

# FOREWORD, PREFACE AND CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

## FOREWORD AND PREFACE

### Inspector's Recommendation

1.4 *I recommend that no modification be made in response to this objection.*

### CBC Decision

Accept, except that the section detailing the status of the local plan should be updated.

### Reason

For the reasons set out in paragraphs 1.2 & 1.3 in the Inspector's Report, and to reflect the stage reached in the plan preparation process.

### Proposed Modification

**M1.1**

Modify the 1st section of the Preface:
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## PREFACE

### STATUS OF THE ~~DEPOSIT DRAFT~~ LOCAL PLAN

This Local Plan contains Charnwood Borough Council's policies for the guidance and control of development throughout the Borough, ~~up to the year 2006. The Local Plan has been prepared after consideration of some 2000 separate representations received in response to the Consultation Draft Local Plan which was the subject of a public consultation exercise in February March 1995.~~

In accordance with ~~the provisions of Section 46(1) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 a copy of this~~ statutory procedures the deposit plan was served upon the Leicestershire County Council on 25<sup>th</sup> April 1996. The County Council failed to issue within the 28 days prescribed in Regulations a statement to the effect that ~~this the~~ Plan either is, or is not, in general conformity with the Structure Plan. Accordingly no such statement accompanies ~~this the~~ Plan.

The duly made objections to the deposit plan were examined by Inspector's appointed by the Secretary of State for the Environment, Transport and the Regions at the Public Inquiry stage during 1998. The Inspector's report was received in June 2000 and modifications arising out of his conclusions and recommendations published in 2001.

The Plan covers the period to 2006 and:-

- a) brings together planning policies into one document;
- b) when adopted, replaces the Wreake Valley Local Plan (1985), the Shepshed Local Plan (1987), the Soar Valley Local Plan (1992), the Loughborough Local Plan (1994), the Loughborough Draft Local Plan (1973), the Hathern Plan (1973), the North Wolds Plan (1979), the Seagrave Village Plan (1980), the Wanlip Action Area Local Plan (1985), the Thurcaston Village Appraisal (1986) and the Hamilton Local Plan (1987);
- c) gives full local plan coverage to some areas for the first time.

When adopted, the Plan, together with the Leicestershire Structure Plan (1994), and Leicestershire Minerals Local Plan (1995), will make up the ‘development plan’.

## **MAIN CHANGES FROM THE CONSULTATION DRAFT LOCAL PLAN**

### **Inspector’s Recommendation**

1.7 *I recommend that no modification be made in response to these objections.*

### **CBC Response.**

Reject. Such an explanation of the major changes from the Consultation Draft Plan and details of the steps taken so far in the plan preparation process would be superfluous in the adopted version of the plan.

### **Reason**

To reflect the stage reached in the plan preparation process.

### **Proposed Modification**

**M1.2**

Delete the 2nd and 3rd sections, including Figure 1 from the Preface.
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## ~~**MAIN CHANGES FROM THE CONSULTATION DRAFT LOCAL PLAN**~~

~~A separate Statement of Publicity on the Local Plan has been prepared by the Borough Council. It does not form part of the Local Plan, but is available for inspection. It details the steps taken by the Borough Council to publicise and consult on the Local Plan, and sets out the consideration of representations received in response to the proposals contained in the Consultation Draft Local Plan.~~

~~The main changes from the Consultation Draft Local Plan are:~~

- ~~• a major review and clarification of the strategy for the location of new development in the Borough;~~
- ~~• the deletion of proposals for a new settlement which was to have provided about 1000 homes and 10 hectares for employment purposes supported by local services, amenity areas and an A6/A60 link road with local bypasses to Cotes and Hoton on a 355 hectare site to the north east of Cotes;~~
- ~~• the deletion of proposals for development for employment purposes on 10 hectares off Slash Lane, Barrow upon Soar and 5 hectares at Wanlip Road, Syston;~~
- ~~• the retention of the Shelthorpe Golf Course formerly allocated for housing;~~
- ~~• the deletion of proposals for housing on land at Wysall Lane and Storkit Lane, Wymeswold and the reduction of the allocations at Barkby Lane, Syston and Meynell Road, Quorn;~~
- ~~• the allocation of land north of Birstall to provide about 600 new homes, 6 hectares for employment purposes, fire station, roadside services, bus priority measures on the A6 and a park and ride facility with supporting infrastructure and community facilities;~~

- ~~• the expansion of the housing allocation at Barrow upon Soar to provide for approximately 230 new homes with measures to relieve traffic on Cotes Road;~~
- ~~• the allocation of additional sites for housing, partly because of the opportunity they provide to address the need for affordable housing in certain communities, at:
  - ~~Barkby Road, Syston (300)~~
  - ~~Seagrave Road, Sileby (150)~~
  - ~~Kendall Road, Sileby (65)~~
  - ~~Bradgate Road, Anstey (60)~~
  - ~~Brook Street, Burton on the Wolds (30)~~
  - ~~Swifts Close, Wymeswold (30)~~
  - ~~Moscow Lane, Shepshed (30)~~~~
- ~~• the allocation of about 20 hectares of land north of Loughborough for employment purposes providing for the relocation of existing playing fields and retention of the historic Dishley Grange Farm complex;~~
- ~~• the linking of affordable housing policies to the findings of the Council's Housing Needs Study (1995);~~
- ~~• a greater emphasis upon the encouragement of retail development within existing town and district centres;~~
- ~~• the deletion of proposals for additional car parking provision in central Loughborough together with the amendment of car parking policies in general to encourage alternative modes of transport; and~~
- ~~• the introduction of new policies for the encouragement of buses, cycling and walking, for the control of light pollution and for the promotion of the Burder Street Area in Loughborough as an Opportunity Site for redevelopment.~~

## ~~THE NEXT STAGE~~

~~The diagram at Figure 1 illustrates the key stages in the preparation of the Local Plan. There will be an opportunity to submit further representations on this Local Plan while it is 'on deposit'. Any outstanding objections which cannot be resolved after the deposit period may be taken forward to a public local inquiry.~~

~~The deposit consultation period will be advertised by the Borough Council and forms will be provided for the submission of objections or supporting representations to the Local Plan.~~

~~Only those objectors whose objections have been 'duly made' have the right to appear at the Local Plan Inquiry. To ensure that an objection is 'duly made' it must:~~

- ~~i) be made in writing using the form provided;~~
- ~~ii) be submitted to the Borough Council before the end of the advertised deposit consultation period; and~~
- ~~iii) clearly state the matter being objected to, the reasons why and what amendment to the Local Plan would be required to overcome that objection.~~

~~The Local Plan Inquiry will be an inquiry into objections to the Plan. It will be chaired by an independent Inspector appointed by the Department of the Environment. The Inspector will address his report to the Borough Council with recommendations upon what alterations, if any, should be made to the Deposit Draft Local Plan. The Borough Council must consider the Inspector's report and decide whether or not to accept the recommendations before the Local Plan can be adopted.~~

~~Any modifications to the Deposit Draft Local Plan, made as a result of the Inspector's recommendations, or arising from other matters, will be advertised by the Borough Council and a further period allowed for representations. If any issues are raised which were not considered at the original Public Local Inquiry then the inquiry may be re-opened. Only then can the Borough Council adopt the Local Plan.~~

~~The process is therefore one of progressive examination and refinement with provision for full public consultation at every key stage. The closer the Local Plan approaches adoption the closer it should reflect and make provision for the needs and aspirations of the community as a whole. The Local Plan will be the product of a collaborative effort and its ownership should be vested in all who actively participate in its preparation.~~

## **PARAGRAPHS - 1.1 to 1.37 - CHAPTER 1 - INTRODUCTION**

### **Inspector's Recommendation**

1.21 *I recommend that:-*

- (i) *the Plan be modified in accordance with PC 1 and PC 2 together with FPC 233.*
- (ii) *paragraph 1.24 of the Plan, as proposed to be modified by FPC 233, be further modified by the insertion of an additional sentence or sentences, at the end of the seventh paragraph, to indicate more precisely how monitoring of the Plan is to be carried out.*

### **CBC Decision**

Reject (i), PC1 should be not implemented but rather the 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence be slightly reworded.  
Accept (ii), but update the paragraph 1.22 of the plan.

### **Reason**

For the reasons set out in paragraphs 1.9 to 1.20 in the Inspector's report, and to reflect the current position regarding the delivery of strategic development sites in this plan, and the latest funding programmes available for planning and regeneration projects

### **Proposed Modification**

**M1.3**

[Note: Aspects of this Proposed Modification rely upon the Council's Further Proposed Changes which have not previously been subject to public consultation]

Modify paragraph 1.14.
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1.14 The Borough of Charnwood Local Plan will cover the period 1991 to 2006. However in some instances where policies may relate to a ~~phased~~ long term development of strategic

significance or to the conservation of the natural and built heritage a longer timescale may be appropriate.

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**Proposed Modification**
**M1.4**


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Modify paragraphs 1.19 and 1.22.
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1.19 However while having not avoided the effects of the recession, Charnwood has certainly fared better than many other localities: the local manufacturing base has survived largely intact, substantial investment has already taken place in new technology industries, there is a commitment to major improvements in the communications network, the rural economy possesses potential for growth and diversification; housebuilders maintain a keen interest in the Borough and the district enjoys a wealth of natural assets. These factors suggest that Charnwood is likely to attract significant private sector interest as and when economic indicators improve. These assumptions are supported by the factors directing major land allocations towards the Borough through the Structure Plan. However, the Structure Plan does recognise that environmental constraints limit the amount of development which the Local Plan area can accommodate.

1.20 [No Change].

1.21 [No Change].

1.22 To some extent the amount of resources available for key projects is likely to depend upon the success of the Borough and County Councils in bidding for specific grant allocations from central Government or from the European Commission. Bids have been, and may be expected to be made under the following programmes:

Single Regeneration Budget;

Derelict Land Programme;

Housing Investment Programme (HIP);

~~Transport Policies and Programme (TPP);~~ Local Transport Plan (LTP);

~~Town Schemes~~ Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI) and Heritage Economic Regeneration Scheme (HERS); and

Strategic Programme for Innovation and Technology Transfer (SPRINT) (An E.C. initiative).

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**Proposed Modification**
**M1.5**


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Modify paragraph 1.24 and insert new supporting text after paragraph 1.25
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1.24 To remain effective in decision making the Local Plan must be up-to-date and consistent with national and regional policies. ~~It is inevitable~~ The Council has always recognised that circumstances will alter over the plan period and the Borough Council is committed itself accordingly to a full review of the Plan at regular intervals. ~~In practice the effective implementation of the policies and proposals of the Local Plan will be closely monitored by reference to existing statistical sources and information bases to inform the review process.~~

1.25 [No Change].

The preparation of this first Borough of Charnwood Local Plan has proved to be a complex and time consuming exercise. The plan period expires in 2006 affording the adopted plan a lifespan of less than 5 years.

PPG 12 – Development Plans advises that local plans should extend over a period of 10 years from their likely adoption date. To ensure continuity in housing land supply a five year plan period represents the minimum desirable.

The need for an early review is heightened by the progress being made towards the preparation of new Regional Planning Guidance with a 20 year time horizon, and a replacement Structure Plan rolling forward strategic policies and proposals until 2016.

In addition overall Government policy has moved progressively towards the closer integration of land use planning and transport policy in its drive towards more sustainable patterns of development and growth. That process, included, in July 1998, the release of a White Paper, “A New Deal for Transport”. Among other initiatives, the White Paper introduced a requirement for the preparation of Local Transport Plans which will co-ordinate local transport initiatives, set specific targets, give greater certainty to funding and ensure greater use of traffic management. Local Transport Plans will have an important role to play in informing future land use choices.

Accordingly an early review of this local plan is inevitable and necessary to ensure the maintenance of a relevant and up to date framework, consistent with emerging strategic developments and initiatives for the closer integration of land use and transport. That review will necessarily have to consider all options for meeting future development needs, including those rejected in the preparation of this local plan.

The effective implementation of the policies and proposals of the Local Plan will be closely monitored by reference to existing statistical sources and information bases to inform the review process. The results of monitoring will be published in the form of an Annual Monitoring Statement. It will identify a series of indicators and set targets that will give a clear view on what the plan is trying to achieve and provide a measure against which to judge it’s effectiveness. Such statements will also include details of progress toward the targets identified. Results will be fed into future reviews of the Plan.

It is not intended that the Local Plan should prejudice the consideration of any future option for development to meet the needs of the plan area. New proposals for development will accordingly be considered in that context. The Local Plan acknowledges, for the purposes of the current plan period the presence around the main urban areas, of various constraints to development deserving of specific policy reference (i.e Green Wedge, Areas of Particularly Attractive Countryside, Areas of Local Separation, Historic Parks/ Gardens and essential wash land). Clearly the local planning authority faces some difficult choices in reconciling these competing interests in the face of additional development needs