

## Appendix 1 - Stage 1 – Initial Consultation Local Plan (Regulation 18)

Copy of consultation email and letter

### North Lincolnshire Local Plan (2017 to 2036) - Draft E-mail to Statutory Consultees

**To:**

**Cc:**

**Bcc:** Adjoining Local Planning Authorities; Adjoining Town & Parish Councils; Environmental Bodies; Government Agencies & Bodies; Infrastructure & Service Providers; MPs & MEPs; Other Bodies; LEPs & LNPs; Police & Crime Commissioners; Town & Parish Councils; Transport

**Subject:** North Lincolnshire Local Plan (2017 to 2036) – Initial Consultation (Regulation 18)

Dear Sir or Madam;

North Lincolnshire Council is in the early stages of preparing a new single Local Plan for its area. It will set out the vision and objectives for the area, allocate sites for housing, employment, retail, leisure and other forms of development and will set out development management policies up to 2036. As well as setting out where new development will go, the Plan will also set out policies which seek to protect and preserve open space, green infrastructure, historic heritage and environmental assets. Once adopted, it will update and replace the existing planning policy framework for the area.

#### Initial Consultation

This Initial Consultation (Regulation 18) is the first opportunity for local people and other key stakeholders to tell us what they think the plan should contain.

An Initial Consultation (Regulation 18) document has been prepared setting out our thoughts on the important issues that face North Lincolnshire, now and in the coming years, alongside how the new Local Plan could address them. You can view it on the council's website: [www.localplan.northlincs.gov.uk/localplan](http://www.localplan.northlincs.gov.uk/localplan)

We have also published a questionnaire to go with the document which you can fill in to give us your views. The easiest and most efficient way to provide comments is to complete the [questionnaire on-line](#).

The consultation runs from Monday 27th February to Monday 10th April 2017. All questionnaires/comments should be submitted on-line, e-mailed or sent to the Spatial Planning team by 5pm on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2017.

A number of roadshows will be held across North Lincolnshire to allow local people and others to come along to give us their views about the future growth and development of the area as well as the issues the plan should cover. Dates and times can be found on our website: [www.localplan.northlincs.gov.uk/localplan](http://www.localplan.northlincs.gov.uk/localplan)

A paper version of the Initial Consultation (Regulation 18) document can be viewed at the [Civic Centre, Scunthorpe](#), and electronically at [Local Link offices](#) & [Libraries](#) across North Lincolnshire using the public access computer network.

#### Call for Sites

As part of this consultation, the council is also seeking to identify land that may be suitable for development or protection within the new Local Plan. More information about the Call for Sites process can be found on our website: [www.localplan.northlincs.gov.uk/localplan](http://www.localplan.northlincs.gov.uk/localplan)

#### More Information

If you wish to know more about the North Lincolnshire Local Plan (2017 to 2036) or get involved in the process, please contact Spatial Planning for more information.

**E-mail:** [localplan@northlincs.gov.uk](mailto:localplan@northlincs.gov.uk)

**Tel:** 01724 297573/297577

**Post:** North Lincolnshire Council, Civic Centre, Ashby Road, Scunthorpe, DN16 1AB

Kind regards

Chris Barwell  
Spatial Planning Manager

***Spatial Planning Manager:** Chris Barwell*

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Our Ref: CB/IC/R18/«Person\_ID»

Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2016

«Title» «Given\_Name» «Family\_Name»

«Organisation»

«Line\_1»

«Line\_2»

«Line\_3»

«Post\_Town»

«Postcode»

Dear «Title» «Family\_Name»,

### **NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE LOCAL PLAN (2017 TO 2036) – INITIAL CONSULTATION (REGULATION 18)**

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Tel: 01724 297573/297577

Post: North Lincolnshire Council, Civic Centre, Ashby Road, Scunthorpe, DN16 1AB

Yours sincerely



**Chris Barwell**

Spatial Planning Manager

#### Copy of Press Release

# How do you want your area to develop over the next 19 years?

North Lincolnshire Council is encouraging residents to have their say on the proposed new Local Plan that will set out how the area is developed over the next 19 years.

You will be able to share your views at consultation events from throughout February and March and online from Monday 27 February. The consultation will now run an extra week until Tuesday 18 April 2017.

The new North Lincolnshire Local Plan will set out the vision and objectives for the area; establish the amount and location for growth and act as a guide for future development.

It identifies important issues facing the area now and in the future, and how these can be addressed through the plan.

The council would like residents to have an input on the plan to make sure it reflects how residents want to see their local communities in the future. Residents will have the opportunity to have their say on the proposed plan and put their ideas forward for the area they live in.

At the consultation events, residents will also have the opportunity to suggest sites for housing and employment allocations and the designation of green space, community areas and landscape.

In addition, the consultation will also help with the development of a wider strategy for regeneration across North Lincolnshire.

Go along to the consultation events to have your say on the proposed North Lincolnshire Local Plan. The events are on:

- Monday 13 March from 3pm to 7pm at Broughton Village Hall

- Wednesday 15 March from 3pm to 6.45pm at Winterton Old School Hall Community Centre
- Monday 20 March from 4pm to 7pm at Kirton-in-Lindsey Town Hall
- Tuesday 21 March from 3pm to 7pm at Barton Assembly Room
- Monday 27 March from 3pm to 6.30pm at Ulceby Village Hall
- Tuesday 28 March from 3pm to 7pm at Civic Centre, Scunthorpe
- Wednesday 29 March from 3pm to 7pm at the Pavilion, Bottesford

Drop in sessions will be held at Brigg Tourist Information Centre on 23 and 30 March, and at the Action Station, Cole Street, Scunthorpe on 31 March and 1 April. We will also be carrying out a further event at Crowle. Please keep an eye on the website for further details.

The new Local Plan will eventually become the new planning strategy for North Lincolnshire and will replace the Core Strategy, and Housing and Employment Land Allocations Development Plan Documents (DPDs) and the 2003 Local Plan.

Cllr Rob Waltham, Leader of North Lincolnshire Council, said:

“The Local Plan is a vital document that identifies how North Lincolnshire is going to develop over the next 19 years. It sets out where new housing is going to be allocated, how much green space is needed and how the area will be regenerated. The Local Plans supports our vision for North Lincolnshire to be a place where people want to live, work, play and invest.

“We are encouraging residents to get involved the preparation of the new Local Plan and share their ideas of how they think North Lincolnshire should develop. Residents know their communities better than anyone, so it is only right they are given the opportunity to have their say.

“If you would like to have a look at the proposed plan and tell us your views, go to one of the consultation events. Our officers will be on hand to talk about the plan and answer any of your questions. You can also have your say online”.

Why is a new Local Plan being prepared?

The council is preparing a new Local Plan due to:

- A change in legislation. Since the Core Strategy was adopted, the legislative requirement for plan making has changed and the Government’s preferred approach is for each local planning authority to prepare a single Local Plan for its area.
- The need to review and update the Core Strategy to take account of national planning policy changes.

# Stage 1: Initial Consultation (Regulation 18)

## HAVE YOUR SAY. BE PART OF THE PLAN

This was the first opportunity to have your say on how North Lincolnshire grows over the next 19 years, to 2036.

This initial consultation was the first (statutory) stage in the process of preparing the plan and represents the scoping stage for the Local Plan preparation process.

We prepared an [Initial Consultation \(Regulation 18\) Document](#) to support early engagement with local communities, businesses, voluntary groups, public organisations and landowners on future development and change in North Lincolnshire.

This document sets out what we think are important issues and challenges facing the area -- now and in the future, and how the new Local Plan can help to address them.

## GET INVOLVED. HAVE YOUR SAY

We asked for your thoughts on what the new Local Plan should contain and how we should develop and put into action the choices that will affect the long-term future of North Lincolnshire (our strategic decisions). These decisions will ensure that we make the most of North Lincolnshire's ideal location, distinctive places and resources if our economy is to grow and the health and wellbeing of our residents continues to improve, creating an exciting place to live, work, invest and play.

**You gave us your views and this consultation is now closed.**

## WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Your views will help to inform the next stage of the Local Plan - [Issues and Options](#), which will start to develop the issues and growth options for North Lincolnshire.



## Summary of Consultation Responses

Spatial Planning  
North Lincolnshire  
Council  
Civic Centre  
Ashby Road  
Scunthorpe  
DN16 1AB

GROW NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE. BE PART OF IT.



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## 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 North Lincolnshire Council is preparing a new single local plan for North Lincolnshire. Once agreed (formally adopted) it will replace the current North Lincolnshire Local Plan, the Core Strategy and the Housing and Employment Land Allocations Development Plan Documents (DPDs), and the Lincolnshire Lakes Area Action Plan.
- 1.2 It will bring together relevant policies and proposals included in the existing plans and include new policies and proposals required by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) plus new and revised local studies and evidence.
- 1.3 As the Local Plan is developed there will be a number of opportunities for local people, businesses, voluntary groups, public bodies and landowners to get involved in helping to shape the future growth and development of North Lincolnshire. This initial (Regulation 18) consultation was the first stage in process of preparing the plan and represented the scoping stage for its contents.
- 1.4 This document has been prepared to provide a summary of the responses received from the community and others during the consultation period about the Lincolnshire Lakes and the potential development options. Under regulations 19 & 22 of the Town & Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012, local planning authorities are obliged to prepare two statements setting out how they conducted public consultation/community involvement prior to the Local Plan being published and submitted to Government for an independent examination. This document will assist in preparing these statements. It will also form part the evidence base for the Local Plan.

## 2 CONSULTATION OVERVIEW

The consultation period ran from Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February to Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2017 (a seven week period). An Initial Consultation (Regulation 18) document was prepared and published on the bespoke North Lincolnshire Local Plan (2017 to 2036) website - <http://localplan.northlincs.gov.uk/localplan/>. A paper version of the document was also made available for public inspection at the Civic Centre in Scunthorpe, whilst it could be viewed on-line at Local Link offices and branch libraries across North Lincolnshire via the council's public access computer network.

The Initial Consultation (Regulation 18) document was accompanied by a questionnaire. It related to the questions being posed in the document and could be completed on-line via the Local Plan website. A paper version was made available upon request.

During the consultation period a number of consultation events and drop in sessions were held at various venues across North Lincolnshire (see below). The events predominately ran from 3pm to 7pm, whilst the drop-in sessions ran between 10am & 3pm. These allowed local people to come along and find out about the Local Plan and put forward their views about the future growth and development of North Lincolnshire. These were visited by a total of ?? people.

### Consultation Events

- The Pavilion, Bottesford – 27<sup>th</sup> February & 29<sup>th</sup> March 2017
- Community Resource Centre, Crowle – 1<sup>st</sup> March & 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2017
- The Angel Suite, Brigg – 6<sup>th</sup> March 2017
- Imperial Hall, Epworth – 8<sup>th</sup> March 2017
- Village Hall, Broughton – 13<sup>th</sup> March 2017
- Old School Hall Community Centre, Winterton – 15<sup>th</sup> March 2017
- Town Hall, Kirton in Lindsey – 20<sup>th</sup> March 2017
- Assembly Rooms, Barton upon Humber – 21<sup>st</sup> March 2017
- Village Hall, Ulceby – 27<sup>th</sup> March 2017
- Civic Centre, Scunthorpe – 28<sup>th</sup> March 2017

### Drop In Sessions

- Tourist Information Centre, Brigg – 23<sup>rd</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> March 2017
- Action Station, Scunthorpe – 31<sup>st</sup> March & 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017

During the consultation events, local people were invited to take part in a “Planning for Real” exercise using a map of North Lincolnshire to identify where they thought development should take place. At the end of each event, the map was photographed and the outcomes fed into the Local Plan process.

The consultation was advertised throughout the period as a news story on the front page of the council's website, [www.northlincs.gov.uk](http://www.northlincs.gov.uk). Press releases were also issued to local media outlets. Articles about the consultation appear on the Scunthorpe Telegraph website on 26<sup>th</sup> February and 6<sup>th</sup> March 2017.

### Call For Sites

Alongside the Initial Consultation (Regulation 18), a Call for Sites exercise was also undertaken. This allowed landowners, developers and/or agents to put forward land to be considered for potential site allocations within the Local Plan.

## 3 OVERVIEW OF RESPONSES

3.1 The Initial Consultation (Regulation 18) document set out 24 questions covering a number of topics to get views about the future of the area. These were also set out in the accompanying questionnaire. A total of 102 respondents provided comments using the on-line questionnaire, via e-mail or in writing during the consultation period. A list of respondents is included in Appendix 1.

3.2 It should be noted that not all those who responded answered every question. Table 1 (below) sets out the total number of responses received for each question. The responses received and the issues raised by them are summarised in greater detail in the subsequent sections of this document.

Table 1: Initial Consultation (Regulation 18) – Questionnaire Responses			
	Question	Number of Responses	Response Rate
1	Is there any other background or supporting evidence you think we need to support the Local Plan?	87	85%
2	Do you support the existing Core Strategy vision for North Lincolnshire or do you have a different vision for the area?	79	77%
3	Do you agree that these issues highlighted are important issues facing your area today or are there any others that we have missed/should consider?	85	83%
4	How would you like to see North Lincolnshire grow? For example, we could continue to focus growth on Scunthorpe and the Market Towns or we could grow our villages.	70	69%
5	Of the four possible options for the future approach to development, which do you consider the most appropriate, or do you consider that an alternative option/approach should be examined?	77	75%
6	Which one of the four housing scenarios do you consider appropriate for North Lincolnshire up to 2036 and why?	72	71%
7	Do you think the Local Plan's annual housing figure should be higher or lower than identified within the four scenarios and why?	60	59%
8	Where should our new housing be located?	74	73%
9	Does the affordable housing need figure of 219 per year provide an accurate requirement for North Lincolnshire?	71	70%
10	Are there any other issues regarding housing policy which could be considered by the Local Plan? If yes, please tell us	68	67%
11	How can we support the economy of North Lincolnshire to grow?	60	59%
12	Should we continue with the current Core Strategy approach of seeking to take full advantage of our location next to the Humber Estuary by developing the South Humber Gateway as well as focussing on Scunthorpe and other key strategic employment locations such as Humberside Airport and Sandtoft?	72	71%
13	Do we need to identify further employment land in addition to what is currently allocated and if yes, where should it be located?	67	66%
14	Do you think that the existing network of retail centres is appropriate?	70	69%

15	Are there any other issues regarding managing our employment land, retail offer and economy which you think should be examined?	70	69%
16	Is the current Core Strategy approach to managing our natural and built environment correct?	74	73%
17	What areas, locations or environments should we protect across North Lincolnshire?	60	59%
18	Are there any other issues regarding managing our environment which you think should be examined?	74	73%
19	Does your community have good access to local services such as health, education and leisure that are needed to support its social and cultural wellbeing?	71	70%
20	Are there any other issues regarding our communities and places which you think should be examined?	69	68%
21	Are there any other issues regarding managing our infrastructure which you think should be examined?	71	70%
22	Are there any improvements you think are required to North Lincolnshire's infrastructure to support growth? If yes, please tell us.	69	68%
23	What issues and challenges should be addressed by the development management policies?	43	42%
24	Is the approach of identifying development limits for settlements still appropriate? If not what approach should be taken?	70	69%

#### 4 NEXT STEPS

- 4.1 All comments received and the issues raised will be given careful consideration, and where appropriate, inform the preparation of subsequent versions of the North Lincolnshire Local Plan (2017 to 2036).
- 4.2 The next stage in developing the new Local Plan is to prepare an Issues & Options document. This will set out further detail about the issues facing the area together with some potential approaches to addressing them. It will be based on the requirements of national planning policy and guidance, the emerging Local Plan evidence base and the comments received and issues raised during the Initial (Regulation 18) Consultation.
- 4.3 The Issues & Options document will be published to allow local people and others to have their say on its contents. The responses received on the Issues and Options documents together with the developing evidence base will help to shape the Preferred Options of the Local Plan.

#### CONSULTATION SUMMARIES

The following sections (nos. 5 to 13) of this document provide summaries of the responses submitted as part of the Initial (Regulation 18) Consultation exercise.

#### 5. WHAT EVIDENCE DO WE NEED?

##### INTRODUCTION

- 5.1 A robust evidence base is required to inform and support the preparation and examination of the North Lincolnshire Local Plan (2017 to 2036). This will assist in developing the policies and proposals for the Plan. A large amount of evidence has already been prepared as part of the work developing the various documents that make up the Local Development Framework. However, some of this evidence is being or will need to be reviewed and updated. Some additional evidence may be required on issues such as viability.
- 5.2 Given the importance of the evidence base, it is essential to gain an understanding from local people and other key stakeholders whether or not there is other background or supporting evidence that is needed to support the Plan. The Initial Consultation (Regulation 18) document contained a single question about the evidence base. Respondents were given three options, and the opportunity to provide additional comments.

##### RESPONSES

- 5.3 A total of **87** responses were received in respect of Question 1. Details are shown in the table below:

Question	No. of Responses	%
<b>1. Is there any other background or supporting evidence you think we need to support Local Plan?</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>100</b>
• <i>Yes</i>	52	62
• <i>No</i>	12	15
• <i>Don't Know/No Opinion</i>	18	22
• <i>Other Response</i>	5	6
<b>No response to question</b>	16	-

## SUMMARY OF COMMENTS

### Question 1: Is there any other background or supporting evidence you think we need to support Local Plan?

- 5.4 Around two thirds of respondents to question 1 considered that there were other background/supporting evidence or documents that need to be gathered to support the Local Plan as work moves on. In respect of the additional comments, not all related to the evidence base. Some related to the development strategy, settlement/development specific issues and the consultation exercise.
- 5.5 A number of respondents highlighted the need to ensure the evidence base used to support the Local Plan was consistent with the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) – paragraphs 158 and 187, regarding its proportionality and meeting the tests of soundness. It was suggested some of the evidence base should be undertaken by organisations independent of the council.
- 5.6 A number of the suggested additional evidence base documents were strategies or plans produced by differing organisations that may have an impact on the plan making process. These have been grouped under the headings below:

#### Strategy

- 5.7 Settlement Survey – the North Lincolnshire Sustainable Settlement Survey (2016) was viewed as being an important part of the evidence base and should be clearly signposted.

#### Brownfield Land

- 5.8 It was considered that there should be some understanding/evidence of which areas of land are classified as being brownfield, and the length of time this has been the case.
- 5.9 Brownfield registers – it was highlighted that regulations in respect of both Brownfield Registers and Permission in Principle on sites on the brownfield register have recently been brought into effect. It was suggested that both should be taken into account as part of the Local Plan process.

#### Economy

- 5.10 A number of the comments received highlight the need to provide some additional information about the future direction of the local economy and land supply:
- Tourism – it was considered that some form of evidence regarding tourism and its potential in North Lincolnshire should form part of the evidence base.
  - Updated version of the Employment Land Review – required to provide an up to date position on employment requirements for the area and to review/assess sites put forward by developers. Specifically, it was felt additional evidence was required in respect of an expansion at Sandtoft Airfield and implications it may have the transport network.
  - A business needs/market study – needed to get an understanding of which sectors of the economy are likely to grow or contract, as well as to identify and address any barriers to growth.
  - Brexit – it was considered that economic implications of Brexit should be factored into any plan, for example by undertaking a detailed Economic & Viability Assessment of the Local Plan.

- Retail/Town Centres – it was suggested that a town centre and retail study should be undertaken to look at existing centres and their health as well as current/future retail provision and needs. With regard to Scunthorpe town centre, it was considered that a masterplan should be developed for the centre and the areas adjacent to the current town centre boundary.

### Population/Demographics

5.11 It was suggested that changes in population structures need to be considered as part of Local Plan evidence:

- Population structures – it was proposed that an assessment of the population structure in the market towns and villages should be undertaken, in particular to understand the implications for the provision of affordable housing and to ensure the creation of mixed, thriving communities.
- Brexit – it was suggested that population growth/trends following Brexit should be re-assessed to provide an understanding of its implications for local services and resources.

### Housing

5.12 The majority of responses received on housing evidence centred on the need to produce studies, outline housing needs and housing land supply:

- Updated Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) – the inclusion in the evidence base of an up to date SHLAA was viewed as essential to provide an understanding of housing land supply and to undertake an assessment of sites proposed by developers as well as determining future development options. It was felt that this would allow a clear picture of the Five Year Housing Land Supply to emerge, in particular in respect of short term supply.
- Updated Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) – this was highlighted by several respondents as being a central piece of evidence to support the Local Plan and its future housing requirements and Objectively Assessed Need, alongside future options for development.
- Housing White Paper – although not specifically related to the evidence base reference was made to the need to be consider the implications of the Housing White Paper in terms of a future consultation on standardising the method of calculating housing land supply.
- Housing Needs Assessment – several respondents suggested that additional evidence in respect of housing needs should get gathered, particularly at the settlement level. Specific reference was made to the need to understand the level of homelessness. Links to specific information sources was provided – Shelter’s Green Book and Housing Databank.
- Whole Plan Viability – the need to undertake an assessment of the plan’s viability was highlighted. It was suggested that this should commence as early as possible in the plan making process to assist in the process of policy writing.
- Housing Delivery – a number of respondents considered that evidence regarding future and past housing delivery rates should be considered as part of the Local Plan.

In respect of future housing delivery rates, it is stated that the evidence should be produced about how the plan will deliver against its housing requirement. For past/current delivery, it was recommended that the phasing information from the Lincolnshire Lakes and progress towards meeting targets is included in the broader context of identifying opportunities for new housing sites in the plan.

- Best practice – reference was made to a 2008 DCLG publication “Taylor Review of Rural Economy and Affordable Housing - Living Working Countryside” regarding the rural economy and affordable housing, which identified potential for best practice to support rural communities and growth.

### Environment

5.13 Several respondents highlighted a number of documents/strategies/plan that should be considered as part of the evidence base or suggested areas where further work may be needed. As the environment topic area is considerable, details of the responses have group under a series of headings (see below):

- **Biodiversity/Geodiversity** – several respondents considered that additional evidence is required to support or shape relevant biodiversity and geodiversity policies within the Local Plan. This includes:

- Lincolnshire Biodiversity Action Plan 2015 (this covers North Lincolnshire) (not Greater Lincolnshire Nature Strategy) - identifies local priorities for biodiversity conservation
  - Information on Local Sites including updated boundaries and reference to the documents for their selection – Local Wildlife Sites Guidelines 3rd Edition and Local Geological Sites Guidelines 1st Edition
  - Consideration of the existing and potential components of ecological networks including identification and mapping the full hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites within the Local Plan.
  - Lincolnshire Geodiversity Strategy 2016
  - Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England’s wildlife and ecosystem services
  - Green Infrastructure Strategy – was previously highlighted in the Core Strategy and it was felt that this should be produced as part of the Local Plan
  - Evidence on the chalk streams and plans/targets to improve them will be included within the River Basin Management Plan, the Wolds AONB Management Plan and the Greater Lincolnshire Nature Strategy – these are identified as important habitats and may have cross boundary implications
  - Humber Landscape & Investment Study
  - The South Humber Gateway Strategic Mitigation Strategy – outlines a strategic approach to mitigation in relation to the Humber Estuary SPA/Ramsar site.
  - The Humber Estuary Bird Decline Investigation 2014 – Investigates bird declines in relation to the Humber Estuary SPA.
  - Humber Management Scheme documents
  - National Nature Reserve (NNR) management plans for Far Ings and Humberhead Peatlands NNR, Alkborough and the Claypits – currently being developed
- **Landscape** – it was suggested that an up-to-date Landscape Character Assessment should be developed in order to assess the sensitivity of the area’s landscapes and their capacity to accommodate development as well as in allocating sites. Also it was felt it would be beneficial in determining planning applications. Any work, it was considered, should build on characterisation work already undertaken at a national and local level. This includes the National Character Areas (NCAs)
  - **Flooding** – a number of documents were highlighted as being of particular importance for the Local Plan evidence base in respect of flooding and drainage. These included:
    - Updated/Reviewed Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA)
    - Local flood risk management strategy
    - Humber Flood Risk Management Strategy
    - The Isle of Axholme Flood Risk Management Strategy - currently being developed
    - Humber River Basin District Flood Risk Management Plan (FRMP)
    - FCRM Capital investment plan
    - The Lincolnshire Lakes Integrated Flood Risk and Drainage Strategy
    - Humber River Basin Management Plan 2015 (RBMP)
  - **Heritage** – it was suggested that up-to-date Conservation Area Appraisals and Management Plans should form part of the evidence base for the Local Plan as they would assist in allocating sites and determining planning applications. Other suggestions for evidence include using Historic England’s Historic Landscape Character survey work and working closely with council’s Historic Environment Record and relevant heritage advisors. A particular recommendation was to develop a methodology for assessing the historic environment in respect of possible site allocations. Reference was made to a particular Historic England publication providing advice on this matter.
- Another respondent queried whether or not there was evidence to support the plan in respect of those aspects of community heritage that should be protected or conserved.
- **Minerals** – it was recommended that an up-to-date Local Aggregates Assessment (LAA) is included within the evidence in order to provide an up to date evidence base on aggregate sales, land bank, and demand.

### Infrastructure

- 5.14 A respondent considered that a range of studies or assessments should be undertaken to examine the quality and capacity of North Lincolnshire’s physical, social and green infrastructure, and its ability to accommodate growth.
- 5.15 It was also highlighted that water and wastewater infrastructure should be given due consideration as part of developing the Local Plan, and that discussions should take place with relevant water infrastructure providers regarding their business plans. It was also suggested that it may be appropriate to update the Outline Water Cycle Strategy. Other specific plans/strategies identified for consideration included Asset Management Plans and Water Resource Management Plans produced by water companies, drought plans (water companies and Environment

Agency), Area Licencing Strategies (Environment Agency), water stress areas classifications (Government), and aquifer designations, safeguarding zones, source protection zones (Environment Agency)

- 5.16 A number of respondents suggested that the impact of development on the transport network should be addressed in the evidence base. In particular, it was considered that the impact of increased traffic levels from recent residential and employment developments on rural areas should be addressed. Specific reference was made to understanding the impact of traffic from Sandtoft on surrounding communities including consultation with residents. The provision of a direct link from the M180 suggested as an approach to dealing with this issue.
- 5.17 It was also felt that more details should be included regarding cycling and footpath provision as well as access to the countryside.
- 5.18 Furthermore, it was suggested that the impact of population growth on rail network should be considered, particularly need for car parking at stations in North Lincolnshire area in order to access employment, leisure or educational opportunities.
- 5.19 Additional suggestions for infrastructure evidence were the development of an Education Plan, Health and Social Care Development Plan, a Lincolnshire Transport Plan and a General Transport Plan. Also it is considered appropriate to examine accessibility to social services in rural areas.

#### **Settlement Specific Studies**

- 5.20 Suggestions were made for studies/surveys relating to specific settlements – Barton upon Humber and Epworth. In relation to Barton upon Humber, it was suggested that a study into the capacity of local infrastructure, including highways/traffic congestion and community facilities is required before new residential development is permitted. It was suggested that considerations should be given to the provision of northern or southern bypass for the town.
- 5.21 For Epworth, it was suggested that a survey of local residents should take place to ascertain their views on a number of specific issues. These include the current development limits, the type of housing need, impact on local infrastructure and the impact on historic/cultural environment.

#### **Duty to Co-operate**

- 5.22 A number of respondents highlighted the Duty to Co-operate and the need to consider cross boundary planning issues. Key issues that should be covered relate to the development of the evidence supporting the housing and employment elements of the Local Plan as well as the needed to consider the implications on North Lincolnshire's infrastructure of development and growth in neighbouring areas, in particular Lincolnshire. It was suggested that a version of a Duty to Co-operate Statement, explaining the cross boundary issues and actions to address them, is issued at each stage of plan's iteration.
- 5.23 Also, there was commitment from several bodies to ensure a positive working relationship as work on the plan progresses.

#### **Neighbourhood Plans**

- 5.24 It was highlighted the emerging neighbourhoods such as Appleby Neighbourhood Plan will provide relevant information, evidence and data about how local communities wish to see their area development in future.

#### **Communities**

- 5.25 A number of respondents considered that community views regarding their needs and aspirations should form part of the evidence base. It highlighted that data which showed the mapping of people's needs and aspirations had been undertaken, which in turn it was considered may help identify what provision is needed. Also it was felt that views from organisations or groups such as the police, voluntary sector, younger people and the migrant community should be sought

#### **Sustainability**

- 5.26 It was noted that the Sustainability Appraisal process will form a key part of the evidence for the Local Plan as it will allow the potential environmental, economic and social impacts of the plans policies and proposals to be thoroughly assessed. As such it was felt this should be robust and clearly assess the area's sustainability characteristics, together with the relationship between housing and the economy. The presumption in favour of sustainable development was also viewed as a key consideration, whilst advice was also provided on the role of the SA process and the historic environment.
- 5.27 A number of the comments related to the consultation exercise. It was suggested that the map used at the events should have contained more detailed, settlement specific information, and that there should have been more public information and awareness of the consultation.

- 5.28 Several comments received were focussed on the strategy as well as the level of growth in different settlements. A specific comment was received about a particular development in the Messingham area, whilst another felt that no more housing development should occur and that more amenities/facilities should be provided.
- 5.29 Concerns were expressed about the level of previous and proposed housing development in Kirton in Lindsey and its impact on the community. Similarly it was considered that settlement development limits for Wrawby should not be amended as it would have a negative impact on village life. In relation to Saxby all Saints, it was considered that the natural landscape and beauty of the Lincolnshire Wolds and the Ancholme Valley as well as the conservation area are important tourism and recreation assets and should be protected. For Goxhill, queries were raised in respect of local infrastructure and its ability to support current and future growth.

#### North Lincolnshire Council Response

- 5.30 The list of evidence base documents suggested by respondents as part of developing the new Local Plan is duly noted and will be given careful consideration. North Lincolnshire Council is currently in the process of identifying and obtaining a number of these documents or is actively seeking complete or prepare some of these. They will be fed into the Local Plan process in due course.

## 6 A VISION FOR NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE & KEY ISSUES

### INTRODUCTION

- 6.1 The Local Plan will set out a clear vision and objectives for the future development of North Lincolnshire, addressing needs and opportunities in relation to housing, the economy, community facilities and infrastructure – as well as provide basis for safeguarding the environment, adapting to climate change and securing good design. Its policies and proposals will be used to guide decisions and investment on development and regeneration up to 2036.
- 6.2 In order to help identify what the vision should contain and the issues that the Local Plan should cover, local people and key stakeholders were asked whether or not the existing Core Strategy vision was still appropriate. A number of issues facing the area were highlighted in the Initial Consultation (Regulation 18) document
- 6.3 The Initial Consultation (Regulation 18) document contained two questions on the vision and issues. Both questions consisted of two parts - respondents were given four options for each, and the opportunity to provide additional comments.

### RESPONSES

- 6.4 A total of **79** responses were received in respect of Question 2, whilst **85** responses were received for Question 3. Details are shown in the table below:

Question	No. of Responses	%
<b>2. Do you support the existing Core Strategy vision for North Lincolnshire?</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>100</b>
• <i>Yes – support the existing Core Strategy vision for North Lincolnshire</i>	38	48
• <i>No – do not support the existing Core Strategy vision for North Lincolnshire</i>	14	18
• <i>Have a different vision for North Lincolnshire</i>	16	20
• <i>Don't Know/No Opinion</i>	8	10
• <i>Other response</i>	3	4
<b>No response to question</b>	23	
<b>3. Do you agree that these issues highlighted are important issues facing your area today or are there any others that we have missed/should consider?</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>100</b>
• <i>I agree, these are important issues facing North Lincolnshire</i>	34	40
• <i>I disagree, these are not important issues facing North Lincolnshire</i>	3	4
• <i>I think there are other important issues that should be considered</i>	32	38
• <i>Don't Know/No Opinion</i>	9	11
• <i>Other response</i>	7	8

**SUMMARY OF COMMENTS****Question 2: Do you support the existing Core Strategy vision for North Lincolnshire?**

- 6.5 A range of views were expressed in respect of the vision. A number of respondents considered that the existing vision set out in the Core Strategy DPD (June 2011) was still the most appropriate for the new Local Plan, whilst others either did not support it or suggested that a different vision should be prepared. Several comments also related to the development strategy and its approach.
- 6.6 As mentioned above, a number of respondents supported the existing vision and its sentiments. Particular support was given to the ambition to have a “protected world class environment” as well as the concept of “thriving villages”. Of those supporting the vision, a number considered that it should include specific references to spatial aspects of the plans such as the delivery of new housing and employment opportunities, which would enable the ambitions regarding a strong economy and thriving towns and villages to be delivered.
- 6.7 There was some support for the area continuing to promote itself as a gateway for employment opportunities by taking advantage of its location next to the Humber Estuary. However, the opposite view was also expressed. The Global Gateway idea was felt to be outdated and that the vision should concentrate more on the quality of life experienced by residents as well the surrounding environment and how it could be preserved and enhanced through appropriate development in appropriate places.
- 6.8 Several respondents considered the existing vision had failed to deliver the housing requirement for North Lincolnshire, and that the housing policies that are used to implement it are felt to be out of date. Another considered that, whilst being ambitious, the vision and strategy had not delivered the spatial objectives set out in the Core Strategy particularly in respect of housing delivery, meeting land supply and infrastructure requirements, and as such a fresh approach was required. Specific reference was made to the progress of the Lincolnshire Lakes project. Currently, the vision was felt not to be consistent with national policy, nor support the market towns, rural communities or commercial development around the South Humber Bank.
- 6.9 This suggested new approach is to locate new housing development where the need is as well as where the infrastructure is being delivered to support the key employment sites, investment and jobs at the South Humber Gateway. This, it was felt would ensure that the jobs and growth in renewable energy, ports, logistics and other sectors is supported by new, quality, aspirational homes for those wishing to live closer to employment and in the area’s attractive rural communities.
- 6.10 In a similar vein, it was suggested that any future vision and strategy should allow for greater levels of development and growth in North Lincolnshire’s rural settlements and communities including the provision of site allocations. It was considered that this would aid their vitality and viability, as being more in-line with current and emerging national policy and reduce the development pressure in larger settlements.
- 6.11 Other suggestions considered that the vision should centre less on the Scunthorpe urban area and more on the market towns and villages. Whilst another felt that growth in market towns via infilling and small scale extensions should not take place due to the impact on their character. Development should be concentrate in a new settlement with good transport connections. There was also some support for the Lincolnshire Lakes as part of a future strategy. It was also felt that smaller villages needed more affordable housing.
- 6.12 In respect of the environment, it was considered that the vision should include references to maintaining and enhancing the quality of the area’s environment – for example dealing with flytipping and litter as well as bill posting or reducing noise levels.
- 6.13 Specific reference was made to the area’s population, housing growth and the economy. It was suggested that plan should attempt to limit population growth and that housing growth should be limited. The aging population was highlighted as being a particular issue, and that this needed to be balanced with investment in the younger workforce focusing on growing sectors that bring this workforce, for example the technology sector. The need to provide housing for older people and affordable was highlighted.
- 6.14 Reference was also made to building outside settlement development limits and the conduct of the initial consultation exercise.

- 6.15 It was highlighted that the Core Strategy DPD, predated the publication of the National Planning Policy Framework, the Lincolnshire Lakes, the 2011 census, and was based on previous national and regional planning policy. As such the vision was felt to be out of date and should be reviewed. It was suggested that a greater emphasis be placed on creating mixed and balanced communities. It was recommended that the settlement hierarchy should be re-examined, particularly the market towns tier, as should the scoring used in the 2016 Sustainable Settlement Study. Particular reference was made to the scoring for community well-being and public transport provision.
- 6.16 Specific references were made to Sandtoft Airfield, Goxhill and Appleby. A respondent offered support for job creation in the Isle of Axholme, however it was considered this would not occur until local transport infrastructure is improved, in particular the provision of a direct access from the M180 to Sandtoft Airfield. It was felt that this would make the airfield site more attractive for businesses and address the concerns of local people. A suggestion was also made for land close by to be allocated for residential development. In respect of Goxhill, concerns were expressed about the ability of local infrastructure to support current and future growth. For Appleby it was highlighted that a vision of the village was being developed via its neighbourhood plan.

**Question 3: Do you agree that these issues highlighted are important issues facing your area today or are there any others that we have missed/should consider?**

- 6.17 The question of whether or not the issues highlighted in the Initial Consultation (Regulation 18) document, were the most appropriate attracted a mixed response. There was an even split between those who consider the issues highlighted to be the most appropriate and those who did not.
- 6.18 Where respondents provide more detailed information, these related primarily to the issues that the plan should cover, however there were a number of responses that could be classed as being focussed on the development strategy including specific settlements.
- 6.19 It was suggested that the following issues/topics should be covered in the new Local Plan:

**Overall Strategy:**

In terms of the overall strategy and issues identified, whilst there was some support, it was felt there should be an increased emphasis on the area's ambition for growth and its economic performance in the Local Plan, which in turn will lead to greater prosperity. It was suggested that the area, along with the Local Plan, should play a key role in the Northern Powerhouse by attracting further investment, creating jobs, boosting skills levels and retaining graduates and young people.

Several respondents considered that overall strategy should be reviewed and replaced, as it was based on previous and regional policy, which is no longer relevant.

With regard to the development strategy it was suggested that development in the market towns via infilling and small scale extensions should no longer occur. Furthermore, it was considered that green spaces should be protected and the area's "world class" environment should be protected from poor quality development. Another suggestion stated that existing plan should be followed.

**Design, density and layout of new development:**

In particular, it was felt that appropriate parking and open space provision should be considered as part new developments and that higher density developments were not appropriate. Also it was suggested that there should be greater uniformity in terms of design.

**Quality of Life:**

A respondent considered it essential that the impact on resident's quality of life from increased employment and housing developments is addressed as part of the plan. In particular, it was felt that infrastructure should be provided before development occurs.

**Minerals:**

It is considered that there should be more recognition in the Local Plan of the role that the area could play in meeting the country's needs for conventional oil and gas in a safe, sustainable and timely way. Evidence, it was stated shows reserves of oil and gas in the Scunthorpe area.

**Impact of leaving the European Union**

It was felt that this should be considered in developing the new Local Plan.

**Population Structure**

It was considered the issue of changes in population structure had not been highlighted and addressed. In particular, it was recommended that the plan should address the reduction in working age population that is forecast to occur and the negative impacts this will have on the economy.

**Housing:**

There was some support for the issues identified in respect of housing and population trends; however a number of respondents highlighted the need to consider the provision of housing growth in rural settlements. This it was felt would be in line with the emerging Housing White Paper and the NPPF as well as allow for more sustainable growth, being more responsive to local needs and supporting the retention/enhancement of rural services.

It was further suggested that the local plan needed to increase the levels of housing growth in North Lincolnshire in order to support economic growth. As such, it was suggested that the plan needs to consider a better alignment between the location of new employment and housing.

The identification of the need to consider population and demographic changes and the impact that this will have on future housing provision was welcomed. It was therefore felt that this would need to be considered in future approach to housing delivery and growth in the Local Plan, and meeting the need to provide a range of housing for all sections of the community.

A respondent highlighted the need to consider the provision of affordable housing. Other suggestions included the need to ensure that the quality of the housing offer complements the economic offer in order to attract new residents and accommodate the necessary skilled workforce in an attractive environment. Design of new housing was also felt to be a key consideration, whilst it was suggested that prefabricated housing could play a role in meeting housing needs.

**Employment land, economy and skills:**

With regard to employment land it was suggested that the plan needed to address the current lack of sites in appropriate locations. Further it was felt that there should be more funding and support for technology businesses as well as more vocational focussed IT training for adults and young people. Both of these were currently felt to be lacking and the plan should have stronger link to the skills agenda and the provision of business support.

There was support for the identification of the economic opportunities provided by the South Humber Gateway including the ABLE Marine Energy Park and renewables sector. It felt that the economic direction of travel is positive and that it should be continued within the new Local Plan. Furthermore, it was highlighted that the links between the health of the economy, skill levels, population growth and housing needed to be considered as part of the Local Plan, as they can determine where people want to live and the type of accommodation needed.

**Transport Infrastructure:**

In terms of transport infrastructure, a number of respondents put forward particular road schemes that should be included in the plan – improved access to the M180 from the Isle of Axholme, upgrading the A15 to a dual carriageway supporting north/south connections, and transport improvements aimed at maximising the economic and housing potential in the area, especially in relation to the South Humber Gateway.

It was suggested that the Local Plan should also include a Travel Plan that should minimise conflicts between traffic and cyclists or pedestrians and facilitates the efficient delivery of goods and supplies.

Other issues that it was felt should be covered by the Local Plan are the lack of access to public transport for young people outside of main urban areas, and impact on the rail network in particular stations and associated car parking infrastructure. Also, it was suggested that there should greater encouragement of cycling.

**Infrastructure:**

The provisions of Core Strategy policy CS2 was supported but it was strongly suggested that any further proposed development must consider existing service provision, particularly sewage.

**Natural & Built Environment:**

The recognition given to the area's natural and built environment and its contribution was welcomed by a number of respondents. This approach was felt to be broadly in line with national policy. However, it was considered that a greater balance should be struck between the need for development in appropriate locations and preserving the natural and built environment. Also it was considered that the natural environment should be viewed as a beneficial asset for improving the health of the population and supporting the economy.

It was agreed that flood risk is a key issue for North Lincolnshire and as such it was suggested that the Local Plan should take this and the sequential approach to flood risk into consideration when identifying sites. It also highlighted

that sustainable urban drainage systems should be covered by the plan. In terms of evidence, it was noted that a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment is being undertaken and it was felt that consideration should be given to how a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy would link with the emerging Local Plan.

However, a respondent did not consider flood risk to be a constraint to development as the previous plan allowed development in Flood Zone 3 subject to appropriate infrastructure being provided.

In addition, it was felt that greater priority should be given to addressing climate change. Other key issues to be addressed include the efficient use of resources, dealing with the legacy of industry and the re-use of brownfield land. Furthermore, it was suggested that the Local Plan should include more specific reference to the historic environment, heritage matters and impact that growth will have on it. Other suggestions include the need to take into account tranquillity, health and well-being and the design of new development.

A further respondent considered that the Local Plan should include measures to ensure that the local environment is enhanced and maintained to an appropriate standard.

#### **Communities:**

In respect of communities it was considered that the plan should ensure that they are sustainable places with appropriate levels of housing and local facilities – including leisure, sporting and health facilities. It was felt that this was particularly important in rural communities. Furthermore it was recommended that communities should be balanced in terms of population, and as such each settlement should have the ability to grow by a certain amount each year. Other considerations highlighted were the impact on emerging services from a growing population.

#### **Community Views:**

It was suggested that greater weight should be given to the views of local communities and their representatives in developing the Local Plan as well as in planning decisions.

#### **Settlement Specific Issues:**

Several respondents focussed on particular settlements. In respect of Barton upon Humber it was felt that greater recognition should be given to the town's proximity to the Hull and East Riding areas in developing future policies in the plan. It was highlighted that there are links in terms of services and the housing market. Doing so, it was considered would help to attract additional investment and infrastructure.

Brigg was viewed to be a suitable location for development due to the availability of services and infrastructure in the town. Particular concerns were expressed about the ability of Goxhill's infrastructure to support current and future growth. It was suggested that existing development limits should be respected.

#### **Overall Comments on Initial Consultation**

A number of comments were received on the consultation exercise.

#### **No Comments**

A number of respondents did not have any specific comments to make, but sought to be involved in the Local Plan process at subsequent stages.

## **7 LEVEL OF GROWTH & WHERE WILL DEVELOPMENT GO?**

### **INTRODUCTION**

- 7.1 The Local Plan will not only identify the amount of new development needed in North Lincolnshire up to 2036 but it will also identify where it should be located. The options for locating new development must be realistic, deliverable and support the achievement of sustainable development.
- 7.2 A strategic approach needs to be taken to identify where new development can take place. The options must reflect the different roles and functions of places, acknowledging and working with their strengths and constraints.
- 7.3 As part of helping to determine how and where growth should go a number of issues facing the area were highlighted in the Initial Consultation (Regulation 18) document.
- 7.4 The Initial Consultation (Regulation 18) document contained two questions on the development strategy. Respondents were given the opportunity state how they thought the area should grow in Question 4, whilst for Question 5, they could select a potential option for growth, and were given the opportunity to provide additional comments or outline an alternative strategy.

### **RESPONSES**

7.5 A total of **70** responses were received in respect of Question 4, whilst **77** responses were received for Question 5. Details are shown in the table below:

Question	No. of Responses	%
<b>4. How would you like to see North Lincolnshire grow? For example, we could continue focus growth on Scunthorpe and the Market Towns or we could grow our villages.</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>100</b>
No response to question	32	
<b>5. Of the four possible options for the future approach to development, which do you consider the most appropriate, or do you consider that an alternative option/approach should be examined?</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>100</b>
• <i>Option 1: Scunthorpe and the Market Towns</i>	17	22
• <i>Option 2: Six Market Towns &amp; Scunthorpe</i>	5	6
• <i>Option 3: Six Market Towns, Scunthorpe &amp; Large Service Centres</i>	13	17
• <i>Option 4: A New Settlement</i>	7	9
• <i>Other Option or Approach</i>	30	39
• <i>Other Response</i>	5	6
No response to question	25	-

#### SUMMARY OF COMMENTS

**Question 4: How would you like to see North Lincolnshire grow? For example, we could continue focus growth on Scunthorpe and the Market Towns or we could grow our villages.**

- 7.6 A wide range of responses were received about the future of growth in North Lincolnshire and what form it should take. This included views about the overall spatial strategy (particularly in relation to housing growth) and the locations where it should or should not occur. A number of respondents raised issues which they consider the plan needed to address or make specific points about various settlements or locations, and the evidence needed to underpin the plan.
- 7.7 Several respondents considered that the existing spatial strategy set out in the Core Strategy DPD (June 2011) needed to be revisited/reviewed, particularly in the light of current and emerging national policy set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the Housing White Paper respectively. Also it was suggested that the existing strategy was not delivering the required level of housing and, as such should be updated. Other respondents considered that the strategy should have a greater linkage between the location of new housing and employment opportunities.
- 7.8 There was support for development in the most sustainable locations, however it was suggested the Local Plan should adopt a more balanced strategy for growth with an appropriate mix of urban and rural growth across the area. This, it was felt, would allow for flexibility and facilitate development in sustainable locations, including growth in rural or smaller settlements via site allocations. Doing so would help to support their vitality and viability by retaining/enhancing existing local services and facilities. This would achieve the vision of having “thriving towns and villages”. Further it was considered this would offer a range of site types and sizes, offer greater housing choice across the area and would increase levels of housing delivery as well as having potential to support the provision of infrastructure.
- 7.9 A number of respondents question the ability of the existing strategy to deliver the required level of housing As such it was suggested a further option should be considered, based on Option 3 that would allow for need and demand to be met where it arises, without putting pressures on smaller settlements whilst promoting a wider choice of sites to the market and improving housing delivery rates. It was suggested that additional, less constrained and more viable sites should be identified in the Scunthorpe area as well as across North Lincolnshire.
- 7.10 In addition to the alternative strategies outlined above, another proposal was put forward that would see a greater correlation between the provision of new housing and employment opportunities. It was suggested that development should take place in settlements close to existing or new businesses are/will be located. It was felt that this would reduce the need to travel. Particular reference was made to locating new housing close to the employment

opportunities offered by the South Humber Gateway including the developing Able Marine Energy Park (AMEP) and the Able Logistics Park (ALP).

- 7.11 Another suggested approach is to identify clusters of settlements that may be able to share services and provide a critical mass for their improvement, using evidence of service provision and discussions with providers and local representatives to understand whether growth would result in their improvement or not. Also it was suggested that the Local Plan include a mechanism to allow local communities to bring forward growth to support services, potentially through a neighbourhood plan.
- 7.12 In relation to where growth should take place, it was considered that towns and villages should be able to accommodate some development, or that expansion of settlements including smaller settlements should be allowed to meet the needs and aspirations of local people. Others were more specific about which locations should be the focus for growth.
- 7.13 A number of respondents considered that development should be focussed on Scunthorpe and to a lesser extent the market towns with limited growth in smaller settlements, which would be a continuation of the existing strategy established in the Core Strategy DPD (June 2011). This it was felt represents the most sustainable option and would result in less pressure on the character of the market towns and smaller settlements. Others suggested that Scunthorpe should be the sole focus for growth due to availability of infrastructure, services and amenities and the potential to use brownfield land for development.
- 7.14 Conversely, it was considered by several respondents that there was too much focus on providing development in Scunthorpe and that it should be concentrated in other areas, in particular the market towns and villages. It was felt that this would help reduce pressure on open space within Scunthorpe, and support their vitality and viability including improving services and infrastructure.
- 7.15 Another respondent was opposed to further development in Market Towns (either via infill development or small scale extensions) due to the impact that it could have on their character. Other comments considered that the plan needed to ensure that the market towns and villages retain their particular character. Also, it was suggested that no development should occur in the Market Towns and villages without community support.
- 7.16 A number of respondents felt that the area's villages should be allowed to grow to an extent. However, it was highlighted that growth would need to be appropriate in scale and not have detrimental impact on their character and infrastructure. Allowing some growth, it was suggested, would help to support existing services and facilities and result in improved infrastructure. For example, it was felt that increasing the population of villages may result in the provision of better transport links, which in turn, would provide good access to employment opportunities elsewhere in North Lincolnshire and beyond. However, there was some opposition to developing in the area's villages due to lack of infrastructure and facilities, and impact on their character.
- 7.17 Other suggestions included developing towns such as Scunthorpe and Brigg that have good links to the motorway network as well as available for development, or centred growth in Scunthorpe and Barton upon Humber in order to take advantage of the opportunities provided by the Humber Ports. A respondent recommended that there should be increased emphasis on housing growth in the eastern portion of North Lincolnshire (whilst maintaining sufficient housing elsewhere). Melton Ross and Ulceby were suggested as possible locations.
- 7.18 In respect of a new settlement, there was some support for doing so close to the transport links instead of developing in Market Towns and villages. However, this approach was challenged, particularly in the context of the Lincolnshire Lakes project.
- 7.19 Several comments provided views on how specific towns and villages should or should not grow and development. Reference was made to Barton upon Humber, Broughton, Epworth, Belton and Scunthorpe.
- 7.20 A respondent suggested the plan should direct more growth towards Barton upon Humber, as it was felt that it would attract more investment, facilities and infrastructure to the town. It was highlighted that the impact of any growth on local infrastructure would need to be assessed and addressed. This includes examining and addressing impacts on highways, education and medical services. The provision of a by-pass was suggested. Also it was felt that valued open space should be protected.
- 7.21 In relation to Broughton it was considered that there was a need more starter homes and the woodland surrounding the village should be preserved. Other comments focussed on Epworth, Belton and Scunthorpe. It was considered that development in Epworth had already reached capacity, whilst further growth should be considered in Belton due to its access to the M180. For Scunthorpe, it was felt that there should be further regeneration and more retail provision in the town centre.

- 7.22 A number of those responding to this question identified other issues that should be considered as part of developing the Local Plan and its strategy. Several respondents highlighted the need to improve the local transport networks to support growth. This, it was considered would allow for easier access to employment opportunities, greater choice of transport modes, facilitate the efficient movement of goods and improve connectivity to other areas. A number of specific projects were identified including upgrading the A15 between Lincoln and the M180 to dual carriageway standard, improving the local rail and bus networks, improving transport link to/from the areas' villages, and improvements to the access to Sandtoft Airfield to reduce the effects of HGV traffic on the existing network including a direct access to/from the M180.
- 7.23 For employment land, it was considered that the plan should focus employment land expansion to existing uses in suitable locations.
- 7.24 In terms of identifying a preferred spatial distribution, it was considered that the available capacity of water and wastewater infrastructure should be taken into account. As part of developing new housing and creating mixed communities, it was felt that there should be a mix of dwellings including starter homes for younger people, bungalows for older people and supported housing.
- 7.25 In rural communities/areas, it was suggested that there should be greater opportunities for employment and business growth in these areas. For example, there should be support for "craft/cottage" style industries, or those seeking to work from home. It was noted that advances in communications technology has created more opportunities for small and micro sized business to grow away from main urban and rural centres.
- 7.26 It was felt that the Plan needed to ensure that development does not encroach on the area's countryside. Also it was considered the historic environment and the impact that development could have on designated and non-designated heritage assets such as listed buildings and conservation areas within or adjoining settlements (Scunthorpe, Barton upon Humber, Crowle, and Epworth) and employment locations (Humberside Airport and Sandtoft). The role that the historic environment can play in supporting regeneration, local distinctiveness and a sense of place was highlighted. For the natural environment, it was considered the area's key features such as SSSIs and wildlife sites should be protected.
- 7.27 It was felt that site allocations should include opportunities for self-build and custom building and should be of an appropriate range of sizes. This would provide opportunities for a range of house builders including small local builders; sub-regional SME builders; regional housebuilders; and national housebuilders to bring forward development.
- 7.28 The need for the strategy to be evidence based was also noted. Particular reference was made to understanding whether the strategy is deliverable and viable, whilst being based on a sound understanding local infrastructure and its ability to accommodate growth.
- 7.29 The need to ensure that the plan and its policies/proposals are deliverable and viable was highlighted. A Whole Plan Viability Assessment was noted as being a key piece of evidence. For the strategy and development locations, it was felt that in determining levels of growth for each settlement and appropriate sites/locations, it should be informed by an understanding and assessment of deliverability and viability. It was noted that growth locations should not be promoted if there is no likelihood of them being delivered. It further highlighted that the plan should deliver against its housing requirement by providing a range of sites. To assist this process, it was recommended that more sites than needed to meet the requirement are allocated. This would give greater flexibility.
- 7.30 It was suggested that prior to determining the spatial distribution of development a thorough assessment of the areas' housing and economic needs, and the physical, economic, social and community infrastructure capacity as well as landscape and environmental capacity should be undertaken and presented as part of the evidence base.

**Question 5: Of the four possible options for the future approach to development, which do you consider the most appropriate, or do you consider that an alternative option/approach should be examined?**

- 7.31 The majority of respondents to this question chose a particular option for the future location of growth. 39% selected an alternative option/approach, with 17% opting to maintaining the existing approach (Option 1) then 13% supporting Option 3 (Six Market Towns, Scunthorpe & Large Service Centres). Options 2 (Six Market Towns & Scunthorpe) and 4 (A New Settlement) attracted limited support. However, not all respondents provided reasons for their choice. Where responses and reasons were received, these are summarised below.
- 7.32 A small number of respondents did not select a specific option and chose to provide more general comments about the spatial strategy. It was suggested that development should focus only on run down areas of Scunthorpe, whilst

another option involved protecting greenfield land. It was highlighted that, whichever spatial option or combination of options is selected, consideration should be given to the available capacity of infrastructure, in particular the capacity of water and wastewater networks, as well as the potential impacts on the historic environment.

#### **Option 1**

7.33 Several respondents felt that existing strategy – focussing growth in Scunthorpe and the Market Towns – should be maintained. This option was supported as it was felt to be the most sustainable and would create the best spread of development across the area. Options 2 & 3 were felt to create an unsustainable pattern of development, which would result in pressure on infrastructure in the market towns and larger service centres. Option 4, it was felt would concentrate development in one location and not allow for growth elsewhere. Also there were concerns that this option could impact on housing delivery.

7.34 This option was also felt to be the most beneficial for the growth of established and future businesses, particularly in the Scunthorpe area – where it was felt more growth is required. It was suggested as part of this option better use should be made of existing land and buildings. One respondent considered this to be the most appropriate option subject to it being used in conjunction with Option 4 (A New Settlement) and whilst another suggested that growth should occur along the motorway corridor.

#### **Option 2**

7.35 No particular reasons were given for supporting Option 2; however it was considered that any development should be well designed.

#### **Option 3**

7.36 Option 3 was considered by a number of respondents to be the spatial strategy that is more in line with provisions of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the emerging policy direction in the Government’s Housing White Paper regarding housing delivery. It was felt this option would allow for a more even distribution of housing across the area to meet local needs and aspirations as well as ensuring greater delivery. Furthermore, it was considered that it would support the creation of thriving towns and villages, whilst maintaining their character. It would also better reflect the housing market in the area and allow for the provision of a range of site types and sizes.

#### **Option 4**

7.37 There was some support for the development of a new settlement and suggested locations were provided. It was considered that a new settlement was required to balance the location of the population and employment opportunities. In respect of locations, Barnetby and the Lincolnshire Lakes area were suggested. The former it was felt, alongside the provision of a Brigg bypass, would give residents good access road, rail and air links, whilst the latter was considered to be the best option for availability of infrastructure and services.

#### **Option 5 (Other Option/Approach)**

7.38 As highlighted above, the largest number of respondents did not select one of the four spatial options, instead opting for a different option/approach. Many of these other options/approaches were variants of one or more of the options set out in the Initial Consultation (Regulation 18) document. These are outlined below:

- **Balanced Strategy** – it was suggested that a balanced strategy should be adopted towards the location of future growth within the Local Plan.

As part of this it was suggested that Scunthorpe and the Market Towns should be the focus for strategic growth including urban renewal and urban extensions (limited urban extensions in the case of the Market Towns). Larger service centres it was stated would offer modest opportunities for growth via the provision of allocations within and adjacent to villages, whilst small-scale incremental growth including small allocations would be offered in smaller villages/settlements that would support their prosperity and help to maintain local services and facilities.

In a similar vein, it was suggested appropriate levels of development should be allowed across all settlements, with a particular focus on ensuring the vitality and viability of rural settlements is maintained. For example, this could be done by allowing appropriately sized allocations in these settlements.

- **Barton upon Humber – more growth** – a respondent considered that additional growth should be directed to Barton upon Humber, given its links to Hull and the East Riding areas. It was felt that increasing growth would attract new investment facilities and infrastructure to the town that will benefit existing and future residents. However, it was highlighted that consideration would need to be given to enhancing the local infrastructure including transport, and community facilities.
- **Growth in the Market Towns & Villages** – several respondents considered that there should be a greater focus for development in the area’s market towns and villages, with a more limited or lesser focus on Scunthorpe.

- **Employment Focus** – one alternative approach put forward was to seek to locate housing development as close as possible to existing and future employment opportunities. In particular, the potential employment growth at the South Humber Gateway was highlighted as being a factor that should influence where new housing development should occur.
- **A Revised Option 3** – several respondents did not consider any of the proposed options to be appropriate. Instead it was suggested that an amended version of Option 3 (Six Market Towns, Scunthorpe & Large Service Centres) should be adopted, that identifies additional sites in and around the Scunthorpe area. Broadly it was felt that this would allow for more viable and deliverable sites as well as less constrained sites to come forward. It was highlighted that the previous strategy had not delivered its requirements and that approach was out of date.

A number of respondents put forward a similar concept – amended version of Option 3, but focussing on identifying additional sites in and around sustainable settlements across the area, particularly in smaller settlements where there is access to services and facilities. It was considered that this approach would be deliverable.

- **Growth where it is needed** – another potential approach was to locate new development in areas of North Lincolnshire where it is needed to support the economy e.g. near the South Humber Gateway.
- **Focus growth in Scunthorpe** – another recommended option was to concentrate development mainly on the Scunthorpe area, with a minimal amount within the Market Towns.
- **Focus growth in Scunthorpe & A Market Town** – it was recommended that development should be on Scunthorpe and Barton upon Humber to take advantage of the Humber Ports and the employment they offer, whilst ensuring that the other Market towns and villages their character and services. An alternative proposed was to centre development on Scunthorpe and Brigg due to the availability of industrial land in their vicinity as well as their proximity to the motorway network.
- **Growth along Transport corridors** – it was suggested that motorway access should be a high priority when determining where future development is located. The southern side of Scunthorpe & north side of Belton were put forward as potential locations that would meet this specification.
- **Further Growth in the Villages** – a number of respondents highlighted the need for villages to be allowed to grow in order to support local services and facilities as well as to meet local housing and employment needs and aspirations. It was felt they should be well connected to highway network and that any development maintains their “country” feel. However, there was some opposition to increasing housing development in villages.
- **Combination of Growth in Villages & New Settlement** - Specific reference was made to having greater development in the villages combined with a new settlement in the eastern portion of the area, potentially around Melton Ross or Ulceby.
- **Provision a New Settlement** – one respondent supported option 3, but felt that consideration should be given to the provision a new settlement, particularly in the east of North Lincolnshire, if it was required to meet the growth needs of the area. Doing so would not restrict development to Scunthorpe and the Market Towns. It was suggested that any areas for a new settlement should have good links to them. Conversely, it was suggested that a new settlement was not needed.

#### Other Comments

7.39 Other comments were received that did not directly relate to alternative approaches to growth, but were issues that should be considered by the Local Plan:

- **Opportunities for SME builders** – a respondent agreed with option 1, but considered that opportunities needed to be provided for small and medium sized developers and housebuilders within the plan.
- **Sandtoft** – in relation to Sandtoft Airfield it was felt that the highway infrastructure around the site should be improved, which would make it more attractive to investors and reduce the impacts being experienced by local communities.
- **Rural Services/Employment** – it was highlighted that as rural communities develop, employment and retail opportunities should be provided. It was suggested that some form of allowance should also be made for the growth “craft industries” in rural communities.

## 8 MEETING OUR HOUSING NEEDS

### INTRODUCTION

- 8.1 A key role for the Local Plan is to meet all the identified housing needs within North Lincolnshire up to 2036. This includes meeting the housing needs of the various groups that have differing housing requirements. Many factors have an impact on housing demand. These include an increasing population, diminishing household size, an aging population, pockets of deprivation and a significant proportion of residents unable to afford homes in the area.
- 8.2 The draft Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) identified four scenarios for housing growth in North Lincolnshire for the period 2017-2036 these are shown below per year:
- Scenario 1 - Baseline population growth – 365 homes
  - Scenario 2 – Medium economic projection - 452 homes
  - Scenario 3 – Longer term economic growth – 583 homes
  - Scenario 4 – Aspirational economic growth (Core Strategy) - 754 homes
- 8.3 The draft SHMA, at the time of consultation, identified an affordable housing need of 219 homes per year. The council have identified that the provision of affordable housing is a priority, however it is recognised that site and market conditions can vary both between sites and in certain circumstances there may be viability issues on specific sites.
- 8.4 The Initial Consultation (Regulation 18) document contained five questions relating to housing provision and housing issues. Questions 6 and 7 sought views on the level of housing that should be provided, whilst Question 8 examined where new housing should be located. Question 9 related to affordable housing provision and Question 10 sought to identify other housing-related issues that should be covered in the Local Plan.

### RESPONSES

- 8.5 A total of **72** responses were received in respect of Question 6, whilst **60** responses were received for Question 7. Question 8 attracted **74** responses. Questions 9 & 10 received **71** and **68** responses, respectively. For questions 8 and 10 respondents were able to select more than one location or issue. Therefore no percentage is shown. Details are shown in the table below:

Question	No. of Responses	%
<b>6. Which one of the four housing scenarios do you consider appropriate for North Lincolnshire up to 2036 and why?</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>100</b>
• <i>Scenario 1 – Baseline Population Growth – 365 homes per year</i>	14	19
• <i>Scenario 2 – Medium Economic Growth Projection – 452 homes per year</i>	6	8
• <i>Scenario 3 - Longer Term Economic Growth – 583 homes per year</i>	9	13
• <i>Scenario 4 – Aspiration Economic Growth (Core Strategy) – 754 homes per year</i>	17	22
• <i>Other Scenario</i>	22	29
• <i>Other response</i>	4	5
No response to question	30	-
<b>7. Do you think the Local Plan’s annual housing figure should be higher or lower than identified within the four scenarios and why?</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100</b>
• <i>Higher</i>	25	42
• <i>Lower</i>	29	48
• <i>Don’t Know/No Opinion</i>	1	2
• <i>Other response</i>	5	8
No response to question	42	
<b>8. Where should our new housing located?</b>	<b>74</b>	-
• <i>Scunthorpe Urban Area</i>	29	-

• <i>Market Towns</i>	26	-
• <i>Towns &amp; Larger Villages</i>	18	-
• <i>Villages &amp; The Countryside</i>	11	-
• <i>Some in every town &amp; village</i>	26	-
• <i>Other specific location</i>	20	-
No response to question	28	-
<b>9. Does the affordable housing need figure of 219 homes per year provide an accurate requirement for North Lincolnshire?</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>100</b>
• <i>Yes</i>	7	10
• <i>No</i>	30	42
• <i>Don't Know/No Opinion</i>	33	46
• <i>Other response</i>	1	1
No response to question	31	-
<b>10. Are there any other issues regarding housing policy which could be considered by the Local Plan. If yes, please tell us (tick all that apply)</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>100</b>
• <i>Yes</i>	57	84
• <i>No</i>	1	1
• <i>Don't Know/No Opinion</i>	10	15
<b>Issues</b>		
• <i>Housing for Families</i>	33	• <i>Sites of Gypsies &amp; Travellers, and Travelling Showpeople</i> 13
• <i>Housing for Older People</i>	34	• <i>Providing a range of house types and densities</i> 30
• <i>Housing for Young People</i>	37	• <i>Providing a range of housing tenures</i> 27
• <i>More energy efficient housing</i>	35	• <i>Providing accommodation to meet specialist needs</i> 24
• <i>Better designed housing</i>	34	• <i>Other</i> 12
No response to question	34	-

## SUMMARY OF COMMENTS

### Question 6: Which one of the four housing scenarios do you consider appropriate for North Lincolnshire up to 2036 and why?

8.6 A number of those who responded to this question provided additional detailed comments about the four scenarios or suggestions regarding the level of new home building and the matters that should be considered in determining this. These are set out in the paragraphs below.

#### Scenario 1:

8.7 It was suggested that managed growth would allow an increase in the level of services and accommodate needs to a greater extent.

8.8 Concerns were raised regarding the current council's current infill policy. It was suggested that it should be amended in order to ensure that the character of any town or village is not harmed or damaged. Furthermore, it was recommended that there should be an increase in the amount of bungalows and 2 bedroom properties being provided, as this will allow people to stay in their own areas.

8.9 Several respondents considered scenario 1 to be too low for the area and that selecting this option would not support economic growth.

#### Scenario 2:

- 8.10 A number of responses supported Scenario 2 and considered that 452 dwellings per annum would be achievable in the plan period and this would allow the authority time to encourage future employment growth and investment within North Lincolnshire. Also it was considered that this scenario would allow time for services and infrastructure to be developed.
- 8.11 It was also felt that without the provision of a new settlement, housing should be limited to a maximum of 500 dwellings.

**Scenario 3:**

- 8.12 It was suggested by a number of respondents that significant housing growth will support economic development, however the pace of development would need to be managed as too much too quickly could place too much strain on supporting services and infrastructure.
- 8.13 One respondent suggested that without a new settlement housing should be limited to a maximum of 500 dwellings and the Brexit effect would need to be taken into account.

**Scenario 4:**

- 8.14 Several respondents suggested this scenario would support the economic growth at the South Humber Gateway and the aspirations for North Lincolnshire.

**Other:**

- 8.15 It was suggested that past housing completion figures should be used to determine future housing needs and the council needed to determine what North Lincolnshire can offer to people and why they would like to come and live in area compared to other places in the country. For example: lower house prices compared to southern parts of the country.
- 8.16 A number of respondents considered more homes need to be built in North Lincolnshire and suggested the figure should be increased to around 900 homes per annum and in order to meet the employment growth aspirations identified with the current Core Strategy. Any adopted housing target should be a minimum to enable flexibility. Another respondent suggested adopted the higher scenario would also support the delivery of affordable housing.
- 8.17 A number of comments suggested that no housing should be built unless the correct infrastructure is provided to support the additional growth. It was highlighted that some of the smaller town's road infrastructure would not be able to support the additional volumes of traffic and this will need to be considered within the plan.
- 8.18 Several other matters were identified that respondents felt merited further consideration in determining the distribution of housing numbers. These were:
- Five year land supply 20% buffer allowance.
  - Affordable housing and how this will be delivered with viability issues.
  - Job growth factored within the current Core Strategy and whether it is this still realistic.
  - Location of growth and whether the sites being promoted through the current plan are deliverable.
  - Need to factor in possible relocation of people from the north bank of the River Humber.
  - More first time buyer smaller units required.

**Question 7: Do you think the Local Plan's annual housing figure should be higher or lower than identified within the four scenarios and why?**

- 8.19 Views on whether the area's annual housing requirements were mixed. It was suggested the council should not change the housing figure due to Brexit, whilst several respondents suggested that a higher requirement is needed to meet the national policy, population growth for North Lincolnshire and meet affordable housing targets. Another suggestion was that housing growth should be based on stated forecasts for growth.
- 8.20 One respondent raised concerns that additional housing growth needs to be supported by infrastructure. If additional infrastructure is needed, this should be delivered before the housing growth takes place.
- 8.21 Housing requirements should be based on need and take account of market signals and employment growth. Specifically it was suggested that more housing growth will be required in Winterton, South Ferriby, Barton upon Humber, the Low Villages and Barnetby le Wold. It was also felt that further growth is needed in the market towns to support additional services.

**Question 8: Where should our new housing be located?**

8.22 Respondents were asked to provide their views on future locations for new housing development. They could select more than one location. The table below shows their preferences:

Locations	Respondents
Scunthorpe Urban Area	29
Market Towns	26
Towns & Larger Villages	18
Villages & The Countryside	11
Some in every town and village	26
Other Specific Locations	20

8.23 A significant number of respondents suggested that further growth should take place in the market towns and the larger rural settlements to reduce the need to build on flood plains. There was also support for the continuation of the Lincolnshire Lakes development. In respect of design of new development, it was suggested that lower densities and more residential parking spaces are needed within North Lincolnshire.

8.24 The following locations for a new settlement were suggested:

- Land near the A15/A180/M180 intersection near Barnetby.
- Near Rail connections within North Lincolnshire.
- On land near to Scunthorpe or the South Humber Bank.

8.25 A number of comments received did wish to see any further growth in the areas' smaller villages and market towns. There was concern that increased growth would harm or destroy the character of these villages and towns.

8.26 It was felt that new housing should be located in the areas with the best infrastructure, e.g. schools, rail connections, and jobs. In a similar vein, it was suggested that housing should be located close to employment areas to minimise impacts on the highway network. It was also requested that consideration be given to the available capacity of water and wastewater infrastructure and other utilities as part of the identification of a preferred distribution strategy. This will help to community cohesion.

8.27 It was suggested that Market Signals need to be considered in more detail including sustainability, affordability, availability and deliverability of sites.

8.28 One respondent suggested that growth needed to take place in an organic way, factoring the need preserved local heritage and the environment. It was felt this benefits tourism for example preserving old trees, hedges and ponds. Another recommended that the historic environment should be considered as part of any methodology for assessing the suitability of sites for development.

**Question 9: Does the affordable housing need figure of 219 homes per year provide an accurate requirement for North Lincolnshire?**

8.29 One representative would like to see a policy that restricts buy to rent properties within residential developments.

8.30 Several representatives agreed the housing needs assessment would provide the data to ensure development reflects current and future needs. While one representative suggested hidden homeless needs to be looked at in more detail.

8.31 A number of representatives agree the affordable housing figure of 219 homes per year reflects current needs and it was suggested that affordable housing should be located in areas not reliant on the private car.

8.32 A number of representatives requested that further information is provided by the council to justify why the affordable housing numbers will be reduced from 328 homes per annum in the 2012 Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) to 219 homes per annum in the new Local Plan.

8.33 One representative suggested that all new housing developments should provide 10-20% affordable housing, and it was suggested that empty properties should be brought back into used to help meet this needs especially in Scunthorpe and the Market Towns. Some comments suggested this figure is too high and would like to see the

evidence behind it. Also affordable housing needs to be restricted to people with genuine needs and be controlled in perpetuity.

- 8.34 Affordable housing targets need to be set at a realistic level and factor in the viability of the each development. Depending on which scenario is chosen the affordable housing need ranges from 29% to 60% and these figures are unrealistic to be delivered within North Lincolnshire housing market.
- 8.35 It was suggested that more affordable homes are needed to meet the current and future needs.
- 8.36 A number of representatives suggested that more social housing is required especially for the older population, for example bungalows. Intermediate housing is required to support the younger population.

**Question 10: Are there any other issues regarding housing policy which could be considered by the Local Plan?**

- 8.37 In addition to the other issues selected by respondents (as set out in the table at the start of this section), several added some more detailed comments related to public transport accessibility, affordable housing, and design.
- 8.38 Several respondents considered that public transport should be available to all new developments within North Lincolnshire. Others sought an increase in the provision of retirement homes and affordable housing. Broadly, there was view that new housing should create mixed and sustainable communities.
- 8.39 It was suggested all new properties should be built to a high insulating standard and use the latest technology for energy and telecommunication, for example heat source and solar energy, rain harvesting, superfast broadband and driveways should be made of permeable material. Also it was felt that there should be an increase in residential car parking requirements to accommodate two cars.

**9. DELIVERING JOBS & SUPPORT OUR ECONOMY**

**INTRODUCTION**

- 9.1 The council places a key emphasis on driving economic vitality. It seeks to shape the area into a more prosperous place to live, work, invest and play by increasing economic growth and prosperity through higher employment and increased home ownership.
- 9.2 National policy sets out an economic role for the planning system to contribute to a strong and competitive economy, particularly by ensuring that sufficient land of the right type is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth and innovation. Barriers to investment should be addressed and priority areas identified for economic regeneration, infrastructure provision and environmental enhancement.
- 9.3 The Adopted Core Strategy sets out a clear direction for the continued growth of North Lincolnshire’s economy. It provides support for the long-term success of existing and new businesses in the area to help encourage job creation and the diversification of the employment base, particularly in key growth sectors. Key strategic locations for employment land are identified and their development supported, particularly the South Humber Bank as North Lincolnshire’s main strategic employment location, Scunthorpe, Humberside Airport and Sandtoft Business Park.
- 9.4 The Core Strategy supports the continued expansion and improvement of North Lincolnshire’s economy in order to create a step change in the area’s role regionally and nationally. This is achieved through the identification and allocation in the Housing and Employment Land Allocations DPD of a range of appropriate sites for employment and economic uses. These meet the requirement of 168 ha as established within the council’s Employment Land Review. This land accommodates traditional land uses (use classes B1, B2 and B8) as well as key priority growth sectors.
- 9.5 The Initial Consultation (Regulation 18) document contained five questions relating to the economy. Question 11 sought views on the type of support needed to assist economic growth, whilst Questions 12 & 13 examined where employment land should be located, whilst Question 14 centred on the North Lincolnshire’s retail hierarchy. Question 15 sought to identify other economic-related issues that should be covered in the Local Plan.

**RESPONSES**

- 9.6 A total of **60** responses were received in respect of Question 11, whilst **72** and **67** responses were received for Questions 12 & 13 respectively. Question 14 attracted **70** responses, and Question 15 received **70** responses. For question 13 respondents were able to select more than one location. Therefore no percentage is shown. Details are shown in the table below:

Question	No. of Responses	%	
<b>11 How can we support the economy of North Lincolnshire to grow?</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100</b>	
No response to question	42	-	
<b>12 Should we continue with the current Core Strategy approach of seeking to take full advantage of our location next to the Humber Estuary by developing the South Humber gateway as well as focussing on Scunthorpe and other key strategic employment locations such as Humberside Airport and Sandtoft?</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>100</b>	
• Yes	48	67	
• No	9	13	
• Don't Know/No Opinion	11	15	
• Other Response	4	6	
No response to question	30	-	
<b>13 Do we need to identify further employment land in addition to what is currently allocated and if yes, where should it be located?</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>100</b>	
• Yes	47	70	
• No	1	1	
• Don't Known/No Opinion	18	27	
• Other Response	1	1	
• Scunthorpe Urban Area	24	• Sandtoft	13
• Market Towns	16	• Main Transport Corridors	32
• South Humber Gateway	17	• None of the above	0
• Humberside Airport	22	• Other	9
No response to question	35	-	
<b>14 Do you think that the existing network of retail centres is appropriate?</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>100</b>	
• Yes	33	47	
• No	17	24	
• Don't Known/No Opinion	20	29	
• Other Response	0	0	
No response to question	32	-	
<b>15 Are there any other issues regarding managing our employment land, retail offer and economy which you think should be examined?</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>100</b>	
• Yes	21	30	
• No	12	17	
• Don't Know/No Opinion	34	49	
• Other Response	3	4	
No response to question	32		

## SUMMARY OF COMMENTS

### Question 11: How can we support the economy of North Lincolnshire to grow?

- 9.7 A range of suggestions were put forward by various respondents as to how we should help support economic growth. These included supporting local businesses, developing specific economic sectors, improving infrastructure, supporting regeneration and linking housing to economic growth. A number of specific recommendations for policies were also made.
- 9.8 It was suggested that more financial assistance should be given to support businesses and investment and that greater links should be established with the North Bank of the Humber and Hull. The Greater Lincolnshire concept also runs the risk that regionally North Lincolnshire is placed within the Midlands rather than the North of England. North Lincolnshire has very little connection to the Midlands outside of Lincolnshire.
- 9.9 It was stated that good vehicle access and parking provision is required for every new development and that there should be more theme parks such as The Dome, Xscape or the Go Ape and good, attractive, clean and warm undercover shopping areas.
- 9.10 The need to improve existing infrastructure (shops, train stations, doctors, dentists, schools, roads) was also raised.

- 9.11 One respondent felt that there should be more focus on growing and improving the services offered in the market towns and villages. Roads need to be improved to relieve congestion and have better small industrial sites throughout the county.
- 9.12 It was highlighted that renting a house should be made cheaper resulting in people being able to move here more easily than if trying to buy a house.
- 9.13 North Lincolnshire has to be a desirable place to live, meaning that employers will want to live and work in the area and by building in these developed areas like Scunthorpe and market towns it will encourage local businesses to expand (or keep profitable).
- 9.14 There is a requirement for developing the correct infrastructure with good links to the motorway network and the sea.
- 9.15 North Lincolnshire should aim for high value / high technology / low environmental impact jobs by providing incentives for these companies and not for low value / low technology / highly environmentally destructive companies such as ABLE UK.
- 9.16 Tourism should be encouraged by stopping environmentally destructive developments such as ABLE UK south humber development and more time and effort to is required to encourage tourism in our market towns. Barton upon Humber has very poor availability of accomodation and unused council properties should be looked at for youth hostels, e.g. near Barton Haven.
- 9.17 Plans for more areas for storing flood water such as at land close to Goxhill Haven and/or South Ferriby require investigating and partnership with RSPB at these sites to reduce exposure to the council of ongoing management costs while also boosting tourism.
- 9.18 A number of respondents highlighted that business rates and council tax are too high and require cutting, better transport links are required between towns and villages, growth funds for technology based businesse sare required, and skills investment for 18-21 year olds is needed.
- 9.19 Affordable starter homes require providing. There is also the need to ensure that new housing developments are focussed closer to employment centres rather than developing villages which encourage expensive commutes.
- 9.20 The area could play a part in the UK's onshore oil and gas industry. It is considered that the Ashover Grit, the Wingfield Flags and the Penistone formations have the potential to enable long-term production and there should be recognition in the new Local Plan that exploring and developing North Lincolnshire's oil and gas resources could bring considerable economic benefits as well as help to meet the country's need for securing energy supplies, economic growth and lower carbon emissions.
- 9.21 The current mix of economic strategies appears to be effective.
- 9.22 Top Field, Barton upon Humber, was specifically mentioned and should be retained as it is.
- 9.23 Proposals should capitalise on the good access and links to the rest of the country and further afield via Humberside airport. Direct motorway access to Sandoft Industrial Estate should also be sought. Good communications, including rail facilities for freight require maintaining. Good broadband facilities are needed across North Lincolnshire. Improve and expand the ability to get around North Lincolnshire walking, or cycling as it is not currently practical to walk from Brigg to Scunthorpe.
- 9.24 It was highlighted that small-scale home-based business opportunities particularly across the rural villages where the local economy can be boosted by new professional based service industries require supporting. Support is also required for decent business growth that offers decent jobs to local people.
- 9.25 It was noted that North Lincolnshire's vision is to become a global gateway for the north with a growing population and the busiest port complex in the UK. The area is located ideally for the Humber Estuary and it is within easy reach of the ports which handle over a quarter of the UK's imports and exports. The evidence gathering stage for receiving sites is now over 10 years old and the NPPF makes clear that planning authorities are required to ensure there local plan policies for employment are based on up-to-date evidence and that they take account of market signals. The availability of employment land in sustainable well connected locations adjacent to existing complementary uses is crucial to ensuring local planning authorities can contribute to meeting this target. Sites that can respond to this should be promoted for development.

- 9.26 One respondent stated that the council needs to ensure that there is enough of the most appropriate types of employment land available (as required) to enable the economy to grow. This should be identified through an employment land review and by consultation with existing businesses to ensure their current and future operational needs are capable of being met, these then need to be balanced with other needs in the area without detrimental impact to the environment.
- 9.27 It was highlighted that there is a need for greater career advice to youngsters and that working in key sectors needs to be promoted as being attractive to young people via educational establishments.
- 9.28 Greater focus should be directed to the towns and villages around Scunthorpe.
- 9.29 It was highlighted that to support economic growth the council needs to address the issue of a projected fall in the working population. Lobbying is also required for further Manufacturing Industries, to utilise and enhance the skill set of North Lincolnshire's core workforce which is already large in the manufacturing sector, whilst still pushing for diversification.
- 9.30 One respondent stated that they would support economic growth, providing the conditions that help businesses to succeed and grow, facilitating new development around the network, and supporting investment and trade. This will take place alongside maintaining a safe and efficient SRN.
- 9.31 Greater focus should be given to the further development and expansion of the Global Gateway in partnership with North East Lincolnshire.
- 9.32 There should be greater fiscal incentives to encourage high skill / high wage sectors to locate in North Lincolnshire with national advertising similar to Yorkshire.
- 9.33 One respondent commented that Scunthorpe town centre and the High Street needs to be regenerated and brought back to its original high status. It was also considered that as Scunthorpe functions as the main town within the area, providing a range of services and facilities, it is important for the emerging planning policies to direct a significant proportion of the projected growth to this settlement.
- 9.34 It was highlighted that there should be a strong recognition that in order to deliver the aspirational growth for the district, there needs to be a strong alignment with the delivery of housing provision. The economic growth forecast and projections that are in the pipeline, lead to the conclusion that the housing requirement in North Lincolnshire should be higher to reflect and support the forecast economic growth and the envisaged number of jobs that will be created. Whilst it has a number of attributes and locational advantages it is vitally important that the council does everything it can to support the expansion and diversification of the local economy especially in the context of Brexit and future uncertainty following Article 50 being triggered by the Government.
- 9.35 It was noted that proposals at the ALP and AMEP are nationally, regionally and locally significant proposals, which must be supported and accompanied by the necessary housing, infrastructure and related facilities to ensure that they provide the major stimulus required to the North Lincolnshire economy. The proposed ABLE UK sites can help underpin and support this economic growth delivering the homes that people need in attractive, convenient and accessible locations close to the South Humber Gateway.
- 9.36 One respondent highlighted that infrastructure provision needs to be looked at, particularly the A15 to Lincoln, M180 between junctions 3 and 4, Barton by-pass from Falkland Way to A15 and the East Halton – Goxhill railway line needs re-instating to open Goxhill airfield for development. It was also highlighted that all overhead utilities/cables need to be buried underground and that there should be provision of public transport to areas of economic development. The creation of an efficient orbital road M181 – Skippingdale Retail Park – Winterton Road – Brigg Road – Ashby Ville should also be brought forward.
- 9.37 It was noted that the old industries in North Lincolnshire are the starting point and as we are moving out of the EU restrictions it is the time to peruse the countries bordering the North Sea which we have traditionally dealt with over the past 4 years. The Middle Eastern countries hold the purse strings on the world economies and it is now time to chase business in these locations.
- 9.38 It was commented that the historic environment can assist with regeneration and revitalisation of an area through links with tourism and town centre features and/or interest which in turn can assist the local economy with the document Heritage Counts 2016 being of interest.
- 9.39 Support was given for developing a Travel Plan which minimises conflicts between traffic and cyclists or pedestrians and facilitates the efficient delivery of goods and supplies.

- 9.40 The area's identity needs to be brought out as it has none at present. This would give people a reason to stay and also, more flexible study options for young people, and a clearer strategy to encourage sustainable jobs.
- 9.41 Furthermore there is a need to advertise and promote the advantages of living in North Lincolnshire such as the good Schools and Housing on offer.
- 9.42 It was highlighted that ABP's Port of Immingham plays a vital role in terms of attracting new investment to and creating jobs within the North Lincolnshire and wider regional economies and should be supported to continue to do so going forward. The port also facilitates energy generation (including from renewable and low carbon sources), as well as the more sustainable movement of goods by sea and rail rather than road. ABP intend to continue to plan for, and invest in, the major future development of the Port of Immingham, including bringing forward the proposals identified in the Port of Immingham Master Plan (see 'Future Development Aspirations' above). This continued development is vital to secure its future as a world class port, gateway to international trade and major employment and economic growth creator, as well as meeting the national need for additional port capacity.
- 9.43 It was considered in light of the above, that it is important that the new Local Plan supports the existing operations at and the future development of the Port of Immingham in order to help facilitate new investment, job creation and the transition to a low carbon economy going forward. ABP therefore request that the policies of the new Local Plan:
1. Specifically reference the Port of Immingham Masterplan and acknowledge the importance of the Port of Immingham to the North Lincolnshire and wider regional economies, as well as its key role as a multi modal transport hub.
  2. Allocate the extent of the Port of Immingham that lies within North Lincolnshire as "Existing Port Area", "Operational Port Area" or similar in the new Local Plan in order to firmly establish the area within which port related development will be supported, both through the implementation of ABP's Permitted Development Rights and also where planning permission or other consent is required.
  3. Support future port related development at and around the Port of Immingham, including the proposals identified in the Port of Immingham Master Plan (see 'Future Development Aspirations' above) in order to help facilitate new investment, job creation and the transition to a low carbon economy.
  4. Specifically require that any application for new development in the vicinity of the Port of Immingham should be comprehensively assessed in terms of potential impact, both in relation to the development proposed and impact on the Port itself – with a view to ensuring that appropriate mitigation is provided by the developer should such be considered necessary.
- 9.44 These policy provisions are important in order to both support and safeguard the continued future operation of the Port of Immingham. More specifically in relation to point 4 above, due to ongoing economic changes, regeneration proposals are often brought forward for alternative uses on land adjoining Ports across the UK previously used for industrial and port related uses. ABP has no objection to the principle of this. However, if not correctly designed, the development of residential and / or other sensitive uses on land adjacent to the Port of Immingham could result in restrictions being introduced on existing and future operations due to complaints from future occupants / users, which could be detrimental to the future of the port. There are numerous examples of other Local Plans which include similar allocations and policies to those requested under points 1 to 4 above. These include the Hull, East Riding of Yorkshire, Barrow in Furness and North East Lincolnshire Local Plans

**Question 12: Should we continue with the current Core Strategy approach of seeking to take full advantage of our location next to the Humber Estuary by developing the South Humber Gateway as well as focussing on Scunthorpe and other key strategic employment locations such as Humberside Airport and Sandtoft?**

- 9.45 The Humber Bridge Industrial Estate in Barton upon Humber should be given more prominence but otherwise the general approach is supported. The estate and Barton upon Humber generally, is at the heart of the Humber region and should be marketed as such. A Barton bypass may help unlock the development potential of the estate.
- 9.46 The Humber Estuary project is a good idea and more could have been made of this. It is disappointing that the Humber viewing area near the Bridge, had meeting rooms upstairs, they really should have had a viewing area upstairs with a place where people could sit and drink, relax and have something nice to eat and look over the Humber. It is a waste of a good opportunity with a cheap and cheerful café downstairs.
- 9.47 One respondent suggested a new settlement.

- 9.48 Focus should be placed on the Humberside Airport and places south of the M180 and along the A15. Other regions appear to do much more and be much more successful, e.g. Newquay airport. Overhaul of aircraft / jet engines would provide highly skilled / high value jobs (e.g. jobs driving cars off ships at ABLE UK development).
- 9.49 It was highlighted that if we are to increase export and support local manufacturers then we have to utilise what we have. Poor judgement in development of South Humber Bank has been shown with ABLE UK development providing very poor return in jobs for massive environmental impact.
- 9.50 Need to be open to encouraging employment opportunities in all parts of North Lincolnshire and especially so that travel to work is not always in cars.
- 9.51 Better Roads and links required from Motorways and avoid disrupting resident's quality of life.
- 9.52 Land immediately adjacent to employment land allocation (SANE-1) should be welcomed. Policy 'SANE-1 Sandtoft Business Park- Land at Sandtoft Airfield' is allocated for a logistics park. Sandtoft Road offers excellent potential to extend the employment allocation in an appropriate location, in a wider area of predominantly existing employment use. The NPPF requires local planning authorities build a strong, responsive and competitive economy by ensuring that sufficient land of the right type is available at the right time to support growth and innovation. This area has excellent transport links located adjacent to the M180 motorway with links to Scunthorpe, Doncaster and the ports of the Humber Estuary. There is also good access to the railway lines for freight movement. Paragraph 37 of the NPPF outlines that planning policies should aim for a balance of land uses so that people can be encouraged to minimise journey lengths for employment. Our site contributes to meeting this requirement. The NPPF also makes clear that allocations of land should prefer land of lesser environmental value.
- 9.53 All the small villages around the airport offer great opportunities to grow a strong local community.
- 9.54 North Lincolnshire currently has over 1000 Ha of employment land available with the majority of it being allocated adjacent to the Humber Estuary and thus earmarked for estuary related industries dependent upon large scale uses. There should not be further large allocations of land for employment use; however, support would be given for appropriately sited small scale proposals which would also help to improve the environment.
- 9.55 The best use of any land can involve actually increasing the Green Infrastructure and other natural elements given the evidence demonstrating the impacts this has on improving place. Ensuring that North Lincolnshire can really live up to its vision will require existing designated sites to be protected and additional areas for nature and thus people to thrive.
- 9.56 Support was forthcoming for other industrial sites such as Elsham Airfield, and smaller industrial units in Market Towns and Larger Service Centres.
- 9.57 We need to be aware that as renewable energy falls in price, especially on the global market, that the demand for oil and gas will fall, and so many of their associated installations are likely to close, leaving major brownfield sites for development.
- 9.58 The estuary and South Humber Bank provide significant economic opportunities regionally, nationally and internationally. The Local Plan should seek to maximise the benefits from this resource but only within environmental limits. Development should not only protect natural capital and the vital ecosystem services that the estuary provides but should enhance it. Evidence such as the Humber Landscape and Investment Study identifies potential opportunities and illustrates the benefits of this approach.
- 9.59 It was highlighted that the existing transport corridor (M180, A15, A18, and railway) between the Humber and Scunthorpe also has scope for development. Also the Ancholme valley and Barton Clay Pits have scope for leisure and green infrastructure.
- 9.60 The highest flood risk areas should be avoided. Only if there are no other reasonably available sites in lower risk areas should areas at risk of flooding be considered for development. If development is proposed in areas at risk of flooding, the Local Plan should identify how these developments can contribute to future delivery of our Flood Risk Management Strategies and maintenance of flood risk infrastructure.
- 9.61 There should be more flights from Humberside to holiday destinations as currently there is little choice but to go to Doncaster or Manchester

- 9.62 It was highlighted that there needs to be recognition within the Local Plan that it will not be possible for all the land in the South Humber Bank area to be developed without adversely affecting the international biodiversity interest of the Humber Estuary. Being located directly adjacent to the Humber Estuary Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar Site this area is important for roosting and feeding birds from the estuary. In order to retain the integrity of the European site some of the land on the South Humber Bank needs to be safeguarded for use by birds from the Humber Estuary SPA and Ramsar Site. Therefore not all of the 900 hectares of land will be available for employment uses. The Local Plan should refer to the agreed South Humber Gateway Mitigation Strategy. This strategy sets the standard for the quantities of mitigation land which will be required to offset the impacts of development in this area.
- 9.63 The South Humber Bank is the most important employment site in the Humber Sub Region and one of national importance given that it is the largest employment land allocation allocated alongside the last major undeveloped and deep water estuary in the country.
- 9.64 There is significant investment and job growth already planned within the South Humber Gateway and the momentum of economic growth is already building and the Local Plan should reflect this direction of travel and use the positive aspects of growth to continue the strategy set out in the previous adopted Core Strategy.
- 9.65 Scunthorpe should also be seen as a key strategic location for employment growth to support its role as a major sub regional town.
- 9.66 The focus should be firmly upon the South Humber Bank for the reasons we set out and also as referred to in other documents. This includes the Humber Spatial Plan, Humber's Strategic Economic Plan and Infrastructure Delivery Plan. This is summarised well in the Humber Spatial Plan, which states: "The Humber offers the best opportunity in the country to take advantage of the growing off-shore renewables industry. The largest Enterprise Zone in the UK is geared towards expanding this key sector. In addition to this, the area already has a thriving economy and business base across a range of different sectors. These sectors are continuing to invest in the area and create jobs. Another key element of the Humber's offer is our quality of life and living environment." The AMEP on the south bank of the Humber adjacent to the Humber Sea Terminal forms the UK's largest developable land bank with a deep water frontage (over 245 hectares) and planned to create around 4,000 direct jobs. The ALP adjacent with 1.7 million sq.m of warehousing, storage and transportation depots will be the country's largest coastal logistics facility creating some 5,000 jobs. These and other large, exciting and prestigious employment/industrial developments need to be supported by quality, accessible and aspirational housing in suitable locations to attract people to the area, provide much-needed homes and help deliver the considerable economic benefits for North Lincolnshire and the wider area.
- 9.67 It was stated that Policy LC20 must be retained and be expanded upon so that people can work near where they live or live near to where they work. There are very good reasons why both of these statements benefit the environment and community cohesion.
- 9.68 It was commented that there needs more joined up thinking between housing, retail and employment than in the current approaches of the existing plan but not at the detriment of the environment.
- 9.69 In respect of the new Plan it is recommended that areas identified for employment growth be assessed against an appropriate methodology in respect of the historic environment as set out in our response to Q1 above. As previously set out, Sandtoft has heritage assets which would need to be considered in respect of any future site allocations, and Humberside Airport has a Scheduled Ancient Monument immediately north of it, and Listed Buildings also sited to the north of the site. The Plan should consider any opportunities for enhancement to the historic environment and public realm of Scunthorpe which could be achieved as a result of growth through employment or housing.
- 9.70 There needs more joined up thinking between housing, retail and employment than in the current approaches of the existing plan.
- 9.71 It was highlighted that planning permissions have been issued to develop the majority of the South Humber Gateway and therefore it is assumed that this refers to other areas on the south bank of the estuary. If this is the case, then an assessment will need to be made of the potential impacts on the Humber Estuary designated sites, with allocations located away from particularly sensitive areas.

**Question 13: Do we need to identify further employment land in addition to what is currently allocated and if yes, where should it be located?**

- 9.72 Barton was highlighted by one respondent as a location for further industrial growth.
- 9.73 It was also stated that any further employment development needs to be on land that has good transport links such as being near the motorway and based on need. Sites should also be properly advertised and promoted.

- 9.74 Encouragement should be given to businesses to start up or relocate to existing buildings rather than building new ones.
- 9.75 It was noted that the close proximity to Doncaster airport is a bonus and is a positive for North Lincolnshire.
- 9.76 An access road to the M180 is required from Burringham Road.
- 9.77 One respondent stated that it is too early to work out where future employment land should be located and that we should wait and see.
- 9.78 It was stated that all small villages e.g. Ulceby ,Wootton etc should have employment growth and former airfields should see some growth.
- 9.79 It was highlighted that further employment land is not required over and above what is currently allocated via the Core Strategy.
- 9.80 One respondent replied that more retail parks, industrial parks/estates, steel works were required.
- 9.81 It was highlighted that other than heavy industry, employment land should be located near residential areas to minimise distances commuted.
- 9.82 As regarding the Scunthorpe area, the possibility that the steelworks could close completely in the timescale of this plan should also be borne in mind, as this would massively increase the employment land available.
- 9.83 The South Humber Gateway was highlighted as a development area.
- 9.84 It was commented that unused (vacant) property should be developed first and then expand as growth in the economy dictates.
- 9.85 Given that the local economy is currently highly dependent upon manufacturing an objective of the Local Plan should be to make North Lincolnshire less vulnerable to future employment losses in this sector. It would therefore be important to have a wide choice of employment sites available that are attractive to a range of employment sectors, particularly those that can benefit from locational opportunities for instance the deep water estuary at the South Humber Bank and maximising the opportunity around the ports for chemical industry, power generation including renewable energy and offshore wind manufacturing.
- 9.86 In addition to providing a wide choice and range of sites to facilitate the growth employment sectors, the decision to identify further employment land will be dependent on the proposed number of jobs anticipated to be created over the Plan period which in turn will align with the overall economic strategy. It is considered that North Lincolnshire is a major UK centre for ports/logistics, renewable energy and chemical processing and this ensures it is well placed to deliver investment and jobs in support of the objectives of the overall 'Northern Powerhouse' and it is important to ensure that the amount of employment growth aligns with these strategic objectives.
- 9.87 Some provision should be made for employment development in rural settlements.
- 9.88 It was highlighted that rural communities can support; retail, leisure, tourism, "cottage industries" etc. and that greater use can be made of the existing infrastructure, for example; around New Holland by-pass, Goxhill, North Killingholme and Elsham airfields are all near to existing or redundant infrastructure as is, land off Humber Road and Eastfield Road.
- 9.89 It was stated that the level of growth depends on the job strategy.
- 9.90 It is recommended that any potential development sites are assessed against an appropriate methodology in respect of the historic environment.

**Question 14: Do you think that the existing network of retail centres is appropriate?**

- 9.91 Views on the existing network of retail centres in North Lincolnshire were mixed. However, no detailed comments were received.

**Question 15: Are there any other issues regarding managing our employment land, retail offer and economy which you think should be examined?**

- 9.92 It was noted that Scunthorpe Station is not near the Town Centre and that the signs for the Town Centre are not great could be improved upon. Planters at the Station would make the area more attractive with proper market town map showing where things are in the Town including the Town Centre. The area needs to look more up market with consideration of what makes Beverley, on the North Bank an attractive town.
- 9.93 There is a need to take account of the impact of traffic, both HGV and commuting on local areas as people find 'rat runs' to avoid main roads and HGVs ignore weight limits. The motorway network needs to be used better. It was also stated that the council seem to be taking a head in the sand management attitude to traffic congestion, this attitude will only result in more gridlocked road junctions.
- 9.94 One respondent stated that tourism opportunities for the Wolds and Ancholme Valley (walking/cycling etc.) should be looked at in greater detail.
- 9.95 It was highlighted that the keigar development at Falklands Way Barton has resulted in a potential loss of industrial land.
- 9.96 The need to encourage more restaurants and decent dining pubs, to stop people going further afield was raised with the Hope and Anchor being a good start but it needs competition. Neither Brigg or Barton have a good night time restaurant choice. The area does have plenty of fantastic quality cafes but lacks restaurants/good dining pubs. The respondent would like to see more quality real ale country type pubs like the Yarborough Hunt and that flagship local companies like Tom Woods should be encouraged.
- 9.97 The Farmers Market was highlighted as a great success and should be capitalised further!
- 9.98 It was highlighted that the NPPF makes clear that planning authorities are required to ensure there local plan policies for employment are based on up-to-date evidence and that they take account of market signals. The government is committed to securing economic growth in order to create jobs and prosperity and that the availability of employment land in sustainable well connected locations adjacent to existing complementary uses is crucial to ensuring local planning authorities can contribute to meeting this target.
- 9.99 One respondent noted that protecting areas of tranquility and protecting those areas which enjoy Dark Skies to help reduce light pollution is a key challenge. In particular air quality in Scunthorpe and its surrounding area is a major concern when it comes to building more housing, increasing the volume of traffic associated with this and heavy industry within the locality.
- 9.100 Flood protection is a huge issue for North Lincolnshire following the 2013 floods and there should be a complete embargo on building in high flood risk areas.
- 9.101 Issues described in the proposed Appleby Parish Neighbourhood Plan should be considered.
- 9.102 It was noted that there is an opportunity to improve and modernise the existing Asda superstore at Scotter Road, Scunthorpe by expansion to the north, would enable the modernisation of the first generation superstore through provision of additional floor space and improving customer choice. Additional land would also provide the opportunity to improve the existing vehicular access to the site which is currently only a single direction access from Scotter Road.
- 9.103 It was commented that North Lincolnshire has and still does provide an environment for low wages and poor promotion with lower grade jobs, with the population earning near or above average wages working within government or nationalised related jobs or employed out of the Lincolnshire area. Education and investment is required that help companies move and utilise new and inventive technologies.
- 9.104 There is a need to ensure a position to take advantage of anything currently unknown that may present itself in the future.
- 9.105 As recognised in the consultation document, significant areas of North Lincolnshire are at risk of flooding. National planning policy steers development away from these areas in the first instance and requires the use of the sequential and exception tests if development should be deemed necessary in those areas. An additional consideration is the appropriateness of development. Allocating areas of land for economic / employment use within areas at risk of flooding is more appropriate than allocating such land for residential use. However, management of flood risk in these areas (which include the Humber, Trent and Ancholme floodplains) requires significant investment to not only manage current risk but also keep pace with the effects of climate change. These infrastructure requirements (and associated funding) should be considered through the local plan making process.

- 9.106 Public transport (bus and rail services) could be improved to get people to their employment, especially up to the Humber Bank.
- 9.107 It was highlighted that the A15 needs to be a dual carriageway.
- 9.108 Residential development at North Killingholme would support the estuary/port and manufacturing industries being developed on the nearby South Humber Gateway strategic employment area. The country's busiest port is five minutes drive from the site and has good access to the area's strategic road network via the A160, A180 and M180 with accessibility improving with the A160 upgrade.
- 9.109 The Humber Spatial Plan (Humber LEP) recognises that wider regeneration and improvement works are required to support economic growth and to improve the area's offer. In some neighbourhoods, there is a legacy of poor quality or outdated housing and other built assets. Proposals need to contribute towards transforming such areas and bring wider community benefits. This will not only improve the perception of the Humber and the North Lincolnshire 'offer' but also provide significant economic impact in their own right, attracting substantial private sector investment.
- 9.110 It was commented upon that Epworth has an excellent range of small shops and businesses that provide a commercial hub for the Isle of Axholme.
- 9.111 The businesses also provide substantial employment opportunities for the parish and are essential for a successful and vibrant local economy.
- 9.112 It was highlighted that Epworth would like the focus of the new Local Plan to identify and enhance support to our local businesses. For example;
- Expansion of the North Lincs Council Traditional Shop Front Grant Scheme to include Epworth.
  - Enforcement of the shop and business signage and other regulations within the Epworth Conservation area.
  - Maximisation of local economy with support from NLC Tourism and Events – including support for providers of tourist accommodation within Epworth.
  - Review parking provision within Epworth centre to enhance access to shops, business and local services.
  - Sandtoft Industrial area is important to the economy of Epworth and continued economic development of this site is supported - however access to this site needs addressing. Road access to this site is currently inadequate for heavy goods vehicles as they have to travel via narrow roads through surrounding residential areas.
- 9.113 Encouraging environmental protection within these areas should be given. Old trees and hedges should be cut down and where possible, new habitats created, including along and around infrastructure. We must consider better use of pipelines and barges as well as opening East Halton – Goxhill railway line. This will not harm environment as it will stop people using this route for leisure. It will encourage the wildlife/environment as people will be excluded. The same applies to roads, junctions, cycle paths. The local heritage must also be respected as must local communities.
- 9.114 When Scunthorpe United football stadium relocates the site should be allocated for housing as an expansion of the adjacent retail area would have a devastating effect on Scunthorpe Town Centre.
- 9.115 It was noted that fracking should be banned outright and encouragement given to sustain local agriculture.

## **10 MANAGING OUR NATURAL & BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

### **INTRODUCTION**

- 10.1 The Local Plan will not only identify and locate new development needed in North Lincolnshire up to 2036, but in achieving this it will need to manage the natural and built environment. The condition of the surrounding environment has a significant impact on quality of life. Enhancing and protecting North Lincolnshire's natural environment, built heritage and natural assets is important to the area's image, as well as bringing both social and economic benefits to its communities. The options for new development should support all arms of sustainability, including economic, social and environment and the Local Plan should therefore set out to recognise the need to increase, improve and enhance North Lincolnshire's biodiversity and varied land and waterscapes. Environmental components of the Local Plan must also address climate change, sustainable resources and flood risk.
- 10.2 A strategic approach needs to be taken to identify where development can take place, but this must be balanced with the protection, improvement and enhancement of the environment. Options for new development in existing

settlements or locating new development in new settlements (if appropriate) must therefore appropriately consider the environment, including their setting in the landscape.

- 10.3 As part of helping to determine how and where growth should be provided and located, a number of issues facing the area were highlighted in the Initial Consultation (Regulation 18) document.
- 10.4 The Initial Consultation Stage (Regulation 18) document contained three questions on managing our natural and built environment. Respondents were given the opportunity to give opinions on the following:
- Whether the current natural and built environment approach in the Council’s Core Strategy is correct for North Lincolnshire (Question 16);
  - Provide views on what areas, locations or environments should be protected in North Lincolnshire (Question 17); and
  - Outline any other issues that should be examined in relation to managing the environment in North Lincolnshire (Question 18).

## RESPONSES

- 10.5 A total of **74** responses were received in respect of Question 16, whilst there were **60** responses to Question 17 and **74** responses to Question 18. Question 16 is more specific and details are shown in the table below. Question 17 is more generic (without Yes, No etc.) and answers tend to be wide ranging and a summary of the answers is therefore provided below. Question 18 is more specific and generic in terms of Yes/no etc. plus individual additional answers and are summarised below.

Question	No of Responses	%
<b>16 Is the current Core Strategy approach to managing our natural and built environment correct?</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>100</b>
• <i>Yes</i>	31	42
• <i>No</i>	14	19
• <i>Don’t Know/No Opinion</i>	25	34
• <i>Other Response</i>	4	5
No response to question	28	-
<b>17 What areas, locations or environments should we protect across North Lincolnshire?</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100</b>
No response to question	42	-
<b>18 Are there any other issues regarding managing our environment which you think should be examined?</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>100</b>
• <i>Yes</i>	29	39
• <i>No</i>	16	22
• <i>Don’t Know/No Opinion</i>	22	30
• <i>Other Response</i>	4	5
No response to question	28	-

### Question 16: Is the current Core Strategy approach to managing our natural and built environment correct?

- 10.6 There was support for the existing policy approach to the environment set out in the Core Strategy DPD (2011). A number of respondents put forward more detailed responses on the environmental issues that should be considered in the emerging Local Plan. These are outlined below.
- 10.7 In terms of the broad approach to the environment, there was strong recognition of the role played by area’s natural and built environment and there was support for continuing with aims and objectives of the Core Strategy DPD (2011) in the emerging North Lincolnshire Local Plan (2017 to 2036). Specific reference was made to the Core Strategy paragraph 11.10 and the need for it to be transposed to the new Local Plan. Some respondents were insistent that the approach should be strongly adhered to.
- 10.8 A number of respondents put forward suggestions for strengthening and/or updating the existing approach to the natural and built and environment. These included:

- Adding a specific reference or bullet point reference to the importance of protecting and enhancing the natural environment as a key issue for the Local Plan.
  - Updating and providing a more detailed policy approach to flood risk, particularly to reflect recent work undertaken as part of the Lincolnshire Lake project, including the Integrated Flood Risk & Drainage Strategy.
  - Undertaking a Green Infrastructure Strategy alongside the development of the Local Plan.
  - Making specific references within the plan to appropriate redevelopment of brownfield land and sites affected by contamination, which ensure it is in line with NPPF paragraph 121.
  - Including specific reference to protecting and enhancing biodiversity for its own sake or promoting the preservation, restoration and re-creation of ecological networks, as specified by the NPPF.
  - In relation to minerals sites, including a reference to preventing harm to geological conservation.
  - Including greater reference to the wider historic environment, in addition to the built environment and landscape character. It was highlighted that the wider historic environment includes non-built aspects such as parks and gardens, townscape including Conservation Areas, unknown archaeology and wrecks, amongst others. It was recommended that appropriate wording be reflected in the new Plan to ensure all aspects of the historic environment are addressed.
  - Ensuring stronger links between green infrastructure and the historic environment where they are likely to exist in some Plan areas. It was recommended that these are explored to establish whether there are potential new links with tourism and/or local community social and cultural wellbeing.
  - The need to ensure protection of existing greenfield areas especially those of special historical and environmental significance.
  - Flood defences.
- 10.9 Whilst the Core Strategy was felt to provide a good foundation for monitoring and reviewing natural and built environment issues, the role of the Sustainability Appraisal in identifying the potential impact of the emerging plan's policies and proposals was also highlighted as being vital.
- 10.10 With regard to the saved policies of the Local Plan (2003), it was considered that many were out-dated policies. It was felt these policies should not be allowed to perpetuate and inhibit necessary, sustainable development particularly where buffer zones can be achieved between residential and industrial development for amenity reasons, whilst also securing landscape enhancement and/or biodiversity creation. Specific reference was made to the East Halton area.
- 10.11 It was felt that there is a need to protect existing areas of open space/green space within existing settlements, and to include green space as part of new residential developments. Concerns were expressed about the loss of green space to development, specifically in Barton upon Humber.
- 10.12 Specific reference was made to Scunthorpe and its Garden Town character. It was felt that there should be greater levels of tree and shrub planting within the town, particularly on roundabouts. Further, it was considered the current level of green space in the town should be maintained and/or increased.
- 10.13 The need to ensure that the character of the area's villages and countryside is maintained was also highlighted as an issue for consideration in the Local Plan. The design and layout of new development was also raised. In respect of character, it was felt that the character of villages and open spaces needs to be maintained and that settlement boundaries should be protected along with the countryside. Furthermore, it was considered that there is a need to protect primary gateways as they give visitors a first impression of the town or village. Concerns were also expressed about derelict land not being reused and left to decay. Also it was considered that some development was highly damaging to the environment for little gain.
- 10.14 In relation to design, concerns were raised about the type of homes being constructed together with the layout of developments. Generally, it was felt that buildings should more aesthetically pleasing. For landscaping around industrial development, it was considered that greater use should be made of earthworks and careful planting to minimise its impact, which would also encourage more wildlife and insects.

- 10.15 The projects at Waters Edge and Alkborough were highlighted as being good examples of those that have improved people's quality of life as well as long-term tourism value. It was suggested that the council should consider partnering with NGOs such as RSPB in future environmental projects.
- 10.16 It was highlighted that any existing landscape designations will need to be reviewed to ensure that they comply with the requirements of the NPPF. Specifically, there was support for continuing the Core Strategy approach of protecting and enhancing Thorne and Hatfield Moors.
- 10.17 It was noted that the Core Strategy DPD was adopted prior to the publication of the NPPF, and the Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) for Minerals; therefore it was recommended that the new Local Plan's policy approach should be updated to fully reflect them. Particular reference was made to need to reflect NPPF paragraphs 142 and 145 regarding the overall approach to minerals and the need to maintain landbanks for industrial minerals. It was also highlighted that plan needs to include a safeguarding policy to establish Mineral Safeguarding Areas (MSAs) and protect existing or proposed mineral infrastructure.
- 10.18 Specific reference was made to the need to consider the work of Natural England, the council and other estuary stakeholders to deliver a strategic approach to mitigation within the South Humber Gateway (for impacts associated with the Humber Estuary SPA/Ramsar site) as part of the new Local Plan. It was felt that this is the only way to mitigate for the impacts on functionally linked land identified in the Core Strategy and Housing and Employment Land DPD. The goal of creating a world class economy alongside a world class environment was supported and it was felt that the strategic approach to mitigation has significant benefits both for the natural environment and economic growth on the estuary. There was also some support for the growth of the ports in the area.
- 10.19 Greater emphasis, it was felt, should be placed on the views of local people and their representatives when determining planning applications, particularly on environmental and heritage matters.

**Question 17: What areas, locations or environments should we protect across North Lincolnshire?**

- 10.20 A range of responses were received regarding the type of areas, locations and environments that should be protected in the Local Plan. Many identified specific areas or broad locations, whilst respondents were more general in terms of what should be protected. Reference was also made to settlement development limits and the decision making process. Some support was also expressed for a number of the existing policies set out in the Core Strategy DPD (2011) and North Lincolnshire Local Plan (2003).
- 10.21 In general it was considered that there is a strong requirement for the Local Plan to ensure that North Lincolnshire's environmental assets are protected and enhanced, in order to maintain those aspects that make a contribution to the quality of life experienced in the area. There was a view that the Plan should continue to protect those areas which already benefit from protected status.
- 10.22 One suggestion was to adopt a balanced approach to protecting both built and natural environments, including those sensitive to new development and identifying areas that are not as sensitive to accommodate growth. This approach will ensure that homes and jobs are delivered without adverse impact on potentially sensitive environmental constraints.
- 10.23 It was highlighted that valuable natural capital such as green/blue infrastructure and green corridors that provide important services and support the overall vision and objectives of NLC should be protected and enhanced. It was suggested that the production of a green infrastructure strategy would greatly assist the council in the protection of its natural capital.
- 10.24 It is viewed as essential to protect areas in line with the NPPF and to seek to create, enhance and protect ecological networks as the current networks are not coherent or resilient. It was suggested that managing, restoring and creating habitat in the right places helps re-build the network and enables species to thrive in particular places including the wider landscape. This includes all nature designations (nature reserves, international, national and local).
- 10.25 Of particular importance was the need to protect open spaces and greenfield areas, including public open space, green spaces, parks, gardens, allotments and playing fields as well as recreational areas and play space from encroachment by inappropriate development. A specific reference was made to gardens being rich in wildlife. The need to protect wetland areas, ditches and river banks was also highlighted as well as footpaths.
- 10.26 The protection of the open countryside outside the area's towns and villages was also raised as key matter for the Local Plan to consider. Good access to the countryside was felt to be important. Broadly it was felt that such areas should be protected. This included the need ensure agricultural land was protected to allow for the production of

- crops. Another suggested approach to protect the countryside, is ensure settlement development limits are adhered to.
- 10.27 It was suggested that existing woodland/forest areas should be protected, and increased where possible. This, it was felt, would help to increase biodiversity, improve air quality and allow for greater rainfall infiltration - reducing flood water run-off and potentially increasing water supply. The protection of hedgerows was also highlighted.
- 10.28 It considered policy related to villages (including generically rural settlements) and towns should help keep their special feel, but also allow for the building of a few more homes every year to allow local people to stay in the settlements.
- 10.29 A number of respondents made reference to the existing planning policy framework set out in the Core Strategy (2011) and the North Lincolnshire Local Plan (2003). There was support for the approach set out in saved Local Plan policies R1, R2, LC11, LC12 & LC13, as they were felt to offer a greater degree of protection for green space. Similarly, it was felt that the approach towards protecting landscape and biodiversity area, as set out in Core Strategy policies CS16 & CS17 should continue.
- 10.30 A further suggestion related to saved Local Plan policy LC20. It was considered that it could be extended to other areas of North Lincolnshire. Doing so would provide landscaped banks and planting to encourage wildlife habitats, whilst helping to hide industrial development.
- 10.31 It was considered that the Local Plan should protect all currently statutory and non- statutory designated sites/areas that are significant (including existing known value for biodiversity). This should benefit the natural environment, heritage or related tourism. Of particular importance are the existing international and national environmentally designated sites which should be protected from development that will detrimentally impact upon them. Also, it was stated that consideration should be given to the impact of development on the setting of the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB.
- 10.32 It was stated that Nature improvement Areas (NIAs), for example the Humber Levels, should be recognised within the plan and that it should provide guidance as to the types of development considered appropriate in these areas. Also, there should be scope within the plan for new NIAs to come forward.
- 10.33 Specific reference was made to Thorne, Crowle and Hatfield Moors. This internationally and nationally important area straddles the boundary between North Lincolnshire, Doncaster and East Riding of Yorkshire, and as such it was considered there the policy approach towards the protection and enhancement of its key features and characteristics should be consistent across all three authorities. As such, it should form part of the Duty to Co-operate process.
- 10.34 With regard to flooding and drainage, it was viewed managing flood risk and rivers should be a key priority and that the Local Plan should comply with the Water Framework Directive and any relevant River Basin Management Plans.
- 10.35 Furthermore, it was suggested that an area should be safeguarded for future flood risk management. For example, by identifying potential managed realignment sites required to deliver the Humber Flood Risk Management Strategy (HFRMS) and the land immediately behind existing flood defences to allow future adaptation options. This would include keeping the proposed Lincolnshire Lakes site safe, without impacting on “third parties” and other communities, by compliance with the proposed “Integrated Flood Risk Management Strategy” and associated proposed “Managed Adaptive Approach”. It was noted that this approach is also supported in the existing Core Strategy - paragraph 11.33.
- 10.36 Overall, it was felt that the area’s historic environment should be protected and enhanced, and that any site assessment methodology should include it as a key consideration. More specifically, it was felt that the area’s historic market towns and areas of historic value including the community aspects should be protected alongside those elements of significance to the natural environment.
- 10.37 A number of respondents identified the importance of the Humber Estuary and the South Humber Gateway. With regard to the estuary itself, it is felt that it is a massively undervalued asset that represents a major future opportunity for tourism, health and well-being. At present, it is felt that it is being destroyed by poor value development.
- 10.38 It was considered that the Local Plan should protect areas identified as compensatory habitat to enable the development of the South Humber Gateway. This includes the strategic mitigation areas identified and agreed in the South Humber Bank Gateway Mitigation Strategy for birds within the Humber Estuary Special Protection Area. Also it was felt it should protect those areas required to meet coastal squeeze issues related to the management and safeguarding of flood defence assets around the Humber. Doing so would comply with the HFRMS.

10.39 A number of respondents highlighted a number of specific sites or areas that should be safeguarded within the Local Plan. These included:

- Top Field, Barton upon Humber
- Broughton Woods
- Land at Ransom Court/Limber Road, Kirmington, which should be kept as an area of green land.
- Central Park, Scunthorpe

10.40 Other broad areas identified for protection include:

- The Isle of Axholme, including its ancient open field system.
- The area's river valleys and waterways, including the Humber Estuary, River Trent, River Ancholme, Bottesford Beck and the River Eau
- The villages along the banks of the River Trent
- The environment and areas in and around Barton upon Humber, Brigg, Kirton in Lindsey and Kirmington as well as the area's smaller village.
- Wildlife habitats and public footpath network in and around Barton upon Humber
- Green spaces surrounding villages and Scunthorpe (however, it was suggested that Market Towns should be allowed to grow)
- Green areas to north of Scunthorpe, although there is a need to be aware of underground mines around Roxby, Appleby and Winterton.

10.41 Specific reference was made to the landscape around Elsham. It was noted the previous Area of High Landscape Value no longer exists for this area. Therefore, it was suggested some form of designation should be made to protect this landscape due to its high value to the village and its surroundings as well as its role in providing a wildlife habitat. It was considered that the loss of this landscape would have a detrimental effect on the village's surroundings.

10.42 It was suggested that local representatives should have more say and influence in determining planning applications, particularly in relation to environmental issues/matters.

**Question 18: Are there any other issues regarding managing our environment which you think should be examined?**

10.43 Respondents identified a number of issues that the Local Plan should consider in relation to the natural and built environment. Particular issues raised included flood risk/drainage, ecology and biodiversity, managing and dealing with pollution, access and minerals. In respect of issues/challenges raised in the Initial (Regulation 18) Consultation document, a respondent felt that these were the main ones that the Local Plan should examine.

10.44 With regard to flood risk and drainage, it was considered that there is a need for the Local Plan to continue improving flood defences, and support the drainage network (for river flooding) in order to allow new development to occur and be protected. Oppositely, it was felt that new development, in particular housing should take place well above sea level and that the Plan should restrict new housing on flood plain areas. Furthermore, it was considered that flooding from the Humber Estuary needed to be stopped, or remove housing that is likely to flood. The Strategic Flood Risk Assessment 2012, it was felt should be review/updated to take into account the extent of the 2013 floods and the level of development that has occurred since that time.

10.45 It was stated that important designations such as SSSIs, Ramsar sites, SACs & SPAs should be protected, with particular consideration given to Impact Risk Zones. Further, it was considered the importance of ecological networks needs to be explained in the Local Plan as the current networks are not coherent or resilient. It was highlighted that managing, restoring and creating habitat in the right places helps rebuild the network and enables species to thrive not just in place but across wider landscapes. These should be referenced in the plan, including identification of potential sites that could contribute to these areas in compliance with paragraph 165 of NPPF. Similarly, it was stated that Nature Improvement Areas (NIAs) should be recognised in the Local Plan.

10.46 It was recommended that all new development should result in enhancement/net gains for biodiversity in addition to protecting the natural environment. This included on brownfield sites where significant biodiversity interest may be developed that could result in such sites not being appropriate for development. In addition, it was stated that the Local Plan should reference relevant national and local targets for biodiversity e.g. those set out in the Lincolnshire Biodiversity Action Plan, and set out how policies will contribute to achieving them.

10.47 A further suggestion put forward for consideration is for the Local Plan to seek an increase in areas of woodland. This, it was felt would increase biodiversity, improve air quality and allow for rainfall infiltration thus reducing flood run-off and increasing potential water supply.

- 10.48 It was highlighted that the Local Plan needs to address various forms of pollution. These include air quality/air pollution, traffic pollution and noise pollution. These issues are considered important in supporting the quality of life in the area and reduce carbon footprints. Specific concerns regarding the impact of smoke from wood burning stoves and the level of pollution on rural roads from freight traffic should be addressed.
- 10.49 Public access to North Lincolnshire's special environmental assets was felt to be an issue for the Local Plan to address. It was suggested that transport links, including green public transport provision, should be improved to allow local people to visit them. It was proposed that it should be enabled or developed to un-industrialised sections of the Humber Bank for walkers, cyclists and horse riders. Another proposal was to ensure new highway infrastructure is built or existing highway infrastructure enhanced to encourage cycling and to increase cycle safety.
- 10.50 It was noted that the current planning policy framework for minerals (as set out in the Core Strategy and saved policies of the North Lincolnshire Local Plan) should be updated to better reflect the NPPF. This would include updating the development management policies as well as showing Mineral Safeguarding Areas on the policies map (including relevant buffer zones).
- 10.51 This issue of extraction conventional and non-conventional hydrocarbons (oil and gas) was raised by a number of respondents. It was suggested that the Local Plan define what constitutes conventional and unconventional drilling for hydrocarbons (including techniques such as coal bed methane and acid fracturing) due to the increasing potential for unconventional onshore oil and gas development.
- 10.52 Further, it was considered that the plan should require planning applications for hydrocarbon extraction (including test drilling and extraction) to be accompanied by evidence/assessments. It was felt such assessments should demonstrate that reasonable scientific doubt can be excluded as to adverse impacts on water resources and watercourses, air quality, seismic activity, local communities and industries, and on greenhouse gas emissions and climate change. For fracking, it was felt that any community impacts should be negated.
- 10.53 Another respondent considered that to help reduce climate change no new facilities to extract fossil fuels (oil and gas) should be allowed.
- 10.54 Areas which are already protected, it was felt should not be developed, particularly as there is likely to be other options for the sites that can be used. Specifically, it was considered that green spaces such as parks and playgrounds needed to be protected as part large developments.
- 10.55 In relation to the location of new development, it was stated that brownfield (previously developed) land should be used in line with the provisions of the NPPF. Also, it was suggested that the level of industrial development, particularly around the Normanby Park industrial area, should be minimised.
- 10.56 A specific issue was highlighted regarding water efficiency in new development and the need to ensure that the plan reflects national policies. It was stated that Core Strategy Policy CS18 requires updating as all new homes already have to meet the mandatory national standard in the Building Regulations of 125 litres per person per day and where a clear local need is identified 110litres pp/pd can be applied. It was noted that North Lincolnshire is in an area of serious water stress (water stressed areas 2013) and that further discussions will need to take place with the Environment Agency and water companies to agree any tighter standards in the local plan.
- 10.57 Other matters highlighted by various respondents for consideration as part of the Local Plan, include tourism and heritage, protection of agricultural land, greater community involvement in shaping the local environment to engender greater pride in the appearance of local communities, and greater consultation on environmental issues as part of the planning process. Other issues raised included the need to raise skill levels and promote more areas for protection. Another suggestion was for the Plan to reflect the emerging Appleby Neighbourhood Plan.
- 10.58 A specific suggestion was made to use hay from road verges as a bio-power source, which would create jobs in the bio plants as well as helping to manage the highway verges. It was felt that this will improve insect and plant biodiversity.

## **11 CREATING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES & BETTER PLACES**

### **INTRODUCTION**

- 11.1 Delivering sustainable communities is at the heart of the planning system. This means ensuring that alongside homes, jobs and transport infrastructure, all local people have ready access to those services and facilities they need for their everyday lives and that contribute positively to the health and wellbeing of the community.

- 11.2 North Lincolnshire offers communities a high quality of life with attractive towns, villages and countryside contributing to a strong sense of place. However North Lincolnshire has an ageing population and a shortage of affordable homes.
- 11.3 Policies should seek to ensure development takes place in the most sustainable locations where the everyday services and facilities people need can be easily accessed.
- 11.4 To deliver the social, recreational and cultural facilities the community needs, planning policies and decisions should plan positively for the provision and use of shared space, community facilities and other local services to enhance the sustainability of communities and residential environments.
- 11.5 The Initial Consultation (Regulation 18) document contained two questions relating to the creation of sustainable development and better places. Question 19 sought views on availability and accessibility of local community facilities and services, whilst Question 20 gave respondents the opportunity to provide their views on which other matters need be considered by the Local Plan on this broad subject area.

## RESPONSES

- 11.6 A total of **71** responses were received in respect of Question 19, whilst **77** responses were received for Question 5. Details are shown in the table below:

Question	No. of Responses	%
<b>19 Does your community have good access to local services such as health, education and leisure that are needed to support its social and cultural wellbeing?</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>100</b>
• <i>Yes</i>	32	45
• <i>No</i>	20	28
• <i>Don't Know/ No Opinion</i>	19	27
• <i>Other Response</i>	0	0
No response to question	31	-
<b>20 Are there any other issues regarding our communities and places which you think should be examined?</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>100</b>
• <i>Yes</i>	32	46
• <i>No</i>	8	12
• <i>Don't Know/No Opinion</i>	28	41
• <i>Other Response</i>	1	1
No response to question	31	-

## SUMMARY OF COMMENTS

### Question 19: Does your community have good access to local services such as health, education and leisure that are needed to support its social and cultural wellbeing?

- 11.7 A number of comments put forward support the existing community facilities and agree that communities have good access to local services such as health, education and leisure. Comments also showed that some people were not happy with the access to local services and improvements were needed.
- 11.8 It was stated the rural parts of North Lincolnshire need small-scale incremental growth to allow local community facilities and services to be retained and supported but additional development could adversely impact on capacity. In relation to leisure more badminton, netball and club based sports should be provided. It was also raised that Broughton Recreation Field needs attention.
- 11.9 It was also stated that the markets towns in North Lincolnshire have had enough development. This development was not to be part of the development proposal.
- 11.10 Doctors services and capacity of schools across the whole of North Lincolnshire was raised as an issue.

- 11.11 Gohill School was specifically mentioned as having capacity issues and the access was deemed unsatisfactory. Goxhill would also like to see a pub and it was stated the roads in Goxhill are narrow and congested and increasing industrial activities in the area is showing that the roads are inadequate and need investment. If development further along the Humber Bank continues, new access to these areas without using village roads is needed. The development of the new Humber Pipeline is highlighting this problem and should have been solved before it was allowed to go ahead.
- 11.12 It was suggested current services in Barton upon Humber are ok but improvements are needed. The town needs more GP availability, Saturday doctors opening, a greater range of services at the doctors and Sunday pharmacy opening.
- 11.13 It was stated that Kirton in Lindsey is at 'stress point' and needs additional services to be provided. There is a lack of quality leisure facilities, nearly no train services, lack of GP health services and a average education set of services.
- 11.14 Leisure was also raised as an issue in Kirton in Lindsey and lack of facilities. It was stated that the only sports field in Kirton was created by a local group and there are no other leisure facilities therefore the town needs more. Public transport to either Scunthorpe or Brigg is deemed inadequate and non-existent to Gainsborough (about the same distance away as Scunthorpe). It was suggested the younger generation need a skate/bmx park but the Town Council doesn't own any land nor will any local farmers sell or lease any suitable land. Kirton also needs land to provide allotments however there is no land available.
- 11.15 It was suggested Brigg was a good place to develop leisure, schools, restaurants and pubs and that the town has good medical support and shops as well as a leisure centre. However it was stated that the roadways are disintegrating and unable to support more traffic. Some of the farm machines are oversized and don't fit on the small roads which is destroying the bridlepaths, footpaths and roadways. This area is built on small roadways with drainage dykes either side. The roads are dropping in either side.
- 11.16 It was also stated the area currently has good access to green areas for health and wellbeing therefore these should be protected against any development.
- 11.17 Immigration issues were raised in Scunthorpe and it was also suggested that work on the town centre is needed.

**Question 20: Are there any other issues regarding our communities and places which you think should be examined?**

- 11.18 A number of issues were raised which people would like to be seen addressed. They included public transport which must be built in to new development and should be environmentally driven i.e. electric vehicles.
- 11.19 Community facilities and services were raised and some comments were satisfied with the level provided. It was suggested quite a few of the Churches in the Town and Bottesford areas open up to provide refreshments and a get together for older people. It is suggested that a North Lincs forum where they could put their views forward, would give people some purpose, and should be considered and promoted to other churches and village halls to bring older people together throughout North Lincs once or twice a week. More social activities due to the increasing older population was raised several times as an area to improve upon and enhance.
- 11.20 It was also suggested that Kirton In Lindsey does not get a fair share of council funds. Winterton, Crowle & Burton-upon-Stather seem to be having huge amounts of money spent on them (e.g. Burton, £500,000 for an extension to the sports pavilion) why is Kirton in Lindsey never a priority.
- 11.21 It was raised that a better police presence on the streets to deter anti social behaviour is needed and that there are immigration issues in the Crosby area of Scunthorpe.
- 11.22 Other issues raised were Illegal parking, fly tipping, lack of access to broadband, rubbish from business premises, the designation and protection of public rights of way in furtherance of tourism, flood risk and the impact of recent past floods and expected further flood damage and that village facilities must be protected. More affordable housing and recreational facilities all weather football pitches etc) were also raised.
- 11.23 It was specifically stated that Goxhill Village needs a pub not more houses and sustainability should take account of capacity of local services.
- 11.24 A more resilient open space/green space consistent with keeping Scunthorpe as an Industrial Garden Town. A determined approach to revitalise Scunthorpe Market as a major focus for regeneration is needed and investment in public realm.

- 11.25 It was also stated that culture and the creative industries play a key role in developing vibrant town centres which are at the economic and social heart of sustainable communities. Cultural and community facilities support the day to day needs of local communities and help promote well-being and improve quality of life. It helps develop a sense of place and helps make communities unique and special. There is also a growing awareness of the role that the arts and culture play in attracting and retaining residents and developing a skilled workforce.
- 11.26 Cultural facilities include theatres, live music venues (inc. public houses), community spaces, museums, cinemas, libraries and other public and performance venues, and they are important in supporting the local and visitor economy by attracting people to these centres where other businesses then benefit from the flow on effects.
- 11.27 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2012 provides clear directions about the importance of safeguarding and promoting culture activities and venues in their areas.
- One of the 12 core planning principles (paragraph 17) notes the need to plan for culture to support social wellbeing and sustainable communities.
  - Paragraph 23 recognises the important role town centres play in supporting communities and notes that cultural venues make a valuable contribution to the vibrancy and success of these centres.
  - Paragraph 70 states that in promoting healthy communities, planning decisions should a plan positively for cultural buildings and a guard against the loss of cultural facilities and services.
  - Paragraph 123 relates to the impact of noise and states that existing businesses should not have unreasonable restrictions put on them because of changes in nearby land uses since they were established. This means planning decisions and policies should ensure that new development will be designed in a way that will not affect an existing cultural venue to the point it would have to change how it operates through the use of appropriate noise mitigation and design.
  - Paragraph 156 directs local planning authorities to ensure their local plan includes cultural policies that reflect the NPPF.
- 11.28 Local plans should therefore support arts and culture at all levels to support the local economy and ensure that all residents and visitors, and future generations, have access to cultural opportunities. Policies should protect, support and enhance cultural facilities and activities, particularly those which might otherwise be traded in for more commercially lucrative developments, and promote cultural led development as a catalyst for regeneration in town centres. Suggestions for wording for inclusion of a policy were put forward in relation to Cultural and Community facilities.

## 12 PROVIDING INFRASTRUCTURE & DELIVERING THE PLAN

- 12.1 The Initial Consultation (Regulation 18) document contained two questions relating to infrastructure and delivery of the plan. Question 21 sought views on the infrastructure related issues that should be covered by the plan, whilst Question 22 gave respondents the opportunity to provide their views on specific infrastructure improvements that may be required to support growth and development.

### RESPONSES

- 12.2 A total of **71** responses were received in respect of Question 21, whilst **22** responses were received for Question 22. It should be noted that question 22 was in two parts. Where respondents selected potential infrastructure improvements they were able to select more than one, therefore no percentages are set out for them. Details are shown in the table below:

Question	No. of Responses	%
<b>21 Are there any other issues regarding managing our infrastructure which you think should be examined?</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>100</b>
• <i>Yes</i>	32	45
• <i>No</i>	12	17
• <i>Don't Know/ No Opinion</i>	23	32
• <i>Other Response</i>	4	6

No response to question		31	-
<b>22 Are there any improvements you think are required to North Lincolnshire's infrastructure to support growth? If yes, please tell us</b>		<b>69</b>	<b>100</b>
• Yes		56	81
• No		0	0
• Don't Know/No Opinion		12	17
• Other Response		1	1
<b>Specific Schemes</b>			
• Improvements to the road network	39	• Better community infrastructure	24
• Better public transport provision	36	• Better broadband & communications infrastructure	34
• More opportunities for walking & cycling	36	• Improved flooding and drainage infrastructure	33
• Improvement to the utilities network	24	• Other	8
No response to question		36	

**Question 21: Are there any other issues regarding managing our infrastructure which you think should be examined?**

12.3 Many respondents to this question provided a range of infrastructure-related issues that they considered should be covered in the emerging Local Plan. A number made general comments about the infrastructure network whilst others suggested particular improvements they wished to see take place in order to support growth and enhance their communities. Where possible, their comments have been grouped under the headings below. Generally, it was acknowledged that there is a need for more and improved transport infrastructure.

**Road**

12.4 One respondent considered the North Lincolnshire's road links were reasonable. However, it was felt that roads should be expanded when there is a clear identified need, and that provision should take place to ensure industries in rural areas can thrive and grow. Road maintenance including filling in pot holes and maintaining rural roads were considered to be a key issue. Car parking was considered to be important as it is viewed as the difference between people shopping locally or deciding to go elsewhere (and continuing to go elsewhere to shop).

12.5 A number of proposals for road improvements were received:

- Barton upon Humber bypass – it was felt this merits consideration as the town grows and traffic on the local road network becomes busier. This would allow HGV traffic to avoid the town's Market Place
- M180 access – it was considered that access required on to the M180 from Burringham Road, Scunthorpe
- Bypasses – it was felt that Scunthorpe, Barton upon Humber and Brigg all require bypasses
- Scunthorpe Orbital Route – need to create an efficient orbital road around Scunthorpe from the M181-Skippingdale Retail Park - Winterton Road - Brigg Road to Ashby Ville
- A15 – an upgrade of the A15 to dual carriageway standard was felt to be overdue
- Epworth - the junction of High Street and the A161 - the main access to the strategic road network (M180/A18) - was highlighted as producing a narrow bottleneck. It was considered that any increase in housing in Epworth would increase private transport and exacerbate this issue.
- HGV routing – it was suggested that HGV traffic should be restricted to main roads and be prevented from taking short-cuts through villages. A specific proposal was received seeking to place a weight restriction of a 7.5 ton vehicle limit on all roads through Barrow upon Humber, with the exception of Wold Road.
- Scunthorpe – it was felt that there was a need to improve the road network in Scunthorpe to aid traffic movement through the town as well as consistency in speed limits.

**Cross Boundary Connections**

12.6 It was considered that the North Lincolnshire Local Plan should include in its aspirations support for the development of the transport network outside its area. In particular, the aspiration to construct a strategic highway link to

Manchester via a Trans-Pennine Tunnel should be included in the plan, particularly as it will support the delivery of the Northern Powerhouse, and will improve connections between the Humber ports and the north west.

- 12.7 Also it was considered there is a need to recognise and adopt a consistent approach to protecting and enhancing the Strategic Transport Network (STN) cross border with the East Riding of Yorkshire STN. This includes the A161 (including core bus route) near Eastoft and the A15 near Barton upon Humber. This connectivity has been identified in the East Riding Local Plan. This issue is connected to the requirements of the Duty to Cooperate (Local Plan process)

#### **Rail**

- 12.8 It was felt there should be an increase in rail usage in North Lincolnshire for both passengers and freight. For passengers, it was considered that services should be improved, whilst for freight it was suggested that more needed to be done to encourage rail as means of transporting goods e.g. by located industrial development close to marshalling yards or railheads. Also, it was highlighted that the rail network would impacted upon by population growth, particularly the need for additional car parking at railway stations in North Lincolnshire for better connectivity to access employment, leisure or educational opportunities.

- 12.9 Several specific improvements were identified:

- Reinstating the former East Halton to Goxhill line and improving the junction between the South Humber Main Line and the Barton line.
- Installing a third track on the line between Immingham Docks/Oil refineries and Barnetby-le-Wold.
- Upgrading the Grimsby to Doncaster line to take account of the potential future expansion of the South Humber Bank Employment area

#### **Cycling & Walking**

- 12.10 A suggestion was put forward for improved cycle provision within Epworth parish to enable easy cycle access to the commercial village centre of Epworth.

#### **Leisure**

- 12.11 The need to protect the historic landscape around Epworth from development was highlighted, in order to maximise this valuable asset as a centre for tourism.

#### **Public Transport**

- 12.12 It was considered that public transport should be supported, particularly bus and rail services that do not require pre-booking. In relation to Epworth, it felt that there is a need to focus on improving public transport to surrounding main hubs.

#### **Utilities**

- 12.13 It was considered that Broadband speeds are not appropriate and that some areas do not have a decent connection, in particular rural and remote places. Similarly, it was felt that mobile phone networks needed to be improved. An example was given regarding poor mobile phone signals in Kirton in Lindsey. A proposal was put forward that all overhead cables should be buried to improve the local environment and that utility providers should be encouraged to carry this out. Specific reference was made to drainage and sewerage concerns affecting residents to the south and west of Epworth. It was felt that any additional housing in Epworth would have the potential to place unacceptable strain on the local drainage and sewerage networks.

#### **General**

- 12.14 Overall, it was suggested that the plan needs to be a joined up, well thought out & well communicated that most local people are in favour of and are signed up to. Infrastructure was viewed as being critical to the success of the plan and as such there should be a greater involvement for communities and businesses in setting the plan's priorities.
- 12.15 Opportunities for enhancing the historic environment should be considered as part of infrastructure management and delivery, particularly in relation to Heritage at Risk. For example, it was suggested that public realm work can assist with overall enhancement of an area and have potential to positively impact on Conservation Areas. Additionally archaeology surveys can add to the Historic Environment Record and provide opportunities for local engagement and understanding through better revealing.
- 12.16 A respondent agreed that the key challenges identified in the Initial (Regulation 18) Consultation document were appropriate and it was further noted that the council is preparing a CIL alongside the Local Plan. It was highlighted that there will be a need to take on board the findings of the CIL Review Group report 'A New Approach to Developer

Contributions' October 2016 (submitted to government), which supports twin tracking CIL and Section 106 planning contributions and as such should be fully assessed as part of the consultation on any emerging CIL charging schedule.

- 12.17 Specific reference was made to infrastructure in Kirton in Lindsey and Brigg. It was considered to be out dated and requires infrastructure to be upgraded to support current and future requirements as both settlements expand. Similarly it was felt that too many houses have been built in Messingham without improving the existing inadequate infrastructure. The issue of timing of improvements to infrastructure in Barton upon Humber was also questioned.
- 12.18 A respondent did not considered it appropriate to build on flood plains, whilst another felt that costs of development in the flood plain should be known before locating development in them.
- 12.19 It was noted that the infrastructure section of consultation document referred exclusively to 'grey' infrastructure. It was considered there is a need to also crucially consider all people's needs, economy and place and include green infrastructure within this section. This, it was stated, will ensure that green infrastructure will be fully incorporated into developments. Green infrastructure has well evidenced benefits for place, amenity, health, tourism and can be multifunctional increasing its value for money.
- 12.20 It was noted that the consultation document covered the main issues of concern but it should add to the flood risk management "covering a range of approaches including defences, adaptation and mitigation" as a key challenge. This could be explained as "promoting an integrated approach to surface water management for new development". Also, there was support for an integrated approach to infrastructure provision. For example appropriately designed green infrastructure can have multiple benefits in relation to SuDs, amenity provision and value for wildlife. It was stated that the Plan's policies should guide developers for making the best use of infrastructure, including habitat creation and providing biodiversity gains – for example flood defence schemes can provide opportunities for wetland habitat creation.
- 12.21 A proposal was received to examine whether goods that are moved by road and rail, could be better moved using pipelines or barges. It was felt that the plan should encourage companies to look into this and that allowance must be made for possible future usage.
- 12.22 Although not directly related to infrastructure, it was considered that the planning authority must have powers to control the development of sites, particularly in respect of issues such as house type, size and density. Further, it was felt that local people and their representatives should have a greater influence on whether plans are acceptable or not. More investment in public buildings was also supported.

**Question 22: Are there any improvements you think are required to North Lincolnshire's infrastructure to support growth? If yes, please tell us**

- 12.23 In addition to the broad range infrastructure improvements outlined in the table (see above), respondents also provided a list of specific infrastructure projects or schemes that they felt that the Local Plan should consider. These have been grouped by infrastructure type. A number of comments were also more general in nature.

**Road**

- 12.24 The following suggestions were received for improvements to the road network in North Lincolnshire:
- Berkeley Circle, Scunthorpe: it was considered that the roundabout needs to be freed up to allow a better flow of traffic or a new slip road to the M180 at Messingham needs to be constructed as an alternative.
  - Mortal Ash Hill Scunthorpe - needs a 60mph speed restriction as the road is too fast near to the turning to Kirton in Lindsey.
  - Traffic calming measures – all measures such as speed humps, traffic lights, all obstacles in the road and cycle lanes should be removed immediately.
  - Southern road link – it was suggested improved road links to south are required, perhaps via A15 improvements or an M11 extension northwards.
  - A15 – it was felt that the A15 needs to be dualled from Junction 4 of M180 to Lincoln, in order to improve access to the South Humber Ports.
  - M180 between Junctions 3 and 4, south of Scunthorpe – it was considered that this section of the M180 needs widening to three lanes to improve the accident rate in this location – now the A160 to the South Humber Ports has been dualled this part of the M180 (route to the South Humber ports) is the next bottleneck to be resolved.

- Bypasses – it was suggested that Scunthorpe, Barton upon Humber and Brigg all need bypasses.
- Scotter Road South – it proposed to widen the C221 between Scotter and Scunthorpe (Asda - North Moor Road), to take the pressure off the A159 through Messingham.
- HGV restrictions – it was felt that HGV's should be routed away from villages.

#### **Rail**

12.25 There was a general view that rail services and the network needed to be improved to make them more attractive for commuters as well as the tourism or leisure market. Specifically it felt that there should be more services to and from Kirton in Lindsey on weekdays to Gainsborough and Barnetby as well as Lincoln and Doncaster. Also, it was highlighted that there should be improved car park provision at railway stations delivered in partnership with rail operators.

#### **Cycle & Walking**

12.26 The need to ensure that priority is given to safer opportunities for cycling was highlighted. Specific proposals received to improve the walking and cycling network were:

- Scotter Road South Scunthorpe – provision of a cycle path/cycle on Scotter Road South from the Burringham Road Roundabout to the maximum speed limit southwards and then on to Scotter.
- Humber Bank – the existing track along the Humber bank should be a cycle path along its whole length.
- English Coast Path – it was highlight that it and associated links to existing footpath network in the area represented an opportunity to support tourism. Similarly, it was viewed that increasing opportunities for boating on the River Ancholme would do likewise.

#### **Utilities/Water Infrastructure**

12.27 The reference to the impact of new development on water supply and sewerage facilities was welcomed. It was highlighted that upgrades to water recycling centres, where required to provide for additional growth, would be wholly funded by water companies including Anglian Water through their Asset Management Plans. Anglian Water, it was stated, will continue to identify where upgrades are required in terms of long term maintenance and growth expectations. In addition Anglian Water are currently considering a 25 year growth forecast for its area of responsibility and are developing long term integrated strategies to manage growth for highest risk catchments – these will be published and consulted on in Anglian Water's 'Water Recycling Long Term Plan' as part of the PR19 business planning process (the next business plan period).

12.28 All new sites will require a connection to the water supply and foul sewerage networks. Dependent upon the location and scale of proposed development improvements may be required to the existing water supply and/or foul sewerage networks. Foul networks are generally funded /part funded through developer contribution via the relevant sections of the Water Act 1991. The cost and extent of the required network improvement are investigated and determined when the Water Company are approached by the developer and an appraisal is carried out.

12.29 Water infrastructure provision will be dependent on location and scale of the development and contributions for upgrades or strategic schemes will be obtained through provisions in the Water industry Act 1991.

#### **General/Additional Comments**

12.30 On a more general point, it was highlighted infrastructure needs to be provided to support development over the lifetime of the Local Plan. It was suggested that the council work closely with relevant bodies and organisations to ensure that it is delivered. Furthermore, it was felt that public transport links between shopping areas around Scunthorpe should be improved and that there should be improved flood protection along the River Trent. Better access for disabled/infirm people was also sought.

12.31 Reference was made to the need to consider the emerging Appleby Parish Neighbourhood Plan, which has evidence from the parish's residents in relation to all types of infrastructure mentioned in this question.

12.32 In addition, it was considered that green infrastructure should be added to the list of infrastructure matters being considered in the Local Plan as it can support growth and improve places.

## **13 MANAGING & DELIVERING DEVELOPMENT**

## INTRODUCTION

- 13.1 In addition to establishing the amount of growth needed and where it should be located, Local Plans must set out how and when development will be delivered. This includes providing a framework against which planning applications can be assessed and subsequently determined, as well as identifying how the infrastructure needed to support development is provided.
- 13.2 In relation to determine planning applications, this is currently covered by existing policies within the Core Strategy and saved policies of the Local Plan. These examine and assess factors such as size, layout, siting, design, external appearance, site access, drainage, landscaping and open space. These are crucial in terms of securing good quality sustainable developments.
- 13.3 The planning system currently provides for some of the burdens or costs placed on infrastructure through planning obligations (S106) where the specific planning issues arising from a development proposal can be addressed on a site by site basis. The process for secure contributions has been changed with the introduction of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).
- 13.4 The Initial Consultation (Regulation 18) document contained two questions relating to development management issues and settlement development limits. Respondents were given the opportunity to state what subjects/issues should be addressed by any new development management policies, whilst for Question 24, they were asked to give their views on whether the use of settlement development limits remains appropriate.

## RESPONSES

- 13.5 A total of **43** responses were received in respect of Question 23, whilst **70** responses were received for Question 24. Details are shown in the table below:

Question	No. of Responses	%
<b>23. What issues and challenges should be addressed by the development management policies?</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>100</b>
No response to question	61	-
<b>24. Is the approach of identifying development limits for settlements still appropriate? If not what approach should be taken?</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>100</b>
• <i>Yes</i>	29	41
• <i>No</i>	18	25
• <i>Don't Known/No Opinion</i>	21	30
• <i>Other Response</i>	2	3
No response to question	34	-

## SUMMARY OF COMMENTS

### Question 23: What issues and challenges should be addressed by the development management policies?

- 13.6 There was some support for the approach taken in the Core Strategy to managing development. However, a number of suggestions were put forward regarding the subjects or issues that development management policies should cover or the approach they should adopt. Some suggestions were made regarding potential policy wording.
- 13.7 For the policies themselves, it was considered that they needed to be flexible and adaptable as well as positively written and locally distinctive. It was stated that policies need to be SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and time-bound), capable of being enforced and capable of being used by decision makers to facilitate sustainable, affordable, economically viable development in appropriate locations whilst ensuring that existing built and natural environments are protected and enhanced.
- 13.8 Amongst the suggested issues to be covered via development management policies include:
- Development strategy – the policy framework should seek to maintain a country/rural feel for the area, with the provision of light industry encouraged and that towns/villages should be linked by a high quality road network (including motorway access).
  - Creating Sustainable Communities – policies should support the development of sustainable communities and ensure that appropriate provision is made for community infrastructure alongside the delivery of new housing

development. This includes schools, recreation, sport, leisure, village halls and health/social services. Furthermore it was recommended that policies need to minimise the impact of development on local communities and promote well-being. The creation of mixed use development was also supported.

- Employment Land/Economy - policies should not be restrictive in relation to the expansion of employment land and as such should allow new employment land opportunities to come forward when it can be demonstrated they are appropriately located. There was suggestion that policies should include greater support for local businesses.
- Delivering Housing Development – it was considered that policies should ensure the delivery of affordable housing, particularly in rural communities. It was also suggested that policies should possibly include a restriction on the buy to rent provision in certain developments. In respect of an affordable housing policy it was felt that it should be robust, fit for purpose and enforced.
- Infrastructure Provision – it was felt that the policies should ensure the provision of appropriate roads, rail and communications infrastructure in the area. One specific project suggested was the provision of an access from Burringham to the M180.
- Levels of growth – the future level of growth in the area’s Market Towns were also viewed as key issue to be tackled by policy.
- Design of development – it was considered that policies should ensure that the design quality of new development is of the highest possible quality and that it is appropriate for its surroundings.
- Managing flood risk, water supply and wastewater – a number of respondents considered the plan should include a policy in respect of flooding and water infrastructure provision.

Specifically, it was suggested that policy wording should include a requirement for applicants to provide appropriate evidence relating to the available capacity of existing water supply and wastewater infrastructure and the extent to which improvements are required as part of the planning application process. They would also be expected to include information on how they have addressed the potential risk of sewer flooding.

It was also stated that policy should ensure a balance between the need for development with the extensive areas at risk of flooding, including identification of what North Lincolnshire Council accept as ‘safe’ development for various use classes, given the local constraints.

- Managing surface water – it was recommended that the plan should include a policy/policies that emphasises the importance of following the surface water hierarchy with connections to the public sewerage network only being permitted after suitable alternatives have been fully considered.
- Water efficiency – it was suggested that the Local Plan should give consideration to adopting the optional higher water efficiency standard (110 litres per person per day) for residential development as outlined in the National Planning Practice Guidance.
- Biodiversity & Geodiversity – a number of respondents highlighted the need for provision of policies to protect and enhance the area’s biodiversity and geodiversity. This would include affordable relevant levels of protection to designated sites from inappropriate development, enhancing ecological networks and achieving net biodiversity gains from new development.
- Open Space – there was support for the inclusion of open space as part of new developments.
- Reuse of brownfield land – this was supported, however it was stated that any policy wording regarding the prioritisation of brownfield sites should also recognise that some brownfield sites may have developed significant biodiversity interest and would therefore not be suitable for development. This would be in line with the NPPF.
- Historic environment – it was considered that this issue should be addressed in a policy or policies within the new Plan. Specifically it was recommended that they should incorporate local references e.g. key views to and from assets, as appropriate.

Should any larger site allocations which may be taken forward it was recommended that they have their own specific policies in order to set out specific requirements for the site, including any aspects relevant to the historic

environment such as heritage impact assessment, archaeological survey, Masterplans, areas of the site to protect from development etc. It is also recommended that policies relating to town centres, shop fronts, and advertisements, are included within development management policies.

- Minerals – it was highlighted that the saved development management policies date from 2003 and need to be updated in the Local Plan to reflect the NPPF/PPG. It was suggested that they need to should give greater weight to the benefits of mineral extraction including to the economy.
- Planning Obligations/Delivery – it was suggested that the policy framework should make sure that section 106 & CIL contributions are appropriate, and that they are collected/enforced. Also it was suggested that there should be greater transparency/accountability for non-delivery of the Local Plan.
- Brexit – it was felt that any policy framework, particularly relating to the economy should factor in the issue of the UK leaving the European Union as this may have an effect on future economic development and employment.

13.9 Another issue identified, although not related to future development management policies, will be the need to develop and strengthen working relations with the statutory bodies as delivering development relies on close co-operation between them and the council. Accordingly, it was stated that the Plan should be explicit in how the local authority will employ improved joint working practices to help minimise instances where development is unnecessarily delayed or even refused.

13.10 As a general issue, it was felt that there should be greater control over developments and that communities and their representatives should have a greater role to play in the planning system and that there should be greater transparency in decision making.

**Question 24: Is the approach of identifying development limits for settlements still appropriate? If not what approach should be taken?**

13.11 Of those who responded to this question, 41% supported the continued use of settlement development limits as tool for managing future growth. Around a quarter did not agree with this approach, whilst 30% were unsure or had no opinion.

13.12 A number of respondents supported the use of development limits. They are viewed as being essential, and an important means of ensuring development does not encroach unnecessarily into the open countryside or onto greenfield sites. It was felt that this would lead to detrimental impacts on settlement character, pressure on existing services and settlement coalescence.

13.13 Other support was more qualified. For example, it was felt that limits should be agreed locally and then strictly applied. Also, limits were felt to be appropriate at present, but a new approach would be necessary, particularly as the makeup of the population changes, to ensure there is a balance between growth and community cohesion.

13.14 Clarity was sought on how development limits were previously defined as part of the Local Development Framework and the criteria used.

13.15 A number of respondents, considered the use of development limits to be inappropriate as they would be contrary to the provisions of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) relating to sustainable development and countryside protection. Development limits were considered to be restrictive and inflexible when assessed against the NPPF. As such growth of settlements, it was felt, should not be constrained by defining development limit. It was suggested that an approach based on understanding of the character and value of areas around settlements combined with other considerations (housing needs, service and infrastructure provision/capacity) should be adopted prior to identifying growth levels for the areas' settlements. It was suggest that growth should only be restricted in areas of defined value landscapes, particularly those with formal designations.

13.16 The approach related to development limits in Barton upon Humber and various land uses was questioned.

13.17 It was highlighted that outside the Scunthorpe urban area and the market towns, development limits were tightly drawn compared with previous plans, curtailing infill development or development on windfall sites, which has restricted supply and logical small scale development.

13.18 A number of alternative approaches were also put forward. These were suggested by those who supported the principle of development limits but felt the approach should be amended. Many considered that the current approach was too restrictive and as such should include an element of flexibility, including being reviewed during the plan period.

- 13.19 Having a more fluid approach was considered to be more responsive to changes in national and regional policy, whilst still already a degree of control through the planning system. Another respondent suggested that any approach should allow sustainable development to come forward without delay and is pro-active. To assist this it was recommended that limits should not be applied to smaller settlements, and that a policy approach should be adopted that ensures suitable, windfall sites for small housing schemes are supported.
- 13.20 One potential approach suggested was to apply development limits in Scunthorpe, the Market Towns and possibly, Larger Service Centres, and then use criteria based policies for smaller villages that may allow infill or development that is well related to the existing settlement footprint. A further suggestion was to give settlements a housing supply range rather a single figure.
- 13.21 Another approach put forward was the inclusion of buffer to allow for continued expansion of housing and employment sites in appropriate locations (where this could be demonstrated). In a similar vein, it was recommended that an allowance of 5% growth per annum should be permitted in rural communities, which would allow for changes in population structure as well as to meet the aspirations of existing and future residents.
- 13.22 It was also suggested that a more innovative approach should be adopted in defining settlement hierarchies and development limits, which would allow more sustainable development options to be considered, particularly in smaller and rural communities. The current approach was viewed as restrictive and could potentially make settlements less not more sustainable. Also it was felt not to take account of the unique character of the area and has resulted in the separation of housing growth areas and employment areas. Further, the current approach was highlighted as being not being in line with the NPPF and the desire to create sustainable communities.
- 13.23 Should development limits continue to be used, a number of respondents suggested that they should take into account all forms of developments. This would include proposed development on allocated sites especially those or adjacent to existing limits. Also it was recommended that a more justified approach should be taken to assessing proposals outside development limits that are allocated for different uses. The current policy approach is not felt to be the most appropriate. An example was highlighted at Ealand.
- 13.24 Specific reference was made to the development limits for Scunthorpe and Barton upon Humber. For Scunthorpe, the current development limit (defined in the Housing & Employment Land Allocations DPD) was supported. With regard to Barton upon Humber, the existing development was consider restrictive and should be extended to support further growth.
- 13.25 Several respondents focussed on where growth should take place. It was suggested that development should occur in the towns and market towns due to availability of infrastructure. Development in villages was felt to have a detrimental impact on communities via increased traffic and pollution. The opposite approach was also put forward – to expand villages to allow for more affordable housing provision. Also, it was considered that green spaces should be protected. The question of infrastructure provision and improvement to meet growth was also raised.
- 13.26 Furthermore, it was recommended that a robust strategy to assess the suitability of potential development site allocations and robust historic environment policy, or policies, is required within the new Plan whether limits to development are incorporated into proposals maps or not.
- 13.27 It was felt that broader infrastructure meets future needs and that areas chosen need to be delivered within appropriate timescales and that any future unknown external factors are taken into account.
- 13.28 Several respondents considered it important that the views of the local community and their representatives should be given greater weight. Consultation, it was suggested should be more pro-active and the community requirements better understood.

## APPENDIX 1: LIST OF RESPONDENTS & AGENTS

- ABLE UK Ltd (David Lock Associates)
- Associated British Ports (BNP Paribas)
- Anglian Water Services Ltd
- Appleby Parish Council
- Barrow upon Humber Parish Council
- Burton upon Stather Parish Council
- Chipp Ltd (DLP Planning)
- CPRE North Lincolnshire (KVA Planning)
- Doncaster Council
- East Riding of Yorkshire Council
- Edgon Resources UK Ltd (Barton Willmore)
- Elsham Parish Council
- Environment Agency
- Epworth Town Council
- Glenrock Ltd (DLP Planning)
- Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership
- Epworth Town Council
- Grice & Hunter
- H.E. & B.S. Thorpe
- Health & Safety Executive
- Highways England
- Historic England
- Home Builders Federation
- Hull City Council
- Kirmington & Croxton Parish Council
- Kirton Consulting Ltd
- Kirton in Lindsey Town Council
- Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust
- Merryvale Developments (Oxalis Planning)
- Messingham Parish Council
- Mineral Products Association
- Miss. D. Lynch
- Moorwalk Ltd (WYG)
- Mr. & Mrs. P. Connor
- Mr. & Mrs. R. Burnett (Barton Willmore)
- Mr. A. Curruthers (DLP Planning)
- Mr. A. Gilderson
- Mr. C. Curtis
- Mr. C. Horsfall
- Mr. C. Pledger
- Mr. D. Anderson
- Mr. D. Llewellyn
- Mr. D. Roberts
- Mr. G. Cunliffe-Baker
- Mr. G. Jewitt (DLP Planning)
- Mr. H. Thorpe
- Mr. I. Johnson & Mr. B. Male (DLP Planning Ltd)
- Mr. J. Startin
- Mr. J. Teasdale
- Mr. J. Thompson (Barrow upon Humber Parish Council)
- Mr. J. Torr
- Mr. K. Guy (Barrow upon Humber Parish Council)
- Mr. K. Scales
- Mr. L. Dillon (Acorn Planning)
- Mr. L. Riley (Acorn Planning)
- Mr. M. Orridge
- Mr. M. Bannister
- Mr. M. Scott
- Mr. M. Wilson
- Mr. N. Charles
- Mr. N. Green
- Mr. N. Wells
- Mr. P. Bosanquet
- Mr. P. Jackson
- Mr. P. Jones
- Mr. P. Miller
- Mr. P. Tattersfield
- Mr. R. Fletcher (Barrow upon Humber Parish Council)
- Mr. R. Rowbottom
- Mr. R. Shawyer
- Mr. S. Clixby
- Mr. S. Morgan
- Mr. T. Davies
- Mr. T. Mitchell
- Mr. V. Flynn
- Mrs. G. Clayton
- Ms. A. Green
- Ms. A. Lawtey
- Ms. C. Guy (Barrow upon Humber Parish Council)
- Ms. C. Stephenson
- Ms. G. Crane
- Ms. H. Craggs
- Ms. L. Newstead
- Ms. P. Dudson
- Ms. P. Kingham
- Ms. U. Vickerton
- N. Thompson
- National Grid (AMEC Foster Wheeler)
- Natural England
- Nottinghamshire County Council
- Onward Holdings Ltd (DLP Planning)
- S. Jackson & Son (DLP Planning)
- S.H. Brown (Farms) Ltd
- Saxby all Saints Parish Council
- Scunthorpe Renaissance Town Team
- Sibleco UK

- St. John's College (Cambridge) (Savills UK Ltd)
- The Coal Authority
- The Theatres Trust
- TransPennine Express
- Trinity House (Savills UK Ltd)
- Trustees of Lord St. Oswald (Deceased) (Savills UK Ltd)
- Wienerberger Ltd (DBA Estates Ltd)

