



OPEN REPORT LOCAL PLAN SUB COMMITTEE

Local Plan Sub Committee 1st February 2024

Proposed Outline for Local Plan Public Consultation

Report of Director of Regeneration and Policy

Report Author and Contact Details

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Wards Affected

All Outside the Peak District National Park

Report Summary

This report provides for Members a suggested outline of the nature of the first round of public consultation on the review of the Derbyshire Dales Local Plan.

Recommendations

1. That the outline proposals for public consultation set out in Section 2 of this report be approved.
2. That a report be presented to the next meeting of this Committee which sets out for approval the precise details of the forthcoming public consultation.

List of Appendices

None

Background Papers

Report to Local Plan Sub Committee 27th September 2023:

<https://democracy.derbyshiredales.gov.uk/documents/s8550/Derbyshire%20Dales%20Local%20Development%20Scheme%202023-2026.pdf>

Consideration of report by Council or other committee

This report sets out proposals for the approach to be taken to the first period of public consultation on the review of the Derbyshire Dales Local Plan. If the proposals set out in this report are supported, it is envisaged that a further report be presented to this Committee which seeks approval for the detailed contents of

the public consultation. Results of the public consultation along with details of proposed changes to the Derbyshire Dales Local Plan will be subject to consideration by Community and Environment Committee and Council.

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from Press or Public

No

Proposed Outline for Local Plan Public Consultation

1. Background

- 1.1 Members will recall that at the meeting of this Committee on 27th September 2023 considering, and approving a revised Local Development Scheme for the period 2023-2026.
- 1.2 In considering the contents of the Local Development Scheme approved by this Committee Members agreed that it would take its approach to public consultation as follows:

OPTION 2 – Local Plan preparation to include focussed housing ‘issues and options’ consultation on evidence base prior to statutory stages

This option would entail completion of the ‘housing’ evidence base elements of the Local Plan and a targeted ‘issues and options’ style consultation. This would include options to meet the housing requirement for the plan area, such as the housing target, evidence on site availability, distribution strategy and settlement hierarchy. Consultation would be carried out in spring 2024, following which the wider evidence base would be finalised and the statutory stages of consultation at Regulation 18 (Preparation of the Local Plan) and 19 (Publication of the Local Plan) would be undertaken. This option would see the Plan submitted for examination in June 2025.
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- 1.3 The approved Local Development Scheme envisages two periods of public consultation commencing in March 2024, and Autumn 2024. The purpose of this report is to set out a suggested outline of the approach for the first round of public consultation scheduled for March 2024.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 At this time it is considered that the first round of public consultation should be undertaken at a relatively high level, and that the results of the consultation be used as a basis for future decisions relating to the location and distribution of new housing development. This would be similar to the approach that BDP undertook for the District Council in November/December 2022. It is also suggested that this round of public consultation could also seek views on a Vision and Objectives for the Local Plan, as previously discussed at this Committee.
- 2.2 As Members will be aware from the last meeting of this Committee there is now the potential to identify a Derbyshire Dales wide housing target, of 217 dwellings per annum for the period 2017-2040, based upon the evidence base that Icen Projects Ltd have prepared. It is suggested that this updated evidence base should be incorporated into this first round of public consultation.
- 2.3 Work is continuing on the assessment of sites that have been put forward for inclusion in the updated SHLAA. Although this work will not be completed until the end of February, this would enable the public consultation to have an indication of the number of sites, location and the potential supply of

housing land there may be to meet the identified need. The public consultation could provide an indication of the potential distribution of the housing supply across the plan area, including the implications, of the meeting or otherwise, the housing need from within the Peak District National Park.

- 2.3 It is also suggested that this public consultation should also seek views from residents and other consultees, including Parish Councils, about proposals for addressing the Progressive Alliance's commitment to supporting rural villages across the plan area. This could include providing the opportunity for consideration to be given as to what is the most appropriate policy approach to the distribution of new housing development across the Settlement Hierarchy. This could, for example, involve focussing new development on the upper Tiers within the Settlement Hierarchy or having a more dispersed pattern across Tier 1, 2, 3 and 4 settlements.
- 2.4 The scope of the public consultation is guided by the Statement of Community Involvement. This sets out that in essence the consultation will take place as 'digital by default', where the majority of the process is undertaken online. Those residents without access to the internet and email will still be able to make representations in writing in the usual way via letter. It is suggested that up to two sessions be held online for Parish Councils in order for them to understand the purpose and contents of the public consultation and assist them to formulate their responses.
- 2.5 It is anticipated that the public consultation would be undertaken for a period of six weeks commencing on Thursday 28th March 2024, and running until Thursday 9th May 2024.
- 2.6 It is suggested once the public consultation has been completed that decisions will need to be made about where and how much new housing development should take place. To achieve this, it is suggested that a site selection process (that would provide an indication of the relative merits of each site, and how it fits in with the overall strategy that Members are wishing to achieve through the Local Plan) is put in place.
- 2.7 It is recommended that decisions on the future site allocations to be included in the Local Plan be undertaken as part of the detailed development of the policy and proposals for inclusion in the Derbyshire Dales Local Plan through the Local Plan Sub Committee. This would allow for Members to take into account the results of the forthcoming public consultation before coming to a view about what sites to be allocated. These could then be subject to consultation as part of the Regulation 18/19 consultation during the latter part of 2024.

3. Options Considered and Recommended Proposal

- 3.1 At this time, no options for the detailed contents of the public consultation have been considered. It is recommended that, subject to approval of the broad principles set out in this report, and any Members may wish to add, that a further report be presented to the next meeting of this Sub Committee.

Such report would seek approval for the detailed contents of the public consultation.

4. Consultation

- 4.1 None as a direct consequence of this report. However public consultation will be required to be completed in order for the review of the Derbyshire Dales Local Plan to be completed. This report sets out for Members consideration outline proposals for the first round of public consultation for the review of the Derbyshire Dales Local Plan.

5. Timetable for Implementation

- 5.1 The Local Development Scheme approved by this Committee at its meeting on 27th September 2023 sets out the current timetable for the completion of the revisions to the Derbyshire Dales Local Plan. At this time it envisages that during 2024 there will be public consultation, on the principles of the location of new development, future housing needs and policy developments. This will allow submission of the Derbyshire Dales Local Plan to the Secretary of State by 30th June 2025, with adoption to follow 2026.

6. Policy Implications

- 6.1 As set out in this and previous reports.

7. Financial and Resource Implications

- 7.1 This report seeks approval for public consultation. The cost of the consultation can be met from existing budgets. The financial risk is, therefore, assessed as low.

8. Legal Advice and Implications

- 8.1 This report provides for Members a suggested outline of the nature of the first round of public consultation on the review of the Derbyshire Dales Local Plan.
- 8.2 There are 2 recommendations for decision to be taken in accordance with this report. The risk of Legal challenge should the decisions be taken as recommended has been assessed as low.

9. Equalities Implications

- 9.1 There are no direct equalities implications as a consequence of this report. The review of the Derbyshire Dales Local Plan will be subject to a comprehensive Equalities Impact Assessment.

10. Climate Change Implications

- 10.1 There are no direct climate change implications as a consequence of this report. The review of the Derbyshire Dales Local Plan will include revised policies which will seek to mitigate the effects Climate Change and be subject to a Climate Change Impact Assessment.

11. Risk Management

- 11.1 At this time the risk associated with the preparation of the Derbyshire Dales Local Plan is low. The Derbyshire Dales Local Plan is one of the pivotal plans and strategies ensuring the delivery of the District Council's aims and objectives as out in its Corporate Plan. Any significant delays in undertaking the review of the Derbyshire Dales Local Plan will increase the risk to the District Council of delivering its key aims and objectives.

Report Authorisation

Approvals obtained from:-

	Named Officer	Date
Chief Executive/Director of Regeneration and Policy	Steve Capes	26/01/2024
Director of Resources/ S.151 Officer (or Financial Services Manager)	Karen Henriksen	25/01/24
Legal Services Manager	Kerry France	26/01/2024