

CABINET

16th November 2021

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS: INDICATIVE HOUSING REQUIREMENT FIGURES

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Planning

Strategic Aim:	Sustainable Growth	
Key Decision: Yes	Forward Plan Reference: FP/011021	
Exempt Information	No	
Cabinet Member(s) Responsible:	Cllr I Razzell, Portfolio Holder for Planning	
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Ward Councillors	All	

DECISION RECOMMENDATIONS

That Cabinet approves the methodology for providing indicative housing requirement figures for Neighbourhood Plans where these are intending to make allocations for housing development, as set out in Appendix 1 to this report.

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to establish a methodology for providing indicative housing requirement figures for Neighbourhood Plans where these are intending to make allocations for housing development., The County Council is required to provide indicative housing requirements within the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and if this is requested by a Neighbourhood Plan Body.
- 1.2 This is specifically relevant for the Uppingham and Langham Neighbourhood Plans which have previously made housing allocations and are currently under review.
- 1.3 The methodology is set out in Appendix 1 to this report. Cabinet is requested to consider and approve this methodology.

2 BACKGROUND AND MAIN CONSIDERATIONS

- 2.1 The NPPF sets out in paragraph 66 that “Strategic policy-making authorities should establish a housing requirement figure for their whole area, which shows the extent to which their identified housing need (and any needs that cannot be met within neighbouring areas) can be met over the plan period. Within this overall requirement, strategic policies should also set out a housing requirement for designated neighbourhood areas which reflects the overall strategy for the pattern and scale of development and any relevant allocations. Once the strategic policies have been adopted, these figures should not need retesting at the neighbourhood plan examination, unless there has been a significant change in circumstances that affects the requirement.
- 2.2 Paragraph 67 goes on to state: “Where it is not possible to provide a requirement figure for a neighbourhood area, the local planning authority should provide an indicative figure, if requested to do so by the neighbourhood planning body. This figure should take into account factors such as the latest evidence of local housing need, the population of the neighbourhood area and the most recently available planning strategy of the local planning authority.”
- 2.3 Appendix 1 provides the basis for how the County Council as the local planning authority should provide the indicative figure required in line with paragraph 67 should this be requested, taking account of the withdrawal of the submitted Local Plan and the commencement of a new plan.
- 2.4 At present, there are two “made” Neighbourhood Plans with housing allocations which are currently being reviewed – Uppingham and Langham – and where there is likely to be a request to the County Council to provide an indicative housing requirement figure.
- 2.5 If approved by Cabinet, the methodology will be used to inform the review of these two Neighbourhood Plans and any others which propose to make housing allocations.
- 2.6 The data used in the methodology will be reviewed on a regular basis to use the most up to date evidence.

3 CONSULTATION

- 3.1 There is no requirement for the Council to consult on the production of the housing requirement figure for Neighbourhood Plans.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 4.1 The methodology set out in Appendix 1 is based on the requirement set out in paragraph 67 of the NPPF. In so doing, it takes account of “the latest evidence of local housing need, the population of the neighbourhood area and the most recently available planning strategy of the local planning authority”.
- 4.2 As such, any other alternative methodology would have the risk of not complying with the requirements of the NPPF.

5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

6 LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE CONSIDERATIONS

6.1 Under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended), the Council has a statutory duty to assist communities in the preparation of neighbourhood development plans and orders and to take plans through a process of examination and referendum.

6.2 The Localism Act 2011 (Part 6 chapter 3) sets out the LPA responsibilities as:

- Designating a forum
- Designating the area of the NDP
- Advising or assisting communities in the preparation of a neighbourhood plan
- Checking a submitted plan meets the legal requirements
- Arranging for the independent examination of the plan
- Determining whether the neighbourhood plan meets the basic conditions and other legal requirements
- Subject to the results of the referendum/s bringing the plan into force

6.3 In addition legislation sets out who the relevant councils are with responsibility for arranging the referendums.

6.4 1990 Act Schedule 4B para 3 states: "A local planning authority must give such advice or assistance to qualifying bodies as, in all the circumstances, they consider appropriate for the purpose of, or in connection with, facilitating the making of proposals for NDPs in relation to neighbourhood areas within their area". This applies to NDP's through S38A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. There is no requirement to give financial assistance.

7 DATA PROTECTION IMPLICATIONS

7.1 A Data Protection Impact Assessments (DPIA) has not been completed.

8 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

8.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has not been completed.

9 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no direct community safety implications arising from this report.

10 HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS (MANDATORY)

10.1 There are no direct health and wellbeing implications arising from this report.

11 CONCLUSION AND SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

11.1 The methodology set out in Appendix 1 has been established to fulfil the County

Council's responsibilities under paragraph 67 of the NPPF to provide indicative housing requirement figures for Neighbourhood Plans where these are intending to make allocations for housing development and if this is requested by a Neighbourhood Plan Body.

12 BACKGROUND PAPERS

12.1 None.

13 APPENDICES

13.1 Appendix 1: Advice to Neighbourhood Plans – Proposed Methodology for the Provision of Indicative Housing Requirements pending the production of a new Local Plan.

A Large Print or Braille Version of this Report is available upon request – Contact 01572 722577.