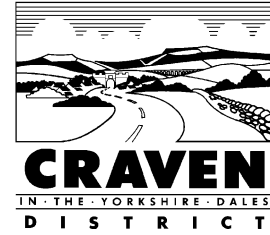


Craven Spatial Planning Sub Committee – 22nd August 2017



Craven Local Plan – Overview of Key Emerging Challenges from Consultation Undertaken in June - July 2017

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 provide an overview of the key challenges arising from the consultation on the pre-publication draft Craven Local Plan
2. **Recommendations** – Members are recommended to:
 - 2.1 Note the key challenges emerging from the consultation in respect of the pre-publication Craven Local Plan in June/July 2017.
- 3 **Report**
 - 3.1 As Members will recall, at the meeting of this Sub-Committee on 14th June 2017, a pre-publication draft Local Plan was approved for public consultation for a six week period (Minute CSP 147 refers). The consultation period commenced on Monday 19th June 2017 and ended on Monday 31st July 2017.
 - 3.2 There have been approximately 830 comments made by 227 individual respondents, most of which were submitted in the final few days of the consultation period. North Yorkshire County Council asked if they could submit a combined written response from all the relevant County Council services (Strategic Policy and Economic Growth, Education, Archaeology, Ecology, Highways, Minerals, Public Health, Social Services and Extra Care) after 31st July as they required the relevant portfolio holder's approval for a combined response. Their written response is expected before the end of August.
 - 3.3 The high number of comments submitted right at the very end of the consultation period has meant that there has been a significant workload for the Planning Policy team over the last 3 weeks inputting comments into the local plan consultation database.
 - 3.4 The analysis of issues raised from the consultation is ongoing, however the key challenges emerging so far are summarised as follows:-

- a) Challenges have been 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, and
 - The evidence base on Whole Plan Viability which underpins the 40% affordable housing target in Policy H2: Affordable Housing.
- b) 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 For the Council to progress the Local Plan to the formal Publication stage, it is required to publish what it believes to be a 'sound' plan. The matters highlighted above at a) and b) are significant challenges to the soundness of the plan. It is important therefore that the response to these key challenges has 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.

4 **Implications**

- 4.1 **Financial and Value for Money (vfm) Implications** – None arising directly from this report. A supplementary estimate of £42,180 was approved by Policy Committee on 13th December 2016 to meet the costs of an additional period of informal consultation.
- 4.2 **Legal Implications** – To adopt the Craven Local Plan, the Council must ensure that the Local Plan complies with legal requirements and be judged sound following independent examination. Ensuring that a complete evidence base is in place at Publication stage to underpin the strategy, policies and proposals of the Local Plan is key to meeting the tests of soundness at examination.
- 4.3 **Contribution to Council Priorities** – The Local Plan, once adopted will contribute to all the Council's Priorities.
- 4.4 **Risk Management** – The recommendation at 2.1 is for Members to note the key challenges emerging from the latest consultation, so approving the recommendation carries no significant risks.
- 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** – Consultation responses submitted to pre-publication draft Craven Local Plan

7. **Author of the Report** – Mrs Sian Watson, Spatial Planning Manager ; telephone 01756 706462; e-mail 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** – None