

## Policy Committee – 7<sup>th</sup> December 2017



### Craven Local Plan Development Scheme – Revised Timetable

Report of the Strategic Manager for Planning and Regeneration

Ward(s) affected: All wards wholly or partly outside the Yorkshire Dales National Park

1. **Purpose of Report** – To update Members and seek a slight adjustment to the Local Plan timetable.
  
2. **Recommendations** – Members are recommended to:
  - 2.1 Approve the adjusted timetable attached at Appendix A for the preparation of the Craven Local Plan and to amend the Local Development Scheme accordingly for publication on the Council's website.
  
- 3 **Report**
  - 3.1 As Members will recall, a timetable for the preparation of the Local Plan was previously presented to and approved by the Craven Spatial Planning Sub-Committee at the meeting of 5<sup>th</sup> June 2017. It was anticipated at that time that the Pre-Publication Draft Local Plan would be published on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2017 for a period of 6 weeks with the Draft Publication Plan being approved for consultation by the end of September 2017.
  - 3.2 The Pre-Publication Draft Local Plan was published for consultation on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2017 in accordance with the timetable. However the high number of comments submitted right at the very end of the consultation period (31<sup>st</sup> July) meant there was a significant workload for the Planning Policy team immediately following the consultation period inputting comments into the local plan consultation database.
  - 3.3 A report was presented to the Craven Spatial Planning Sub-Committee on 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2017 to provide an overview of the key challenges arising from the consultation on the pre-publication draft Craven Local Plan.
  - 3.4 In summary, challenges were made to the robustness of the Council's evidence base which supports the spatial strategy and policies of the Local Plan, in particular:-
    - The evidence base on Demographic Forecasting, the Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) and the Employment Land Review(ELR) which

underpin the preferred housing growth option (Option C) for the Local Plan under Policy SP1: Meeting Housing Need;

- The evidence base on Whole Plan Viability which underpins the 40% affordable housing target in Policy H2: Affordable Housing, and .
- A challenge to the soundness of the methodology used for the selection of Local Green Space sites under Policy ENV10: Local Green Space.

3.5 It was clear that the matters highlighted above were significant challenges to the soundness of the plan and it was important therefore that the response to these key challenges had input from and consideration by the consultants that prepared the relevant evidence base studies, and the barrister advising the Council on the preparation of the Local Plan.

3.3 However, this further work had implications for the timetable for the publishing the Publication Draft Local Plan and it was acknowledged that the timetabled date of the end of September 2017 for the final approval of the Publication Draft Local Plan was no longer realistic and it was envisaged that gaining approval of the Publication Draft Local Plan by Full Council before the end of December 2017 would be more feasible.

3.4 The Planning Policy Team have worked closely with the Council's consultants to update the local plan evidence base and address the issues raised during the consultation in June/July 2017, and it is clear that the timetable now requires updating to reflect the current position.

3.5 It is anticipated that the Regulation 19 Publication Draft Local Plan will be presented to a Special Meeting of Full Council on 19th December 2017 for approval for consultation commencing on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2018 for a 6 week period ending on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2018. It is also anticipated that the Plan will be submitted to the Secretary of State by the end of March 2018. The estimated timescale for the Examination of the Local Plan has been based on the latest guidance produced by the Planning Inspectorate "Procedural Practice in the Examination of Local Plans" (June 2016).

#### 4 **Implications**

4.1 **Financial and Value for Money (vfm) Implications** – None arising directly from this report.

4.2 **Legal Implications** – To adopt the Craven Local Plan, the Council must ensure that the Local Plan complies with legal requirements and so it is essential the the Local Development Scheme is up to date.

4.3 **Contribution to Council Priorities** – The Local Plan, once adopted will contribute to all the Council's Priorities.

- 4.4 **Risk Management** – If the recommendation on the revised timetable at 2.1 is not approved and the Council seeks to formally Publish the Plan without an approved and up to date Local Development Scheme, the Council would not be able to demonstrate that legal requirements have been met.
- 4.5 **Equality Analysis** – No new policy or procedure is proposed in this report which would give rise to a requirement for an Equality Analysis.
5. **Consultations with Others** – Legal Services, Financial Services.
- 6 **Access to Information : Background Documents** – The Planning Inspectorate “Procedural Practice in the Examination of Local Plans” (June 2016).
7. **Author of the Report** – Sian Watson; telephone 01756 706462; e-mail: [swatson@cravenc.gov.uk](mailto:swatson@cravenc.gov.uk)

Note : Members are invited to contact the author in advance of the meeting with any detailed queries or questions.

8. **Appendices** –  
Appendix A – Proposed Revised Timetable for Preparation of Craven Local Plan.

