

North Lincolnshire

Local Plan

ISSUES & OPTIONS (REGULATION 18)

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WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

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

HAVE YOUR SAY. BE PART OF THE PLAN

This stage, in the process of preparing the new Local Plan – Issues & Options Consultation (Regulation 18) stage, represents how best to address the issues and challenges facing the area.

Based on feedback gathered at Stage 1 (2017) – Initial Consultation (Regulation 18) and anything arising from the emerging supporting evidence base, we have prepared this Issues & Options (Regulation 18) document.

This document outlines the overall vision and issues for the new Local Plan; setting out a range of options for dealing with the issues, which the plan needs to address and is supported by two important assessments that must be published alongside it:

Issues & Options – Sustainability Appraisal Environmental Report

Issues & Options – Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening Assessment

How this document is set out:

- 'What's it all about?' – Explains this consultation
- 'It's in the detail' – looks in more depth at:
 - The overall ambition, a range of options for dealing with the various issues that the plan needs to address in North Lincolnshire and questions relating to them
- Identifying suitable land for future development – Call for Sites

(We think some options everyone may want to address or answer. Others are more technical or specialist in nature. You can answer as many or as few as you like, or just answer the ones that are relevant to you.)

WHAT IS A LOCAL PLAN AND WHY WE NEED IT

Government requires that all local councils develop a long-term plan for the next 15-20 years that sets out:

- A vision and objectives for the future development of the area, addressing needs and opportunities in relation to housing, the economy, community facilities and infrastructure – as well as a basis for safeguarding the environment, adapting to climate change and securing good design.
- The policies and proposals that will be used to guide decisions and investment on development and regeneration up to 2036.

The Plan can also reflect local features and circumstances, which give places their very distinct identity.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) is the government policy on planning. This framework places Local Plans at the heart of the system; it is essential that they are in place and kept up to date. An up-to-date Local Plan enables the council to pro-actively guide where, when and how new housing, employment and other development takes place.

It is important that we get the Local Plan right so that it can help deliver council's outcomes and ambition that 'North Lincolnshire is the best place in which to live, work, visit and invest'.

A Local Plan should be aspirational but realistic and provide enough flexibility to adjust to rapid change. Therefore, it must be based upon up-to-date facts (sound evidence).

MONITORING THE LOCAL PLAN

An important part of the Local Plan process is making sure that we monitor its success. This means understanding if the Plan is being delivered and is effective.

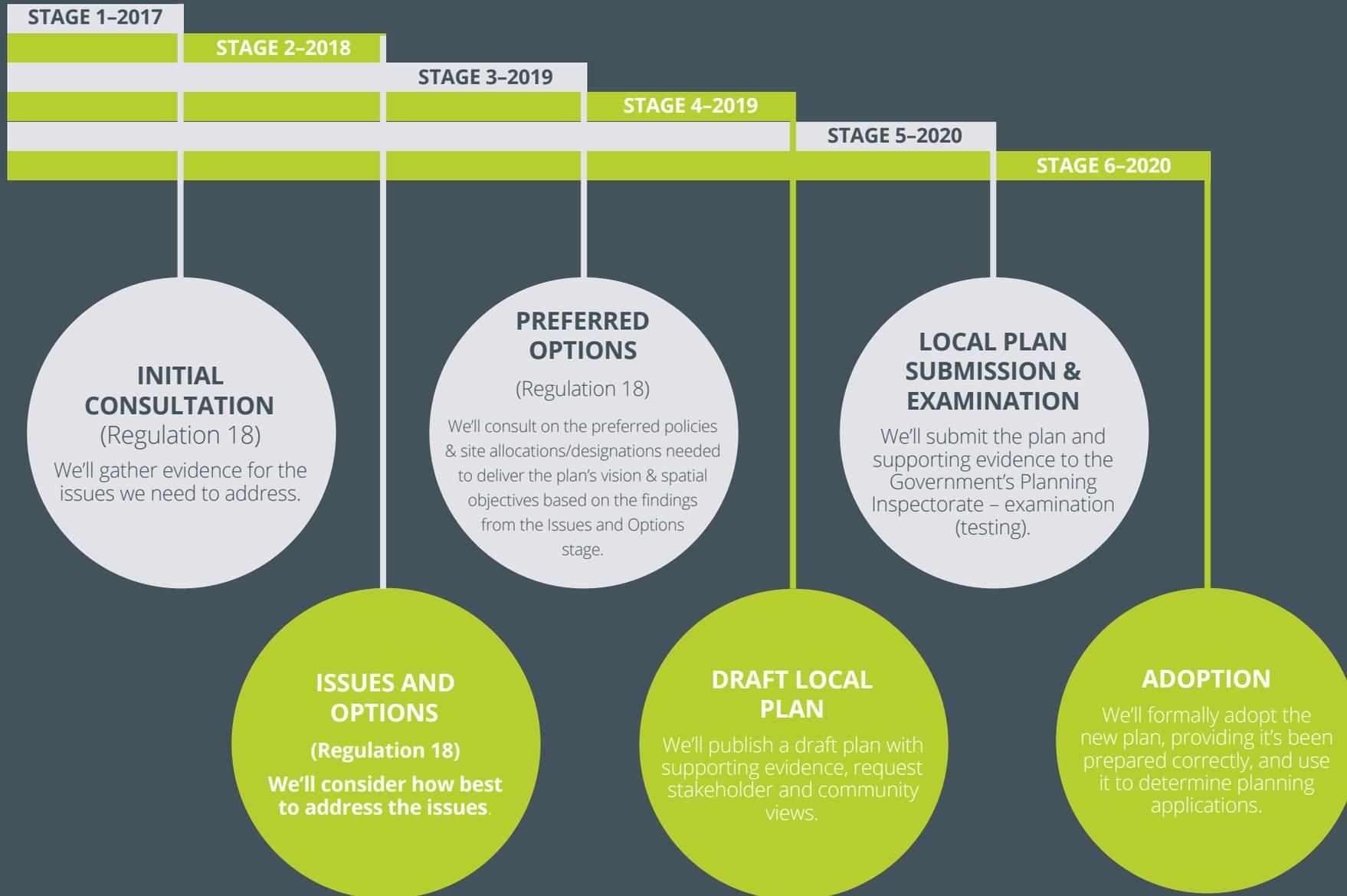
As the preparation of the Local Plan moves on and its policies and proposals emerge, we will develop a monitoring framework – a series of targets and indicators that we will use to test if these policies and proposals are effective and being achieved. It will also tell us if they need to be reviewed in response to any changes in circumstance.

As part of the Local Plan, we will prepare and publish an Authority Monitoring Report (AMR) based on the monitoring framework to show how the Plan is performing.



LOCAL PLAN STAGES

Stages involved in the preparation of the Local Plan:



IT'S IN THE DETAIL

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE
– THE BEST PLACE TO
LIVE, WORK, VISIT AND
INVEST.

This is our ambition for the future of the area. We want the area and its communities to be safe, well, prosperous and connected.

We already have a growing and diverse economy. We are at the heart of the Humber Energy Estuary and have a unique location as one of the United Kingdom's main international trade gateways. North Lincolnshire is recognised as a leader in the following sectors: advanced engineering; chemicals and petrochemicals; food and drink; metals; and ports, freight and logistics, whilst the tourism sector is also growing.

We are transforming our area. Over £5 billion of investment in our economy, communities and infrastructure has already taken place or is planned to take place by 2020. This will transform the image and economy of North Lincolnshire to ensure that it is an exciting place to live, work, visit and invest. It will also contribute towards creating a cleaner, greener and safer North Lincolnshire.

North Lincolnshire is a place where the quality of life is high and the cost of living is low. We have a growing economy and are striving to make the most of our location and the ongoing transformation of our rich leisure, recreation, culture, heritage and green spaces. These attributes make it an attractive place to live, work, visit and invest.

One of our main priorities is to make sure that growth and development in North Lincolnshire is sustainable and complements and enhances the area's high quality natural and built environment.

Preparing a new Local Plan provides an opportunity to look afresh at what sort of place we want North Lincolnshire to be in the future. However, we must recognise that it will be difficult to achieve a balance between seeking growth to meet the needs of current and future generations whilst safeguarding the natural, built and historic environments that are so special.

We want our economy to continue to grow and diversify (be prosperous), for there to be opportunities to support the wellbeing of our residents (be safe; be well) and to ensure that everyone is able to access the opportunities that the area provides (be connected). And we want it to be a place that is cleaner, greener and safer.

We want to positively plan for our area's future, providing for development and associated infrastructure that is needed while retaining the quality of our local environment.

North Lincolnshire Local Plan (2017 to 2036)

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 Housing and Employment Land Allocations Development Plan Documents (DPDs), and the Lincolnshire Lakes Area Action Plan (AAP).

There are two reasons why we are preparing a new Local Plan:

- A change in legislation (law) 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 Core Strategy needs to be reviewed/updated to take account of national planning policy changes.

Together, these changes make it the right time to prepare the new Local Plan to provide complete and up-to-date local policy coverage for North Lincolnshire.

It is also an opportunity to look back and assess what the existing Local Development Framework

has achieved since 2011, to re-evaluate the area's current position, to look at what type of place North Lincolnshire will be in 19 years' time, and how we intend to get there. The spatial portrait set out in section 2 provides an overview of the transformation that has already taken place over recent years, or is ongoing. It says we have not been standing still with over £5 billion of investment in place or scheduled to take place by 2020.

Preparation of the new Plan gives you an opportunity to say what you want for North Lincolnshire. You know your local area and we want to work with you to prepare the new Plan to reflect your views and those of your local community. In particular, we want to know what you think North Lincolnshire should be like in the future and where you want to live.

The Broader Context

As well as the changing planning context, our Local Plan is being prepared in a wider context. The way in which our public services are delivered and funded at national and local levels is changing. There is greater emphasis on finding and developing new ways of working across different organisations. This might include joining up or integrating services as well as sharing facilities. For example, the One Public Estate programme aims to ensure that the public sector makes the most efficient use of its assets such as land and buildings to stimulate the delivery of housing and to support economic growth.

What Have We Done So Far?

- We have already undertaken an initial consultation exercise between late February and mid-April 2017.
- We published an Initial (Regulation 18) Consultation document to raise awareness about the Local Plan and to get the views of local communities and others about the issues that should be covered in the plan. This, together with available evidence and policy, has helped to inform this Issues and Options stage.
- We are analysing the 'Call for Sites' submissions and will publish these for comment later in the Plan process.

National Context

The Local Plan must be prepared in line with relevant legislation¹ and be consistent with the national planning policies. These are set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (March 2012) and the accompanying Planning Practice Guidance (March 2014) as well as in other policy statements.

The NPPF requires all councils to produce a Local Plan and keep it up to date. Without one, the council could have less influence over the location of new development and the provision of infrastructure. The Government has placed particular emphasis on the need for economic and housing growth across all areas of England and that this should be delivered by way of an up-to-date Local Plan.

National planning policy sets clear expectations as to how a Local Plan must be positively prepared and developed in order to be justified, effective and consistent with national policy and to deliver sustainable development that meets local needs and national priorities.

Duty to Co-operate

We must prepare the Local Plan with due regard to the Duty to Co-operate². This requires us to work closely with neighbouring authorities and certain other public bodies like Natural England or Historic England on cross-boundary strategic planning issues when preparing the Local Plan as well as on matters that would have a significant impact on two or more local authority areas. North Lincolnshire is bordered by two county councils (Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire), two district councils (Bassetlaw and West Lindsey) and four unitary councils (Doncaster, East Riding of Yorkshire, Hull and North East Lincolnshire).

As part of this co-operation, we will seek to identify the economic, social and environmental linkages with neighbouring areas and ensure particular issues are understood and resolved, wherever possible. Similarly, this process will allow North Lincolnshire to influence the Local Plans of our neighbours.

¹ This includes the **Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended)** and the **Town & Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012**

² **Localism Act 2011 – section 110**

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE – FACTS AND FIGURES

Our ambition is that North Lincolnshire is the best place in which to live, work, visit and invest. To achieve and sustain this ambition and outcomes we need to make sure we plan not only for the needs of existing communities but that we also ensure it remains a destination of choice: a place where people and businesses choose to live, work, visit and invest as well as an area that is cleaner, greener and safer.

The North Lincolnshire Local Plan (2017 to 2036) and the strategy for meeting our ambitions must be based on a good understanding of where North Lincolnshire is today and its characteristics. It should also consider the issues and challenges it faces as well as the opportunities it offers.

The information set out below is based on some of the early evidence gathered to support the Local Plan as well as statistical information provided by the council's **data observatory**. This is an online resource that provides the local authority, partner agencies and communities across North Lincolnshire easy access to data on population, the economy, community safety, health and education.

Our Transformation So Far

The area is transforming and we want to continue to build on this success creating a safe, well, prosperous and connected area. Over £5 billion of investment in our economy, communities and infrastructure has either taken place or is due to take place by 2020. Amongst the transformational projects that either are completed or are under construction are:

- The Able Marine Energy Park on the South Humber Gateway is a strategic site that can develop as an energy cluster.
- The North Lincolnshire Shopping Park, which opened in October 2014, is a £23m investment that created 300 jobs. Marks and Spencer and Debenhams anchor the development.
- The Humber University Technical College (UTC) in Scunthorpe, which opened in 2015, is an £11m investment that created 600 student places and 220 jobs. The UTC provides a specialist engineering education for students from Years 10 to 13.
- The Maritime and Coastguard Agency's new Search and Rescue base operated by Bristow Group opened in 2015 at Humberside Airport. This £12m investment created 60 jobs.

- The BAE Systems Training Academy at Humberside Airport is a £5m investment creating around 60 apprentice opportunities each year resulting in 150 jobs. It is a first of its kind for North Lincolnshire.
- The 4-star 103-room Hampton by Hilton Hotel at Humberside Airport – a £7m investment with 100 jobs created. The council supported the project through Regional Growth Funds and opened in July 2017.
- £132m investment by Highways England to upgrade the A160 to a dual carriageway, improvements to the A160/A180 Brocklesby Interchange and at the entrance to the South Humber Bank ports. Recently completed, this is a central element hub supporting development of one of our area's key economic opportunities.
- £9.6m Northern Lincolnshire Superfast Broadband – 96% of Northern Lincolnshire has access to superfast broadband speeds and by 2018, it is predicted that 99% of the area will have access.
- Priority Schools Building Programme (PSBP) – £60m of Government funding: used to rebuild and refurbish eight schools in North Lincolnshire including Baysgarth School in Barton, The Vale Academy in Brigg, Burton-upon-Stather Primary School, Crosby Primary School, Oasis Academy Henderson Avenue in Scunthorpe, Brumby Junior School, and Ashby's Grange Lane Primary School (replacing Grange Lane Infant and Grange Lane Junior Schools).
- £13.5m is to be invested in a number of our schools to maintain and improve buildings and facilities.
- 15 miles of North Lincolnshire's coastline between the Humber Bridge at Barton-upon-Humber and South Killingholme will be part of the England Coastal Path. It is due to open in 2019.
- £60m will be invested in Scunthorpe town centre by 2022 as part of major programme to become a centre for business, learning and living.

The new Local Plan is an opportunity to look afresh at what sort of place we want North Lincolnshire to be over the life of the Plan (the next 19 years).

North Lincolnshire – The Location

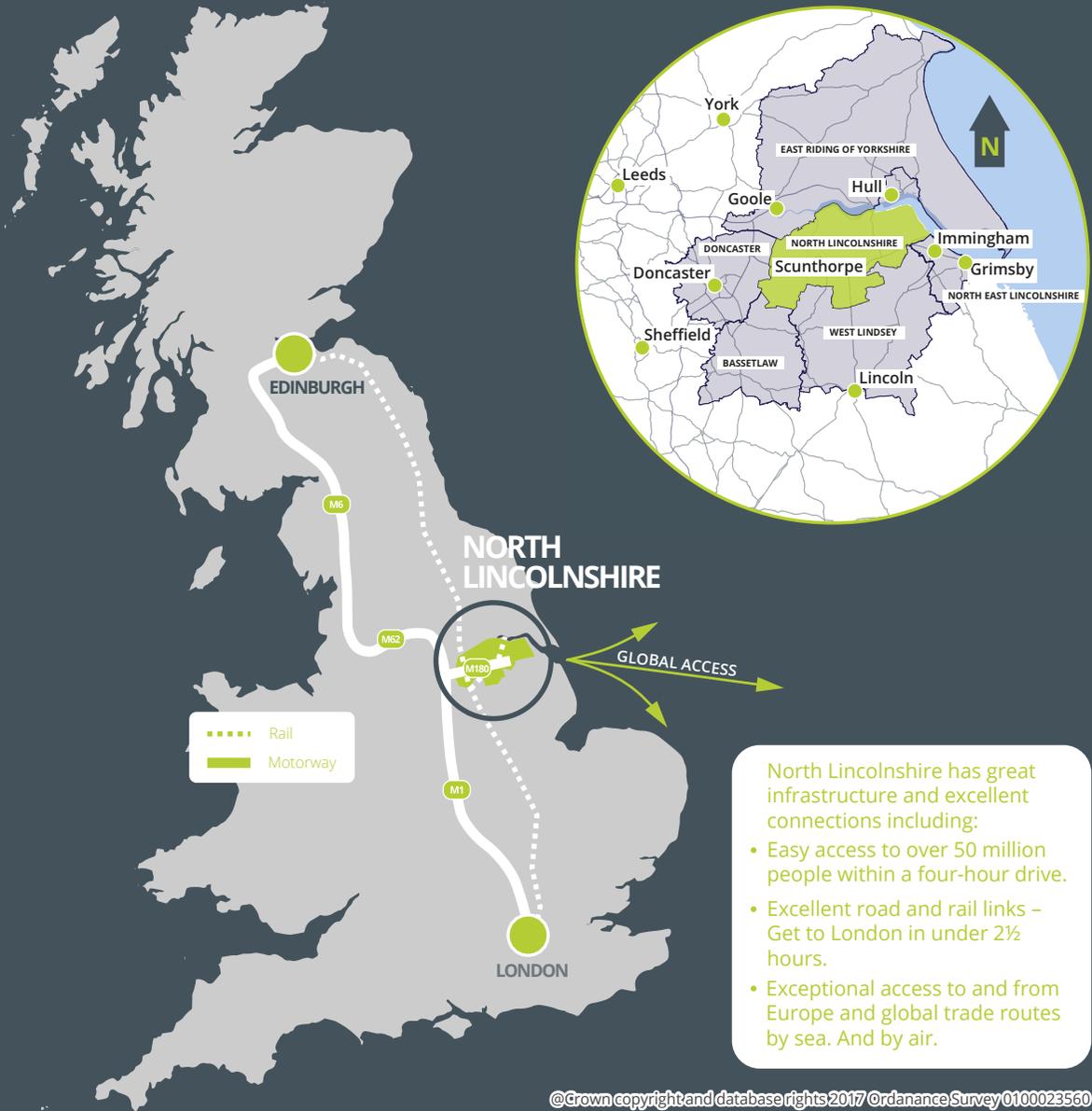
One of our main opportunities is the prime location of North Lincolnshire within the UK. Coupled with our high quality environment and attractive communities this makes North Lincolnshire a great place in which to live, work, visit and invest.

Located at the mid-point of the United Kingdom’s east coast on the south bank of the Humber Estuary (equidistant between London and Edinburgh), North Lincolnshire covers 328 square miles (859 km²). This location is a national and international asset. We are one of the country’s key trade gateways to and from Europe and the wider world and over 50 million people are within a four-hour drive. Residents and businesses can take advantage of our less congested road and rail networks, our faster commuting journeys, and easy access to UK and continental markets.

North Lincolnshire is predominately rural and made up of a number of historic market towns: Barton-upon-Humber, Brigg, Crowle, Epworth, Kirton-in-Lindsey and Winterton. These are surrounded by many desirable larger and smaller villages and hamlets as well as an attractive countryside. At the centre of the area lies Scunthorpe our main focus for education, jobs retail, services and industry.

Our neighbours are East Riding of Yorkshire, Hull, Lincolnshire (West Lindsey), Nottinghamshire (Bassetlaw), North East Lincolnshire and South Yorkshire (Doncaster).

Figure 1: North Lincolnshire’s Location



North Lincolnshire has great infrastructure and excellent connections including:

- Easy access to over 50 million people within a four-hour drive.
- Excellent road and rail links – Get to London in under 2½ hours.
- Exceptional access to and from Europe and global trade routes by sea. And by air.

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A Growing Population

North Lincolnshire is home to 170,786 people⁴ and our population is set to grow over the coming years. During the ten years between 2005 and 2015, it grew more than 8%, and over the lifetime of the new Local Plan and beyond trends predicts that our population will increase by around 6% to reach 1789,537 in 2039⁵. Our ambition is that our population will continue to grow, and different growth scenarios are considered later in the Plan. Whichever growth scenario is selected the Plan will need to ensure that the right level, choice, quality and type of housing, jobs, facilities and services (including infrastructure) is provided to sustain it.

Although our population is growing, trends show that its make-up is also changing. By far the biggest increase in population is projected to take place in people of pensionable age (65+), with a projected increase of 55.4%. Indeed, 28.9% of North Lincolnshire's population is projected to be aged 65 and over by 2039⁶. Our future housing policy will, therefore need to reflect and meet the requirements and aspirations of the aging population as part of ensuring the creation of balanced, sustainable communities. For example, by providing appropriate housing that would allow them to continue to live in their local area or retirement living.

Trends show that the number of households in our area is expected to grow from 71,975 in 2014 to 80,485 in 2039. This represents a total growth of 8,510. However, their average size is set to decrease from 2.33 people in 2014 to 2.2 in 2039⁷. Therefore, our future housing mix, density and design need to reflect this change.

⁴ **ONS Mid-Year Population Estimates (June 2016 – published June 2017)**

⁵ **ONS Population Projections - Total (2014 to 2039)**

⁶ **ONS Population Projections – Broad Age Band (2014 to 2039)**

⁷ **ONS Household Projections (2014 to 2039)**

A Place to Live

We have a range of housing spread across our towns and villages. Because of our attractive environment, good service, prosperous economy and lower living costs it has become a desirable place for many people to live.

In 2016, there was a total 75,450 dwellings in North Lincolnshire. Of these, there is a greater proportion of owner occupation and lower levels of renting compared to national averages. 84.9% of this total was private dwellings (64,030) (owner occupied plus private rented tenures) compared to a national (England) average of 82.5%. Housing associations or other public sector bodies owned the remaining 15.1% (11,410)⁸.

The profile of the area's housing stock is very different to the wider region (Yorkshire and the Humber). There are considerably more detached and semi-detached dwellings (75% in North Lincolnshire compared with 57% regionally) whereas the number of terraced houses and flats are substantially less (18% locally compared with 43% regionally)⁹.

Average house prices remain low compared to the national and regional average: £139,276 compared to £158,689 in the region and £243,520 nationally¹⁰, and there are 'hotspots' in the local housing market with affordability issues particularly in our rural areas. These factors together put the area at significant advantage to our neighbours and provide an opportunity for growth that our Local Plan must grasp.

⁸ **North Lincolnshire Housing Profile (NL Data Observatory)**

⁹ **Housing & Accommodation – Census 2011, NL Data Observatory**

¹⁰ **http://nlido.northlincs.gov.uk/IAS_Live/dataviews/view?viewId=127,**

A Prosperous Economy

North Lincolnshire's economy is prosperous and has an ever-developing diversity. It supports 70,000 jobs¹¹ and is home to over 6,620 businesses¹² including major companies such as Able UK, British Steel, BAE Systems, C. Spencer, Clugston Group, Eastern Airways, Nisa Today, Phillips 66, Singleton Birch, and Total. We are a recognised leader in the following sectors: advanced engineering; chemicals and petrochemicals; food and drink; metals; and ports, freight and logistics, whilst the tourism sector is also growing.

As part of expanding our economy, we are looking to support new and emerging sectors. For example, North Lincolnshire's unique offer means that it is well placed to support growth in the automotive sector within the area. We benefit from having a supply chain and the resources to enable the development of new software/hardware for this sector. Scunthorpe is home to a number of suppliers that offer bespoke and specialised products to the sector and who have the ability develop new technologies through their Research and Development functions. The development of a university centre will allow focus to be placed on further developing this sector. In addition we are home to one of Europe's leading steel manufacturers – British Steel – who produced around 3 million tonnes of quality steel, a significant amount on which is used in the automotive sector.

Another of our key sectors for growth is food. This will help to increase our brand image through the supply of high quality food products. Greater Lincolnshire region grows 12% of the England's total food and is home to an even greater proportion of the country's food processing industry. Our advantageous

¹¹ **NOMIS Labour Market Profile - North Lincolnshire from ONS Business Register and Employment Survey (2015)**

¹² **NOMIS Labour Market Profile - North Lincolnshire from Inter Departmental Business Register (ONS) (2016)**

location, easy access to the motorway and rail networks and proximity to the UK's busiest port makes it an ideal place to support the growth of this sector. A specific Perishable Hub for the food industry is available at Humberside Airport. We also offer logistical support and a mature supply chain for the sector. We have a number of national and international haulage firms in the area designed to meet the sectors' needs. Our supply chain ranges from bespoke training providers, recruitment specialists and packaging specialists to appropriate storage facilities.

The South Humber Gateway is a major strategic national, local and regional employment site and together with existing port operations is one of the UK's major trade gateways to the north of England, the Midlands and beyond. It offers the largest undeveloped area of land next to a deep water estuary in the UK and is at the centre of the developing off-shore renewables industry. It is also home to over a quarter of the UK's petrochemical refining capacity provided by Lindsey Oil Refinery and Humber Refinery, operated by Total and Phillips 66 respectively. Much of this area includes the Able Marine Energy Park and Able Logistics Park and is part of the Humber Enterprise Zone (EZ), which is the country's largest. The EZ supports the growth of the ports, logistics and renewables sector and it is the region's ambition to become a leading national and international centre for the renewables sector. Access to this key location will be improved by £15.5m programme of gauge enhancement to South Humber main line. Humberside Airport is also included in the EZ.

In the Scunthorpe area, Normanby Enterprise Park is one of the area's major employment locations, being home to a wide range of businesses.

Of our working age population (those aged 16-64), there are 75,700 people in employment in North Lincolnshire (67,700 employees and 7,700 self-employed). Our employment rate stands at 72.6%, which is higher than the regional rate of 72.5% but below the national rate of 74.3%. The unemployment rate in North Lincolnshire stands at 6%, slightly above those regionally (5.3%) and nationally (5%). The levels of those claiming Job Seekers Allowance has fallen to 2,195 and we want to see this reduced further, whilst youth employment is now below 500.

Employment in North Lincolnshire's key sectors is mostly in line with national figures. Public administration, education and health employ 27% of the local workforce, followed by 24.8% employed in distribution, hotels and restaurants which is higher than national and regional levels. The manufacturing industries sector remains a significant employer in the area representing 19.5% of those in employment, higher than both the regional (11.3%) and national (9.3%) figures.¹³

Scunthorpe town centre is our main retail and service destination. We have £60 million of planned investment to transform the town centre by 2022. The transformation projects aim to increase the number of people and businesses in the town, in particular in the Church Square area. The investment will create more than 200 jobs, around 1,500 student places, and will pump £1.5 million into the local economy. These projects include:

- £5.8m headquarters building for Ongo Homes – 50 construction jobs and space for 250 employees
- £5.7m Church Square House extension – space for 600 council workers and 45 construction jobs
- Around £15m for a new university centre
- £3.9m private sector investment to provide up to 60 one-bed and two-bed homes on Lindum Street
- £14.7m new 200-unit facility for NHS employees (including five commercial units below)
- £1m library refurbishment
- £4m improvements to make the town look more attractive and road and pedestrian improvements to create better access

Our distinct and diverse market town centres (Barton-upon-Humber, Brigg, Crowle, Epworth, Kirton-in-Lindsey and Winterton) are key service centres for the local communities and their surrounding towns and villages. All are characterised by their historic centres and have a good range of shops,

services and facilities along with thriving evening economies. Barton-upon-Humber is home to the Humber Bridge, Waters' Edge Visitor Centre & Country Park and historic churches. Brigg is well known for its markets and fairs which attract visitors to our area. Epworth is well known for its connections with the Methodist movement. And Crowle has undergone a programme of regeneration based around its historic market square.

In Scunthorpe, the district centres of Ashby High Street and Frodingham Road also provide a wide range of services and facilities for their own areas and surrounding communities. Work is now underway on a new masterplan for Ashby High Street to enhance the centre. One of our main challenges is to ensure the continued vitality and viability of our town centres, particularly Scunthorpe town centre, in a world where such areas are moving away from their traditional role towards a more multi-functional role.

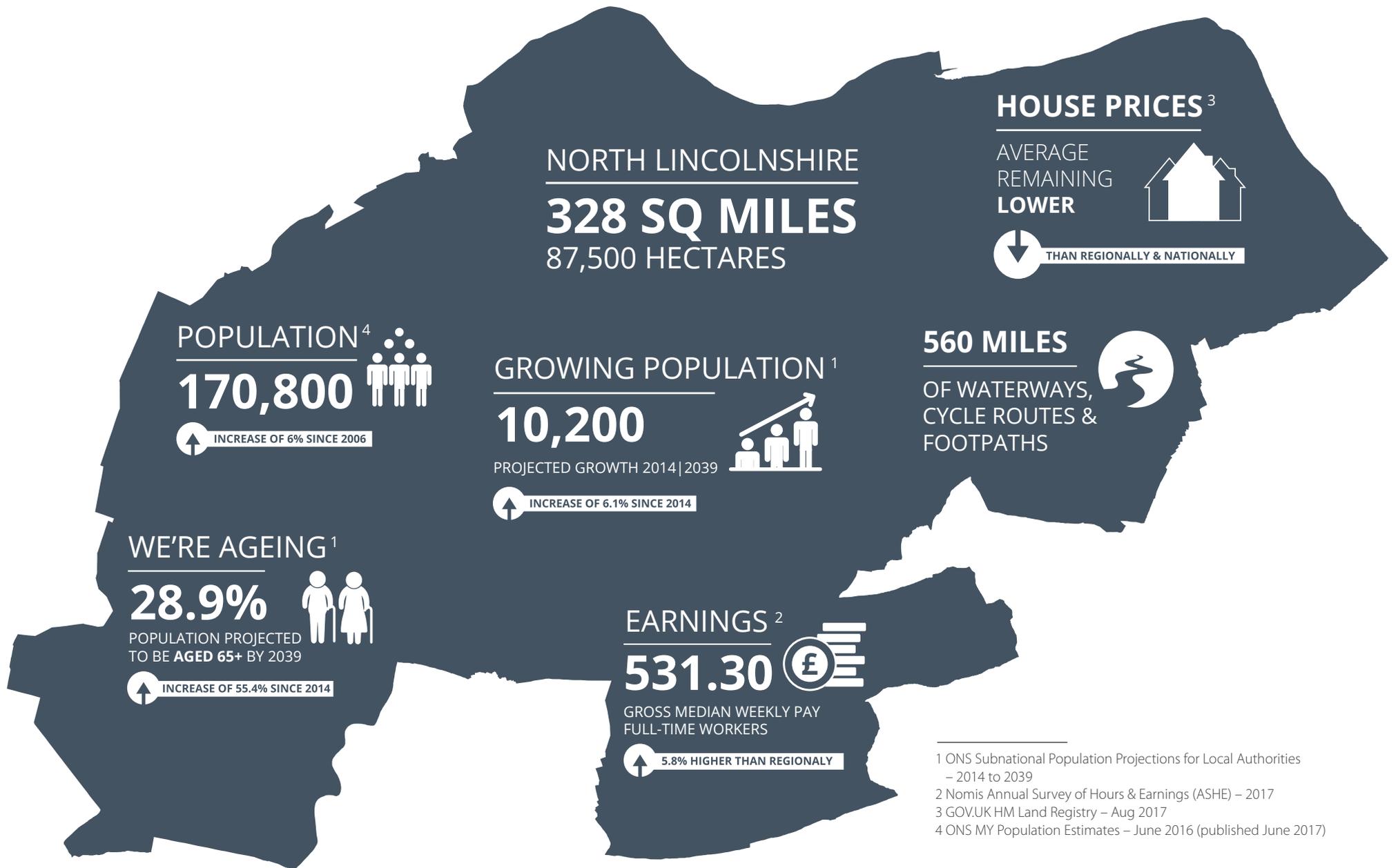
Tourism in North Lincolnshire contributes over £167 million to the local economy and employs over 2,300 people.¹⁴ There are currently 1,266 serviced bed spaces and over 40 visitor attractions. We enjoy a drier, sunnier climate than much of the UK due to our sheltered position in the East of England, making it ideal for enjoying outdoor activities and events. Day visits are the main income for tourism sector businesses.

North Lincolnshire has been able to build its nature tourism offer due to its large rural areas. Achieved through investment in projects such as the Ancholme Way, Alkborough Flats, Crowle Moors, Waters' Edge Visitor Centre & Country Park and the Isle of Axholme Historic Landscape Partnership. Our arts, leisure, culture and sports offer provides a vital link to the regeneration and economic growth of the area.

¹³ **North Lincolnshire Labour Market Briefing (April 2017)**

¹⁴ **North Lincolnshire Tourism Statistics Report (May 2017)**

Figure 2: North Lincolnshire in Numbers



Deprivation

Levels of deprivation in North Lincolnshire are diminishing. The most recent Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD)¹⁹ show that the number of our Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs)²⁰ in the 10% most deprived areas in the country has reduced and the number of LSOAs in the least deprived areas has increased since 2010. North Lincolnshire is ranked as the 127th most deprived local authority area in England (of 326)²¹ (compared to a ranking of 120th most deprived in 2010). Less than 9% of the area's LSOAs are in the 10% most deprived nationally, and the main pockets of deprivation in North Lincolnshire are concentrated in the Scunthorpe urban area. The main challenge and opportunity for the Local Plan is to continue this upward trend by ensuring that its policies and proposals seek to reduce deprivation levels and reduce inequalities.

Environment

North Lincolnshire is home to a wealth of high quality natural, built and historic environments that contribute to the quality of life enjoyed by local people and visitors as well as our sense of place. With over 80 miles of estuary and rivers, the area is predominately rural with an attractive countryside, varied landscapes and wildlife habitats as well as high quality, distinctive townscapes. It is essential that these assets are protected and enhanced whilst ensuring that the economic and housing growth that is required is not stifled.

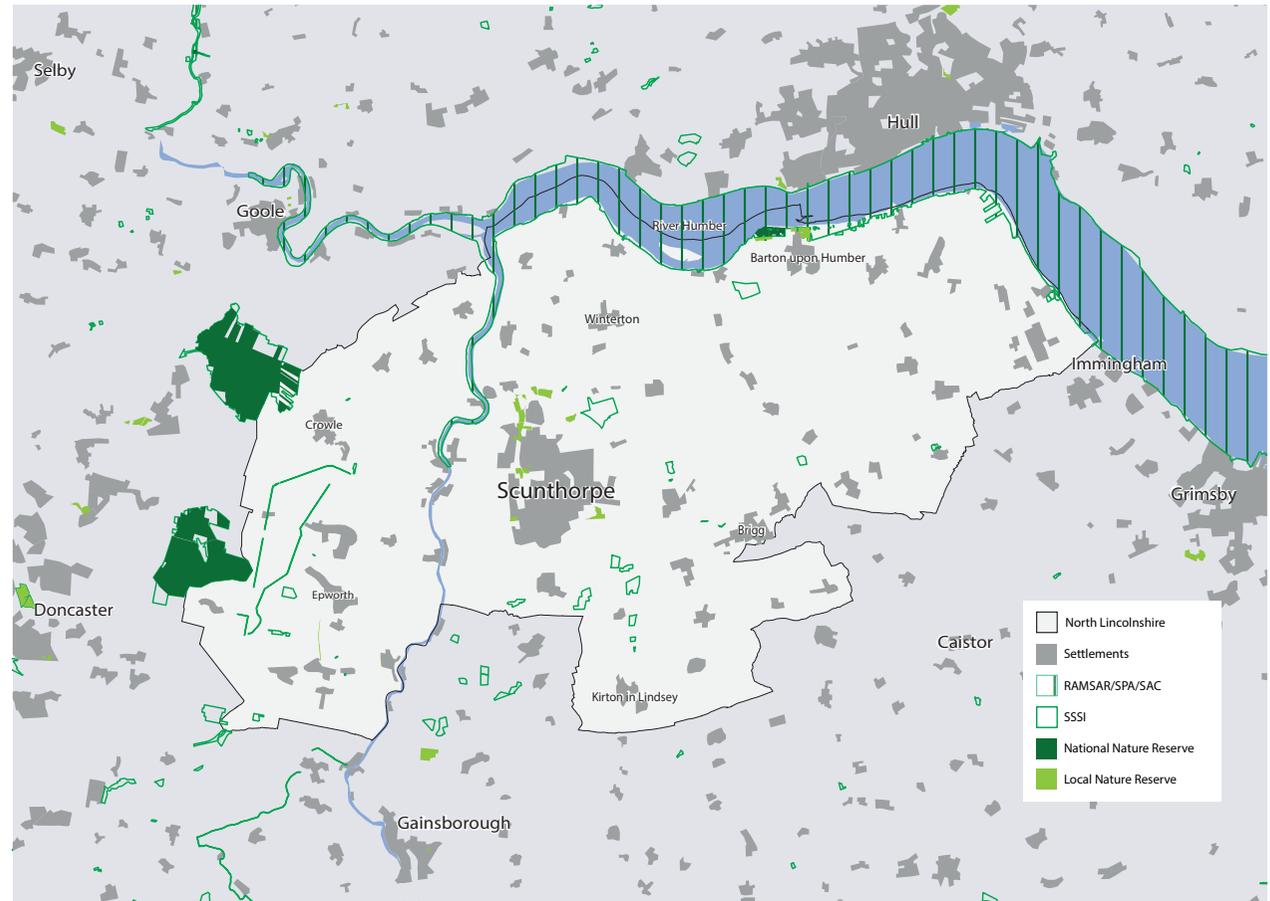
¹⁹ The English Indices of Deprivation 2015 is the Government's official measure of deprivation at a local level. The indices consist of scores and rankings for each of the 32,844 Lower Super Output areas (LSOAs) in England, as well as summary data for Local Authorities. LSOAs and Local Authorities are ranked with 1 being the most deprived.

²⁰ These are geographic areas used by the ONS and others for reporting small area statistics. They are designed to be of a similar population size, with an average of approximately 1,500 residents or 650 households. There are 32,844 Lower-layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs) in England.

²¹ [Index of Multiple Deprivation, 2015](#)

These wildlife habitats range from the world class, internationally important areas of the Humber Estuary and Crowle Moors, through to nationally, regionally and locally important wildlife and geological sites. These sites include five international designations (one Ramsar site, two Special Areas of Conservation and two Special Protection Areas), two National Nature Reserves (NNRs), 29 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI's), 14 Local Nature Reserves (LNR's), 215 Local Wildlife Sites (LWS), and 37 Local Geological Sites (LGS).

Figure 3: Our Environmental Assets



North Lincolnshire is also characterised by a variety of landscapes ranging from the clay pits of the Humber Estuary, the rolling chalk escarpment of the Lincolnshire Wolds, the Ancholme Valley, the Lincoln Edge, the Trent Valley and the Isle of Axholme. The southern Isle of Axholme has the most extensive surviving examples of a medieval landscape in England, notably the medieval open strip fields and turbaries, both of which are of considerable national importance. Our landscapes, particularly the wetland areas, have potential for archaeological remains dating back to pre-historic times.

North Lincolnshire is also a place rich in heritage. We have 912 Listed Buildings (39 Grade I; 36 Grade II*; 837 Grade II), 17 Conservation Areas and 46 Scheduled Monuments. We also have a number of buildings, which whilst not listed on the national heritage list are considered important buildings of townscape merit.

The majority of North Lincolnshire is rural and, as such, has large areas of agricultural land. Most of this is classified as agricultural Grades 2 and 3 (very good and good to moderate quality). However, there are areas of the highest quality Grade 1 (excellent) land, which are found mainly in the valley of the River Trent as well as in parts of the Isle of Axholme and some areas of the Lincolnshire Wolds.²²

Significant parts of North Lincolnshire are at risk of flooding from a number of sources: the River Trent; River Ancholme; the Humber Estuary; and a variety of smaller rivers and drains. There is a need to balance the development required to sustain North Lincolnshire's economic growth and the constraints imposed by flood risk.

Air quality within our area is generally good as highlighted in air quality monitoring data.²³ However, more challenging air quality issues are found in Scunthorpe associated with dust levels arising from local steel making and associated industries. The council is working with local industry via collaborative strategies

²² **Agricultural Land Classification Map – Yorkshire & Humber (Natural England)**

²³ Air quality monitoring data can be found at: www.nlincsair.info

to address this issue. North Lincolnshire has declared two Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs): the Scunthorpe Town AQMA; and Low Santon AQMA. Air quality monitoring data is regularly reviewed and assessed to determine whether these areas are required or whether their extent can be reduced. The most recent assessment of the monitoring data has shown that air quality in these areas has improved significantly. As a result, it has been recommended that the Scunthorpe Town AQMA is reduced in extent and that the Low Santon AQMA be revoked. This is subject to consultation with stakeholders and the public.

Infrastructure

Transport

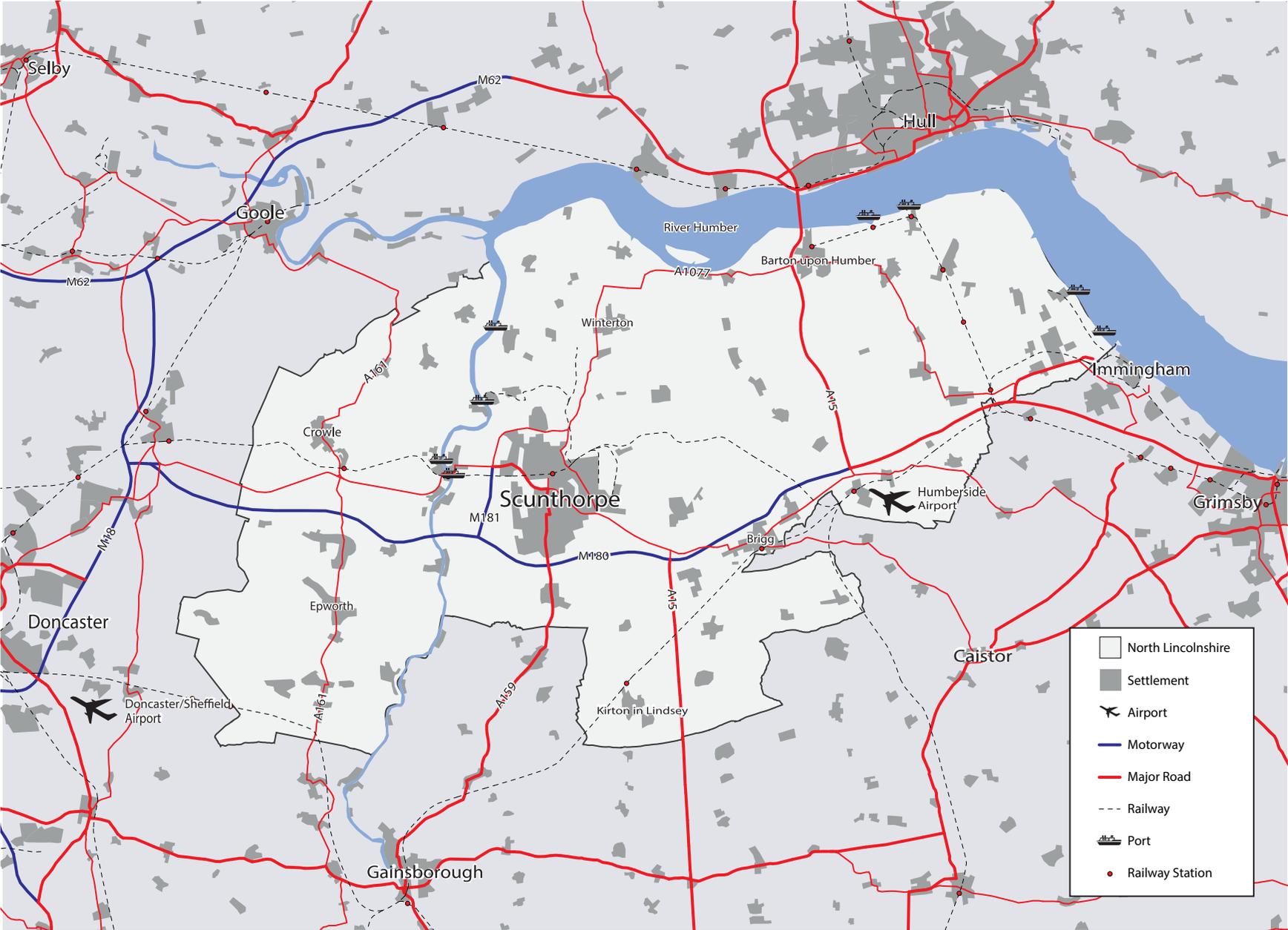
One of North Lincolnshire's major strengths and opportunities is its high quality transport network and international connections. We have easy access to the UK's motorway and trunk road network. The M180, M181, A180 and A160 link the South Humber Gateway Ports and Scunthorpe as well as the rest of the area to the main north/south routes (the A1/M1) and trans-Pennine routes (the M62 via the M18). Many of the North's key centres like Doncaster, Sheffield, Manchester, Leeds, York and Liverpool are accessible within two hours, whilst the rest of the country is within around a 4 hours' drive. A £132 million major upgrade to improve access of the A160 between the A180 and the entrance to the ports has recently been completed by Highways England. This provides enhanced access for freight traffic and will support their growth and development.

The A15 is also an important transport corridor. To the north it links North Lincolnshire with Hull and East Riding of Yorkshire, as well as providing an alternative route to York and the north east via the Humber Bridge, whilst to the south it provides an important route to Lincoln and the wider Lincolnshire area as well as an alternative link to the A1/M1 via the A46. This southern section has been identified as being in need of improvement.

Our rail network is essential for moving people and freight, and the area has 11 railway stations. Regular services link the area

to Doncaster, Cleethorpes, Grimsby, Sheffield, and Manchester (including Manchester Airport) as well as Lincoln and Newark. London is 2½ hours by train (via Doncaster). A local service links Barton-upon-Humber with Grimsby, whilst there is also a limited service between Sheffield and Cleethorpes via Kirton-in-Lindsey, Brigg and Barnetby. Around a quarter of the country's rail freight passes through the area's rail network. Around £15.5 million is to be invested by the Humber Local Enterprise Partnership, Network Rail and the council to undertake gauge enhancements that will allow larger freight containers to travel on the rail network between the South Humber Gateways ports, Scunthorpe and Doncaster. The council will continue to work with our partners like Transport for the North, Network Rail and train operators to improve the rail network in our area.

Figure 4: Our Transport Connections



Most of our bus services operate to and from Scunthorpe bus station. The existing bus network is split into urban services operating within the Scunthorpe urban area and rural or inter-urban services that operate across North Lincolnshire, linking the more rural settlements in the area as well as places outside the authority with urban locations. We also have the unique Call Connect service. It operates with no fixed timetable or routes, but instead responds to passenger requests made on line or by phone. It is a service designed to improve transport opportunities in rural communities and some market towns where there is an infrequent conventional bus service.

The Sustrans Route 1 and 169, which are part of the National Cycle Network, pass through North Lincolnshire. Route 1 runs north to south through the area from the Humber Bridge to the boundary with Lincolnshire near Barnetby le Wold, whilst Route 169 'The Ridgeway' runs east to west along the ridge of Scunthorpe towards Normanby. We have also developed a network of 13 rural routes ranging from six miles to 50 miles in length specifically for recreational cyclists.

North Lincolnshire boasts approximately 320 miles of public rights of way that give walkers, horse riders, cyclists and off-road motorist's access into the local countryside. Two long distance paths also pass through our area. The Nev Cole Way starts in North Lincolnshire at Burton upon Stather and travels eastwards along the south bank of the Humber before leaving the area at North Killingholme. The Viking Way enters North Lincolnshire at Barton-upon-Humber after crossing the Humber Bridge and runs southwards across the area before heading towards the city of Lincoln and its final destination at Oakham in Rutland.

International Links

North Lincolnshire has excellent international links. We are located at the eastern end of the main Trans Pennine corridor for freight and logistics between the Mersey and the Humber and into Europe. The South Humber Gateway Ports (Grimsby, Immingham and Killingholme) are the busiest in the country by tonnage (59 million tonnes in 2015)²⁴. We also have four thriving inland ports (Flixborough Wharf, Grove Port, Gunness and Keadby) on the River Trent that give ease of access to the European waterways and the open sea via the Humber Estuary.

Two international airports in and around North Lincolnshire (Humberside Airport and Doncaster Sheffield Airport) provide air links to Europe and beyond. Humberside enjoys three daily direct flights to/from Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport – one of the globe's major hub airports, which offers to connections to over 800 destinations worldwide. It is also one of the largest heliports in the UK supporting the oil, gas and offshore wind sectors. Regular freight ferries operate from the South Humber Gateway ports to destinations in mainland Europe whilst P&O Ferries operate daily overnight passenger services from the nearby Port of Hull to Rotterdam and Zeebrugge.

²⁴ UK Port Freight Statistics: 2015, Department for Transport

Communications

North Lincolnshire also has superfast broadband connectivity. Ninety six percent of Northern Lincolnshire has access to superfast broadband speeds following the upgrade of 35,000 premises. This investment is ongoing and by 2018 is predicted that 99% of the area will have access.

1. *Do you think the range of facts and figures about North Lincolnshire today is adequate?*

A SPATIAL VISION AND OBJECTIVES FOR NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE

Developing a Spatial Vision and Objectives

At the heart of the North Lincolnshire Local Plan (2017 to 2036) are the spatial vision and objectives. These provide the direction for the Local Plan and provide a framework for its policies.

The vision is a clear statement of what North Lincolnshire will be like at the end of Local Plan period in 2036. Both the vision and objectives should be distinct to North Lincolnshire and reflect the area's circumstances alongside the key issues and challenges facing the area. They should also be supported by the community. They can be aspirational, but must also be realistic and deliverable.

The emerging vision and objectives have been identified by assessing a range of strategies produced by the council and other bodies alongside the views of the community during the initial consultation on the Local Plan (February to April 2017).

North Lincolnshire Council Vision

The Local Plan will need to reflect the council's wider ambitions for the future of North Lincolnshire and the outcomes it will seek to achieve.

Our Ambition:

North Lincolnshire is the best place to live, work, visit and invest.

Our Outcomes:

- **Safe**
- **Well**
- **Prosperous**
- **Connected**

The council's ambition and outcomes are the most appropriate starting point to inform the spatial vision for the North Lincolnshire Local Plan (2017 to 2036). The Plan will also need to reflect and address the key economic, social and environmental challenges and issues that face the area, as well as that of national planning policy. We also have the existing spatial vision and objectives from the existing Core Strategy DPD (2011) which has been considered on its positive and negative impacts over its lifespan alongside community consultation.

Initial Consultation (Regulation 18)

The initial consultation demonstrated support for the existing vision set out in the Core Strategy DPD (June 2011) 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 Plan 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. 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.

Emerging Spatial Vision

The emerging vision (below) seeks to build on the council's broader ambitions, emerging evidence and national policy. It has sought to bring through those elements of existing vision that attracted support and consider them against the council's ambition and outcomes that North Lincolnshire is: safe; well; prosperous; and connected. The vision will be further developed as work on the Local Plan moves forward through its different stages and more certainty is gained about what, where, how and when new development will be delivered. Consultation on the Plan will also have an important role as will the emerging evidence base.

Draft Spatial Vision for North Lincolnshire

In 2036, North Lincolnshire is home to a growing population who live in safe and sustainable communities that are well connected to quality jobs and an accessible well-being offer. It will be the best place in which to live, work, visit and invest. Sustainable growth will be at the heart of all policies in the Local Plan.

It will have a strong, thriving, diverse economy with increased levels of prosperity and higher employment levels. We will have an increased number of new and highly skilled jobs in sustainable, innovative and growing sectors. Focus will be on sustainable economic growth and diversifying the area's key economic sectors as well as being welcoming to and supportive of new enterprises. North Lincolnshire will be a location of choice for business, making the most of the Humber Enterprise Zone, the largest in England, as well as capitalising on its strategic location adjacent to the Humber, excellent transport networks and international connections provided by the South Humber Gateway ports and Humberside Airport as well as Doncaster Sheffield Airport. The visitor economy will be an increasingly important part of our economy. We will be a location of choice for tourists and visitors alike, with more day visitors and overnight stays, taking advantage of the high quality natural and built environment, cultural heritage and history.

To support our growing economy, the area will be a location for sustainable housing growth. North Lincolnshire will have an accessible, well designed range and choice of housing in sustainable locations that delivers the area's housing requirements and meets the needs as well as the aspirations of local people. This will include the provision of affordable housing. New housing will be accompanied by a range of services, community facilities and infrastructure which complement the area's thriving economy and meet the needs of all residents.

Growth will take place in the most appropriate locations supporting and creating a network of attractive, thriving and vibrant sustainable communities. Scunthorpe's role as regional centre for housing, employment, leisure, services and connectivity will be supported and strengthened, whilst we ensure the sustainability of our and the market towns and local rural centres through planned growth. Growth and development will be supported by investment in North Lincolnshire's infrastructure. We will have an excellent digital and physical infrastructure a sustainable transport network that connects business, people and places.

All developments in North Lincolnshire will be planned and designed to the highest possible quality in a way that respects their surroundings. They will be expected to contribute positively to local distinctiveness and the quality of life for those living and working in the area as well as towards the creation of safer places.

Alongside improving the quality of place, the people's quality of lives and their health and wellbeing will be improved. Local people will have good access to quality open spaces, play and sporting facilities, better access to the countryside, increased opportunities for cycling and walking, and good quality health facilities. Economic, social and environmental inequalities will be reduced. Aspirations will be raised and skill levels enhanced by providing access to training and educational opportunities. We will increase our NVQ Level 4 attainment and ensure that all those of working age will be in work.

North Lincolnshire's high quality natural, built and historic environment will be protected and enhanced, making a significant contribution to the area's economy, its sense of place and its identity as well as the quality of life experienced. Development will respect the internationally, nationally and locally recognised areas of nature conservation importance, particularly ones based around the Humber Estuary and our landscape character, whilst the countryside will be protected from inappropriate development.

Development will ensure that impacts and effects of climate change will be mitigated against, reduced and adapted to by

addressing flood risk, reducing the levels of waste produced, increasing the re-use and recycling of materials, and building to high standards of sustainable design and construction. This will allow the area to become a cleaner and greener place. Appropriate provision for the use of renewable and low carbon energy will be made, where appropriate, subject to impacts on the area's landscapes and communities.

North Lincolnshire will continue to play its part in producing the steady and adequate supply of minerals to meet national and local needs whilst seeking to ensure efficient and sustainable use. The area's waste will be viewed as a resource with a focus on sustainable waste management including moving waste up the Waste Hierarchy.

2. *Is this an appropriate spatial vision for North Lincolnshire or is there something missing or a more suitable alternative?*

Emerging Spatial Objectives

The spatial objectives (SOs) are derived from the vision and focus on the key issues that the Local Plan needs to address. They provide the broad direction for the spatial strategy and the detailed policies that will be included in the Plan. In a similar vein to the vision, these objectives will be developed as work on the Local Plan progresses.

Spatial Objective 1 **Supporting and Growing Our Economy**

To promote economic growth in North Lincolnshire that increases the area's prosperity through supporting business growth and investment, enterprise and job creation. The area will make the most of its strategic location adjacent to the Humber Estuary, infrastructure and international connections to be a key location for businesses, whilst sufficient employment land will be delivered in sustainable locations that meet the needs of existing and future businesses. Employment levels will be increased, creating more and better job prospects. The vitality and viability of Scunthorpe, our market towns, district and local centres as places for shopping, leisure, cultural and community activities will be encouraged.

Spatial Objective 2 **Supporting Sustainable Communities**

To support the creation and maintenance of sustainable communities in North Lincolnshire by situating new development in locations that offer the best and most appropriate opportunities for sustainable development. This will ensure that a high quality environment, services, and infrastructure support new homes and jobs, and in turn new development supports the vitality, viability and economic performance of our towns and villages. Local communities will be encouraged to develop a community-led Neighbourhood Plan, where appropriate.

Spatial Objective 3 **Meeting Our Housing Need**

To increase the supply of housing to meet our future need and support the growth of our economy. This will take place by delivering a wide choice of high quality, well designed housing in North Lincolnshire that is accessible to, and meets the needs and aspirations of, the area's existing and future residents. This will include meeting the needs of the various groups that have differing housing requirements (including affordable (in its widest sense), families with children, older persons, specialist housing, and those who wish to build their own home (custom build or self-build)).

Spatial Objective 4 **Delivering Infrastructure for Growth**

To identify and deliver the wide range of physical, social and environmental infrastructure needed to support our ambitions for growth and development in North Lincolnshire. This will include delivering a connected, well-maintained, efficient, safe and sustainable transport network including roads, public transport and walking and cycling routes that supports economic growth and allows local residents to have high quality access to key services and facilities without increasing the need to travel. This is essential in creating places that are cleaner, greener and safer.

We will also seek to deliver the necessary community infrastructure/facilities and green infrastructure to support the creation of sustainable communities. This will be done by working closely with a wide range of partner organisations and infrastructure providers.

Spatial Objective 5 **Supporting Our Rural Areas and Countryside**

To support strong and thriving rural communities and countryside by encouraging diversification of the rural economy and retaining and enhancing key local facilities, infrastructure and services whilst promoting appropriate, sustainable development in rural settlements which meets local needs and reflects the surrounding environment.

Spatial Objective 6 **Protecting and Enhancing Our Natural, Built and Historic Environment**

To ensure that North Lincolnshire's high quality natural, built and historic environments are safeguarded, conserved and enhanced to maintain their contribution to the area's local distinctiveness and quality of life.

Internationally, nationally and locally designated areas of habitat and nature conservation importance (particularly those in the Humber Estuary and at Crowle Moors) will be protected, whilst the area's diverse landscapes such as the Lincolnshire Wolds, open spaces and green infrastructure network will be recognised for their importance and enhanced.

Designated and non-designated heritage assets along with the area's townscapes will be protected and enhanced to maintain the local street scene and its distinctiveness.

Spatial Objective 7 Promoting High Quality Design

To ensure that all new development in North Lincolnshire exhibits a high standard of design and architectural quality and innovation that reflects the character of the areas' landscapes and townscapes and contributes to local distinctiveness. Development should be accessible to all of the community, contribute to an enhanced feeling of safety and security, and make the most of opportunities for efficient use of resources, contributing to cleaner, greener and safer places.

Spatial Objective 8 Raising Our Aspirations

To encourage greater economic prosperity and reduce inequalities by supporting opportunities for the provision of education, training and research facilities that help to raise the aspirations and attainment of North Lincolnshire's young people, support adults to re-engage with work and lifelong learning, and develop and upskill the area's workforce to equip them to meet the needs of business and industry.

Spatial Objective 9 Supporting Our Quality of Life

To support the health and well-being of North Lincolnshire's communities by safeguarding, enhancing and providing a wide range of educational, social, sporting, health, recreational and cultural facilities that contribute to the quality of life and satisfaction of those who live, work within and visit the area, as well as by seeking to reduce deprivation and social, economic and environmental inequalities.

Spatial Objective 10 Developing Our Visitor Economy

To develop North Lincolnshire's visitor economy and make it a destination of choice for tourists and visitors alike by taking advantage of the opportunities provided by the area's high quality natural and built environment including its diverse landscapes, countryside and townscapes, as well as its rich cultural heritage. Attractions such as Normanby Hall & Country Park, Waters' Edge Visitor Centre & Country Park, Crowle Moors, our market towns and the Humber Estuary will play their part in developing North Lincolnshire as a tourist destination.

Spatial Objective 11 Tackling Climate Change

To address and reduce the causes and impacts of climate change in North Lincolnshire by supporting and contributing to achieving sustainable flood management as part of new development and locating development, where possible, away from areas at risk of flooding. To encourage the use of low and zero carbon technologies by promoting sustainable land management and conservation including for protecting habitats and encouraging appropriate building design.

Spatial Objective 12 Efficient Use of Our Resources

To encourage the effective and prudent use of North Lincolnshire's resources including energy, water, soils, minerals and waste by supporting the efficient use of land and buildings, including sustainable construction techniques within new developments, reducing the level of waste produced and promoting the use of renewable and low carbon energy, subject to its impact on the area's landscapes and communities. Measures to minimise pollution, improve air, soil and water quality will also be employed as part of creating a cleaner, greener and safer area.

Spatial Objective 13 Ensuring Minerals Supply

To ensure a steady and adequate supply of minerals, including aggregates, industrial minerals and energy minerals to meet national, regional and local needs in the most appropriate and sensitive way whilst taking account of impacts on the environment and local communities. Economically important mineral resources will be safeguarded from incompatible development.

Spatial Objective 14 Delivering Sustainable Waste Management

To support the use and effective management of North Lincolnshire's waste as a resource by reducing the amount that needs to be treated and disposed. There will be greater encouragement to reduce levels being produced and increase re-use and recycling in order to move waste up the 'Waste Hierarchy'. A network of appropriately located sustainable waste management facilities will be developed and existing facilities protected from incompatible development whilst recognising the need to avoid negative impacts on local communities.

3. Do you agree with the spatial objectives? Can you suggest any alternatives; are there any missing?

A SPATIAL STRATEGY FOR NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE

Creating and delivering sustainable development lies at the heart of the planning system. Therefore, the Local Plan is essential in ensuring the proper planning of North Lincolnshire over the next 19 years, and to set out a clear and co-ordinated approach to the provision of new homes, jobs and supporting infrastructure alongside the need to protect the interests of our communities and the environment.

This means that, when deciding how much growth will take place and where it should be located, the Local Plan must take the issue of sustainability into account, i.e. by looking at and assessing the economic, environmental and social impacts of growth and development on the area.

The Local Plan will identify those locations that are most appropriate to accommodate future growth and development. This will take account of the need to minimise impacts on the environment and make the best use of existing or planned infrastructure. It will also look to identify areas/locations that could be serviced by new infrastructure or services. This is what is meant by sustainable development that will benefit both existing and future communities in North Lincolnshire.

Initial Consultation (Regulation 18)

As part of the Initial (Regulation 18) consultation exercise 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 made specific points about various settlements or locations and the evidence needed to underpin the Plan.

The consultation proposed four potential spatial options for locating future growth up to 2036, as follows:

- Scunthorpe and Market Towns (existing strategy)
- Six Market Towns and Scunthorpe
- Six Market Towns, Scunthorpe and Larger Service Centres
- A New Settlement

Respondents were also given the chance to suggest alternative options or approaches. Most respondents favoured an alternative option/approach, with others supporting the existing strategy and the third option of the six market towns, Scunthorpe and large service centres. The options of the six market towns and Scunthorpe and a new settlement attracted limited support. The consultation exercise highlighted another potential option for future growth: A balanced approach.

Sustainable Development

National planning policy, set out in the NPPF, requires the planning system to fulfil the three strands of sustainability:

- An economic role contributing to building a strong responsive and competitive economy
- A social role supporting strong, vibrant and healthy communities
- An environmental role contributing to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment

The presumption in favour of sustainable development is at the heart of the NPPF and is a “golden thread” running through this Plan and the decisions that will eventually stem from it. The NPPF requires that Local Plan policies should follow the approach of the presumption in favour of sustainable development so that it is clear that development which is deemed to be ‘sustainable’ will be approved without delay. Many Local Plans include a specific policy setting out a local approach to the Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development. Our Housing & Employment Land Allocations DPD includes the following policy wording:

“When considering development proposals the council will take a positive approach that reflects the presumption in favour of sustainable development contained in the National Planning Policy Framework. It will always work proactively with applicants jointly to find solutions, which mean that proposals can be approved, wherever possible, and to secure development that improves the economic, social and environmental conditions in the area.

Planning applications that accord with the policies in this Local Plan (and, where relevant, with policies in neighbourhood plans) will be approved without delay, unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

Where there are no policies relevant to the application or relevant policies are out of date at the time of making the decision then the council will grant permission unless material considerations indicate otherwise – taking into account whether:

Any adverse impacts of granting permission would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits, when assessed against the policies in the National Planning Policy Framework taken as a whole; or

Specific policies in that Framework indicate that development should be restricted.”

4. Do you agree or disagree with the approach set out in the Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development policy?

How Much Growth Will Be Needed?

An important starting point for the Local Plan is to establish the need for homes and jobs as well as other types of development. As required by national policy, the level of growth that will take place in North Lincolnshire must be based on evidence.

The information to be considered includes official population and household projections, census data, economic statistics and local evidence about the housing market and economy. As well as co-operating with neighbouring councils, the government requires consistency between the provision for new homes and the provision for new jobs.

A Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) provides an evidence-based study that helps the council to assess what the objectively assessed need (the 'OAN') is for North Lincolnshire. A new SHMA has been prepared looking at the period to 2036. National policy expects the Local Plan to meet fully the objectively assessed needs for market and affordable housing in the housing market area.

To support economic growth and meet the requirements for new jobs we will need to look at the demand and supply of employment land. This will allow us to understand whether there are any mismatches between the quantitative and qualitative demand for employment land and our current supply. For example, it may show us whether or not our supply of employment land is in the right locations to meet the needs of current and future businesses. The Strategic Housing & Employment Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA), which is currently being updated, is key piece of evidence that will help do this.

Sections 5 and 6 of this document provide more information about the level of housing and job growth that we expect to take place in North Lincolnshire over the coming years and how we could potentially plan for them.

Spatial Distribution of Development (Where Growth Will Be Needed)

The Local Plan will not only identify how much new development and growth will be needed in North Lincolnshire up to 2036, but also where it should take place. Whichever approach to locating new development is selected, it must:

- Be realistic and deliverable
- Support the achievement of sustainable development
- Reflect the evidence base supporting the Local Plan.

It should also take account of, and reflect the various difficult

roles and functions of North Lincolnshire's towns and villages whilst acknowledging and working with their strengths and constraints. Ideally growth should be concentrated where there is access to services and facilities and a range of transport choices as well as employment opportunities.

New development should also respond to an area's natural, built and historic environment and avoid unacceptable impacts on local, national and international designations. It will also need to consider how it can support economic growth as well as viability. These principles should be incorporated into any option for the spatial strategy. It must also be based on an understanding of our neighbouring authorities' strategies under the 'Duty to Co-operate'.

Options for Growth

National policy requires Local Plan spatial strategies to be the most appropriate when considered against reasonable alternatives. As part of the Initial (Regulation 18) consultation exercise we proposed four potential spatial options for locating future growth in North Lincolnshire up to 2036. These were developed taking into account emerging evidence and were put forward to stimulate discussion about how the area's development needs could be accommodated. Respondents were also given the chance to suggest alternative options or approaches. The consultation exercise highlighted another potential option for future growth: Option 5 - A Balanced Approach.

We have set out this additional option alongside the four that were previously published. We want your view on which of these five options is most likely to achieve the draft vision and objectives and help deliver sustainable development. If you have any alternative options that you think we should consider please put them forward. If the council considers that any further options presented are appropriate and deliverable they will be appraised for their sustainability and will be given due consideration.

Our final choice of option will be informed by results of consultation on the Issues & Options document along with the evidence base prepared to support the production of the Plan and the assessment of each of the options through the Sustainability Appraisal and Habitat Regulations Assessment processes. It will also have regard to the amount of development that needs to be delivered in the area and take into account issues such as infrastructure availability and environmental constraints as well as whether or not it is deliverable. The preferred spatial strategy may be based on one of the options set out below or an alternative through consultation. Alternatively, it may also be a hybrid approach, which combines the most sustainable, appropriate, and deliverable aspects of the different options.

Option A Scunthorpe and Market Towns

Development focused on Scunthorpe and to a lesser extent the six market towns of Brigg, Barton-upon-Humber, Epworth, Crowle, Kirton-in-Lindsey and Winterton (Continuation of the Core Strategy)

Scunthorpe would be the main area of growth. The market towns would continue to fulfil a supporting role for growth. Limited development would be supported in smaller rural settlements. This option represents a continuation of the current planning strategy for North Lincolnshire as set out in the Core Strategy, in effect rolling this forward from 2026 to 2036.

This option would result in the continuation of the Lincolnshire Lakes proposal, which will deliver 6,000+ homes to the west of Scunthorpe.

Strengths:

- Focus is on the largest settlements in North Lincolnshire resulting in urban renaissance for Scunthorpe and increases the critical mass of the urban area through Lincolnshire Lakes
- These settlements are the main focus of services, facilities and employment and are the most sustainable settlements

Weaknesses:

- Further pressure could impact on the character, facilities and infrastructure of these towns
- Land availability would be an issue in the long term
- Does not address the needs of other parts of the district at a more local level

Option B Six Market Towns and Scunthorpe

Development focused equally on Scunthorpe and the six market towns of Brigg, Barton-upon-Humber, Epworth, Crowle, Kirton-in-Lindsey and Winterton

Scunthorpe and the market towns would be the main focus for future growth and development in North Lincolnshire. Compared to the current approach each of the six market towns and Scunthorpe would have an equal role in meeting the growth needs for the district, rather than the majority of development being focused in Scunthorpe. Limited development would be supported in smaller rural settlements.

This option represents a change from the current planning strategy as set out in the Core Strategy. It has more of an area-wide focus but does not rule out the Lincolnshire Lakes through a balanced spatial strategy.

Strengths:

- More even spread of development across the settlements
- Focuses on the main centres for services and facilities
- Reduces the pressure on small rural settlements to grow

Weaknesses:

- Increases pressure on the character, facilities and infrastructure of market towns
- Increases the need to travel to the facilities in the larger market towns
- Land availability would be an issue in the long term

Option C Six Market Towns, Scunthorpe and Larger Service Centres

Development dispersed across Scunthorpe, the 6 market towns and larger service centres across North Lincolnshire.

Scunthorpe, the 6 market towns and a range of other large service centres would be the main focus for future growth and development in North Lincolnshire. This would put greater emphasis on villages to accommodate growth. The scale of development would be proportionate to their scale, character and respective capacity for accommodating growth.

This option represents a change from the current planning strategy as set out in the Core Strategy. It has a district-wide focus beyond the existing area of opportunity and spreads development beyond Scunthorpe and the market towns.

Strengths:

- Places a greater emphasis on meeting local housing needs
- Helps to support and sustain viable local services and facilities
- Reduces the pressure on market towns to accommodate growth

Weaknesses:

- Could result in significant changes and adverse impacts to the character of many villages
- Increases need to travel by car to access services, facilities and employment
- Increases the amount of development taking place in more remote rural areas
- Could decrease the urban renaissance opportunities for Scunthorpe

Option D A New Settlement

Development of a new settlement or significant expansion of an existing settlement

This option would involve planning for a new settlement, which could take different forms. It could be completely new or involve a very significant expansion of an existing village or settlement.

This approach would need to be linked with another option as it would take time to develop a new community and would be unlikely to meet the needs of the whole district. Transport links and access to services, facilities and employment would be key considerations.

This option represents a complete change from the current planning strategy for North Lincolnshire, as set out in the Core Strategy. Previous work has been carried out looking at suitable locations but locations are yet to be determined.

The location would have a key influence on how much demand there might be from people living in adjoining areas to live there.

Strengths:

- Opportunity to plan a high quality living and working environment
- Provides new infrastructure, services and facilities
- Reduces development pressure on existing towns and villages

Weaknesses:

- Could draw investment away from existing places and infrastructure needs
- Potentially significant impacts on the landscape and countryside
- Long lead-in and delivery timescales
- Would still require development in other areas
- Potentially significant upfront infrastructure costs

Option E A Balanced Approach

This option would seek to deliver a more balanced approach to the location of new development in North Lincolnshire that would seek to maintain and enhance the vitality and viability of the areas' communities.

This option would represent a move away from the current strategy set out in the Core Strategy. It will have an area-wide focus, spreading development across the area's towns and villages beyond Scunthorpe, the market towns and larger service centres.

Levels of growth in the towns and villages would be dependent upon their sustainability and ability to accommodate it. Consideration would be given to the availability of infrastructure and services and would take into account access to transport, employment and any environmental constraints. This would not necessarily mean that growth would happen everywhere.

Larger development would still take place in Scunthorpe and the Market Towns. Opportunities for growth would also be provided in the Larger Service Centres/Larger Rural Settlements and Smaller Rural Settlements through the provision of appropriately sized allocations. This would support their prosperity and maintain local services and facilities.

Strengths

- Will help to meet local housing needs, particularly in rural and smaller communities
- Would assist in meeting market demands for housing
- Will assist in supporting and enhancing existing local services

Weaknesses

- Could result in additional pressures for growth in smaller settlements
- Could increase the need to travel to access to employment and services
- Potential adverse impacts on character of rural areas

5. Consider the implications of each option. Which do you support and why:
- Option A: Scunthorpe & Market Towns
 - Option B: Six Market Towns & Scunthorpe
 - Option C: Six Market Towns, Scunthorpe & Larger Service Centres
 - Option D: A New Settlement
 - Option E: A Balanced Approach
- Or none of the above?

approaches to where development may take place including a different spatial distribution. These have in part been built around the emerging evidence from the Settlement Survey as well as the existing Core Strategy.

The settlement survey (2016) suggests a five-tier hierarchy: Major Sub-Regional Town (Scunthorpe); Market Towns/Larger Service Centres (6 Market Towns from the Core Strategy, plus Barnetby le Wold, Broughton, Haxey and Messingham); Larger Rural Settlements; Smaller Rural Settlements; and Countryside.

It must be noted that the final Settlement Hierarchy will be informed by this Issues and Options consultation, and through other evidence including population, the availability of potential development land, physical constraints to development and developments and infrastructure in the pipeline. It will also depend on which spatial strategy or option is selected (see Options A to E, above).

6. Do you have any views on the structure of the potential settlement hierarchy that should be considered as part of the Local Plan?

Settlement Hierarchy

As part of developing the spatial strategy, the Local Plan needs to look at the roles of the area's towns and villages and the part they can play in delivering growth. This means defining a settlement hierarchy. The Core Strategy DPD established a four-tier settlement hierarchy: Major Sub-Regional Town (Scunthorpe); Market Towns (Barton-upon-Humber; Brigg; Crowle; Epworth; Kirton-in-Lindsey and Winterton); Rural Settlements; and Rural Settlements in the Countryside. Developing the new Local Plan gives us the opportunity to re-examine the hierarchy.

To help do this the council has prepared the **North Lincolnshire Sustainable Settlement Survey (2016)**. This evidence document provides detailed information about the area's 89 towns, villages and hamlets and seeks to give a clear indication of those settlements that are the most sustainable in terms of being able to support the pressures placed on local services and infrastructure caused by an increased population. It also enhances the understanding of the various roles played by each settlement within North Lincolnshire.

We are not defining a settlement hierarchy at this point but nonetheless we would like your views on what it should consist of. The Spatial Strategy options (see Options A to E, above) outline potential

MEETING OUR HOUSING NEED

A key role of the Local Plan as emphasised by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) is to meet, where possible, all identified housing needs and to deliver a wide choice of high quality homes, widen opportunities for home ownership and to create sustainable, inclusive and mixed communities. This includes meeting the needs of the various groups that have differing housing requirements. To significantly boost the supply of housing, Local Planning authorities should use their evidence base to ensure that their Local Plan meets fully the objectively assessed needs (OAN) for market and affordable housing in their housing market area. This needs to be consistent with the NPPF, including identifying key sites that are critical to the delivery of the housing strategy over the Plan period.

The Local Plan needs to provide sufficient homes in order to meet our local needs and to help support the creation of sustainable communities. North Lincolnshire needs more homes because:

- North Lincolnshire's population is growing
- People are living longer, with increasing life expectancy
- It helps to maintain a local labour supply and support economic growth
- It needs to meet the housing need for everyone within North Lincolnshire.

Planning Practice Guidance sets out the actions required to identify the need for certain types of housing and the needs of different groups which will be addressed through the Local Plan.

These groups are:

- Private rented sector
- Self-build and custom house building

- Family housing
- Households with specific needs
- Student housing
- Travelling communities
- Housing for older people

Initial Consultation (Regulation 18)

As part of the public consultation on the March 2017 Initial Consultation (Regulation 18) document there were a variety of comments received by respondents regarding housing growth within North Lincolnshire taking account of market signals and employment growth. The majority of respondents supported Scenario 2 (452 dwellings) and Scenario 4 (756 dwellings). A significant number suggested further growth should take place in the market towns and larger rural settlements to reduce the need to build on flood plains. There was also support for the continuation of the Lincolnshire Lakes development.

Particular issues raised included the need for housing growth to be supported by the correct infrastructure with access to employment opportunities, key services and facilities by sustainable modes of transport including public transport. Also, housing mix and design need to be considered to meet the needs of North Lincolnshire population.

The affordable housing annual requirement was mainly supported, although some would like to see more information on how the figure was calculated and the split between social and intermediate provision.

Future Housing Growth

The Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) 2017 provides an evidence-based study that assists the council to assess what the OAN is for North Lincolnshire for the period from 2017 to 2036. National policy expects a council's Local Plan to meet the OAN for market and affordable housing in their housing market area and suggests a number of tests to see whether any upward adjustment is appropriate.

The SHMA has determined that North Lincolnshire can be described as a self-contained housing market area in that the majority of households seeking to move look for another house within the authority area. Therefore, we should plan for the needs of our existing and future communities without needing to look outside of North Lincolnshire. Discussion with our neighbouring authorities indicates there is no current requirement to take account of their housing needs.

The SHMA has identified four scenarios for housing growth in North Lincolnshire for the period 2017-2036, as follows:

- Scenario 1: Baseline Population Growth – 365 homes per year
- Scenario 2: Medium Economic Projection – 452 homes per year
- Scenario 3: Longer Term Economic Growth – 583 homes per year
- Scenario 4: Aspirational Economic Growth (Core Strategy) – 754 homes per year

The SHMA also indicated that there is a need to deliver a variety of affordable housing products including Shared Ownership and Market Discount within North Lincolnshire. There is also a growing need to provide suitable housing to support North Lincolnshire's ageing population and for those who require specialist care.

The SHMA targets are an essential part of the process for defining the area's housing requirement but do not set the housing target. This will be determined through the Local Plan making process.



Options for Future Housing Growth

Option A

Baseline Population Growth - 365 homes per year.

Option B

Medium Economic Projection – 452 homes per year.

Option C

Longer Term Economic Growth – 583 homes per year.

Option D

Aspirational Economic Growth (Core Strategy) – 754 homes per year.

7. Which one of the four housing options do you consider the most appropriate for North Lincolnshire up to 2036 and why?

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

Housing Land Allocations

Allocating land for housing is a key role of the Local Plan. The Local Planning Authority will need to set housing targets for both market and affordable housing to allocate enough land to ensure that these targets are met.

Options for Housing Land Allocations

Option A

Seek to take forward existing unimplemented housing land allocations to meet the housing needs. A number of the housing allocations have developer interest and are likely to come forward for development. Some of the sites may take longer to deliver due to viability issues.

Option B

Seek to allocate alternative sites to meet the housing needs. Landowners, agents and developers have put forward land for development through the Initial Regulation 18 Call for Sites consultation. The council is asking for any additional sites to be submitted for consideration as part of this consultation.

9. Which of the housing land allocation options do think is appropriate for the Local Plan? Or should the council consider an alternative approach?

Housing Mix

National Planning Policy requires Local Planning authorities to plan for a mix of homes of different sizes and types to meet the needs and demands of the current and future population for North Lincolnshire based on the findings of the SHMA. The SHMA identifies that North Lincolnshire has a significantly higher proportion of detached and semi-detached properties compared to the region and England. It is expected that the future household size within North Lincolnshire will decrease over the next 20 years and this will push up the demand for smaller sized properties within the area. It is anticipated that there will be a continuing market for family homes but that the existing stock is expected to make a significant contribution to meeting this demand as retirement-aged people downsize for a number of reasons including release of equity from existing homes and for health reasons. Delivery of smaller properties within North Lincolnshire will support the needs and home ownership aspirations of the younger generation by, for example, providing starter homes within all new developments and by providing other intermediate products.

The Local Plan needs to plan positively for a mix of housing based on an assessment of the type of people that live in North Lincolnshire both now and in the future. Housing mix refers to both the size of the property (number of bedrooms) and the type of housing whether detached, semi, terraced or apartments. This will affect the affordability of the housing.

The table below shows that housing completions over the last 11 years have provided a good mix of house types and sizes:

Table 1: Housing Completions (2006/07 to 2016/17)

	1 Bedroom	2 Bedroom	3 Bedroom	4+ Bedroom
2006/07	13	159	297	219
2007/08	-5	105	222	157
2008/09	12	95	117	113
2009/10	15	87	115	85
2010/11	15	158	145	139
2011/12	14	156	183	137
2012/13	-7	72	107	115
2013/14	34	147	142	65
2014/15	45	93	135	95
2015/16	41	130	108	92
2016/17	-7	119	107	63

(Note: -5 indicates 5 demolished properties)

In order to gain an understanding of the approach that North Lincolnshire should take in setting a housing mix this consultation identifies 2 potential options, as follows:

Options for Housing Mix

Option A

Continue with the current approach of ensuring all new housing developments provide a mixture of house types that reflect the findings of the North Lincolnshire Strategic Housing Market Assessment 2017 and any updates.

Option B

Ensure all new housing developments provide a mixture of housing types on a site-by-site basis using robust evidence which is different to the findings of the SHMA. If so, please state which evidence should be used.

10. Which option do you think is the best approach for achieving a housing mix that suits the current and future population needs of North Lincolnshire? Or you can suggest an alternative.

Housing Density

In recent years, North Lincolnshire has seen housing development with densities between 35-45 dwellings per hectare depending on their location and the nature of the site in question. The Adopted Core Strategy contains a policy on housing density, which sets a range of densities for development depending upon locations. These densities were set using evidence from the North Lincolnshire Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA), which identified the dwelling densities that had been achieved within North Lincolnshire over the past 10 years on a variety of, sites sizes and locations. The NPPF now suggests that density should be determined on a site-by-site basis so that each development reflects the settlement in which it is located.

To address the issue of Housing Density this consultation identifies three potential options to consider, as follows:

Options for Housing Density

Option A

Set the housing density based the on emerging evidence identified within North Lincolnshire Strategic Housing & Employment Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA).

Option B

Determine housing density on a site-by-site basis through the Development Management process.

Option C

Set out specific density requirements for each allocated site within planning policy.

11. Which housing density option do you support? Or you can suggest an alternative.

Affordable Housing and the Needs of Different Groups

In accordance with NPPF, the council is seeking through the provision, distribution and design of affordable homes to create sustainable, inclusive and mixed communities. Of particular importance is the need to ensure that within any scheme the affordable homes are integrated in order to promote inclusive and mixed communities. This will be an important factor when considering the overall design of the development of a site.

The recently amended SHMA now identifies an affordable housing need of 156 homes per year and indicates the tenure should be split as 31% for intermediate products and 69% for social products. This figure has been updated from that quoted in the Initial Consultation (Regulation 18) due to the assessment of more up to date evidence. The average delivery of affordable housing within North Lincolnshire over the past 5 years has been 106 units, with the highest year seeing 139 units being built and the lowest seeing 54 units. This figure includes a range of affordable products including First Buy and Home Buy, Shared Ownership and Affordable Rent.

The council has identified the provision of affordable housing as a priority. However, it is recognised that site and market conditions can vary both between sites and in certain circumstances, particularly where abnormal costs or other circumstances apply. There may be viability issues on specific sites; therefore, the council will undertake a detailed assessment of viability through a whole-plan viability study. This will enable the council to set realistic targets for delivery of affordable housing, which do not threaten the delivery of housing and will include an assessment of the impacts of other policy requirements included within the Plan. Also,

additional negotiations will take place on sites where specific circumstances indicate viability issues to ensure that a proportion of affordable housing is delivered without stalling the delivery of the development. The target levels for affordable housing will also consider past delivery and market values.

The provision of on-site affordable housing as part of a wider housing development supports the creation of sustainable, inclusive and mixed communities. There may however, be some circumstance in which it is appropriate to provide affordable housing off-site. Such examples might include development that only delivers small amounts of affordable housing, which would be difficult for Registered Providers to manage, or where an off-site contribution would provide more affordable housing elsewhere to meet local needs.

12. Does the affordable housing need figure of 156 homes per year provide an accurate requirement for North Lincolnshire?

13. Do you agree that the SHMA identifies the appropriate affordable housing tenure split, which is 31% for intermediate products and 69% for social products?

Rural Exception Sites

Another way of delivering affordable housing within North Lincolnshire is through a rural exception sites policy. This is where land adjacent to existing settlements, but outside the development limit, is utilised to provide additional affordable housing on land that would not usually be promoted for development. The use of exception sites has been successful in delivering additional affordable housing within North Lincolnshire over the past 10 years.

This type of provision is mainly reliant on external grant investment that in some circumstances is not readily available. National Planning Policy now allows Local Planning authorities to consider whether allowing some market housing would facilitate the provision of significant additional affordable housing to meet local needs.

This consultation identifies two potential options for providing affordable housing on rural exception sites, as follows:

Options for Delivering Rural Exception Sites

Option A

Continue the current approach to delivering affordable housing through rural exception sites. This option would deliver 100% affordable housing on sites in and adjacent to rural settlements that would not normally be used for housing development.

Option B

Seek to provide affordable housing on rural exception sites and allow the inclusion of market housing to cross-subsidise affordable provision.

14. Which of the affordable housing options do you support? Are there any other options that you feel should be considered?

Housing for Older People

North Lincolnshire has an ageing population. Over the next 20 years (2016-2036) the resident population aged 65-84 years is predicted to increase by 35% (from 30,554 to 41,108). The resident population aged 85+ years is also anticipated to increase by 126% (from 4,360 to 9,866). This represents a significant demographic shift, which gives rise to a range of housing issues affecting both older people and the housing market as a whole.

Most of the housing built within North Lincolnshire over the past 20 years has been for families with a small amount aimed at older people. There are a number of housing options available to older people including: retirement villages; building smaller properties which have the ability to be easily adapted to meet future care and support needs; bungalows; larger multi-generational housing like sheltered accommodation; and extra care which has 24-hour care available.

Providing housing to meet the needs of the older population has a number of benefits. These could include freeing up larger family homes making limited mortgage lending go further,

potentially freeing up hospital beds if older patients have suitable housing to return to, and addressing fuel poverty. Furthermore, it could provide opportunities for older people to remain living in their communities.

This consultation identifies four potential options for providing housing for older people:

Options for Providing Housing for Older People

Option A

Allow developers to make their own decisions on house types and building standards.

Option B

Require developers to build a proportion of houses within housing schemes to the new optional building regulations standard aimed at making homes more accessible and adaptable.

Option C

Require developers to build bungalows, level access flats, multi-generational housing, sheltered housing or extra care housing as a proportion of all new housing developments.

Option D

Allocate specific sites for housing schemes for older people or those requiring extra care.

15. Which of the options for providing housing for older people do you support? Are there any other options that need to be considered?

North Lincolnshire Travelling Communities

Definitions for 'Gypsies and Travellers' vary across legislation. The definition used in Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (PPT) is: "Persons of nomadic habit of life whatever their race or origin, including such persons who on grounds only of their own or their family's or dependants' educational or health needs or old age have ceased to travel temporarily or permanently but excluding members of an organised group of Travelling Showpeople or circus people travelling together as such". National planning policy also states that Travelling Showpeople are: "Members of a group organised for the purposes of holding fairs, circuses or shows (whether or not travelling together as such). This includes such persons who on the grounds of their own or their family's or dependants' more localised pattern of trading, educational or health needs or old age have ceased to travel temporarily, but excludes Gypsies and Travellers as defined above."

Gypsies and Travellers live on pitches located in permanent authorised sites either provided by local authorities or privately owned. Pitches are large enough to accommodate a single static caravan and touring caravan. They often also have a day room with water and an electricity supply to provide utility washing and bathroom facilities.

Transit sites are authorised sites, which are used for short stays by Gypsies and Travellers. The sites are provided on a permanent basis and have basic amenities and services, which include water supply, shared toilets, washing facilities/utility room and waste disposal.

North Lincolnshire Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment 2012-2017 previously identified that North Lincolnshire needs to find provision for 10 permanent residential pitches and 13 transit pitches.

PPT also requires all Local Planning authorities to set targets for new pitches and plots. Local authorities must also identify and maintain a five-year supply of sites in order to meet their target for both new and permanent residential and transit pitches. North Lincolnshire Council is currently refreshing the needs assessment, which will then be used to inform any future provision if a need is subsequently identified.

This consultation provides two potential options for providing Traveller accommodation in North Lincolnshire if a need is identified, as follows:

Options for Providing Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation

Option A

Seek to allocate sites as part of residential allocations.

Option B

Seek to allocate sites specifically for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople.

16. Which of the options for providing Gypsy and Traveller accommodation do you support? Are there any other options that need consideration?

Self-Build and Custom Build

The government introduced the Self-Build and Custom Housing Building Act 2015, which aims to support the Self-Build, and Custom Build sector and remove the barriers, which prevent people from building or commissioning their own homes. The council encourages the development of Self-Build and Custom Build within North Lincolnshire and has recently launched a local register for people who want to build their own homes. The council will have regard to the register when carrying out their functions in relation to housing, planning, land disposal and regeneration. The number of mortgages available for this product is set to increase substantially, and self-build development is exempt from Community Infrastructure Levy and Section 106 Contributions.

This consultation identifies two potential options for facilitating the delivery of self-build and custom build development.

Options for Delivery of Self-Build and Custom Build Development

Option A

Promote local authority land available specifically for self-builders via the Self-build and Custom Build Register.

Option B

Provide specific serviced plots on larger residential schemes specifically for self-builders. This could potentially allow a better mix of housing styles on larger schemes.

17. Which of options for self-build and custom build do you support? Are there any other options that could be considered in the Local Plan?

DELIVERING JOBS AND SUPPORTING OUR ECONOMY

National policy and guidance requires Local Plans to proactively drive and support sustainable economic development to deliver jobs that the country needs. The new Local Plan must ensure that sufficient employment land of the right type is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth and innovation. It must also address other issues that are important to businesses such as affordable homes for workers, transport, and infrastructure, and will need to address how many new jobs need to be provided and how best can we support our existing and growing employment sectors. Barriers to investment should be addressed and priority areas identified for economic regeneration, infrastructure provision and environmental enhancement.

The council places a key emphasis on driving economic vitality. It seeks to shape the area into a more prosperous place to live, work, visit invest and to be 'safer, greener and cleaner' by increasing economic growth and prosperity through higher employment and increased home ownership.

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 Gateway as North Lincolnshire's main strategic employment location, Scunthorpe, Humberside Airport and Sandtoft Business Park.

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 for 168 ha of employment land as established within the council's Employment Land Review 2014 which will be subject to review as part of updating the Plan's evidence base. This land accommodates traditional land uses (use classes B1, B2 and B8) as well as key priority growth sectors.

When preparing the new Local Plan the economic growth approach taken by the Core Strategy requires reassessing as significant time has passed since its adoption and it may now not be the most appropriate way to progress and drive North Lincolnshire's economic transformation. However, some elements of its growth strategy may still be sound and valid.

As part of the public consultation on the March 2017 Initial Consultation (Regulation 18) document there was broad support for the existing strategic locational approach taken in the Core Strategy to continue. In terms of identifying additional employment land, main transport corridors were highlighted as the preferred strategic locations for future growth outside of Scunthorpe and the market towns. In a North Lincolnshire context, this would relate to land alongside or near to the M180/M181, A180, A18, A15, the A1077 Scunthorpe orbital, and the Cleethorpes to Doncaster railway line and Humberside Airport.

There was support for a greater distribution of employment land to the villages and wider rural areas but at a scale commensurate to their localities. It was also commented that the market towns should have a greater proportion of employment land than currently allocated as they represent popular sustainable settlements, which could accommodate greater growth. In general, there was support for continued economic growth across North Lincolnshire provided that the delivering infrastructure was capable of sustaining growth, and if not then improvements would be essential. The delay in delivering the major developments on the South Humber Gateway was highlighted as a factor that may influence the Plan's spatial strategy.

Options for Employment Sites within North Lincolnshire

Option A

Retain all existing allocated employment sites as identified within the Housing and Employment Land Allocations DPD.

Option B

Consider changing the allocation of any sites (by site reduction or de-allocation) currently allocated for employment and have not been developed.

Option C

Allocate new sites for employment uses within North Lincolnshire.

Option D

Allocate new sites for employment uses within North Lincolnshire alongside the area's main transport corridors.

Support has been shown for maintaining the current Core Strategy approach of seeking to take full advantage of our location next to the Humber Estuary by developing the South Humber Bank as well as focusing on Scunthorpe and other key strategic employment locations such as Humberside Airport and Sandtoft Business Park (Option A).

18. Do you agree that the existing strategy (Option A) should be retained or do you consider that an alternative growth strategy (Options B-D or a combination of these) should be adopted?

It was highlighted as part of the initial consultation (Regulation 18) results that further employment growth should be directed towards the area's main transport corridors.

19. Do you agree with this approach (Option D) or do you advocate another approach or a combination of options? If so where do you consider is suitable for further growth or new growth?

The current Housing and Employment Land Allocations DPD allocates 1,231.61 ha of employment land across North Lincolnshire. This is significantly above the 168ha requirement as identified within the latest Employment land Review (that is subject to review).

20. Should this approach of over-allocation be continued?

Land at the South Humber Bank is the area's main strategic employment site. It is of regional and national significance being the last undeveloped employment land fronting a deep-water estuary in the UK. The Core Strategy seeks to develop the South Humber Bank as a Global Gateway for the north of England by designating 900 ha for employment uses. The South Humber Bank employment area is currently occupied by a range of estuary-related industrial operators such as large oil, gas and electricity companies, riverside terminal facilities and associated activities including storage, processing and distribution. The area is already home to a number of chemical companies, which provide 27% of the UK's oil refinery capacity. It is currently safeguarded and the current vision is to ensure that opportunities are maximised around the ports for chemical industries and power generation including renewable energy and offshore wind manufacturing.

North Lincolnshire is also a major energy capital in terms of energy generation. This includes the emerging renewable energy and offshore wind sectors. In essence, an "Energy Corridor" within the South Humber Bank has been formed which is expected to play a formative role in driving North Lincolnshire's economic growth and prosperity. The "Energy Corridor" also extends into North East Lincolnshire and is pivotal in the economic success and prosperity for both authorities.

A key component of the "Energy Corridor" is Able UK's Marine Energy Park (AMEP) that comprises the construction of a new quay approximately 1,320m long together with associated onshore

facilities. This will accommodate wind turbine manufacture, assembly and commissioning covering a site of approximately 245ha of existing terrestrial land and 55ha of the existing estuary which has been approved by the Secretary of State. The Able sites also form part of the Humber Enterprise Zone (EZ), the largest in the UK with the EZ supporting growth in ports, logistics and renewables and the region's ambition to become a leading national and international centre for the renewables sector.

The following table demonstrates that the local economy is currently highly dependent upon manufacturing. Around 19.4%²⁵ of employees in North Lincolnshire work in this sector when compared with 11.3% regionally and 9.4% nationally. On the basis of Scunthorpe's steel making heritage metal manufacturing accounts for 33.3%²⁶ of manufacturing jobs with food manufacturing running at 16.7%²⁷.

Table 2: All in Employment by Sector

	North Lincolnshire		Yorkshire and The Humber		England	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Public Admin. Education and Health	21,900	28.8	786,700	31.1	7,807,800	29.4
Distribution, Hotels and Restaurants	18,500	24.3	512,000	20.2	4,869,400	18.3
Manufacturing	14,700	19.4	286,500	11.3	2,505,900	9.4
Transport and Communications	5,200	6.8	200,100	7.9	2,493,200	9.4
Banking, Finance and Insurance	5,200	6.9	342,300	13.5	4,698,300	17.7
Construction	4,000	5.3	179,400	7.1	1,866,800	7.0
Other services	3,000	3.9	139,100	5.5	1,556,300	5.9
Energy and Water	1,700	2.3	38,800	1.5	395,100	1.5
Agriculture and Fishing	1,000	1.3	28,100	1.1	255,400	1.0

Source: Nomis (Oct 2015 – Sept 2016)

Industry sectors are classified by the type of economic activity in which they are engaged. In 2016, the largest industry sector

²⁵ Nomis Sep 2016 data

²⁶ BRES 2015 data – Metal manufacturing is combined basic metals and fabricated metal products excluding machinery/equipment

²⁷ BRES 2015 data – Food manufacturing is combined food production and beverage production

in North Lincolnshire was Construction with 11.1% of the total number of businesses, according to ONS UK Business: Activity, Size and Location. This compares to the regional and national rates of 10.3% and 10.4% respectively. North Lincolnshire's second largest industry sector was Retail with a 10.1% share of businesses compared to the regional average of 11% and the national average of 9.5%. The industry sector with the smallest share of businesses in 2016 was Public Administration and Defence with a 1.3% share of businesses in North Lincolnshire. This follows the regional and national trend where the Public Administration and Defence sectors, with 1% and 0.7% respectively, also have the smallest share of businesses.

What Should Happen to Our Existing Employment Sites?

As well as the potential to allocate new sites for employment development, the Local Plan will need to consider the viability of our existing employment sites. This consideration will form part of a Strategic Housing & Employment Land Availability Assessment, which will be completed following the Issues and Options consultation. The current Employment Land Review considered the quality and viability of employment sites in North Lincolnshire and this will form a starting point for the review.

When considering new employment allocations or the future of our existing employment sites it is necessary to consider the likelihood of a site either being developed by investors or retained in operation for the foreseeable future. There is also pressure to redevelop various existing business sites for housing and other uses. However, some of these sites are important for providing jobs, especially in the rural area, and their loss could have a

negative effect on the local economy and our aims for sustainable development. It is noted, however, that planning policies should avoid the long-term protection of sites allocated for employment use where there is no reasonable prospect of the site being used for that purpose.

The Housing and Employment Land Allocations DPD identifies and allocates a range of sites for employment and economic uses. As part of the preparation of the new Local Plan the suitability and future of these sites needs to be reassessed and reconsidered. If you have any comments to make on the viability or potential future uses of any of the currently allocated employment sites that are listed below please comment on the next question.

Table 3: Current Allocated Employment Sites

Site Name/Location	Uses	Site Area (ha)
South Humber Gateway (SHG)	B1, B2, B8	900ha – Estuary Related
Normanby Enterprise Park, Scunthorpe	B1, B2, B8	35.1 ha
North Killingholme Airfield	B1, B8	138.21 ha
Mortal Ash Hill, Scunthorpe	B1	15.48 ha
Humberside Airport (3 sites)	B1, B8	Site 1: 9; Site 2: 12 ha; Site 3: 7.8 ha
Sandtoft Business Park	B1, B8	55.3 ha
Brigg Sugar	B1, B2, B8	20.5 ha
Humber Bridge Industrial Estate, Barton-upon-Humber	B1, B2, B8	7.15 ha
New Holland Industrial Estate	B1, B2, B8	21.47 ha
Spenn Lane, Ealand	B1, B2, B8	3.2 ha
South of Railway, Ealand	B1, B2, B8	6.0 ha

21. Do you have any comments on the viability and deliverability of the employment sites currently allocated within the Housing and Employment Land Allocations DPD that would prevent them from being allocated within the new Local Plan?

Key Challenges

The March 2017 Initial Consultation (Regulation 18) document identified key economic challenges for North Lincolnshire, which will influence the development of the Local Plan. It is considered that these challenges are still relevant, and are:

- Ensuring that sufficient employment land is provided in accessible and sustainable locations
- Improving the quality of the employment land offer
- Bringing forward the two major Able UK developments at the South Humber Gateway
- Ensuring that new retail development enhances the overall retail provision whilst protecting the area's town and district centres
- Providing access to employment/key services, particularly for people without access to a car

Following the March 2017 Initial Consultation (Regulation 18) consultation additional key economic challenges came forward:

- Promoting and enhancing North Lincolnshire's tourism offer
- Ensuring that local people have the right skills and experience to play a role in driving and transforming North Lincolnshire's economy

In addition to the key challenges identified above the 2016, North Lincolnshire Strategic Assessment identified further challenges for North Lincolnshire, being:

- Skills
- Protecting the manufacturing sector
- Bringing forward development
- Transforming and shifting the economic trajectory

The assessment also sets out a vision that **"By 2028 North Lincolnshire will be a vibrant and sustainable area with a diverse, growing population that is thriving in a strong dynamic economy."**

North Lincolnshire's Rural Economy

Outside of Scunthorpe and the market towns, North Lincolnshire hosts a wide range of rural enterprises that vary in size, usually operating in and around the villages. These rural businesses often have strong local connections in terms of origin and a local workforce, but also enjoy the attractive rural environment and the connections to a number of major centres.

A diversity of rural enterprise is essential for the future of North Lincolnshire's economy. The Local Plan must guide development in a way, which ensures that the natural and physical environment (infrastructure) remains attractive and a local workforce can be provided to service business.

In order to support the rural economy, where agricultural buildings are no longer needed for agriculture they can be converted to provide employment opportunities. Conversions can bring environmental improvements through good sensitive design or general improvements to the wider visual appearance of the area. However, it is also important to consider whether development is appropriate in its location, so that those attracting significant numbers of visitors or employees are located where they can be accessed by means other than the car.

Local Planning Policies are required to support farm diversification of agricultural and other land-based rural businesses. Farm diversification schemes such as farm shops, holiday accommodation, and farm-based processing and packaging can help maintain working farms. Enterprise relating to the keeping or breeding of equines are common in the rural areas and form an essential part of the rural economy.

Options for North Lincolnshire's Rural Economy

Option A

Support and encourage genuine proposals for rural enterprise (such as conversions of existing buildings and limited new build where required) within North Lincolnshire's rural areas. This option would help to facilitate and encourage small-scale employment proposals and help to reduce the need to travel in our rural areas.

Option B

Allocate sites for small-scale rural employment opportunities. This option would target specific small-scale employment proposals within the rural area allowing new/established enterprises the scope to grow.

22. Which of the options (or a combination or another) do you prefer to ensure that rural businesses continue to grow and thrive in North Lincolnshire?

Visitor Economy

The visitor economy is an important and resilient part of North Lincolnshire's overall economy contributing some £167 million. It is estimated that over 2,306 local people are employed full-time in the industry and in 2015; there were three million day visits to North Lincolnshire attractions alone.

Many parts of North Lincolnshire have the potential to develop their visitor offer to attract more short-stay and long-stay visitors from within the region as well as from national and international locations. Boosting visitor numbers and the amount of money and time they spend in the area will lead to a range of business opportunities as well as supporting investment in the area's natural and historic tourism assets and town centres. Key tourism attractions such as Normanby Hall & Country Park, the Humber Estuary, Thorne and Crowle Moors, the market towns and the surrounding attractive countryside have a huge role to play in developing and moving forward North Lincolnshire's tourism offer.

Planning for tourism should ensure that in maximising North Lincolnshire's assets we do not harm the very character, quality and beauty that make them attractive to residents and visitors. It is, therefore, essential that appropriately scaled facilities and infrastructure is in place that support the economic potential that tourism offers whilst protecting the wider environment itself.

Options for the Visitor Economy

Option A

Concentrate on our existing tourist sectors. This option would look to retain and expand existing tourist facilities in North Lincolnshire.

Option B

Develop new tourist attractions. This option would be to seek and encourage new tourist attractions into North Lincolnshire.

23. Which of the options (or a combination or another) ensure that the visitor economy continues to grow and thrive in North Lincolnshire?

Town, District and Local Centres

Having access to a range of shops, cultural and leisure facilities that meet local needs is essential to creating sustainable communities and a successful and vibrant economy. The Core Strategy's current approach is to identify, protect and enhance North Lincolnshire's town, district and local centres with the current retail hierarchy being:

- Scunthorpe town centre
- Market town centres of Barton-upon-Humber, Brigg, Crowle and Epworth
- District centres of Kirton-in-Lindsey and Winterton
- District centres of Ashby High Street and Frodingham Road
- Local centres/corner shops

Through the Housing and Employment Land Allocations DPD, town centre boundaries have been established for Scunthorpe and the market towns and district centres as listed above.

Town centre boundaries provide a useful planning tool and help to provide increased certainty concerning where town centre policies will apply. The identification of a 'town centre' can help

ensure that retail and other commercial development ('town centre uses') are located in the most appropriate areas which should also help to increase the vitality and viability of the centre.

Town centre boundaries can also be important in the process of planning for any new retail development with the NPPF requiring that, wherever possible, such development should be provided in town centre locations. Where suitable sites for such development are not available, it is then necessary to use a sequential test in order to identify the most suitable alternative site which should be as close to the defined town centre as possible.

Scunthorpe is the main retail and service destination in the area with the market town centres and district centres providing a range of services and facilities to meet the needs of their own and surrounding communities. The NPPF seeks to ensure town centres remain vibrant, diverse and healthy performing as the heart of communities. This existing hierarchy will now need to be evaluated to ensure its continuing appropriateness in the light of changing retail trends, particularly the growth of internet shopping. It is likely that there will be continuing pressure for out-of-centre retail proposals, which could undermine the retail function of the town centres, particularly Scunthorpe. This, by itself, will be a key consideration in the preparation of the Local Plan.

Balanced against the growing convenience of accessing services and shopping through the internet, the Local Plan must ensure a flexible approach to planning for the development of Scunthorpe town centre. Such an approach must ensure advantage can be taken of key assets that will make the Town Centre remain a destination where people continue to want to visit, enjoy, and spend their time and money in.

The council has recently revealed ambitious plans for Scunthorpe town centre via a £60 million plus investment to transform the town that should be completed by 2022 and will create more than 200 jobs, around 1,500 student places, plus inject £1.5 million into the local economy. The transformation project aims to increase the number of people and businesses and create a family friendly evening environment in the town (in particular the Church Square area) and includes:

- £5.8m headquarters building for Ongo Homes
- £5.7m Church Square House extension providing space for 600 council workers and creating 45 construction jobs
- Around £15m for a new University Centre
- £3.9m private sector investment to provide up to 60 one-bed and two-bed homes on Lindum Street
- £14.7m new 200-unit facility for NHS employees (including five commercial units below)
- £1m library refurbishment
- £4m improvements to make the town look more attractive and road and pedestrian improvements to create better access.

A town centre board made up of representatives from leading local institutions and developers will be established to oversee the projects and ensure they are delivered on time and within budget.

Primary shopping frontages have been identified in Scunthorpe town centre and are the most important retail frontages with the greatest pedestrian flows and greatest concentration of shops for comparison goods. Policies for primary shopping frontages restrict the amount of non-shopping uses permitted and seek to retain and enhance the shopping function of the frontage.

Some local authorities also identify secondary shopping frontages in close proximity to the primary frontage, which are generally occupied by a lower proportion of retail uses and provide greater opportunities for a diversity of uses. The use of primary shopping frontages has been supported by this council within the 2003 Local Plan, and in the more recent Housing and Employment Land Allocations DPD.

The retention of local centres and village shops provides a valuable role in meeting local community needs. Providing facilities close to homes reduces the need to travel by private car and creates more desirable and socially inclusive neighbourhoods. Local centres include a range of small shops of a local nature, serving a small catchment. Typically, local centres might include, for example, shops, a small supermarket, a newsagent, a sub-post office and a pharmacy.

24. There is support for the existing network of retail centres and the current retail hierarchy. Do you still agree with this approach?

Options for Scunthorpe Town Centre

Option A

Retain or make minor amendments only to the town centre boundary, including the primary shopping frontages as it currently is.

Option B

Significantly amend the town centre boundary (growing or reducing), including the primary shopping frontages, to allow a greater/different mix of town centre uses in the area.

25. Which of the options do you prefer for Scunthorpe's town centre boundary and primary shopping frontages? Do you have any further options for consideration?

26. Some local authorities also identify secondary shopping frontages in close proximity to the primary frontage. Should we do the same, if so, where?

Market Towns and District Centres

27. Do you think that the town centre and district centre boundaries, as shown in the Housing and Employment Land Allocations DPD, are still appropriate or do you consider that they require amending? If so, how should they be changed?

28. Do you think it is important to safeguard and enhance local retail services such as local centres and village shops?

MANAGING OUR NATURAL AND HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

Residents of North Lincolnshire enjoy and value its rich and distinctive natural and historic environment. The Plan must consider these characteristics whilst also addressing climate change, sustainable use of resources and flood risk. National policy set out in the NPPF and associated guidance outlines core principles in respect of the natural and historic environment for those that work, visit and invest here. The condition of the surrounding natural and historic environment, including many heritage assets, are critical to North Lincolnshire's image, having a significant impact on the quality of life as well as bringing both social and economic benefits to its communities.

Environmental considerations are, therefore, fundamental to all planning policy areas whilst achieving the council's ambition and outcomes where everyone is safe, well, prosperous and connected. They are also central to creating a cleaner, greener and safer place.

Initial Consultation (Regulation 18)

As part of the public consultation on the March 2017 Initial Consultation (Regulation 18) document a wide variety of comments on environmental issues was received from respondents. Particular issues raised included flood risk/ drainage, ecology and biodiversity, managing and dealing with pollution, access and minerals. In terms of the broad approach to the environment, there was strong recognition of the role played by the area's natural and built environment and there was support for the aims and objectives of the Core Strategy (2011)

to be reflected 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 in to the new Local Plan. Some respondents were insistent that the Core Strategy approach should be strongly adhered to.

In general there was strong support 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. These environmental issues have been covered in the following sections.

Biodiversity and Geodiversity

North Lincolnshire has international, national and local sites of nature conservation including one Ramsar site, two Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), two Special Protection Areas (SPA), 28 Special Sites of Scientific Interest (SSSIs), two National Nature Reserves (NNR), 14 Local Nature Reserves (LNR) (this may increase during the Local Plan process), many Local Wildlife Sites (LWS), many Local Geological Sites (LGS) and significant blocks of Ancient Woodland (amounting to at least 324 hectares). In addition, there are a number of sites outside the Local Plan area that trigger Natural England's Impact Risk Zone including Hatfield Moors and River Idle Washlands SSSI. There are also Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) Priority Habitats and Species areas within the boundary of the Local Plan. All these sites are required to be protected from development proposals under NPPF and various environmental legislation.

North Lincolnshire supports important areas of species, rich covers and heath, lowland raised bog (peat rich areas), intertidal habitat areas including salt marsh and mud flats, reed beds, and some ancient woodland. Development can have an impact

on protected species that can suffer harm or disturbance and should there be an issue developers should carry out surveys in consultation with North Lincolnshire Council and Natural England. The Local Plan will need to maintain and improve the natural environment and should include policies to ensure development proposals minimise the negative impacts on biodiversity and, if possible, provide a net gain.

A key challenge is how to balance the delivery of new development against the need to protect the rich biodiversity and geodiversity in North Lincolnshire. For example, a key issue will be to secure wildlife species in the designated protected areas in and around the South Humber Bank Employment Site where a mitigation strategy is in place to replace existing habitat. New development can potentially lead to habitat and species loss and may indirectly affect protected sites through increased water usage, increased waste water, and recreational disturbance. Previously used sites that have been vacant for long periods may also have high biodiversity value.

North Lincolnshire has a number of Local Geological Sites (Geodiversity areas) that should be protected from development proposals.

Options for Biodiversity and Geodiversity

Option A

In addition to the requirement to protect all biodiversity and geodiversity designated sites, where development is proposed adjacent to a designated site a buffer zone will be required around the site.

Option B

In addition to the requirement to protect all biodiversity and geodiversity designated sites, the enhancement of existing biodiversity in such designated sites should be encouraged through the development of adjacent sites.

29. Which of the options do you think is the best approach for achieving biodiversity and geodiversity benefits within North Lincolnshire?

North Lincolnshire's Landscape

National Character Areas (NCA) divides England into 159 distinct natural areas. Each is defined by a unique combination of landscape, biodiversity, geodiversity and cultural and economic activity. Their boundaries follow natural lines in the landscape rather than administrative boundaries. North Lincolnshire has a Landscape Character Assessment to assist decision making on development proposals and this will require updating. North Lincolnshire has six NCAs, identified as Humberhead Levels, Humber Estuary, Lincolnshire Coast and Marshes, Lincolnshire Wolds, Central Lincolnshire Vale, and Northern Lincolnshire Edge with Coversands.

North Lincolnshire has identified a further six landscape characters in the Landscape Character Assessment (1999) based on a pattern of underlying solid geology and resulting topography, as Trent Levels, Lincolnshire Edge, Vale of Ancholme, Lincolnshire Wolds, Lincolnshire Drift and Humber Estuary. The

setting of settlements and where development is directed in the landscape is an important issue, and a new assessment is currently being produced to review the landscape character within North Lincolnshire. This work will be used to assist in the protection of the landscape and ensure that the qualities of the area which are most valued by the community are retained.

Options for Landscape

Option A

Continue with the current policy approach adopted within the Core Strategy and North Lincolnshire Local Plan saved policies that designate landscapes.

Option B

Include a criteria-based policy that is applicable to both rural and urban areas to protect landscape with important character.

Option C

Identify areas of specific landscape character by setting out what makes them special using the North Lincolnshire Character Assessment.

Option D

Rely on the National Landscape Character Areas and the North Lincolnshire Landscape Areas (included in the Supplementary Planning Guidance) to guide development proposals without creating specific policy/policies.

30. Which of the above options is most appropriate to protect North Lincolnshire landscape? Or do you have any alternative options?

Green and Blue Infrastructure (including Green Space and Waterscape)

As part of the Regulation 18 initial consultation Natural England has encouraged the creation of a North Lincolnshire-wide Green Infrastructure Strategy (GIS) for the area. NPPF supports a strategic approach in Local Plans, planning positively for the creation, protection, enhancement and management of networks of biodiversity and green infrastructure. This includes linking green spaces, open spaces and water bodies by footpaths, bridleways, cycleways and rights of public access. This approach will contribute to North Lincolnshire becoming greener and an attractive place to live, work, visit and invest.

North Lincolnshire's network of parks, natural green spaces, open spaces, historic landscape and waterscapes provides quality greenspace between settlements, connecting town to country with a natural and recreational resource which are equally important to the area's distinctiveness. Benefit can be gained from enhanced green and blue infrastructure (GI) provision as it performs a range of functions including improved flood risk management, provision of accessible green space, climate change adaptation and biodiversity enhancement. One example of this in North Lincolnshire is the green and blue infrastructure proposed in the adopted Lincolnshire Lakes Area Action Plan.

North Lincolnshire's green and blue infrastructure is vast and varied containing many attractive green and open spaces and waterscapes. Some of these spaces are connected but

many are not. A Green Infrastructure Strategy would create the opportunity for connections between the remaining unconnected areas and spaces and would probably introduce new areas and spaces for the enjoyment of residents and visitors to North Lincolnshire as well as generally contributing towards making the area a greener place.

Options for Green and Blue Infrastructure

Option A

Create a Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy linking parks, natural green spaces, historic landscape and waterscapes providing quality greenspace between settlements, connecting town to country with a natural and recreational resource.

Option B

Identify specific opportunities for major development proposals to provide additional green infrastructure to help provide any missing links in the network.

31. Which of the options would you support in delivering green and blue infrastructure, or are there other options that you feel the council should consider?

Local Green Spaces

To help protect green spaces, which are important to local communities, the NPPF has introduced the ability to designate such land as Local Green Spaces. The NPPF considers this special protection would not be appropriate for most open space and should only be used under the following conditions:

- Where the green space is in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves.
- Where the green area is demonstrably special to the local community and holds a local significance, for example, because of its historic significance, recreational value, tranquillity or richness of its wildlife.
- Where the green area concerned is local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.

The council is currently undertaking a Local Green Space Assessment, which will assess the proposed LGS sites that have been put forward through the Call for Sites process. The Local Plan will designate land as local green space and this consultation provides local communities with the opportunity to suggest where such space should be identified, where it is supported by robust justification. A review of the existing LC11 Areas of Amenity Importance sites are being undertaken.

Options for Local Green Space (LGS)

Option A

Develop a criteria-based policy approach to development that is applicable to all development sites.

Option B

Designate specific land as LGS through the Local Plan in accordance with the requirements of the NPPF.

32. Which of the options for Local Green Space do you support or should the council consider an alternative approach?

33. Are there any specific pieces of land that you feel should be considered as Local Green Space? If so, please complete the Call for Sites form.

34. Should the Local Plan continue to protect areas of open amenity value (i.e., continue with the LC11 designation or similar)?

Historic Natural and Built Heritage

North Lincolnshire has many important buildings: 39 Grade I Listed Buildings; 36 Grade II* Listed Buildings; and 837 Grade II Listed Buildings, together with 17 Conservation Areas. There are also 46 Scheduled Monuments. The Conservation Area Appraisals also include a number of buildings, which, whilst not listed on the national heritage list are considered important local buildings of townscape merit. A large area of the Isle of Axholme is designated as historic landscape for its Turbaries (peat reserves) and three-field system. There is also a slither of land in North Lincolnshire, which is part of the Brocklesby National Park and Garden (the only one in relation to North Lincolnshire).

The historic natural and built heritage is important to the historic local distinctiveness of North Lincolnshire including the many listed buildings, conservation areas, scheduled monuments, local Buildings of Townscape merit (BTMs) and Brocklesby Park Registered Park and Garden. Apart from the buildings locally designated for their townscape merit all the other designations are protected under legislation but would benefit from policy protection in the Local Plan.

Options for the Historic Natural and Built Heritage

Option A

Provide specific policies to safeguard historic landscapes, archaeological sites, listed buildings and conservation areas, together with non-designated identified buildings of townscape merit.

Option B

Have an overarching development management policy to protect all heritage assets and retain conservation areas.

Option C

Rely on national guidance contained in the NPPF and NPPG to retain all heritage assets.

35. Which of these options should the Local Plan use to protect and enhance the built heritage of the area?

Agricultural Land Quality

The agricultural land of North Lincolnshire ranges mostly from the best quality Grade 1 down to Grade 3b. The best and most versatile land quality covers Grades 1, 2 and 3a with the majority being located in the Isle of Axholme, River Trent and the Ancholme Valley, and the Wolds. Although development can be allowed on the designated best and most versatile land, agriculture is an important industry and the best crop yields come from this higher-grade land.

36. Should the Local Plan include a specific policy on soil and agricultural land quality, which is needed to help control and manage development in areas that include the best and most versatile agricultural land or should national planning policy be relied upon?

Pollution

The (NPPF) states that the planning system should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by preventing both new and existing development from contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution. For example, all these types of pollution can be related to the use of brownfield land that could present an unsustainable contamination issue that would affect amenity if it is not properly assessed and resolved. The NPPF encourages the development of brownfield land before using Greenfield land, but due consideration must be given in the Local Plan to contamination issue before site choices are made.

There are two Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) in North Lincolnshire designated to address dust emissions associated with the Integrated Steelworks and associated industries. These AQMAS are under review following collaborative work with industry and regulators, which have resulted in reduced emissions. The council is required to consult identified stakeholders on the current

proposal to revoke or reduce the boundary of the two AQMAs. The Local Plan will need to take account of the outcome of this review of the AQMAs and the subsequent consultation. This process fulfils Part IV of the Environment Act 1995. The NPPF requires planning decisions to ensure that new development within AQMAs is consistent with the local air quality action plans, and the Local Plan will need to consider the impacts of the AQMAs when deciding on where development should be located.

Reducing pollution and improving air quality will help to create a North Lincolnshire that is a cleaner, greener and a safer place in which to live, work, visit and invest.

Water Quality

The strategic impacts on water quality and resources are required to be considered as defined in NPPF. The Local Plan should be based upon an up-to-date evidence base on the water environment, and guidance is provided in the Humber River Basin Management Plan (HRBMP), which covers North Lincolnshire. The HRBMP helps to implement the EU Water Framework Directive (transposed into UK law) and outlines the main issues for the water environment and the actions needed to tackle them. In exercising their function, LPAs must have regard to this Plan.

Water quality is an important issue that contributes towards the well-being of North Lincolnshire's residents and overall environment, and new development must comply with the EU Water Framework Directive (transposed into English law). The North Lincolnshire administrative area straddles the water supply service boundary between Anglian Water and Yorkshire Water Services (AWS and YWS), with the majority of the area being within the AWS area and the south-eastern limit of the YWS area covering parts of the Isle of Axholme west of the River Trent. North Lincolnshire is served by a combination of ground and surface water sources including:

- North Lincolnshire Chalk Aquifer, which underlies the eastern coastal area (from Barton-upon-Humber to south Grimsby) is of regional importance and the principal raw water source for the area
- North Lincolnshire Limestone Aquifer
- Rivers Trent and its tributaries and the River Ancholme.

The North Lincolnshire Outline Water Cycle Strategy contains information on water resources and supply, water recycling (AWS and Severn Trent Water operate and maintain wastewater assets in North Lincolnshire), and water quality. In addition, AWS is considering a 25-year growth forecast for their area of responsibility and is developing long-term integrated strategies to manage growth for the highest risk water catchments in their area. In determining growth in the Local Plan, regard will be given to these strategies.

Light Pollution

Lighting required for some developments can cause light pollution, which can have negative impacts on local amenity, intrinsically dark landscapes and nature conservation of certain species. This can be managed by good design and planning policy being applied to planning applications as supported by NPPF.

New development inevitably produces the need for lighting and if installed inappropriately can create needless light pollution. This issue is not likely to prohibit development but will need to be controlled when considering development proposals.

Reducing pollution and improving air and water quality will help to create a North Lincolnshire that is a cleaner, greener and safer place in which to live, work, visit and invest.

37. Is a development management policy required to give consideration to all sources of pollution (i.e., soil, air and light pollution) and water quality in relation to new development proposals?

38. Is a policy needed to give consideration to the AQMAs?

Climate Change and Adapting to its Impacts

Climate change is a key issue within North Lincolnshire. Reducing our contribution to climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions is a key consideration but we also need to take measures to respond to the already inevitable effects of climate change to minimise the impact they have within the North Lincolnshire area. Climate change is expected to continue during the Plan period. Hotter, drier summers and warmer, wetter winters are expected together with an increase in frequency of intense rainfall events. This has implications for flooding, ground stability, the need to heat and, more commonly, cool buildings.

Climate change policy at all levels emphasises the importance to cover the need to reduce contributions to climate change as well as the need to adapt to their inevitable effects. NPPF highlights the importance of planning in tackling emissions, minimising vulnerability and providing resilience to the impacts of climate change as well as supporting the delivery of renewable and low-carbon energy. It also requires that Local Planning authorities should plan new development in a way that minimises carbon issues, creates cleaner and greener places, and avoids increased vulnerability to the range of impacts arising from climate change.

39. What policy measures should the Local Plan use to ensure that development meets the challenge of climate change?

Managing Water Resources and Flood Risk

North Lincolnshire's existing waterscape is a valuable asset, supporting wildlife, recreation and tourism, as well as providing water for business, agriculture and households. Water resources need to be carefully managed to conserve their quality and value and to address flooding issues. The council are working in partnership with all statutory bodies responsible for water resource and flood risk management to ensure that resources are managed in a sustainable way.

The NPPF requires LPAs to consider flood risk as part of their Local Plans. Flood risk is a significant issue in North Lincolnshire with approximately 50% of land being located within high flood risk, and the main Rivers of the Humber, Trent and Ancholme and the Isle of Axholme all set in a low-lying landscape.

The sources of flooding in North Lincolnshire include tidal (from the sea) fluvial (from rivers) and pluvial (rainfall). In recent years, surface water flooding has become an increasing concern because of more intensive rainfall events. Tidal flooding is also of concern in terms of higher tide levels and being vulnerable to North Sea tidal surges (as seen, for example, in December 2013). There are a number of flood defences in place in the area managed mainly by a combination of the Environment Agency and North Lincolnshire Council as Lead Local Flood Authority. The future management of flood defences will be an issue in terms of the need for it and how it will be funded in the future.

North Lincolnshire Council is working closely with the EA on a 'Managed Adaptive Approach' (MAA) within river catchment areas between now and the current climate change predictions until 2115 in, for example, the Lincolnshire Lakes development area within the lower Trent floodplain. There is a requirement to comply with the new flood risk climate change guidance issued by the Government in February 2016, and the Humber Flood Risk Management Strategy (2008) is currently being reviewed and is programmed to be published during 2019. This strategy will set out a catchment wide approach and include projects to assist the management of the catchments.

Local Plans should be supported by Strategic Flood Risk Assessments and develop policies to manage flood risk from all sources. North Lincolnshire has a SFRA (2011) in place that is currently being updated as evidence for this new Local Plan. In addition, Local Plans should apply a sequential, risk-based approach to the location of development to avoid, where possible, the risk of flood to people and property. Exceptionally, it may be appropriate to develop land at risk of flooding for sustainability reasons or to avoid economic and social blight in an area. This sequential approach assessment will be carried out as sites for development come forward in the Plan process.

Another consideration for the Local Plan, in relation to managing flood risk is drainage. The drainage network has a role to play in reducing flood risk by managing surface water. The plan could encourage the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) in new developments as a means of doing so. These have the potential to create new habitats and support biodiversity.

The Planning Policy Guidance (PPG) requires that Local Plans are supported by SFRAs, Water Resource Management Plans and Water Cycle Studies. The council's Local Flood Risk Assessment sets out drainage issues in North Lincolnshire, as they exist now.

Options for Flood Risk

Option A

No development should be allowed in areas of functional flood plain.

Option B

Some development should be allowed in areas of high flood risk if the benefits outweigh the risk.

Option C

Continue with the flood risk management approach set out in the North Lincolnshire Core Strategy.

Option D

Develop a flexible policy approach in compliance with national and local policy (i.e., to not create flood risk on-site or elsewhere and to provide safe development) to development in flood risk areas bearing in mind we have many existing settlements within flood risk areas.

40. Which one of the four options do you consider the most appropriate for managing flood risk within North Lincolnshire?

41. Are there any alternative options that should also be considered?

42. How should the Plan ensure that flood risk is adequately managed and that new development both within and outside of the flood plain does not increase flood risk to new or existing properties and assets?

Water Efficiency

The different patterns of climate change are likely to have an impact on water efficiency. The Housing Standards Review sets out a water efficiency target of 125 litres of water usage per person per day for all new dwellings, to be implemented through the Building Regulations. An optional higher target further reduces water consumption in new dwellings to 110 litres per person per day. In order to adopt this latter standard within the Local Plan, we would need to demonstrate that there is sufficient evidence to support this aim. The evidence would need to relate to availability of water and pressure on water resources to demonstrate that the approach was necessary, as well as the financial viability of requiring new dwellings to meet the additional standard.

North Lincolnshire is served by a combination of ground water and surface water sources. These include from the North Lincolnshire Chalk aquifer, the North Lincolnshire Limestone aquifer and River Trent and its tributaries, the River Ancholme,

and a small portion of the main Yorkshire Water supply zone (in the Isle of Axholme area). The other two main water companies covering North Lincolnshire are Anglian Water and Severn Trent Water. The Local Plan viability assessment would have to consider to the higher target if it was to be taken forward at the Preferred Options stage.

Options for Water Efficiency

Option A

Implement the higher water efficiency standard of 110 litres of water usage per person per day through a future Local Plan.

Option B

Continue to use the Building Regulations Standard of 125 litres of water usage per person per day.

43. Which of the options do you support to address water efficiency and which standard should the policy address?

Renewable and Low Carbon Energy

The PPF requires LPAs to set any local requirement for a building's sustainability in a way that is consistent with the Government's zero-carbon buildings policy and to adopt nationally prescribed standards. They should also recognise the responsibility of all communities to contribute towards renewable energy generation by writing policies, which maximise renewable and low-carbon energy development and consider identifying suitable areas for renewable and low-carbon energy development.

The NPPG sets out the importance of a Sustainability Appraisal in ensuring that Local Plans help deliver the Climate Change Act 2008. Conserving energy is important in development as there is a need to continue to move towards an environment that demands less energy and has sustainable energy resources. North Lincolnshire contains many wind farms and turbines, but any new proposals should be located where no detrimental harm is done to the landscape character and residential amenity.

The council has existing supplementary guidance on this matter that will be re-assessed and included within a revised version of the North Lincolnshire Landscape Character Assessment (1999). North Lincolnshire Council currently does not designate areas where renewable and low carbon energy can be located. All such development is treated on their individual merit.

Options for Renewable and Low Carbon Energy

Option A

Designate areas within the Local Plan for renewable and low carbon energy development (for example wind turbines and solar photovoltaic) without detrimental harm to North Lincolnshire landscape character and residential amenity.

Option B

Require all new major development to provide a percentage of their forecast energy needs from onsite renewable and low-carbon energy technologies.

44. Which of the options do you consider the most appropriate for delivering renewable and low-carbon energy within North Lincolnshire?

45. Are there any alternative options that should also be considered?

PLANNING FOR A SUSTAINABLE SUPPLY OF MINERALS

Minerals play a vital role in society. Aggregates and other types of construction minerals are needed to build homes, factories, offices and transport infrastructure. Other minerals are used in industry, food production and agriculture. Energy minerals like oil and gas provide the country with power and heating. Whilst seeking to deliver development, increase our quality of life, and create sustainable communities, it is essential that we plan appropriately for minerals. Doing so ensures that the need for minerals by society and the economy, together with the impacts of extraction and processing on communities and the environment are managed in an integrated way.

Our Mineral Resources

North Lincolnshire's geology ensures the presence of several different mineral resources in the area. These include sand and gravel, limestone, chalk, silica sand, clay, ironstone and peat as well as hydrocarbon (oil and gas) deposits. We have five quarries extracting either chalk or limestone and four extracting either sand and gravel, or silica sand. Ironstone extraction ceased some time ago, as has peat extraction. There is one operational oil well. The British Geological Survey (BGS) **report on mineral resources in former Humberside area** and its **accompanying map** identifies the type and extent of the minerals present in North Lincolnshire.

Initial Consultation (Regulation 18)

Responses to the Initial (Regulation 18) consultation centred on the need to ensure an adequate and steady supply of aggregates, the need for the provision of up to date policies for safeguarding mineral resources and managing the impacts of mineral development, as well as the need for an up-to-date Local Aggregates Assessment. Hydrocarbon extraction was also highlighted. This has informed the identification of the issues set out in the subsequent sections.

Ensuring an Adequate and Steady Supply of Minerals

There is a clear national policy to maintain an adequate and steady supply of minerals, particularly aggregates, to meet local as well as national needs. The main aggregates extracted in North Lincolnshire are sand and gravel and crushed rock (chalk and limestone). We also extract silica sand, which is classed as an industrial mineral, and brick clay is also a key resource. There are also hydrocarbon (oil and gas) reserves.

To identify future requirements and demand for aggregates we have to prepare a Local Aggregate Assessment (LAA) that is updated each year. We work with our neighbours in the Humber area to prepare this as a joint piece of work. Future supply and

demand is based on a rolling average of 10-year sales data and other local information. It looks at all supply options include the availability of secondary or recycled aggregates as well as imports and exports. The latest LAA is currently being prepared and will be available for the Preferred Options stage.

The NPPF sets out clear policy requirements in relation to a number of minerals. It requires the maintenance of landbanks of at least 7 years for sand and gravel, 10 years for crushed rock, 10 years for silica sand sites (more in some circumstances) and 25 years for clay. It also requires us to consider how to meet the demand for minerals for the repair of historic assets.

As mentioned above, the main sources of evidence we will use to monitor the supply and demand for aggregates as well as landbanks is the Humber Local Aggregates Assessment. We will also use the annual monitoring reports issued by the Yorkshire and Humber Aggregate Working Party (YHAWP).

46. Do you have any views on the supply and demand for mineral resources in North Lincolnshire that should be taken into account as part of preparing the Local Plan?

Efficient and Sustainable Use of Minerals

As minerals are a finite resource, we need to ensure that they are used in a way that is appropriate, efficient and sustainable. We can do this by encouraging the re-use and recycling of suitable materials to help reduce the amount of primary mineral extraction. This is supported by national policy and guidance.

In doing so, we need to take into account the contribution secondary and recycled minerals make to the overall supply. Recycled and secondary minerals are those that, after processing or treatment, can potentially be used to substitute for primary or land-won aggregate and provide a more sustainable source of aggregate for construction. They may be derived from processing of construction, demolition and extraction waste (CDE) (recycled aggregate) or may be by-products of mineral extraction or processing, or industrial processes (secondary aggregate). Nationally, over 60 million tonnes of secondary and recycled material was produced in 2015, representing 29% of the British aggregates market.²⁸

Information on the amount of available recycled and secondary aggregates being produced in the area is variable and not considered to be completely reliable. It is therefore difficult to accurately assess the role that they play in aggregate supply and demand. In many cases CDE waste is processed on site using mobile plant and then either reused on site or taken direct to other construction sites for use. Collecting information from these sites is extremely difficult because of their temporary nature. However, the Local Aggregate Assessment will monitor production levels.

Another option is to encourage the greater use of marine dredged aggregates, particularly sand and gravel. Resources

²⁸ Mineral Production Association (2015) - http://www.mineralproducts.org/prod_agg_recy01.htm

located off the Humber Estuary are thought to be extensive and of the right quality for use in construction, whilst there is sufficient dredger capacity to land it. The main issue to be addressed is the provision and safeguarding of infrastructure for landing and transporting marine-won material.

47. Do you have any views on how the most efficient and sustainable use of minerals resources can be secured through the Local Plan?

Safeguarding Mineral Resources

Minerals can only be worked where they are found. Therefore, we need to make sure that proven resources are not needlessly sterilised by other types of surface development. The pressure on land from varying uses means that our Plan will need to set out an approach for safeguarding mineral resources to ensure that they are available to meet the future needs.

This means defining Minerals Safeguarding Areas (MSAs) that highlight the presence of proven mineral deposits that are, or may become, of economic importance. It does not mean that it will necessarily be worked nor does it rule out other types of development. It means that the presence of the resource needs to be taken into account by the council in making decisions on planning applications and by developers when putting together

proposals. We may also need to define buffer zones around MSAs and consider the use of policies that support prior extraction of minerals. **National Planning Practice Guidance** on minerals and the **BGS Guidance**²⁹ set out advice on how we should define MSAs. They will be shown on the policies map.

As well as mineral resources, national policy also requires us to safeguard infrastructure associated with minerals processing, handling, storage and transportation within our Local Plan.

48. Do you have any comments on the approach that the Local Plan should take towards safeguarding mineral resources and infrastructure, specifically:

a. Which of North Lincolnshire's mineral resources do you consider should be safeguarded in the Local Plan?

b. Should defined Mineral Safeguarding Areas cover the full extent of the available resources or should it exclude built up areas?

c. Should buffer zones around Mineral Safeguarding Areas be used and should there be any distinction made between different mineral resources and the buffer distances that apply?

Suggestions are welcomed regarding the extent of buffer zones.

d. Which, if any, mineral-related infrastructure in North Lincolnshire should be considered for safeguarding in the Local Plan?

²⁹ **Mineral Safeguarding in England: Good Practice Advice, BGS (2011)**

Managing the Impacts of Mineral Development

As well as ensuring a steady and adequate supply of minerals, their efficient use, and safeguarding key resources and infrastructure, we need to make sure that the impacts of all types of minerals development including extraction and processing on their surroundings are managed appropriately. The Local Plan will need to include policies to manage the impact of all forms of development, including minerals, on the wider environment and communities. The **Government's Planning Practice Guidance** sets out some of the environmental considerations that need to be taken into account when assessing proposals for minerals extraction. Examples include noise, dust, air quality, lighting, traffic landscape and flood risk.

Minerals extraction tends to be a temporary use of land, albeit one that can last for a number of years. National policy seeks to ensure that our Local Plan sets out policies to encourage the reclamation of former mineral workings at the earliest opportunity and that high quality restoration and aftercare of mineral sites takes place. For example, former mineral sites in North Lincolnshire have been restored for agricultural use whilst others have been re-used for habitat creation and nature conservation purposes as well as for leisure and recreation uses.

Options for Managing the Impact of Mineral Development

Option A

Set out specific policies in the Local Plan for managing the impacts of mineral development on the wider environment and the restoration/after-use of mineral workings.

Option B

Do not include specific policies on managing the impacts of mineral development on the wider environment and the restoration/after-use of mineral workings. This would result in us relying on higher-level national planning policy.

49. Do you have any comments on the approach that the Local Plan should take in managing the impacts of mineral development and the restoration/aftercare of former mineral sites?

SUSTAINABLE WASTE MANAGEMENT

Nearly all activities create waste, whether it is through the production or consumption of goods and services as part of the economy and wider society. This means that it needs to be managed in the most appropriate and sustainable manner. Waste is viewed as a resource rather than something that is to be disposed of, whilst its management is seen as being a part of efforts to reduce carbon emissions and combat climate change. Government policy set out in the **National Waste Strategy (2013)** clearly points towards a zero waste economy. This means that material resources like waste are re-used, recycled or recovered, wherever possible, and only disposed of as the last option. This contributes to developing a place that is cleaner and greener.

WASTE HIERARCHY



In a similar vein to the NPPF, the **National Planning Policy for Waste (NPPW)**, stresses a positive approach to planning for waste management and delivering sustainable development in accordance with the Waste Hierarchy.^{30 31} This prioritises the options for managing waste in order according to their environmental impact.

Waste Management in North Lincolnshire

North Lincolnshire hosts a number of waste management, treatment and disposal facilities. These range from hazardous and non-hazardous landfill sites to waste transfer stations and material recycling facilities. The waste industry is estimated to employ over 740 people (2011 data) in North Lincolnshire.

Initial Consultation (Regulation 18)

There were no responses directly relating to sustainable waste management received as part of the Initial (Regulation 18) consultation. Therefore, it can be assumed that any planning policy framework should be updated to better reflect changes in national policy.

³⁰ A legislative requirement under Article 4 of the revised **EU Waste Framework (Directive 2008/98/EC)** transposed through the **Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011**.

³¹ The full definition of each level of the waste hierarchy is set out in **Article 3 of the revised Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC)**; see also the **Waste Management Plan for England**

Waste Arisings and Waste Streams

The waste generated in an area is commonly known as the 'waste arising' and is broken down into 'waste streams'. Where the waste is covered by legislative controls (either for handling or disposal), it is called 'controlled waste'. The main controlled waste streams produced and/or managed in North Lincolnshire are Local Authority Collected Waste (LACW) (often called municipal waste or municipal solid waste), Commercial and Industrial (C&I), and Construction, Demolition and Excavation (CDEW). Other waste streams include Hazardous, Agriculture, Wastewater and Sewage Sludge, and Low Level Radioactive.

Our main sources of evidence to support the Plan include the council's waste management team, WasteDataFlow, DEFRA waste statistics and the Environment Agency's (EA) Waste Data Interrogator and Hazardous Waste Data Interrogator. Most are updated annually or quarterly. We will be undertaking a Local Waste Needs Assessment study to examine the current and future waste arisings in North Lincolnshire and the need for any future waste management facilities.

EA information shows that North Lincolnshire managed or treated around 1.7 million tonnes of waste at its facilities in 2015. Of this, 368,000 tonnes originated in the area. This means that the area is important in managing waste from elsewhere, which reflects the commercial nature of the waste industry. The largest arisings were from the Yorkshire and the Humber (including North Lincolnshire), London and the East Midlands. However, North Lincolnshire also exports waste to other parts of the country for management, treatment or disposal. EA data shows that over 270,000 tonnes was exported to other parts of the country. The main destinations were the East Midlands (particularly Lincolnshire), the North West, and elsewhere in the Yorkshire and Humber region.

50. Do you have any comments on current and future waste arising in North Lincolnshire or can you provide any relevant evidence that would assist us in developing our understanding of waste in the area?

Meeting Our Waste Management Needs

The NPPW requires Local Plans to identify sufficient opportunities to meet the identified needs for managing waste in their area. This should be achieved by driving waste management up the waste hierarchy, provided this does not endanger human health or harm the environment. Plans are also required to provide a framework within which communities and businesses are engaged and take responsibility for their own waste in line with the 'proximity principle'.

The evidence base, when developed, will provide us with an understanding of how much waste will need to be managed now and in future years together with the capacity and type of facilities we need, or will need, to do so. The outcome of this work and any policy approach developed in the Local Plan will need to factor in the impacts of national and local targets for waste recycling, recovery and re-use in the type and nature of facilities needed. Based on national policy, it is likely that we will have to make provision, where necessary, for the management of non-hazardous waste (LACW, C&I, and CDEW), as well as hazardous waste, agricultural waste and waste water.

As part of developing our evidence base, we will look closely at waste movements to/from our area and examine capacity elsewhere as part of the ongoing Duty to Co-operate with other waste planning authorities.

51. Do you have any comments on how the Local Plan should seek to meet North Lincolnshire's waste management needs?

Location of New Facilities

National planning policy requires us to identify suitable sites and/or areas for sustainable waste management. The NPPW sets out the type of locations that we should consider for new waste facilities as well as guidance to assist us in determining the suitability of sites. Appendix B of the NPPW also provides a list of criteria that can be used to assess sites for inclusion in Local Plans.³² Our Plan will build on this approach and will consider our own local context. The location of any new waste facilities in North Lincolnshire will need to be broadly related to the chosen spatial strategy as well as the area's settlement pattern. The Employment Land Review (ELR) and Call for Sites process should assist us in helping to identify potentially suitable sites. The Waste Needs Assessment will also provide a good overview of existing facilities and their capacities.

³² These criteria include: the protection of water quality and resources as well as the management of flood risk; land instability; landscape and visual impacts; nature conservation; conserving the historic environment; traffic and access; air emissions, including dust; odours; vermin and birds; noise, light and vibration; litter; and potential land use conflict.

Options for Identifying Sites for Waste Management

Option A

Identify specific sites or locations in the Local Pla for sustainable waste management facilities.

Option B

Use criteria-based policies to ensure that sustainable waste management facilities are developed in the most sustainable and appropriate locations.

Option C

Do not include any specific sites/locations or criteria-based policies and rely on national policy.

52. Which option for identifying sites for waste management sites or locations for waste management facilities do you support? Are any factors of particular importance within the context of North Lincolnshire?

Managing the Impacts of Waste Development

It is essential that the Local Plan balances the need for new waste management facilities with their potential impacts on the wider environment and, in particular, on our communities. We also have to make sure that existing or proposed waste management facilities or sites/areas identified for such facilities are not impacted upon by non-waste development. The NPPW provides guidance for decision-makers on planning applications for both waste and non-waste development. Our policy approach will need to build on this.

Options for Managing the Impact of Waste Development

Option A

Set out specific policies in the Local Plan for managing the impacts of waste development on the wider environment.

Option B

Do not include specific policies on managing the impacts of waste development on the wider environment and rely on higher-level national planning policy.

53. Which option for managing the impacts of waste development do you support, or should we continue to rely on national policy?

CREATING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES AND BETTER PLACES

The planning system can play an important role in facilitating social interaction and create healthy inclusive sustainable communities. A healthy community is described as a good place to grow up and grow old in. It is one, which supports healthy behaviours, reductions in health inequalities and enhances the physical and mental health of the community.

The link between planning and health has been long established; the built and the natural environments are major influences on health and wellbeing and 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.

National planning guidance emphasises the link between planning and health. It recommends that Local Plans should aim to achieve health objectives through the quality of new places. This includes securing access to open space and sport and recreation facilities, which can make an important contribution to the health of communities and can help in tackling obesity. The Government also attaches great importance to ensure that a sufficient choice of school places is available to meet the needs of existing and new communities.

The North Lincolnshire Council Strategy 'Aspiring People, Inspiring Places' has a priority to 'Enable communities to thrive and live active, healthy and fulfilled lives'. Therefore, it is important that our new Local Plan sets the framework for planning decisions that will contribute to an improvement in the health of local residents.

Many factors influence health, but the built environment can have a significant role to play. Planning decisions affect where people live, work, play and how they travel between places. These can impact in ways such as, for example, when addressing air pollution or the providing new homes, but they can also impact in less obvious ways. For example, the provision of employment sites to support economic growth provides jobs for local people, which can in turn improve physical activity and mental health.

Integrating public health and spatial planning is widely recognised as providing the opportunity to promote health through the delivery of local neighbourhoods that promote healthy lifestyles, which in turn assists in the management of health provision. Whilst health care is often identified as the way of addressing health issues, it is important to plan to enable healthier lifestyles and, therefore, reduce the need for such care.

54. How should we aim to create healthy living environments and what features would contribute to and improve your living environment, and health and wellbeing?

The fast food sector has remained resilient in recent years and the over-concentration of hot food takeaways has reached such levels in some areas that it is causing concern. This over-concentration impacts on the vitality and viability of our centres in terms of noise, disturbance, odours and litter. In addition, evidence has shown that there is a correlation between the high concentration of hot food takeaways and childhood obesity levels. As the promotion of healthy eating amongst young people is a key national and local priority it may be reasonable to limit the number of hot food takeaways in, for example, locations close to schools and colleges. This could be one way the planning system can influence the environment to support individual behaviour change.

55. Should we look to limit the number of hot food takeaways in some locations where there is an over-concentration and/or they are close to our schools or does this unfairly prejudice commercial interests?

Health Care Provision

North Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) is the NHS organisation responsible for designing, developing and buying local health services in the North Lincolnshire area. The primary role of the CCG is to assess the health needs of the North Lincolnshire population and make sure safe, sustainable and high quality healthcare services are in place. Their strategic plan sets out the five year plan and vision for health services across North Lincolnshire. NHS England is responsible for the commissioning of primary care services including local GPs and dentists. Responsibility for Public Health services (such as Health Trainers, stop smoking services and emergency planning) is with the council. However, the Director of Public Health for North Lincolnshire works in a joint role across both the CCG and the council, thus ensuring that the NHS continues to contribute directly to the prevention of health issues.

The council's public health clinical services includes open access sexual health services, substance misuse services, and 0-19 public health services (health visitors, school nurses and associated healthy child programmes). In addition to the healthy lifestyle services that seeks to increase the number of people who are tobacco free, increasing population wellbeing can be achieved by increasing the number of pregnant women who are not smoking at the time of delivery, increasing the number who eat a healthy diet, increasing the number of people who are physically active, and increasing the number of people who drink alcohol within the recommended levels.

In the UK, over the next 50 years, the population aged over 65 is predicted to double and the population aged over 85 will quadruple. Older age is related to chronic diseases, which are typically more prevalent as longevity increases (for example, cancer, diabetes, heart disease, respiratory conditions, stroke, dementia and depression). There is a major difference between life expectancy and healthy life expectancy. Age-friendly local physical environments are shown to be a key factor in ensuring active, healthy ageing, and mobility. Prevention and creating the right environments can reduce pressure on public services. In addition to providing care and rehabilitation, we need to consider housing and the design of the built environment for a sustainable, healthier future.

The vision for the future in North Lincolnshire is one where people are enabled and willing to manage their own health and accept responsibility for their lifestyle choices. There will be a strong focus on ensuring that people have the knowledge and support to self-care, which is supported by care delivered in community settings where it is clinically safe to do so. Services will be designed to respond to patient needs rather than service needs, with many services delivered in multiple community-based settings, supported by appropriate transport services to meet the needs of people with restricted mobility. Where people do require hospital care, this will be delivered locally, where appropriate, but it is recognised that for some types of care it is necessary for this to be delivered in a centre of excellence to maintain high quality and deliver value for money. Focus will be on the delivery of proactive, integrated care, which enables people to maintain or return to independence.

Priorities in North Lincolnshire include reducing smoking especially amongst pregnant women, increasing physical activity and healthy weight, reducing hazardous drinking with a focus on reducing health inequalities, and improving physical and mental health and wellbeing across the life course.

It is important to ensure that the development of primary and social care buildings facilitates improvements in the range and quality of services offered in primary care.

Key issues to address through policy and public consultation are the protection of existing facilities to meet current and future need and demand, investment in healthcare infrastructure, importance of location, access to services, housing quality, transport options and mobility and proximity to social infrastructure.

56. What do you think are the main healthcare requirements for the area?

Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities

The built and natural environments are major determinants of health and wellbeing. The importance of this role is highlighted in the promoting healthy communities section of the NPPF.

The link between the provision of open spaces and recreation facilities and improvements to public health is perhaps the most obvious. It is widely accepted that participation in exercise

and access to nature in general improves health. It has also been shown to increase self-esteem and it can bring significant reduction in mood disturbance (anger, confusion, depression, fatigue and tension).

The attractiveness of streets and green spaces and the availability of green spaces have also been shown to influence the level of walking. However, it should be recognised that the simple provision of recreation facilities may not be adequate to change behaviour if the quality and accessibility of the facility is poor. The Foresight Report 'Tackling Obesities' found evidence that for play spaces to be used by children the safety, functionality and accessibility of the recreational area is as important to parents as the perceived quality of the areas.

The North Lincolnshire Council Strategy 'Aspiring People, Inspiring Places' aims to broaden participation in sport, leisure and culture, harness new opportunities and increase adult physical activity. £2.6 million has been invested to bring the Brigg Recreation Ground and its facilities up to date. It provides modern, high quality facilities for the community and local sports clubs and include a new pavilion, full size flood lit synthetic pitch for hockey, four adult tennis courts, two junior tennis courts, four grass football pitches, four large heated changing rooms and a function room. Work has also started on the new Axholme North Sports Centre in Crowle, which will include a multi-use games area for football, hockey and other sports, tennis and netball courts, a 25 metre swimming pool, gym, fitness studio, spectator area and changing rooms and a changing places toilet. There are plans to replace the artificial grass pitch at Winterton and construct another at Broughton. A further pitch is due to commence at Barton-upon-Humber (Baysgarth School). Other existing sports/leisure centres will need refurbishment or improvement works as time goes by to help them meet community needs. There is also a need to improve the supporting infrastructure of, for example, changing rooms and all weather/floodlit training facilities.

In terms of identifying both deficiencies and requirements for new open space to be development planning policies should be based on robust and up to date assessments of

the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities, and opportunities for new provision. The assessments should identify specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses of open space, sports, and recreational facilities in the local area. Information from these assessments should be used to determine what provision and standards are required.

An Open Space Study was produced in March 2011 and a Playing Pitches Strategy in June 2013 and these are being updated. These studies look at both the quantity and quality of open space provision and playing pitches. The open space study assessed local provision of all categories of open space from parks, natural open space and amenity greenspace through to play space and sports facilities as well as allotments. Site assessments demonstrated that the quality of pitches is good, although there are opportunities for improvement. The study also showed there are significant surpluses of pitch provision across North Lincolnshire, although most sub-areas contain deficits of at least one pitch type and there are overall shortfalls of cricket pitches and rugby union pitches. The largest surpluses of provision are found in Ridge, Scunthorpe, and in Barton and Ferry.

Allotments can often provide important open spaces and improve the local character and appearance of built up areas as well as helping promote healthy communities, physical activity for all ages and aiding self-sufficiency. However, they can frequently be subject to pressures for development due to their location.

Current policy safeguards all sport, recreation and open space from development unless an excess of provision, alternative provision, better quality and quantity is provided or the facility is no longer needed. We could retain this option, or another option would be to promote some of these areas for development sites.

Some areas of open space could be used to meet the need for new development, particularly where there is an over-provision of open space or where spaces have been identified as poor quality.

57. Do you agree to continue with the current policy to safeguard existing public open space and playing pitches unless an oversupply is available, and identify new provision where deficiencies are identified?

58. How do you think the Local Plan should consider allotments?

Education - School Places and Provision

National planning policy regarding education provision aims to offer choice and diversity to meet the needs of existing and new communities. Local Planning authorities should take a proactive, positive and collaborative approach to meeting this requirement and to development that will widen choice in education. Great weight should be given to the need to create, expand or alter schools and work with school promoters to identify and resolve key planning issues.

The North Lincolnshire Education and Skills Plan sets out the shared ambitions for educating children and young people in North Lincolnshire. The Plan focuses on three overarching outcomes, which are:

- children to feel safe and be safe
- children to enjoy good health and emotional wellbeing
- children to recognise and achieve their potential

Primary School Estate

Over recent years North Lincolnshire has experienced growth in demand for primary school places. The total number of pupils in the primary sector has risen steadily from its lowest point of 12,348 in 2010 to its current level of 13,552, representing a growth of 1,204 pupils (or 10%). Looking beyond 2016, growth in pupil numbers is expected to increase until 2018. Thereafter, there will be a slight decrease over the following 3 years.

The Scunthorpe planning areas are currently experiencing pressure on school places and consideration of further basic need investment is required. Barton-upon-Humber has sufficient capacity to meet overall demand but individual year groups are oversubscribed and the proposed housing developments will put further pressure across the planning area's estate. Consideration of further basic need investment is required.

Secondary School Estate

The anticipated total number on roll in North Lincolnshire is set to rise from 8,849 in 2016 to 9,839 in 2023 (an increase of 990 pupils). The recent growth in numbers in the primary sector will start to feed through to the secondary sector and increase pressure on places. In addition to larger year groups, inward migration because of major housing developments will increase the demand on school places.

The Scunthorpe planning areas are currently experiencing pressure on school places and consideration of further basic need investment is required. Even without the proposed housing developments, the equilibrium between supply and demand will be reached in 2020 and will then be exceeded in future years.

The Humber UTC opened in September 2015 for year 10-13 pupils (with published admission number of 150). The lower cohorts choosing to transfer to the UTC in year 9 mean it has little impact on contributing to the solution for larger cohorts moving up from the primary sector. John Leggott College established a 14-16 provision in September 2016, which may impact on future year 10 and 11 pupils in the local secondary schools. Similarly, to the UTC, this will not provide a positive solution for children moving into year 7.

Further work to assess the availability of capacity of schools in the area depending on the future option for growth chosen will be carried out. This information will be used to inform the requirements for primary and secondary school places along with the cost for provision of these requirements.

Further/Higher Education

North Lincolnshire Council has a priority to deliver a university centre offering opportunities to meet the needs of existing businesses to attract inward investment and to give local residents opportunities closer to home to increase their knowledge and qualification levels. Details of this transformation project will be regularly updated throughout the preparation of the Local Plan.

Key Issues to address through policy and public consultation are effective supply of mainstream places to meet community needs, creation of a sustainable and coherent plan for life-long learning, development of infrastructure in which all providers can quickly adapt to new opportunities, and the provision of a choice of high quality educational establishments for all our children and young people.

59. How can the Local Plan ensure that adequate education infrastructure is provided to meet the needs of the local population?

60. Are there any other issues regarding our schools, education, communities and places which you think should be examined?

Community Facilities and Services

Community facilities and services include facilities such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, cultural buildings, public houses, places of worship and other local services to enhance the sustainability of communities and residential environments. There are many existing facilities embedded within our settlements that provide for the health and wellbeing, social, educational, recreational, leisure and cultural needs of the community. Some of these serve a local community, while some serve a wider area or serve a group or cluster of interdependent settlements.

To be sustainable, suitable good quality facilities must be provided locally whilst those that attract large numbers of visitors should be accessible by walking, cycling and public transport. This particularly benefits the less mobile and more deprived members of the community.

The provision of local community facilities and services is essential to the quality of local residents as they encourage community cohesion and social interaction, healthy lifestyles, improve the 'liveability' of places, provide employment opportunities, and will reduce the need for people to travel to obtain essential services.

Key issues to address are building inclusive and healthy communities with good and reasonable access to well-located, high quality key services and community facilities, protecting existing community facilities, and the delivery of new facilities to meet community needs and promoting healthy lifestyles through support for initiatives such as provision of sports and recreation facilities and improved access to green infrastructure. A key challenge will be to ensure that the correct amount and type of facilities

are delivered as part of future growth proposals to meet community needs.

Policies and decisions should aim to achieve places, which promote opportunities for meetings between members of the community who might not come into contact with each other including mixed use developments, strong neighbourhood centres, and active street frontages which bring together those who work, live and play in the vicinity.

Policies should also 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.

61. Would you support a policy that seeks to retain community facilities and support new community facilities in sustainable locations (including the provision of shared space), and that seeks to plan positively for the provision of local community facilities and services?

PROVIDING INFRASTRUCTURE AND DELIVERING THE PLAN

Ensuring that there is sufficient infrastructure to support communities and businesses is an essential element of achieving sustainable development. Infrastructure plays a key role in ensuring that communities are safe, well, prosperous and connected. It can also contribute towards creating places that are cleaner, greener and safer.

A key element of the Local Plan is the need to identify how the policies and proposals contained within it will be delivered. Infrastructure is wide ranging and can take many forms, for example:

- Physical - such as roads, public transport (bus and rail networks), cycle and footpath networks, broadband/digital, telecommunication, utilities and energy supply networks
- Social - such as community buildings, education, health facilities, sport and recreation and employment or training opportunities
- Environmental - such as areas for nature and blue and green infrastructure.

Communities need a combination of all of these types of infrastructure in order to support their day-to-day lives. This will include delivering a connected, well-maintained, efficient, safe and sustainable transport network including roads, public transport and walking and cycling routes that supports economic growth and will allow local residents to have high quality access to key services and facilities without increasing the need to travel. All such required infrastructure is essential towards creating places that will be cleaner, greener and safe. The provision of infrastructure is managed by a wide range of organisations not just North Lincolnshire Council. The Local Plan, together with an Infrastructure Delivery Plan, will play a crucial role in securing private sector involvement in infrastructure delivery and in aligning the programmes of the various providers.

The council will work with statutory undertakers, utility companies and other agencies to identify the need for new infrastructure. If additional infrastructure is not delivered alongside new development, it can put pressure on existing facilities that may not have the ability or capacity to cope with the additional demand. This may have a detrimental impact on the existing population.

North Lincolnshire has recently seen the completion of a wide range of infrastructure schemes that will assist in delivering current and future growth proposals. Such schemes include the major £132 million improvements to the A160 that accesses the South Humber Gateway and the port of

Immingham, gauge and signalling upgrades to the Cleethorpes to Doncaster railway, £9.6 million investment to access superfast broadband, and flood risk improvements to parts of the River Trent Banks and the Humber Estuary defences.

Initial Consultation (Regulation 18)

As part of the public consultation on the March 2017 Initial Consultation (Regulation 18) document a wide variety of comments to infrastructure and delivery issues were received. Particular issues raised focussed on road, rail, utilities, cycle and walking, and leisure. Many individual comments stated that new development should provide the opportunity for different types of infrastructure including broadband and its improvement, flood protection, drainage, green infrastructure and the historic environment. In terms of the broad approach to infrastructure and delivery, there was strong recognition of the role new development and developers could play.

Infrastructure Provision

At this early stage of the Local Plan's preparation, the exact infrastructure requirements are yet to be determined. However, as work progresses on subsequent stages of the Local Plan (Preferred Options and beyond), infrastructure requirements to support growth and development will emerge. At that point, the Local Plan will include an Infrastructure Delivery Schedule that will explain how the policies will be implemented and delivered together with a funding programme, where applicable. This schedule will be treated as a live document to be progressively amended throughout the Local Plan process and will be subject to public examination.

In general new development, particularly housing and employment, will be required and this will have to be matched by the necessary infrastructure. So it is clear at this Issues and Options stage that partnership working will be vital, and in order to deliver sustainable development and sustainable and connected communities North Lincolnshire Council will strive to work closely with local stakeholders. The council will continue to play a leading role in developing key partnerships that have and will continue to assist in delivering infrastructure requirements through the current planning objectives and those to emerge from this Local Plan.

The provision of infrastructure will have a large impact on the location and scale of new development in our area. It is essential that infrastructure is provided and delivered; ensuring new development is well connected, sustainable and offers residents a good quality of life.

Options for Infrastructure Provision

Option A

The Local Plan's growth strategy should be determined by making the best use of existing infrastructure.

Option B

The Local Plan's growth strategy should not be constrained by existing infrastructure capacity and location.

62. Which of the options (or a combination of both options) do you prefer to ensure that the infrastructure necessary to support growth across North Lincolnshire is delivered in a timely manner?

63. Are you aware of any specific infrastructure requirements (individual schemes or strategic requirements) that would support growth across North Lincolnshire?

64. What infrastructure types or projects should be prioritised where funding is limited?

Transport

North Lincolnshire offers excellent links to the UK's motorway and highway network; accommodating approximately 25% of the country's rail freight and has close access to two international airports: Humberside Airport; and Doncaster Sheffield Airport that provide air links to Europe and beyond. Furthermore, the South Humber Gateway ports (Grimsby, Immingham and Killingholme) are the busiest in the country by tonnage and offer regular freight ferry services to Europe. More facts and figures about North Lincolnshire's transport linkages and general accessibility can be found in Section 2 of this Issues and Options document.

Transport policy at all levels focuses on reducing the need to travel by private car and encouraging people to choose more sustainable forms of transport, which are primarily walking, cycling and public transport services. Although North Lincolnshire is a predominantly rural area, its transport network has routes of both national and regional importance that also provide links for local people to a number of regional centres outside North Lincolnshire, such as Lincoln, Hull and Sheffield, and key local hubs within.

In North Lincolnshire 44.9% of journeys to work were by driving a car or van. This compares to the average of 38.4% for Yorkshire and the Humber (source 2011 census via North Lincolnshire Data Observatory). It is therefore clear that one of the key challenges for North Lincolnshire is to reduce single occupancy private vehicle usage and increase the proportion of journeys undertaken by public transport.

Highways England and the council currently manage the existing road network in North Lincolnshire, which equates to around 890 miles in total. In terms of asset valuation, the gross replacement cost for all North Lincolnshire Council's highway related assets is £1,516,292,000 (as at Nov 2015).

Sustainable transport choices can play a significant role in improving health and well-being. Walking and cycling have obvious health benefits and people who use public transport are more likely to walk for part of their journey than those who drive. North Lincolnshire has areas of poor health, predominately in Scunthorpe, and promoting walking and cycling as a means of transport can help to address this.

The NPPF focuses on the importance of sustainable transport choices and the wider role that this can play in achieving sustainability and health objectives as well as reducing congestion and contributing towards the creation of cleaner and greener places.

New development should be located where it is accessible by public transport, this is particularly important for developments with high trip generation. This is more difficult to achieve in rural areas and consideration needs to be given as to how new development can encourage the provision and use of public transport and how the solutions will vary between urban and rural areas.

New developments need to be designed to incorporate increased opportunities for walking and cycling facilities and the delivery of the infrastructure required to support sustainable transport choices such as access to high quality public transport facilities. They will also need to be designed to accommodate the efficient delivery of goods and supplies, create safe and secure layouts and incorporate facilities for charging plug-in and other ultra-low emission vehicles. Design should also consider the needs of people with disabilities by all modes of transport.

However, encouraging sustainable transport options requires a behavioural change; this is dependent on better education to promote a range of transport options and their benefits. Whilst planning can put in place the physical infrastructure to enable a behavioural change, it cannot force it to happen. By ensuring that settlements provide a basic range of services to meet day-to-day needs the need to travel into the larger towns to access these services can be reduced.

As part of the public consultation on the March 2017 Initial Consultation (Regulation 18) a number of comments were made on potential road and rail improvements to North Lincolnshire's transport network. Particular comments focus on the economic benefits of dualling the A15 from the junction with the M180 and Lincoln to the south, bypasses for Brigg, Barton and Scunthorpe and the improvement of the freight and passenger carrying capacity and frequency of services for the Cleethorpes to Doncaster, Barnetby to Gainsborough and Barton to Cleethorpes railway lines.

Options for Sustainable Transport

Option A

Require new developments to demonstrate within a Transport Statement how they facilitate walking and cycling and the use of public transport.

Option B

Require that new developments make available information on walking, cycling and public transport links to all new residents.

Option C

Seek contributions to infrastructure to support sustainable transport choices through S106 agreements.

65. Which option for sustainable transport do you support, or are there other options that you feel should be considered?

Delivering Development

An essential test for any Local Plan is whether its policies and proposals can or will deliver its vision and objectives. It is also important to clearly set out how, when and where it will be delivered, together with who is responsible for doing so. This is particularly the case when it comes to providing infrastructure to support development.

Infrastructure refers to all the utilities requirements resulting from a development including water and energy as well as the physical and social provision like transport, schools, GP surgeries, open space and leisure facilities. The level of infrastructure needed will very much depend on where development is located as well as how local people will live their lives in the future.

The planning system currently can require developers to provide some of the burdens or costs of infrastructure provision needed to support development. This occurs through the use of planning obligations or developer contributions which are

obtained through the use of legal agreements, commonly known as section 106 (S106) agreements which form part of planning permissions. They are used where the specific planning issues arising from a development proposal can be addressed on a site-by-site basis.

Any planning obligation or developer contribution must meet the following tests:

- It is necessary to make the development acceptable in planning terms
- It is directly related to the development
- It is fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind to the development.

New development cannot be used to fund an existing lack of infrastructure or address current shortfalls in provision but is solely required to address its own needs.

This process for obtaining developer contributions has recently been amended through Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) pooling restrictions, allowing contributions from up to five S106 agreements for other infrastructure items from development proposals. This means that in order to fund much of the essential infrastructure, which is neither site-specific nor can be funded through the pooling of developer contributions, the adoption of a CIL charging schedule is necessary.

North Lincolnshire Council is currently preparing a CIL alongside the Local Plan and will be consulting on a Preliminary Draft Charging Schedule in the near future.

66. Do you have any comments on the approach the Local Plan should take towards developer contributions?

MANAGING AND DELIVERING DEVELOPMENT

Development Management is the process of working with developers to facilitate development whilst protecting the environment through the granting or refusal of planning permission and controlling unauthorised developments.

The Local Plan will set out strategic policies based on the outcomes of consultation on this chapter. These overarching policies will guide the future development of the area but will not necessarily provide the level of detail required to adequately assess planning applications. Therefore, it is essential for the Local Plan to set out the detailed policies to assess and determine planning applications. Doing so will ensure that growth and development contributes to meeting our ambition and outcomes for North Lincolnshire as well as creating a place that is cleaner, greener and safer.

This issue is currently covered by existing policies within the Core Strategy (2011) and saved policies of the Local Plan (2003). These policies examine and assess factors such as size, layout, siting, design, external appearance, site access, drainage, landscaping and open space. All of these are considered daily by Development Management officers when determining planning applications and are crucial in terms of securing good quality sustainable developments.

Initial Consultation (Regulation 18)

There was supporting evidence for the approach of both Core Strategy DPD (2011) and North Lincolnshire Local Plan (2003) in having more detailed development management policies within the new Local Plan. A number of suggestions were received as to the subject areas they could potentially cover. The section below includes some of these suggestions.

There was support for the continued use of settlement development limits as a planning tool in North Lincolnshire. However, there are also those who viewed them as a restrictive tool that did not allow for sustainable development, particularly in smaller settlements. It was also suggested that a different approach to development limits should be applied including allowing for greater flexibility, or not using them and applying criteria-based policies to the location of new development.

Development Management Policies

As highlighted above, our existing policy framework includes a range of detailed policies for assessing planning applications relating to matters like size, layout, siting, design, external appearance, site access, drainage, landscaping and open space. In addition, the consultation has also suggested issues that any new development management policies should cover, including:

- Creating sustainable communities
- Expansion of employment land and employment opportunities
- Provision of community infrastructure
- The impact of development on communities
- Promotion of wellbeing
- Supporting mixed use development
- Affordable housing provision
- Provision of transport and communications infrastructure
- Design of new development and its quality
- Protection and enhancement of biodiversity and geodiversity
- Protection of designated areas and enhancement of ecological networks
- Managing flood risk and drainage (including surface water drainage)
- Provision of water infrastructure (water supply and waste water provision)
- Provision of open space in development
- Standards of water efficiency in new development
- Prioritisation of previously development land
- The historic environment (including site-specific heritage policy requirements)
- Town centres and shop fronts
- Advertisements
- Minerals development
- Planning obligations and delivery of development

As the Plan develops, it may be the case that many of these issues will be covered in other topic areas. The main challenge for whichever policy framework that emerges is to make policies that are deliverable on the ground and that strike a balance between facilitating sustainable, quality development whilst protecting the natural and built environment and the amenity of our communities.

67. Do you have any views on the approach the Local Plan should consider in terms of identifying appropriate policies for managing development, or are there other matters that you feel should be addressed by them?

Using Settlement Development Limits – The current Local Plan (2003) and the Housing and Employment Land Allocations DPD (2016) both take the approach of identifying specific development limits for settlements within which development proposals would generally be supported, in principle, dependent upon local impact. Proposals outside of a development limit under this approach are strictly controlled and normally limited to uses, which are suitable for a location in the countryside and have a demonstrable need for such a location. The application of development limits has generally been supported by both the public and development industry over the years as they give an element of certainty to the planning process.

Many local authorities, however, do not identify development limits and rely on generic policies that effectively carry out the same role. This raises the question of whether the use of development limits should be continued and whether a policy alternative could be followed.

As highlighted above, the issue of development limits generated a mix of views. Accordingly, we are putting forward options to address it. We could continue to apply development limits to the majority of our towns and villages (although which towns and villages will depend on the settlement hierarchy that emerges as the overall spatial strategy develops). This would also mean having to establish criteria for assessing future settlement development limits. The other options involved using criteria-based policies to determine whether development is appropriate, although this removes some of the certainty the limits provide to communities and others.

Options for Development Limits

Option A

Continue to apply development limits to settlements as set out in the existing Core Strategy (2011) and Housing and Employment Land Allocations DPD (2016) and review them, as required, through the Local Plan process.

Option B

Do not apply settlement development limits and instead use criteria-based policies within the Local Plan to determine whether a development proposal is sustainable.

Option C

An alternative approach (please tell us).

68. Which option for applying development limits do you support, or are there other options that you feel should be considered?

IDENTIFYING SUITABLE LAND FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT (Call for Sites)

An essential role of the Local Plan in meeting the council's ambition and outcomes will be to identify sites for a wide range of land uses. This includes sites for future growth and development, for example, housing and employment as well as areas that need to be protected for their special characteristics. As part of the early stages of preparing the Local Plan, the 'Call for Sites' exercise is key to helping us understand where potential sites/areas exist.

Initial Consultation (Regulation 18)

At the same time as undertaking the Initial Consultation (Regulation 18), we also undertook a Call for Sites exercise. This was designed to help us understand the location and availability of land for various uses. A large number of sites were received as part of this exercise.

Call for Sites

As part of this stage, we are undertaking a second Call for Sites exercise. **If you have already submitted land for consideration during the previous stage, you do not need to re-submit.** However, the second exercise gives you the opportunity to put forward additional sites.

This means finding additional sites for, for example:

- Housing (including market housing, affordable housing, self-build housing and specialist accommodation e.g. housing for older people)
- Employment (including office, light industrial, general industrial and warehousing)
- Retail/town centre uses
- Community facilities
- Sports/leisure/tourism
- Travelling community
- Local green space
- Open space
- Energy generation
- Waste management
- Minerals extraction

As part of the new Local Plan, there will be a comprehensive review of the "Areas of Local Amenity Importance" identified under policy LC11 of the 2003 Local Plan.

National planning guidance highlights opportunities for local communities to identify areas of open space that are of particular importance to them as "Local Green Space."

As part of the 'Call for Sites', we are seeking views on the suitability of the current LC11 areas and whether other areas of land should be included as "Local Green Space."

Submitting sites for consideration and assessment does not

necessarily mean that development will be suitable to include in the new Local Plan or that planning permission would be granted, but it does demonstrate availability.

GET INVOLVED

We want to hear what you think about the options set out in this Issues & Options document. By answering our questions, we will better understand how you think we should develop and put into action the choices that will affect the long-term future of North Lincolnshire (our strategic decisions). These decisions need to 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, visit and invest.

You can also read and comment on the **Issues & Options – Sustainability Appraisal Environmental Report** and **Issues & Options – Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening assessment**

Give us your views:

- <https://maps.northlincs.gov.uk/localplan/stages/stage2/>

We welcome your feedback on any or all sections that interest you, directly affect you, or about which you have a strong opinion.

The response deadline for views on Issues & Options is 5pm on 12/03/2018.

Submit your site(s)

- <https://maps.northlincs.gov.uk/localplan/callforsites/>

If required, we can provide assistance to help you use our Local Plan website.

The response deadline for Call for Sites is 5pm on 12/03/2018.

We will only accept responses after this deadline in exceptional circumstances. If you have any questions or have trouble submitting your views please contact the Spatial Planning team.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Your comments will be processed and added to our database. Here you will be able to view comments made by others. We will consider all comments and prepare further evidence to help us determine our preferred options for each issue or subject to inform the next stage of the Local Plan-Preferred Options stage.

Please note:

We will make names available unless notified otherwise. But to protect your privacy all other information you provide when registering will not be open to public view.

All comments will be publicly available so please ensure that you do not include any personal details within your comments, such as your address.

KEEP UP TO DATE

Progress on the Local Plan is available via the:

- localplan.northlincs.gov.uk/localplan
- Council's Facebook and Twitter feeds
- Local press
- News Direct magazine
- Town and Parish Councils

Alternatively, register your interest at:

localplan.northlincs.gov.uk/localplan/register and we'll keep you up to date.

HERE TO HELP

Your views are important to us, but we recognise that the planning system is not always easy to understand or navigate. If you have any queries or want to know more about the new Local Plan, or want to get involved in future consultations, please get in touch.

Spatial Planning Team
Economy and Growth
Business Development
North Lincolnshire Council
Civic Centre
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Scunthorpe
DN16 1AB

Web: <https://localplan.northlincs.gov.uk/localplan>

Email: localplan@northlincs.gov.uk

Tel: **01724 297573/297577**

Don't forget...

Response deadline for Issue & Options views and Call for Sites is **5pm on 12/03/2018**

2017
2036

The Place—North Lincolnshire

Where the quality of life is high. And the cost of living is low.

A place rich in leisure, recreation, culture, heritage and green space.

A hidden secret—but not for long

Our Location—Why Not Here?

Midpoint on the East Coast of the UK.

Best crossing point from Europe into the UK.

Largest remaining undeveloped land fronting a deepwater estuary.

Why not now?

Our Connections—We Have Them All

Easy access to 50 million customers within a 4 hour drive.

Exceptional links through our ports to and from Europe.

Worldwide air links through Humberside International Airport.

Rail links to all major cities in the UK, and beyond.

Superfast broadband.

Why not complete yours?

Our Sectors—World-Class

Recognised leaders in metals, chemicals, advanced engineering, and ports, freight and logistics.

Why not do business with us?

Our People—A Job-Ready Workforce

Achievable through our highly skilled, hard working and adaptable workers. And continued training—for them and our young people.

Why not tell us what you want?

Our World-Class Assets—A Wealth of Opportunities

Largest undeveloped deepwater estuary in Europe.

Best crossing point from central Europe.

Largest Enterprise Zone in the UK—bigger than the Thames Gateway.

Largest UK refinery cluster.

Busiest UK port by tonnage.

Major helicopter facility in the UK.

Largest housing, business and leisure development in the north of England.
Three times the size of Venice.

Why not grab yours?

Our Transformation—In Numbers

£5bn of planned investment by 2020.

Grow North Lincolnshire—Be part of It.

GROW **NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE**. BE PART OF IT.

INVEST | North
IN | Lincolnshire.co.uk