

East Lindsey District Council Answers to Examiners Questions

Belchford and Fulletby Neighbourhood Development Plan Examination

- 1. Can the District Council confirm that it is satisfied with the changes made to the submission version, in response of its Regulation 14 consultation?**

Largely. The Council would have preferred the Green Spaces to be plotted as mentioned but clarification had been provided in the text and the boundaries of two fields are clear on the ground.

- 2. I note that some policies in the Local Plan are headed as Strategic Policy. Can I ask the District Council to confirm that these local plan policies are to be treated as strategic policies for the purpose of the test of general conformity, in relation to the basic conditions.**

Yes. The Local Plan was drafted at a time when the Government wished to see the number of Development Management policies in Local Plans reduced. Therefore, the policies were phrased as strategic policies.

- 3. I note that the screening opinion document is entitled Draft Screening Opinion. Can the District Council advise whether it will be producing a final screening opinion?**

As there were no adverse comments on the Draft Screening Opinion, that now becomes the final Screening Opinion. The document has been changed to reflect this.

- 4. This document concludes that an SEA will not be required. Paragraphs 2.4 and 2.5 refer to an HRA screening "needing to be ascertained" at the same time the screening opinion is sought. It is the District Council's responsibility as the competent authority to carry out that screening determination after consulting with Natural England. If that screening has already been done, please can I be provided with a copy. I must draw the District Council's attention to the basic condition which requires me to establish whether "the making of the neighbourhood plan does not breach the requirements of Chapter 8 of Part 6 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, which set out the habitat regulation assessment process for land use plans, including consideration of the effect on habitats sites." I therefore need to be satisfied that the HRA screening has been carried out properly to establish whether an Appropriate Assessment is required.**

It was determined that a HRA was not required, given the nature of the policies in the NDP and the distance from any European sites. However, this had not been formalised. A HRA Screening Opinion has been prepared and has been provided. The Screening Opinion was sent to Natural England for comment on 27th August 2024. A response was received on 7th September agreeing with the assessment.

- 5. Can the District Council provide me with the local list for the parish. Is the site of the medieval village presently a scheduled ancient monument or is it on the local list and if not, should the neighbourhood plan seek to confer such a non-designated heritage asset designation?**

The medieval village is not scheduled. As the medieval village does not appear on the Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record (HER), it would not be considered appropriate to confer a non-designated heritage asset designation on it, until such time as investigations had taken place to obtain a better understand of the site.

Work on the local list has not continued since the officer working on the project left. Information from the Heritage Manager states that the website and database which were established to collect the nominations is now archived on the Lincolnshire HER. However, upon investigation, the long list that was drawn up does not contain any buildings for Belchford and Fulletby. This is a concern as it was understood that the Neighbourhood Plan Group was in discussion with the officer undertaking the project. The long list was intended to be whittled down to a shortlist to proceed to adoption by East Lindsey District Council.

The rationale for East Lindsey District Council recommending that the Neighbourhood Plan referred to the Local List instead of containing its own list of non-designated heritage assets, was that there is more opportunity to update the entries in a Local List. A list in an NDP would be fixed until such time as a review took place. At that time, it was understood that the Parish Council/Neighbourhood Plan group were actively engaged in the Local List project and that this would result in the Local List containing entries for the two villages.

The entries from Historic Environment Record (HER), for both settlements are attached. These would be flagged to anyone carrying out a search in respect of a planning application. There may be some correlation with buildings of interest in the two villages, but it will not cover all the buildings that the Neighbourhood Plan Group and Parish Council identified.