

Customer Impact Review

Name and brief description of policy being analysed

Briefly summarise the policy including any key information such as aims, context etc; note timescales and milestones for new policies; use plain language – NO JARGON; refer to other documents if required

The policy being analysed:

Core Strategy Development Plan Document
Addendum relating to North-East March (Proposed Submission Version)

Fenland District Council in its role as the Local Planning Authority (LPA) is required to produce a Local Plan, which may include a document known as a Core Strategy. The Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) and supporting Town and County Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 set the requirements for Local Plan preparation. The legislation includes a requirement to invite bodies or persons, as specified, to make representations to the LPA at key preparation stages, also specified. This allows all interested parties the opportunity to submit representations to influence and shape the emerging plan.

The Core Strategy is a strategic planning policy document that establishes a set of principles to guide development in across the whole administrative area of Fenland. Once it has been examined by an independent inspector and has been adopted by the council, the Core Strategy will be used to determine planning applications. The vision for the development of Fenland up to 2031 consists of a series of themes: the local distinctiveness of Fenland, high quality design, heritage, growth and promotion of market towns and villages, health and well being, sustainability and the natural environment, housing, economy, employment and skills, transport and accessibility, climate change, recreation, the rural economy and infrastructure and delivery.

Following three previous consultations: Draft 2011, Further Draft 2012 and the Proposed Submission Feb – April 2013, this additional consultation relates only to the changes resulting from the removal of the North-East March Strategic Allocation (as agreed by Council on 30 May 13). Comments are therefore sought only on these changes. Following this consultation, a 'Submission' version will be prepared for formal submission, along with supporting evidence, to a representative of the Secretary of State, known as a Planning Inspector. Submission is programmed for September 2014. A public enquiry, with opportunities for interested parties to participate, will then be held during Winter 2013.

Information used for customer analysis

Note relevant consultation; who took part and key findings; refer to, or attach other documents if needed; include dates where possible

Please also refer to the section of this document below about research and data.

The Main Stakeholders

Residents of Fenland, people who work in the District; FDC Teams; businesses, landowners, developers, house builders, Internal Drainage Boards, the County Council, parish and town councils, residents associations, community groups, the Environment Agency, Natural England, English Heritage, visitors and utility and service providers.

Up to this stage the council has received representations directly or on behalf of all the above groups. This upcoming stage will provide an equal opportunity for these stakeholders to submit representations.

Consultation Information

Consultations were held between July and September 2011, March and April 2012 and February and April 2013. Each individual representation is made available on a consultation portal shortly after the end of each consultation period. A report summarising all of the issues raised, and proposed actions to address these issues. This focused consultation will also provide an opportunity for interested parties to make representations, specifically on the changes resulting from the removal of the North-East March allocation. These will then also be hosted online and summarised.

Key Findings

Through the consultations held to date a few key issues have emerged. Firstly, there has been significant opposition to the proposed strategic allocation at North-East March. Secondly, there were concerns that the plan did not go far enough to protect historic and natural environments. There were also relatively minor comments regarding policy wording and supporting text. These issues have been addressed through various alterations (see Proposed Submission version) and one of which is the primary focus of this consultation – the removal of the Strategic Allocation at the North-East March.

	Could particularly benefit	Neutral	May adversely impact	Explanations	Is action possible or required?	Details of actions or explanations if actions are not possible Please note details of any actions to be placed in your Service Plan
Race	<input type="checkbox"/>	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	In drafting the Core Strategy, officers have considered all of the equality strands. This Customer Impact Assessment does not raise any negative	Y / N	
Sex	<input type="checkbox"/>	x	<input type="checkbox"/>		Y / N	
Gender reassignment	<input type="checkbox"/>	x	<input type="checkbox"/>		Y / N	

Disability	<input type="checkbox"/>	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	equality issues. Officers have concluded that the Core Strategy will have positive impacts. There is no evidence that the Core Strategy may result in adverse impacts on equality or good community relations. A sustainability Appraisal has also been undertaken and no significant impacts have been identified.	Y / N	
Age	<input type="checkbox"/>	x	<input type="checkbox"/>		Y / N	
Sexual orientation	<input type="checkbox"/>	x	<input type="checkbox"/>		Y / N	
Religion or belief	<input type="checkbox"/>	x	<input type="checkbox"/>		Y / N	
Pregnancy & maternity	<input type="checkbox"/>	x	<input type="checkbox"/>		Y / N	
Marriage & civil partnership	<input type="checkbox"/>	x	<input type="checkbox"/>		Y / N	
Human Rights	<input type="checkbox"/>	x	<input type="checkbox"/>		Y / N	
Socio Economic	<input type="checkbox"/>	x	<input type="checkbox"/>		Y / N	
Multiple/ Cross Cutting	<input type="checkbox"/>	x	<input type="checkbox"/>		Y / N	
Outcome(s) of customer analysis						
<p>a) Will the policy/ procedure impact on the whole population of Fenland and/ or identified groups within the population; negative <input type="checkbox"/> neutral <input type="checkbox"/> positive x</p> <p>No major change needed x Adjust the policy <input type="checkbox"/> Adverse impact but continue <input type="checkbox"/> Stop and remove / reconsider policy <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The likely impact of the Local Plan and its policies are positive. Positive impacts of good development and associated facilities and infrastructure that adequately accommodates the planned housing and economic growth. The Core Strategy includes policy to increase the amount of affordable homes, lifetime homes and homes for those in wheelchairs. It discourages the loss of open space and encourages the provision of new open space in new developments. It encourages high quality inclusive design of new developments that can be accessed by all and designed to reduce crime. It protects valued built and natural environments.</p>						
Arrangements for future monitoring:						
<p>Note when analysis will be reviewed; include any equality indicators and performance against those indicators</p> <p>The Core Strategy and its accompanying Sustainability Appraisal will be monitored annually, which allows officers to observe impacts on equality and good community relations. If it becomes apparent that the Core Strategy policies are disproportionately having an adverse impact on a section of the community then the policies or the entire document will be reviewed.</p>						

Details of any data/ Research used (both FDC & Partners):

Chapter 4 of the Fenland Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) 2009 – 2012 committed its partners to preparing a ‘Shaping Fenland Together’ project (renamed Fenland Neighbourhood Planning Vision). This project has happened in 2010-11, and took a fresh look at developing an integrated approach to understanding the social, economic and environmental issues. The concept was to ensure that the future growth of Fenland is set within an overall context that is sustainable and that delivers real benefits for the local community.

The Fenland Neighbourhood Planning Vision project team considered a wide variety of evidence. It developed an overarching vision that links back to the SCS. The project involved all the key stakeholders such as the Homes and Communities Agency and Cambridgeshire County Council.

A strong technical evidence base is also required to support the policies in the Core Strategy. A large number of studies were undertaken each of which is available on the FDC website.

Completed by:

Name/Position: Allan Simpson, Senior Planning Officer

Approved by: Richard Kay, Neighbourhood Strategy Manager

Date published: 27 June 2013

Details of any Committee approved by (if applicable):

Date endorsed by Members if applicable: