

## Chief Executives' Group – North Yorkshire and York

6 February 2014

### City of York Local Plan

#### 2.0 Background

2.1 The City of York Local Plan will be the development plan for York over the 15 year period from 2015-2030. It includes a vision for the future development of the city and a spatial strategy, and covers both strategic policies and allocations, alongside detailed development management policies. The preparation of the Local Plan follows on from the previous Local Development Framework (LDF) process.

2.2 The Local Plan reflects the Council's ambitions to facilitate economic growth, as set out in the York Economic Strategy. The Local Plan Preferred Options (LPPO) document identifies enough land for businesses to deliver 16,000 new jobs. The Plan also seeks to deliver a wide choice of high quality affordable homes, increase opportunities for home ownership and promote sustainable, inclusive and mixed communities. The LPPO document allocates sufficient land to provide for 22,000 new homes. This provides for the scale of housing growth needed to support the economic ambitions of the Council, together with a 'buffer' to give a realistic prospect of achieving the planned supply and to ensure choice and competition in the market for land.

#### 3.0 Consultation process

3.1 The LPPO document was issued for an 8-week consultation, on 5 June 2013. The consultation closed on 31 July 2013. The consultation on the LPPO comprised:

- Local Plan Preferred Options page on the CYC web-site, setting what the document is, listing the consultation documents and providing details on the consultation.
- A copy of the main documents, available for the public to view, in each of the CYC libraries and in West Offices reception.
- A memory stick containing the evidence base documents available at each library.
- 14 public exhibitions held at venues across the city, where copies of the proposals maps, larger scale extracts, evidence base documents, and comments forms were made available and officers were present to answer any queries.
- 16 meetings with the following prescribed bodies and key groups (note local authorities and groups within Local Government North Yorkshire and York shown in bold text):
  - Environment Forum;
  - Natural England;
  - Chamber of Commerce & Property Forum;
  - LCR Duty to Cooperate Working Group;
  - Without Walls;

- Youth Council;
  - **North Yorkshire and York Spatial Planning and Transport Board;**
  - **North Yorkshire and York Spatial Planning and Transport Officer Group** (and meetings with individual officers from the respective authorities, as necessary);
  - York Branch LCA;
  - York Economic Partnership;
  - Sport England;
  - English Heritage; and
  - **Highways Agency.**
- An event, on 4th July 2013, with developers for the key strategic sites, facilitated by Atlas (part of the Homes and Communities Agency), to discuss the information required from developers and to take forward potential strategic sites.

3.2 A leaflet advertising the consultation and letting people know how they could comment on the proposals was distributed to every household at the beginning of the consultation period. Copies of the leaflet were also available at West Offices reception, libraries, public exhibitions and GP surgeries. Specific consultees including Natural England, English Heritage, the Highways Agency, neighbouring authorities and parish councils were contacted by email or letter informing them of the opportunity to comment and details of the web page and where to find more information. We also wrote to or emailed around 1800 groups, businesses and individuals who had previously registered an interest in planning in York to make them aware of the consultation.

3.3 A press release was issued to coincide with the start of the consultation period and no fewer than 14 articles appeared in the local, regional and national press referring to York's Local Plan.

#### **4.0 Consultation responses**

4.1 Responses have been received from 4945 respondents. Respondents included residents, interest groups, Parish Councils, prescribed bodies, developers, agents and land owners. The Council intends to publish all of the 4945 responses received.

4.2 In addition to individual responses 21 'hard copy' petitions were submitted during the consultation period, containing a total of 9022 signatures, and four e-petitions, running on democracy.york.gov.uk (separate to, but covering issues in the Local Plan and its consultation), were also received.

4.3 Under the Duty to Co-operate councils are required to demonstrate co-operation in plan making with adjoining authorities and other organisations. The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 prescribes those bodies to which the Duty to Co-operate applies. As part of the Local Plan consultation, the council received responses from the following 'prescribed bodies' (note local authorities and groups within Local Government North Yorkshire and York shown in bold text):

- **East Riding of Yorkshire Council;**
- English Heritage;
- Environment Agency;
- **Hambleton District Council;**
- **Highways Agency;**
- Natural England;
- **Network Rail;**
- **North Yorkshire County Council;**
- **North Yorkshire County Council Highways;**
- North Yorkshire Police;
- **Ryedale District Council;**
- **Selby District Council;** and
- Yorkshire Water.

In total, there were 16,364 respondents (including petition signatories) to the LPPO.

## **5.0 Demonstrating compliance with the Duty to Co-operate**

- 5.1 Previous work undertaken by City of York Council in preparing and submitting a Local Development Framework Core Strategy (as the antecedent to the Local Plan) for Examination in Public (EiP) was deemed, by the EiP Inspector, to have demonstrated that 'constructive engagement has occurred'
- 5.2 Joint working arrangements have continued, particularly with 'prescribed bodies' for the preparation of the Local Plan, both 'formally' (e.g. through relevant member boards or officer Groups) and 'informally' (e.g. through meetings between officers of various bodies).
- 5.3 City of York Council has also been host authority for a series of DtC workshops commissioned by the Planning Advisory Service to assist authorities to identify what their strategic cross-boundary issues are and devise an action plan for addressing them.
- 5.4 Engagement will continue as the Plan moves towards to Submission.

## **6.0 Next Steps**

- 6.1 Officers are now collating and considering the issues raised by respondents against each policy area and submissions on sites, and analysing these in light of National Policy and continuing evidence base work. The responses will be used, as appropriate, to inform the production of the Local Plan submission draft which will be published for consultation and public examination in 2014.

Darren Richardson, Director, City and Environmental Services, City of York Council

27 January 2014