

CABINET – 23 JULY 2020

9. LOCAL PLAN REVIEW – DRAFT OBJECTIVES

RESPONSE TO QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR BIGBY

Would the Cabinet implement the following amendments to the draft Local Plan Objectives?

- a. New Objective 2 – Change “Enable” to “Ensure”.

It is agreed that this change would be appropriate as it would be more positive.

- b. New Objective 3 - Add the word “travel”, so that it reads “Achieve high quality development which is sustainable, which responds positively to local character and which creates safe places to live, work and travel”.

It is agreed that this change would be appropriate.

- c. New Objective 5 - reword this objective to read as follows, “Support the district’s economy, including its rural economy, by providing for a range of employment opportunities which respond to the skills and needs of local residents”. If not, then maybe you could at least consider using the term “local businesses” rather than business in general.

It is considered that such a change would not be appropriate. This is because it would suggest, incorrectly, that that the economy of North West Leicestershire operates as a self-contained entity, which it does not. The district is part of the Leicester & Leicestershire Functional Economic Area confirming the strong commercial relationship with the wider county. Inevitably this also extends over the border to Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and Staffordshire and beyond because of where the district is located. The proposed change would conflict with the thrust of the NPPF which states that “Significant weight should be placed on the need to support economic growth and productivity, taking into account both local business needs and wider opportunities for development”.

- d. New Objective 9 – Change “Conserve” to “Protect”.

It is considered that such a change would be not appropriate. ‘Conserve’ is the term used in the NPPF and so is consistent with national policy. ‘Conserve’ also suggests an added dimension of taking opportunities to enhance significance where opportunities arise and where appropriate.

- e. New Objective 10 – Change “Promote” to “Ensure”.

It is agreed that this change would be appropriate as it would be more positive.