhill

Session 5: 17:30 – 19:00

For Councillors unable to attend the earlier sessions. Councillors attending will be required to notify Member Services and indicate which settlements should be covered.

- 7.7 For those Councillors unable to attend any of the workshops on the 10th of December, there will be a further session provided on Friday 11th December 10.00 - 11.30. Councillors will need to indicate in advance of this workshop if they intend to attend this additional session so that the appropriate resources can be made available.
- 7.8 Councillors will be presented with a summary of the responses and an officer response in a schedule. In order to assist Councillors it is proposed to present the sites on a traffic light system. Those sites with no or limited constraints and considered suitable to be taken through to the preferred option stage will be identified as 'green'. Those sites which are still considered to be potentially deliverable and without significant issues will be 'reserve sites' and identified as 'amber'. Those sites that are unavailable or have significant issues that are considered could not be overcome will be identified as 'red'. Maps will be available at the workshops. The schedules will be sent out in advance of the workshops. Comments received at the workshop will be reported to a Council Assembly.

Parish/Town Council Sessions

- 7.9 It is also proposed to hold some sessions for individual parish and town councils to attend. These will be available on the 14th and 15th of December and slots will need to be pre-booked. The same information produced for the Councillor workshops will be available. Comments received will be reported to the Council Assembly.

Evidence Base Documents

- 7.10 The final Level 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, and Ecological Study have also been received. The Green Belt Review is also nearing completion. These will be reported to the next Local Plan Steering Group on the 18th November 2015.
- 7.11 A sustainability appraisal (SA) of all the sites is also being undertaken to inform the selection of sites. This will look at the social, environmental and economic impacts of the development of sites. The conclusion from the SA will be included on the schedules presented to Councillors on individual sites.

Timetable

7.12 In order to respond to the volume of consultation responses received it is proposed to hold the Councillor workshop in early December 2015. As a result it will be necessary to make a small revision to the Local Plan timetable (attached as Appendix A). It is anticipated that consultation will take place on preferred options in April 2016 and will still allow the Local Plan to be submitted to the Secretary of State by February 2017. This will give the opportunity for the Council to consider the following before agreeing the preferred option for consultation in March 2016:

- Development targets
- Settlement / infill boundaries
- Other allocations such as gypsy and traveller sites, new schools, new areas of open space etc
- Duty to co-operate discussions with neighbouring authorities and other statutory consultees
- Policy changes
- Town centre boundaries and primary and secondary shopping frontages

Dai Lerner
Executive Director - Place

Web Links and Background Papers

www.staffsmoorlands.gov.uk/corestrategy

www.staffsmoorlands.gov.uk/siteallocations

www.staffsmoorlands.gov.uk/evidencebase

Location

Regeneration Services
Moorlands House,
Leek

Contact details

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Appendix A - Staffordshire Moorlands Local Plan Timetable

Activity	Target Date
Member Workshop on Preferred Option Sites	10 th Dec 2015
Parish Council sessions	14 & 15 Dec 2015
OAN (Council Assembly)	Jan 2016
Council agree Draft Preferred Options Local Plan	Mar 2016
Consultation on Preferred Options	April - May 2016
Member Workshop on Proposed Submission Local Plan	Sept 2016
Council agree Proposed Submission Local Plan	Oct 2016
Publication and Representations Invited	Nov- Dec 2016
Council agree to submit Local Plan	Jan 2017
Submission to Secretary of State	Feb 2017
Examination	
Adoption	

Key

	Member Input
	Key Council Decisions
	Public Participation
	Planning Inspectorate

