

Report To:	Local Plan Development Committee
Date:	3RD JULY 2023
Heading:	LOCAL PLAN REGULATION 19, VISION, KEY ISSUES AND STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES
Executive Lead Member:	NOT APPLICABLE
Ward/s:	ALL WARDS
Key Decision:	No
Subject to Call-In:	No

Purpose of Report

To consider changes to the Vision, Key Issues and Strategic Objectives of the Local Plan.

<p><u>Recommendation(s)</u></p> <p>Cabinet be recommended to amend the Vision, Key Issues and Strategic Objectives for the Regulation 19 Local Plan, as set out in the Report.</p>
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Reasons for Recommendation(s)

To consider the responses from the Regulation 18 Local Plan Consultation and the emphasis the Council places on tackling climate change.

Alternative Options Considered

To make no amendments to the Regulation 18 Draft Local Plan.

Detailed Information

The responses to the Regulation 18 Draft Local Plan consultation in relation to the Vision and Spatial Objectives are summarised in Table 1. The Regulation 18 Local Plan is available on the Council’s website on the [Ashfield Draft Local Plan Consultation \(Regulation 18\)](#) page.

	Support	Objection	Comment	Petition signatures	Main Aspects	Response
Vision	5	2	3	N/A	Objections from planning agents, the vision does not comply with NPPF para 22. Plan with large scale development such as new settlements require the vision to look over at least 30 years.	The Vision may need to be amended dependent on the approach adopted by the Council in taking the Local Plan forward.
Strategic Objectives	26	2	15	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Majority support for the objectives in the Plan. • Objections relate to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 457 dwellings should be a minimum housing requirement. ➤ The Plan period should cover up to 2040. ➤ Bestwood Village should be included in the Hucknall Sub area. ➤ Questions about why some heritage assets are included on the key diagram but not others (i.e. Scheduled Ancient Monuments and Historic Parks and Gardens). ➤ Strategy for new settlements, should be sustainable urban extensions on the edge of existing settlements first and the new settlements are not viable or deliverable. 	Slight change in the wording of SO11 To meet the global challenge of Climate Change and SO13 Minimising our Impact on the Environment to identify nature based solutions.

Table 1: Summary Response to the Vision and Strategic Objectives Local Plan Regulation 18 Consultation.

Source: Ashfield District Council Local Plan Statement of Consultation August 2022, Regulation 18

Vision

The Vision in the Draft Local Plan sets out the following:

Vision: ‘Ashfield, a place to be proud of’

Ashfield is a District where people of all ages are proud to live, study, work, visit and aspire to stay.

High quality design and place making will shape the delivery of new development, responding to the infrastructure requirements of new and existing local communities and rising to the challenge of climate change.

New housing is responsive to local needs, enhancing the built environment and reflecting the distinctive characteristics of Ashfield’s towns and villages. The lifestyle of the community will be enhanced by accessible health, leisure, and education opportunities.

Building on our transport links, a more diverse and thriving economy will encourage higher educational attainment, business enterprise, quality jobs and provide opportunities for a skilled workforce.

Sutton in Ashfield, Hucknall and Kirkby-in-Ashfield will have thriving, vibrant town centres, providing a mix of retail, cultural, employment and local services, places where people want to visit and live.

The District’s rich heritage, scenic countryside and biodiversity are valued resources for local residents to discover, providing opportunities for tourism and recreation.

A significant number of the responses identified that the Vision did not accord with the National Planning Policy Framework in paragraph 22 which identifies that “Where larger scale developments such as new settlements or significant extensions to existing villages and towns form part of the strategy for the area, policies should be set within a vision that looks further ahead (at least 30 years), to take into account the likely timescale for delivery.” Further to the Cabinet decision of 13th December 2022, the two proposed new settlements at Whyburn Farm and Cauldwell are no longer in the Plan. Consequently, this aspect of NPPF paragraph 22 is not considered to apply. However, changes are recommended to the Vision and other aspects of the Plan to reflect the emphasis the Council places on tackling climate change within the District.

The proposed amendments are set out through:

- a) Deletions to the existing text being crossed through, or
- b) Additional text being identified in blue font.

Vision: ‘Ashfield, a place to be proud of’

Ashfield is a District where people of all ages are proud to live, study, work, visit and aspire to stay.

High quality design and place making will shape the delivery of new development, responding to the infrastructure requirements of new and existing local communities ~~and rising to the challenge of climate change~~. New housing is responsive to local needs, enhancing the built environment and reflecting the distinctive characteristics of Ashfield’s towns and villages. The lifestyle of the community will be enhanced by accessible health, leisure, and education opportunities, **which will reduce health and income inequality in the district.**

Working in Partnership with other organisations and residents, Ashfield will have taken major steps towards becoming net- zero carbon by 2050. The design and layout of development will reflect the change to drier and hotter summers, including the utilisations of green roofs and green space with extensive tree planting. Green space will be utilised to minimising the increased risk of flooding from all sources. New houses and employment units will be energy efficient, utilising solar and other forms of low carbon energy, reflecting electricity generated from a low carbon grid, combined heat and power plants and local heat sources such as mine water. To minimise the impact of periods of drought, development will be designed to use water efficiently, which facilitate ecosystems with less water being taken out of rivers and aquifers. Vehicles will be substantially powered by electricity resulting in significant local air quality benefits. The emphasis on green infrastructure will facilitate cycling and walking to access local facilities and services, achieving a shift in travel behaviour reducing energy usage and improving the health of residents.

Building on our transport links, a more diverse and thriving economy will encourage higher educational attainment, business enterprise, quality jobs and provide opportunities for a skilled workforce. **Improved interchange between transport modes and the use of innovative solutions will help to manage the utilisation of the highway network for all users.**

Sutton in Ashfield, Hucknall and Kirkby-in-Ashfield will have thriving, vibrant town centres, **offering local products from local sources. They will** provide a mix of retail, cultural, employment and local services, **being** places where people want to visit and live.

The District’s rich heritage, scenic countryside and biodiversity are valued resources **which will be protected and enhanced** for local-residents to discover and providing opportunities for tourism and recreation.

Key Issues

It is recommended that the key issues identified in the Plan in Chapter 1 are amended to place a further emphasis on climate change with the addition of the following paragraph:

Climate Change

Climate change has substantial implications for future generations and action is needed by all to meet national and local targets to reduce carbon emissions and other gases, which make major contributions towards the rises in air and sea temperatures. Ashfield has committed to do everything possible to combat climate change and it is a main priority for the local plan. The challenge for us is to provide for new homes and jobs in a way that does not have a detrimental impact on our climate and environment.

The response from the Lead Local Flood Authority has recommended changes to reflect that there are a significant number of properties and infrastructure, which are potentially at risk from surface water. The Plan's policies ensure that this is an aspect that is taken fully into account when a planning application is submitted.

Flooding and Water

- ~~While the risk of flooding from watercourses is relatively low there is a risk from flooding in specific areas, in particular, Hucknall and Jacksdale. Further, additional water into the River Leen raises significant flood issues in Nottingham.~~
- ~~Ensuring that development contributes towards reducing flooding risk through improvements to the drainage infrastructure and the use of sustainable urban drainage systems.~~
- Ashfield is substantially located within Flood Zone 1, which is land at the lowest risk of flooding from watercourses. Nevertheless, there are areas at risk of flooding from watercourses including parts of Hucknall and Jacksdale. Further, additional water into the River Leen raises significant flood issues in Nottingham. The Nottinghamshire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy 2021-27 identifies that approximately 3,783 residential, and commercial properties together with critical infrastructure is at a high or medium risk of flooding. The Council's approach is to ensure that the risk of flooding is minimised and does not increase the risk of flooding to the surrounding area. It promotes the use of SUDS and blue / green infrastructure throughout development to ensure a sustainable approach to the management of water and flood risk.
- Reducing the level of water use given the constrained water supply for Greater Nottingham and Ashfield.

Strategic Objectives

A number of the responses to the strategic objectives related to wider aspects of the Plan rather than the specific wording and intention of the objectives. Amendments to Strategic Objectives SO11, "To meet the global challenge of climate change" and SO13, "Minimising our Impact on the Environment" are proposed to identify nature based solutions, as set out below.

SO11 To meet the global challenge of climate change.

To rise to the global challenge of climate change, which at a local level presents risks to people, property, infrastructure and natural resources by:

- c) Facilitating the integration of sustainable building design principles in new development, improve the resilience of buildings and places to cope with a changing climate, ensuring flood risk is managed by encouraging nature based solutions and potential problems of extreme weather are minimised;

SO13 Minimising our Impact on the Environment

Promote the efficient use of resources by embracing sustainable patterns of development including:

- c) ~~Minimising the impact of new development on natural resources.~~ Avoiding the impacts of new development on natural resources wherever possible and minimise, mitigate and compensate where it cannot be avoided.

It is proposed that Cabinet is recommended to amend the Vision, Key Issues and Strategic Objectives in the Regulation 19 Local Plan, as set out in the Report.

Implications

Corporate Plan: Planning, and the Local Plan has a cross cutting role to play in helping to meet and deliver the six priorities identified in the Corporate Plan. In particular, the Local Plan has a key responsibility in delivering the outcomes around the supply of appropriate and affordable homes, improving town centres, facilitating economic growth especially around transport hubs, improving parks and green spaces.

Legal: The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) and the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended) sets out the legislative requirements in bringing a local plan forward. Under Section 20 of The Act, an authority must not submit a Local Plan unless they have complied with any relevant requirements contained in the regulations and the document is ready for independent examination. [RLD 15/06/2023]

Finance: There are no direct financial implications arising as a result of this report. [CWH 15/06/23].

Budget Area	Implication
General Fund – Revenue Budget	None
General Fund – Capital Programme	None
Housing Revenue Account – Revenue Budget	None
Housing Revenue Account – Capital Programme	None

Risk:

Risk	Mitigation
No risks in relation to the report have been identified.	-

Human Resources: There are no direct HR implications contained within this report.

Environmental/Sustainability: Sustainability is at the heart of the planning system and the Plan has been prepared with the aim of delivering sustainable development in the District in accordance with the requirements of paragraphs 7 and 8 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), 2021. The Plan has been prepared in accordance with the Planning & Compulsory

Purchase Act 2004, as amended, which requires the Council to conduct an appraisal of the sustainability of the proposals in Local Plan and prepare a report of the findings of the appraisal.

Equalities: An Equality Impact Assessment will be undertaken as part of the consideration of the Local Plan Publication.

Other Implications: None

Reason(s) for Urgency: Not applicable

Reason(s) for Exemption: Not applicable

Background Papers

Draft Local Plan Regulation 18, which is available on the Council's website.

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