

**Committee: Full Council**

**Agenda Item**

**Date: 13 October 2015**

**13**

**Title: Local Plan Consultation Autumn 2015**

**Portfolio Holder: Cllr Barker, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Environmental Services**

**Item for decision: Yes**

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## Summary

1. The report seeks the agreement of Council to undertake the first of three public consultations on the emerging Local Plan. The consultation consists of 19 questions set out in the attached document, and the accompanying Sustainability Appraisal.

## Recommendations

2. That the Local Plan Consultation Document and Sustainability Appraisal be agreed for public consultation for a six week period commencing Thursday 22 October and closing on Friday 4 December 2015.

## Financial Implications

3. The costs of the consultations can be met from existing budgets.

## Background Papers

4. The following papers were referred to by the author in the preparation of this report: None

## Impact

5.

Communication/Consultation	Formal consultation as the Local Plan progresses will be carried out in accordance with the Statement of Community Involvement and the Engagement Strategy.
Community Safety	N/A
Equalities	N/A
Health and Safety	N/A
Human Rights/Legal Implications	N/A
Sustainability	The Sustainability Appraisal of the Areas of Search and Strategic Scenarios will be published for consultation alongside the

	main consultation document.
Ward-specific impacts	All
Workforce/Workplace	Existing staff resources

## Situation

6. The document attached at Appendix A contains the consultation document for the first of three public consultations which must be undertaken in order to enable the Council to prepare a robust Local Plan, which will guide development in the District to 2033.
7. The Consultation will be carried out in accordance with Regulation 18 of the Local Planning Regulations 2012.
8. The approach to the Areas of Search and Scenarios set out in parts 3 and 4 of the document was supported by the Planning Policy Working Group at their meeting on 27 July 2015. This followed an earlier methodology paper supported by the Working Group at the meeting on 13 July. The proposed approach ensures that all the reasonable alternatives can be tested and that a fully justified Local Plan can be prepared.
9. Sustainability Appraisal is a requirement of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive to ensure that equal consideration is given to all the reasonable alternatives when producing plans and programmes. The first stage of Sustainability Appraisal provides a series of observations relating to each Area of Search and Scenario. The next stage of Sustainability Appraisal will inform the development of the Preferred Options (draft Plan) stage later in 2016.
10. Details of the proposed consultation activities including public meetings and promotional activities were considered at the Working Group meeting on 29 September 2015.
11. The approach to the Areas of Search and Scenarios was explained to District Councillors at a Briefing Session on 8 September 2015, and to Parish Councillors at Parish Forum meetings on 28 September and 7 October.

## Risk Analysis

12.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
Failure to comply with the Local Planning Regulations and	1. The Engagement Strategy minimises the	3. Delay to progress on the Local Plan and	An Engagement Strategy has been prepared to ensure that the Council meets

the SEA Directive could lead to legal challenges.	risk.	diminished ability to manage planning applications in accordance with local policies.	and exceeds all the regulatory requirements.
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- 1 = Little or no risk or impact
- 2 = Some risk or impact – action may be necessary.
- 3 = Significant risk or impact – action required
- 4 = Near certainty of risk occurring, catastrophic effect or failure of project.