

Committee: Planning Policy Working Group

Agenda Item

Date: 27th July 2015

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Title: Approach to Local Plan Transport Assessment

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Key decision: No

Summary

1. In formulating a new Local Plan, transport assessment is a very important requirement. This report explains the basic principles that the Council will need to follow in building up its plan-making transport evidence base. The report looks at:
 - i) national policy and guidance,
 - ii) transport assessment
 - iii) comments raised by the Local Plan Inspector about the transport assessment work carried out, and
 - iv) work programme, including the benefits of appointing an independent transport consultant to assist the Council.

Recommendations

2.
 - i) That Members support the approach set out in the report, and
 - ii) That any Member comments or suggestions on the approach be discussed.

Financial Implications

3. The costs associated with the carrying out of the transport assessment can be met from existing budgets:

Background Papers

4. None

Impact

- 5.

Communication/Consultation	Formal consultation as the Local Plan develops will be carried out in accordance with the Statement of Community Involvement.
Community Safety	None
Equalities	The Local Plan impacts on all sectors of

	the community.
Health and Safety	None
Human Rights/Legal Implications	None
Sustainability	Appraisal of alternatives to the emerging plan will be undertaken.
Ward-specific impacts	All.
Workforce/Workplace	Planning Policy Team and other officers as appropriate.

Situation

6. Following receipt of the report of the Planning Inspector on the previously submitted Local Plan in December 2014, the Plan was withdrawn in January of this year. The District Council has now restarted the plan formulation process, an important part of which will be transport assessment.
7. A robust transport evidence base is required to support the preparation of a new plan. The evidence base can facilitate a plan being found sound, and can reduce costs and delays of new development.
8. The transport evidence base should identify opportunities for encouraging a shift to more sustainable transport usage where reasonable to do so, and highlight the necessary infrastructure requirements.

Risk Analysis

9.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
Without an adequate transport evidence base, a local plan can be found unsound.	2. Can be addressed and managed through the Working Group discussion process, "Duty to co-operate" meetings and other meetings with Highways England and local highway authorities.	3. There are considerable risks from impacts on the highway that cannot be mitigated.	Ongoing discussion with relevant parties, and the iterative process of model formulation and testing. Appoint an independent transport consultant to assist the Council with the preparation of the Local Plan.

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.