

East
Lindsey
District
Council

LOCAL
DEVELOPMENT
SCHEME

2012



East Lindsey
DISTRICT COUNCIL

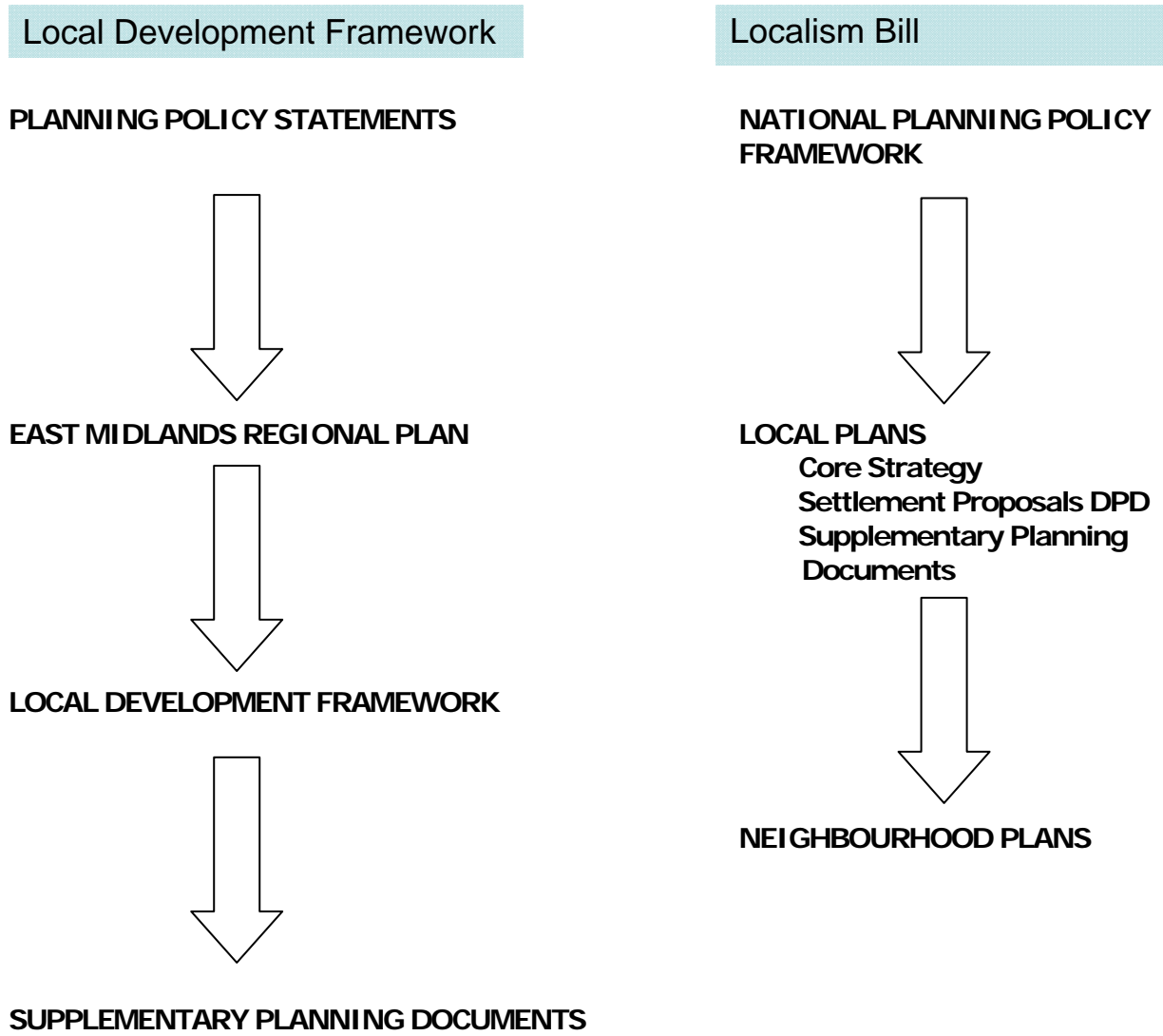
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1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Local Plan (LP) is the national system for spatial planning in England. It was previously called the Local Development Framework (LDF) but the name has now reverted back to Local Plan. The East Lindsey LP will cover the whole of the district and will, eventually, replace the previous East Lindsey Local Plan. The policies in the adopted Local Plan 1995 (alteration 1999) are “saved” from when the 2004 Planning Act introduced a new planning system (28th September 2004).
- 1.2 The LP is made up of a number of documents. These documents can take a number of forms and each Council can choose the range of documents that best suits its local area and issues. Supplementary Planning Documents are used to further explain and implement policy and provide a greater level of guidance on individual topics or sites; they should only be used to promote more growth in an area. These documents can take a number of forms and each Council can choose the range of documents that best suits its local area and issues.
- 1.3 This document, the Local Development Scheme (LDS), explains the Local Planning Authority's programme for the production of its documents in connection with the Local Plan. It sets out the programme for their preparation; the relationship between the documents; and a timetable for their adoption.
- 1.4 The Council will monitor the LDS every year as part of its Annual Monitoring Report and monitor the policies once adopted. If changes become necessary as a result of progress on the programme or changes in local issues, the LDS will be amended accordingly. The Annual Monitoring Report summarises the results of the Council's monitoring programme and highlights the changes that need to be made to its planning policy. It is published in the December of each year.
- 1.5 Diagram 1 show how the planning system has changed since May 2010 and the new relationship between national and local planning policy documents.

Diagram 1) THE CHANGING PLANNING SYSTEM



2.0 TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

Saved Plans

- 2.1 Work on the East Lindsey Local Plan stopped on 2nd November 2005. The relevant policies of the adopted East Lindsey Local Plan 1995 (Alteration 1999) were “saved”, when the new Planning act came into force (28th September 2004) and continue to provide the policy framework for the district. In 2007 Government required all Councils to assess their policies to ensure that they were up to date and did not duplicate existing National or Regional policies. This exercise left the Council with a reduced suite of policies which are now “saved” and provide the currant planning policies for East Lindsey.

- 2.2 The current Supplementary Planning Guidance on Affordable Housing will also be saved until such time as the Core Strategy is produced. The County wide Lincolnshire Design Guide will also be saved.

- 2.3 The Government will soon produce its new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (April 2012). It is unclear what status the East Lindsey Local Plan will have after the adoption of the NPPF.

3.0 PROPOSED DOCUMENTS IN THE LOCAL PLAN

Local Plan Documents

- 3.1 The LP is made up of a number of documents. These will be produced independently and will gradually replace the East Lindsey Local Plan.
- 3.2 An important part of the Local Plan system is the work with partner organisations and the public. For each document, there will be a period of informal involvement followed by two formal consultation periods. The Council will first decide the organisations that can help decide the scope and content of that particular document and involve them in early discussion. There will also be the chance for other local groups and the public to be involved. The Council will then consult on issues relevant to the subjects in the document and also on options for policies and proposals. The final formal consultation will take place at the time the document is submitted to the Secretary of State. The Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) explains how this consultation will take place.
- 3.3 There will be two documents in the LP. The Core Strategy, which will set out the spatial vision for the district; and Settlement Proposals which will show the site specific allocations to deliver the policies in the Core Strategy. A Proposals Map will also show the relevant policies and this will be amended as and when necessary. The Core Strategy will be a mixture of spatial and some development management policies.

Supplementary Planning Documents

- 3.4 This revised LDS includes one Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). A Single Plot Exceptions SPD will be prepared. This will be linked to saved policy H6 until such time as the Core Strategy replaces it. Work is currently ongoing on this document and it will be adopted in 2012.

In order to try and go some way towards addressing the high demand for affordable housing in rural settlements the Council are proposing to introduce a Single Plot Exceptions Supplementary Planning Document. The SPD aims to clarify how Policy H6 of the Local Plan can help residents of small rural settlements to remain in their village.

- 3.5 In the case of the Lincolnshire Design Guide, which has been adopted by all the Lincolnshire Planning Authorities, the timetable for replacement will be determined by the availability of resources in each Authority. At the present time the Council does not have any plans to update it.

Corporate Strategy

- 3.6 The Council's Corporate Strategy sets out the vision for Council and its long-term objectives. This will have links to some of the LPs documents and possibly the production of future SPDs. It can also enable the LP to respond to local circumstances and the land use related priorities of the Council.

Annual Monitoring Report

- 3.7 The Council has to monitor every year how well its policies and proposals (when prepared) are achieving their objectives and if they are meeting the timetable in the LDS. The Council will also assess:
- whether it is meeting, or is on track to meet, the targets set out in the LP documents and, if not, the reasons why;
 - what impact LP policies are having on other targets set at national, or local level;
 - whether any policies need to be replaced to meet sustainable development objectives;
 - if the LP documents included within the LDS are still the appropriate ones to prepare;
 - what action is needed if policies have to be replaced; and
 - The effectiveness of the consultation procedures.
- 3.8 As a result of monitoring, the Council will consider what changes, if any, need to be made to the documents in the LP.

Above is a proposed timetable for the Core Strategy and Settlement Proposals LDDs.

Certain matters guide the timetable

 **From this point onwards, the Council is in the hands of the Planning Inspectorate timetable.**

Every effort will be made to bring forward the Settlement Proposals timetable. The above is the latest expected timetable for delivery.

4.0 Sustainability Appraisal

- 4.1 The Council will use the Government's guidance on the preparing Sustainability Appraisals (SA) (incorporating the Strategic Environmental Assessment) as set out in The Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Plan Documents (ODPM). The LP will be continuously assessed throughout its preparation.
- 4.2 The initial stage in the Sustainability Appraisal is called the Scoping Report. It sets out the issues, objectives and indicators for the Appraisal, along with an evidence base to enable the effects of policies and proposals to be assessed and monitored. Consultants carried out consultation on the Scoping Report in July and August 2007 and this work has been updated in house.
- 4.3 Following on from this, the Scoping Report will be used to assess the effects of policies and proposals and to develop and refine alternatives. The Council will prepare a report to show the work undertaken on the Sustainability Appraisal and will consult on it alongside the consultation on the document being appraised. We will also monitor the impact of the policies or proposals. A Sustainability Appraisal will be carried out in all cases where the content is such that needs one, as required by the regulations.
- 4.4 The Council is also required to submit its Local Plan to a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) to assess the impacts of its policies and proposals on sites of European importance for Nature Conservation. The Council has appointed consultants with the necessary specialist expertise to carry out the assessment on its behalf. This process will be integrated with both the preparation of the policies and proposals and with the Sustainability Appraisal.

5.0 RESOURCES

5.1 The Council's Policy team will prepare the Local Plan. Overall management of the LP will be the responsibility of the Chief Executive and the Planning Policy and Housing Strategy Manager. Under the current structure, the officers involved in its preparation will be: -

- Planning Policy and Housing Strategy Manager;
- Three Planning Policy Officers;
- Senior Housing Enabling Officer
- 2 x PT Planning Technicians

Colleagues in the rest of the Planning Department will be consulted when drawing up the documents.

5.2 There are a number of factors that may affect the timetable assigned to the LP.

- Unfilled staff vacancies;
- The production of the final version of the National Planning Policy Framework and the revocation of the RSS may have implications for the timetabling of individual documents;
- The ability of the Planning Inspectorate to meet the demand for Inquiries;
- Changes in the timetable of one document, due to circumstances above, other unforeseen circumstances or a document failing to progress through the Councils procedures due to disagreements about its content, may have a knock on effect on the timetable of another;
- Changes to the committee structure or committee timetable within the Council. For example, Committee timetables in future years may not match the projected timetables in the LDS, or there may be delays in committees resolving items (e.g. over full agendas or meeting overrunning). All have potential to add delay into the timetables in the LDS;
- If the inspector does not accept the approach taken by the Council (as has been the case at some previous examinations) the document will be returned to the Council for rewriting. This will impact on the timetable for preparing that document and, in the case of the Core Strategy, any subsequent documents that are prepared as part of the Local Plan.