

Agenda Item No: 16



**Cabinet recommendations for consideration by Council at the Annual Meeting
of the Council on Wednesday, 11 May 2016**

Cabinet – 28 April 2016

79 Adoption of the Lewes District Local Plan Part 1: Joint Core Strategy

The Cabinet considered Report No 61/16 which related to the proposed adoption and publication of the final version of the Lewes District Local Plan Part 1: Joint Core Strategy as part of the statutory Development Plan for Lewes district.

The Council had been working in partnership with the South Downs National Park Authority to produce the Joint Core Strategy since 2011 and on the early stages of the plan for several years prior to that. The final stage of the project had been reached that would result in an up-to-date strategic development plan for Lewes District.

The Council had received the Final Report of the Planning Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to examine the soundness of the Strategy which confirmed that, subject to all of the Inspector's recommended main modifications, the Strategy was a legally compliant and sound plan for the District.

The required main modifications were appended to the Inspector's Report and were necessary in their entirety for the plan to be considered sound and capable of adoption. The modifications were anticipated since they were very closely based on the Proposed Modifications that the Council had agreed to publish in July 2015. Such publication had been followed by a period of public consultation and subsequently the submission of the Proposed Modifications

to the examination of the Strategy, further details of which were set out in paragraph 1.5 of Report No 61/16.

The Inspector's Report confirmed that a five year supply of land for housing in the District had been demonstrated. Adoption of the Strategy would put the Council in the strongest possible position to resist inappropriate proposals for housing development and reinforce the local plan-led approach to planning. The modified district-wide housing target of 6,900 net additional dwellings between 2010 and 2030 (345 per annum) had been confirmed, however, that figure fell short of the identified level of housing need in the District.

Once adopted by the Council, the Strategy would form a key part of the development plan for the District and would be used by the Council to determine planning applications in those parts of the District outside the South Downs National Park boundary. The adoption of the strategic plan would provide the certainty needed to facilitate the delivery of strategic site allocations and would inform the strategic planning framework with which emerging neighbourhood plans needed to be consistent.

It was reported at the meeting that the Council had the option of either adopting the Strategy as set out in the Report, or rejecting it as, following extensive consultations thereon, there was no further opportunity for it to be modified.

The Officers were thanked for the work that they had undertaken in the preparation of the Strategy.

Recommended:

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| <p>79.1 That the Lewes District Local Plan Part 1: Joint Core Strategy, incorporating the Inspector's main modifications, be adopted as part of the Development Plan for Lewes district, in accordance with Section 23 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and Regulation 26 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012, as detailed in Report No 61/16;</p> | <p>DBSD
(to note)</p> |
| <p>79.2 That the Strategy be published together with the relevant adoption statements, Policies Maps, and the Sustainability Appraisal (incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment) Report in accordance with Regulations 26 and 35 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012;</p> | <p>DBSD
(to note)</p> |
| <p>79.3 That the Director of Business Strategy and Development be authorised to agree any further minor editorial corrections and clarifications identified prior to publication of the adopted Strategy; and</p> | <p>DBSD
(to note)</p> |
| <p>79.4 That it be noted that in adopting the Strategy, those 'saved' policies of the Lewes District Local Plan 2003, that are listed in Appendix 2 of The Lewes District Local Plan Part 1: Joint Core Strategy as being replaced, will be rescinded with immediate effect. Those 'saved'</p> | <p>DBSD
(to note)</p> |

policies that are listed on Appendix 2 to retain shall be retained and reviewed as appropriate through the emerging Lewes District Local Plan Part 2: Site Allocations and Development Management Policies.

Reason for the Decisions:

To adopt the Joint Core Strategy as part of the new Local Plan for the district (the South Downs National Park Authority will also adopt the Joint Core Strategy). This will result in up-to-date local planning policies being in place as part of the statutory development plan, against which planning applications will be determined.

† *Councillors are requested to bring with them to the meeting Report No 61/16 which was circulated with the agenda papers for the meeting of the Cabinet on 28 April 2016. If you require a further copy of the document please contact Trevor Hayward, Committee Officer, on e-mail trevor.hayward@lewes.gov.uk or telephone 01273 471600.*