

High Peak Local Plan Review Steering Group

Draft Terms of Reference

Background

- 1.1 The Council is in the process of reviewing the Local Plan which was adopted in April 2016. It is essential that this is done swiftly but with the appropriate involvement of Councillors.
- 1.2 it is considered that a bespoke Steering Group will provide the best means of achieving proper oversight and scrutiny by Councillors during the evidence gathering, analysis and policy development stage of the production of an updated Local Plan.
- 1.3 At times, a large amount of material may need to be reviewed, to a tight timescale in order to achieve the “milestones” for the preparation of the review. It is considered that the best way of dealing with this expeditiously is for a Councillor’s Steering Group to be set up.

This group would be informed by the officers on technical matters in order to get a steer on broad direction of matters with an initial focus on the scope of updates to the evidence base and potential future policy. The work of the Local Plan Review Steering Group will inform a report to the Executive at a future date which will set out and seek approval to undertake, the statutory consultation and examination process to follow in adopting an Updated Local Plan.

Role of the Steering Group

- 2.1 The Steering Group would undertake the following functions during the evidence gathering and analysis stage of renewing the Local Plan:
 - Discussing the scope of potential studies to be commissioned by the Council as part of the evidence base;
 - Reviewing the conclusions and potential implications of the evidence base for the Local Plan
 - Scrutinising policy content particularly where there have been changes to national policy or guidance;
 - Consider if there are policy areas not covered by the current policies within the Local Plan
 - Scrutinising progress and ensuring that the timetable is met or any changes are discussed;
 - Involvement in advising and guiding on public consultation in accordance with the Statement of Community Involvement.

- 2.2 The views of the Steering Group and findings of the evidence gathered will be reported back to the Executive after the initial phase. The Steering Group will then oversee the next phase of the process as further evidence emerges and plans for public engagement are developed.
- 2.3 The Group will meet when required. In the initial phase, a meeting in Spring / Summer 2021 is expected to consider the scope of new evidence and again during Autumn / Winter 2021 to review the findings.

Composition of the Steering Group

- 3.1 It is proposed that the Group be made up of around 12 Councillors, with a politically balanced representation from all parties.

Officers suggest that Group Leaders or their nominees be invited, along with the Chair of the Development Control Committee or nominee. There may be some meetings where it would be appropriate to invite other Councillors to attend, for example, when the agenda is of particular relevance.