

THE CRAVEN LOCAL PLAN – BACKGROUND NOTE FOR LOCAL ACCESS FORUM MEETING 12-7-17

Introduction

As part of replacing the saved 1999 Craven District (outside the Yorkshire Dales National Park) Local Plan, preparation of a new local plan has been underway since 2012.

Early engagement on issues and options took place in 2012-2013, a draft plan was published for consultation in 2014, and a revised pre-publication draft of the plan was consulted upon in 2016. The evidence base has also been updated including SHMA update, SFRA, Local Greenspace Assessment and Employment Land Review. Consultation on a revised pre-publication draft plan is currently underway and is scheduled to end on 31 July 2017.

Once adopted, the new local plan will replace the 1999 local plan and will form the primary planning strategy for Craven District outside the Yorkshire Dales National Park. The plan contains a suite of policies and site proposals to guide growth and development for the period 2012-2032. The main issues include:

- Settlement strategy and growth apportionment;
- Economic activity including retailing, the rural economy and tourism and site allocations;
- Housing including site allocations;
- Environmental quality including landscape, heritage, flood risk and green space; and
- Infrastructure, services and facilities

To complement the evidence base, the plan is supported by a number of background documents including an Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP), which considers infrastructure requirements arising from plan proposals and associated mechanisms for delivery.

The plan is also supported by an Equality Impact Assessment. This is a background document and this has resulted in revisions to draft policy ENV1. This may be of interest to the Forum.

Overall Plan Strategy

The plan directs most growth towards Skipton as principal town and District Centre whilst a second tier of growth directs some growth to Bentham and Settle. Third and fourth tiers of settlements direct some growth toward a range of smaller settlements in the plan area. These are:

Third Tier Settlements

- Glusburn/Crosshills
- Ingleton
- Gargrave

Fourth Tier Settlements 4a

- Burton in Lonsdale
- Carleton
- Cononley
- Cowling
- Farnhill and Kildwick
- Hellifield
- Low Bradley
- Sutton in Craven
- Rathmell

Fourth Tier 4b – Settlements split by the National Park Boundary

- Bolton Abbey
- Clapham
- Embsay
- Giggleswick
- Long Preston

The plan does however recognise and account for related environmental and infrastructure constraints that apply to some settlements.

The plan provides support for transport infrastructure improvements in the Skipton and South Craven area, whilst providing a positive context to allow for economic growth and related development in the plan area. Plan documents are available to view here:

<http://www.cravenc.gov.uk/newlocalplan>

Changes since the previous draft

Since the previous draft of the plan, there have been a number of amendments and some new policies. In summary, these are:

- SP1: Meeting Housing Need
- SP2: Economic Activity and Business Growth
- SP3: Housing Mix & Density (Significant change to existing Policy SP3 to include density considerations, Deletion of Policy H4 Housing Density)
- ENV10: Local Green Space
- ENV11: The Leeds & Liverpool Canal (new policy)
- ENV12: Footpaths, Bridleways & Cycle Routes (new policy)
- ENV13: Green Wedges (new policy)
- Policy H2: Affordable Housing
- EC4A: Tourism-Led Development At Bolton Abbey(new policy)
- Policy INF6: Education Provision (new policy)

Amendments are shown in red in the consultation documents. There are also a number of background papers issued with the consultation documents. These include an Infrastructure Delivery Plan and Equalities Impact Assessment.

Next Steps

The intention is that the publication draft Craven Local Plan will be issued for consultation later in 2017, subject to final approval from Craven District Council. However, comments are now invited on this draft of the local plan and supporting documents.