

**NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**LOCAL PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE – 9 SEPTEMBER 2014**

Title of report	<b>PLAN PERIOD UPDATE</b>
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Purpose of report	To advise members that it is considered appropriate to amend the plan period from that previously agreed by the Advisory Committee.
Council Priorities	<p>These are taken from the Council Delivery Plan:</p> <p>Value for Money Business and Jobs Homes and Communities Green Footprints Challenge</p>
Implications:	
Financial/Staff	None
Link to relevant CAT	None
Risk Management	A risk assessment of the project has been undertaken. As far as possible control measures have been put in place to minimise these risks, including monthly Project Board meetings where risk is reviewed. Whilst there is a risk associated with changing the plan period, it is considered that such a change can be justified and so represents a low risk.
Equalities Impact Screening	None
Human Rights	None
Transformational Government	Not applicable.

Comments of Head of Paid Service	The report is satisfactory
Comments of Section 151 Officer	The report is satisfactory
Comments of Monitoring Officer	The report is satisfactory
Consultees	None
Background papers	<p>Minutes of meeting of the Local Plan Advisory Committee 18 March 2014 which can be viewed at <a href="#">Agenda for Local Plan Advisory Committee on Tuesday, 18th March, 2014, 5.30 pm - North West Leicestershire District Council</a></p> <p>National Planning Policy Framework which can be found at <a href="http://www.planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/">http://www.planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/</a></p> <p>Report to Cabinet of 29 July 2014 which can be viewed at <a href="#">Agenda for Cabinet on Tuesday, 29th July, 2014, 5.00 pm - North West Leicestershire District Council</a></p>
Recommendations	<b>THAT THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS TO COUNCIL THAT THE LOCAL PLAN PERIOD IS AMENDED TO COVER 2011-2031.</b>

## 1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Members will recall that at the meeting of the Advisory Committee on 18 March 2014 it was agreed to recommended to Council that:
- (I) A new Local Plan be produced incorporating strategic policies, allocations and some detailed policies; and
  - (II) The plan period cover the period 2011-2036.
- 1.2 The minutes of the Advisory Committee meeting were reported to Cabinet at its meeting of 29 July 2014. In the report it was noted that due to changes in circumstances since the meeting of the Advisory Committee it was now suggested that the Plan period should be for 2011-2031. Cabinet asked, therefore, that the Advisory Committee re-consider this issue.

## 2.0 WHY CHANGE THE PLAN PERIOD?

- 2.1 The reason for suggesting a change in the plan period is that since this issue was considered by the Advisory Committee, the Member Advisory Group (MAG), which is a member group representing each of the planning authorities in the Leicester and Leicestershire Housing Market Area, has met and has indicated that in terms of reaching an agreement on the amount and distribution of new housing this should cover the period to 2031. The basis for the MAG reaching this conclusion is due to the fact that the current

transport modelling work for the Housing Market Area currently only looks at the period to 2028 and therefore having plan periods to 2031 minimises the additional modelling work required to have a comprehensive set of plans in place. More importantly however the recommendation to run plans to 2031 is based on the fact that all planning authorities in the Housing Market Area have confirmed that they are able to accommodate their housing needs within their respective areas up to that date thereby avoiding the need for any re-distribution.

2.2 In considering the issue of the appropriate Plan Period it is necessary to consider what the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) says.

2.3 Paragraph 159 that states local plans should:

"be drawn up over an appropriate time scale, *preferably* a 15-year time horizon, take account of longer term requirements, and be kept up to date"

However the NPPF also states at para 47 that the local plan should:

"identify a supply of specific, developable sites or broad locations for growth, for years 6-10 and, *where possible*, for years 11-15"

2.4 Given the Local Plan will not be adopted at the earliest until the end of 2016, an end date of 2031 would of course be just short of 15 years. The longer date (2036) would, as the Advisory Committee have already been advised be preferable and fits better with NPPF in this regard.

2.5 However there is consensus across the Housing Market Area that up until 2031 all the authorities can meet their objectively assessed housing need without the need for any redistribution subject to some modelling by the County Highways Authority around transport. It is advised that it would likely have to be something of real significance for any constraint including transport to persuade an Inspector that any plan meeting housing would otherwise be found unsound on the '15 year rule'. This seems to be supported by the Inspector for the Charnwood Hearing being content that the submitted plan has an end date of 2028 (14 year time horizon).

2.6 If the Council is to continue with a plan end date of 2036, this poses a considerable risk of not being able to secure co-operation based on a robust evidence base, which is also a requirement of the NPPF and the Localism Act.

2.7 Therefore due to changed circumstances following publication of the SHMA and emerging information concerning SHLAAs, members are advised on balance that a credible argument could be advanced to support an end date of 2031 with a commitment that the authorities will be working together on a longer time horizon as the evidence base is rolled forward.

2.8 Should circumstances change again, a further report will be brought to the Local Plan Advisory Committee.