

Directorate: **ECONOMIC GROWTH & REGENERATION**

Proposal : **PLANNING POLICY & LOCAL PLAN**

PROPOSAL DETAILS

The proposal is twofold within this Team.

- (i) To progress, implement and monitor the emerging Local Plan for the District, and to budget for the work that is being undertaken as part of the Local Plan Review.
- (ii) That as part of the Local Plan Review, to recruit the two temporary (5-year) Climate Change Officers who will work on the climate change mitigation and adaptation measures that are established by the Local Plan Review Group. Previous informal support from Cabinet to proceed with recruitment.
- (iii) That a permanent, senior resource is recruited to the Team to resolve capacity issues and help deliver overdue policy initiatives (some of which are listed below).

In respect of (i), an adopted Local Plan is a necessity to guard against inappropriate development and 'planning by appeal'. The Local Plan Review has already commenced in terms of scoping the initial options. Compliance with the timeline provided to Cabinet is dependent upon (ii) above, as stated earlier in the summer at the emergency meetings with Cabinet. (iii) provides the permanent resource necessary within this Team to oversee major planning policy initiatives that are linked to the work on the Local Plan, including controlling residential conversions of properties to houses in multiple occupation (usually student units); future proposals to re-assess Article 4 Direction Areas within the Conservation Team; and a total review of the Council's Tree Policy (adopted in 2010) with a focus on climate change mitigation. In addition it is anticipated that the Canal Quarter project will move from a regeneration-based framework to Supplementary Planning Documentation in 2020. The Policy Team will also be directly involved in the anticipated launch of the Rail Strategy and the work that is likely to emerge from the County Council's Movement Strategy (aimed at reducing car use through Lancaster City Centre and advantaging modal shift towards public transport). Work on the Bailrigg Development Plan Document will also be taken forward.

REVENUE REQUIREMENTS

	2020/21 £	2021/22 £	2022/23 £	2023/24 £
GENERAL FUND				
Staff Resources	95,900	102,100	107,900	114,800
Total	95,900	102,100	107,900	114,800

APPLICATION OF RESERVES

	RESERVE	2020/21 £	2021/22 £	2022/23 £	2023/24 £
Planning Policy & Local Plan: Commissioning Advice	TBC	591,000	0	0	0
Total		591,000	0	0	0

COUNCIL PRIORITIES	
A Sustainable District	One of the objectives of the Local Plan is to ensure that development makes an overall positive contribution to the delivery of sustainable communities, the economy and the environment
An Inclusive and Prosperous Local Economy	The revised Local Plan aims to support the draft Economic Growth Plan which sets out how to create a prosperous and dynamic local economy that enables ambitious local companies to grow, attracting new investment and supporting economic development in a sustainable and inclusive way. We want to balance growth with improvements to quality of life securing investment in our town centres and villages to create high quality housing and attractive public realm and green space. Policies in the Local Plan will look to address this
Healthy & Happy Communities	Within national planning policy, guidance is provided on how health should be considered by the planning system and embedded into the Local Plan. It is clear that as part of delivering on the social dimension of sustainable development that the Local Plan has a role in supporting and developing strong, vibrant and healthy communities.
A Co-operative Kind and Responsible Council	Community engagement is integral to the development of the Local Plan. The Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) sets out how and when we will engage with the community and other key stakeholders when we prepare and revise Local Plan documents.

CROSS CUTTING THEMES	
Climate Emergency	National planning policy is clear that planning has a key role to play in minimising vulnerability and providing resilience to the impacts of climate change, including coastal change, flood risk, drought, water supply and changes to biodiversity and landscape. It will be essential that appropriate planning policies are put in place in the new revised local plan to meet these challenges.
Community Wealth Building	Effective community wealth building requires rethinking present policies to generate local equity and community-owned initiatives and through the course of the development of the revised Local Plan the service will address this.
Community Engagement	Community engagement is integral to the development of the Local Plan. The Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) sets out how and when we will engage with the community and other key stakeholders when we prepare and revise Local Plan documents

PERFORMANCE OUTCOMES		
Outcome	Performance Measure	Target
Receipt of the Inspector's Report and subsequent adoption of the Local Plan	Formal adoption of the Local Plan, allowing the next stages of the Local Plan Review to proceed.	Formal adoption by Late-Spring 2020.
Continued Review of the Local Plan in response to the declared Climate Emergency	There has been a positive start to this work and the timetable provided to Members in summer is currently being adhered to.	Formal adoption of the reviewed Local Plan by 2022 as previously presented to Cabinet.
Delivery of all other policy initiatives (HMO, Tree Policy, Article 4 Direction, etc)	Progression of all other policy initiatives unimpeded by the Local Plan Review.	No fixed target as yet.