

**HDC Local Planning Advisory Panel**

**6<sup>th</sup> March 2013**

**New Local Plan Scoping Consultation**

**Background**

1. Following Council's decision on 3 December 2013 to prepare a new Local Plan for the District, a scoping consultation is necessary. This is the first stage in preparing the new Local Plan. It is a requirement of the relevant regulations and will help to determine the scope and contents of the new Local Plan. The outcome of the consultation will also help to determine any additional evidence requirements during the course of preparing the new Local Plan.
2. A first draft of the Scoping Consultation was presented to Members at the Local Planning Task Panel meeting of 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2013. The Scoping Consultation paper has subsequently been amended in light of comments made at the meeting and subsequently. The attached table summarises the comments received and officer responses to the comments. The resulting amended Scoping Consultation paper (v2) is attached for your consideration incorporating tracked changes to show exactly what the edits are.

**Key Changes**

3. The amended Scoping Consultation document includes a revised layout, to assist readers to follow the structure and proposed main policy changes for the new Local Plan. Additional detail and explanation is included for clarity. The key changes are:
  - Introducing a proposal that the new Local Plan will designate Local Green Spaces where Neighbourhood Development Plans are not being prepared. The resource and timetabling implications of this proposal are currently being explored.
  - Additional explanation of the proposal to replace defined limits to development in settlements with a different approach noting that this is only a proposal at this stage on which comments are being invited
  - Additional explanation of how a phasing policy could operate (again seeking responses on whether the Local Plan should include such an approach)

4. It is important to regard the consultation paper as a vehicle to invite comments from interested parties to help officers and members of the Advisory Panel shape its content and approach. The Local Plan needs to be reflective of the National Planning Policy Framework and provide an appropriate basis for neighbourhood planning and future development management decisions.

**Consultation arrangements**

5. It is intended that public consultation will begin on 18<sup>th</sup> March and last until 26 April which is the same period for consultation on the North West Market Harborough Master Plan. Parish Councils and Meetings have already been notified of this potential period in accordance with our Statement of Community Involvement.
6. Both consultations would be largely online, with Parish Councils, key stakeholders and strategic planning database contacts invited to register online. This will allow respondents to reply online, to save their response, amend and edit it and return to it at a later date. Paper copies of the Scoping Consultation paper and reply form will be available at Customer Services and at libraries across the District. However, respondents are strongly encouraged to reply via the website, which will substantially reduce the volume of resources needed to input and analyse the responses. Opportunities to assist those not comfortable with replying online are being explored.
7. The Communications Team are preparing a Communication Strategy and FAQ to assist with the consultation.
8. The Panel is asked to consider the amended Scoping Consultation paper (V2) as the basis for a period of public consultation as required by Regulation commencing on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2013 for a period of 6 weeks.

**Tess Nelson**

**Principal Planning Officer**

**22<sup>nd</sup> February 2013**