

Agenda Item 6

Local Plan 2 Progress Report:

The final draft of the Local Plan 2 was on the agenda of the November Policy and Resources Committee for approval, before being approved by Full Council. This would have been one of the later stages with a final Public Consultation before going to Inspection with the Inspector deciding the relevance and inclusion or exclusion of responses from this final consultation.

The Policy & Resources Committee disagreed with the included figure of 240 dwellings per annum for the life of the plan and suggested a lower figure of 142 per annum. For the first time a draft of the minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee was circulated to Barrowford Parish Council, the draft minutes show that the plan was not recommended for adoption in its current form with the recommendation that the Full Council agree the number of houses. (Appendix 1)

This is following a Resolution at the 25th May 2021 Council Meeting under Motions on Notice that a figure of 146 be set. A report from the Councils Barrister was tabled at the P&R Committee in support of the 240 houses figure.

It looks likely that if the reduced figure is resolved at the December Council Meeting the Local Plan will have to be significantly re-written using the latest figures and statistics to justify this significantly reduced number. The Local Plan 2 may run for several more months and involve further Public Consultation before progressing to the Inspection Phase.

(Appendix 1)

94. PENDLE LOCAL PLAN PART 2 (DRAFT MINUTES)

The Planning, Economic Development and Regulatory Services Manager submitted a report on responses received following the consultation exercise on the Part 2 Local Plan and the format of the Plan to go to Publication in order to further the social economic and environmental wellbeing of the Borough.

The Local Plan Part 2 builds on the strategic policies set out in Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy but also reconsiders some of the policies, particularly those surrounding housing numbers and the provision of affordable homes. Both Plans, when taken as a whole, had to conform to the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework and the National Planning Practice Guidance and would be tested for soundness based around that conformity.

There was a discussion around the housing numbers as taking account of the content and context of the available evidence and current national policy and guidelines, a housing requirement of 240 dwellings should be included in the Plan, which was set out in the Regulation 18 consultation. The Committee felt that this was too high and a figure of 142 was suggested.

Prior to the meeting an overview of the Pendle Local Plan Part 2 from the Council's barrister was circulated along with a number of scenarios which set out the risk factors should the Committee feel that a housing number other than the recommended 240 be used.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council be recommended to agree a housing number of 142 for the Pendle Local Plan Part 2.

REASON

To agree the housing number prior to further consideration of the Part 2 Plan.