

# **Morecambe Neighbourhood Plan Area Designation**

## **Consultation Report**

**March 2016**

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 Neighbourhood planning gives communities the chance to decide where new development should be and what it should look like. For example, new homes, shops and offices. A plan must be in line with the District's Local Plan and is subject to an independent examination and community referendum. If approved, a neighbourhood plan forms part of the district's Local Plan and it is used in helping to make decisions on planning applications.
- 1.2 One of the first stages of developing a neighbourhood plan is to agree the area that this will cover.

## 2. Background

- 2.1 Morecambe Town Council submitted an application on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2016 to designate their neighbourhood plan area, this proposal covered the whole parish area.
- 2.2 Lancaster City Council consulted on the application for 4 weeks, from 15<sup>th</sup> February 2016 to 14<sup>th</sup> March 2016, before making a decision.
- 2.3 A press release was issued and an information email was also sent out to the planning policy consultation list (1,459 contacts).
- 2.4 The application letter, completed form and a map of proposed area could be viewed on both the Town and City Council's websites and on Town Council noticeboards.
- 2.5 Comments could be sent to the Planning and Housing Policy Team by email or post.

## 3. Summary of Consultation Responses

- 3.1 8 organisations and 1 individual responded to the Morecambe neighbourhood plan designation area consultation.
  - United Utilities (16.02.16)
  - Highways England (16.02.16)
  - Health and Safety Executive (16.02.16)
  - Natural England (18.02.16)
  - David Alexander (19.02.16)
  - Environment Agency (22.02.16)
  - Lancashire Wildlife Trust (23.03.16)
  - Historic England (01.03.16)
  - Network Rail (02.03.16)
- 3.2 There have been no objections to the proposed Morecambe neighbourhood plan designation area, however a range of advice and guidance has been provided by a number of respondents.
- 3.3 The Health and Safety Executive highlighted that a number of consultation zones were within the proposed neighbourhood plan boundary. Various issues were raised including housing allocations, workplace allocations and mixed use allocations. They recommended that consultation zones should

be marked on future maps to identify future development proposals that could encroach on consultation zones and the extent of any encroachment that could occur. They suggested that proposal maps in site allocation development planning documents may be suitable for presenting this information. They particularly recommended marking the zones associated with MAHPs and the HSE advises that Halton with Aughton should contact the pipeline operator for up to date information on pipeline location, as pipeline can be diverted by operators from notified routes. HSE have sent a copy of their response letter to the relevant pipeline operator.

- 3.4 Both the Environment Agency and Highways England had no comments to make on the area designation, however both parties wish to be kept informed and consulted with in the future should the designation be approved.
- 3.5 United Utilities Water Limited had no comments to make. However, they would like to be included in further consultations to ensure that they can facilitate the delivery of necessary sustainable infrastructure in line with the Neighbourhood Plan delivery targets, whilst safeguarding services for their customers. They requested that this response should be considered in conjunction with historical responses.
- 3.6 Responses have been received from both Natural England and the Lancashire Wildlife Trust who have provided useful background information and context for future plan preparation.
- 3.7 One local resident submitted comments on the area designation, in particular raising concern over the size of the designation in Morecambe, particularly without the background context of what the Neighbourhood Plan was seeking to achieve.
- 3.8 Should interested parties wish to read the full submissions made in relation to the area designation these are available upon request from the Planning and Housing Policy Team on 01524 582329 or [planningpolicy@lancaster.gov.uk](mailto:planningpolicy@lancaster.gov.uk).

## **4. Conclusion**

- 4.1 Following the statutory 4 week consultation, there have been no objections to the proposed Morecambe neighbourhood plan designation area. Accordingly the Council will seek to formally designate the Morecambe Town Council area as a Neighbourhood Planning Area.