

Notes from NDP review meeting held at Herefordshire Council Plough Lane offices on 28th February 2020

Attendees

Herefordshire Council – Karla Johnson

Weston under Penyard Parish Council – Linda Dunn, Martin Firman, John Smart

Verbal responses to WuP written questions

1. What is the current status and the schedule for review of the HC core strategy including the timing of the first draft that would help us to ensure compatibility of our NDP?

HC has decided that they will revise their Herefordshire Core Strategy (HCS) and the review has commenced with evidence gathering. A draft is expected by late 2021 and the HCs should be made during 2022.

2. Are the required housing numbers likely to change? When would we know the impact on our NDP?

It is likely that the settlement of WuP will remain as a main focus of proportionate housing development. The existing housing numbers could change up or down. No timescale was advised for a conclusion on this matter.

3. Any updated advice on new information that should be included in an NDP?

Draft Guidance Notes will be provided in April 2020.

4. Will HC review our existing NDP and give specific advice?

Yes. Comment will be provided quite soon. Action taken by Karla to facilitate this. Whilst recognising that the WuP Plan has allocated sites, a settlement boundary and a good delivery of houses, Karla commented that all our houses originally included as allocated sites are now commitments and so critically, we have no “allocated sites”. Karla suggested that we consider whether to call for sites again and try to allocate a site or sites for the outstanding 7 houses (item 7 below).

5. What support will HC provide during our review process?

Similar arrangements as previously for the initial NDP. Karla is our allocated advisor.

6. What period will be covered by a revised Core Strategy and our revised NDP? e.g. 2011-2031 previously.

The period covered by the revised HCS will be 2020 to 2041.

7. Can HC please provide a table of WUP approved applications for dwellings since 1st April 2011?

Housing commitment and completion figures are posted below from April 2011-April 2019, these are update every year and should be available after April 2020.

Parish / Group parish	RA2 Settlement	Number of households in parish	% growth in CS	Number of new houses to 2031	HMA target	Completions 2011-19	Commitments as at 1 April 2019	Site allocations within NDPs at April 2019	Remaining
Weston under Penyard	Weston-under-Penyard	465	14	65		22	36		-7
	Pontshill								

8. Can information be provided about grant aid please?

Please find a link for the Locality website to obtain funding. If you would like to discuss grants further, I can set up a meeting between the parish and Dave Tristram one of the Funding Officer's.

<https://neighbourhoodplanning.org/about/grant-funding/>

Funding up to £9,000 will be available.

9. Why was the two-year period specified? Could a revised NDP go out of date again in another 2 years?

No explanation was available on the 2-year rule. No assurance was provided that the housing supply policies of a revised NDP would not lose weight again after two years if HC could still not demonstrate a 5-year land supply.

Note previous response from Sam Banks to the question:

Do you know why the government imposed the condition about NDP's being more than two years old in Para. 14 of the NPPF?

Response by email 20th November 2019

Essential if any local planning authority area does not have a 5 year land supply – all the housing supply policies in any development plan document are deemed 'out of date' with the NPPF. The government began to acknowledge that because NDPs formed part of the development plan that this was unpopular with communities who has invested time in producing a plan. Therefore a ministerial statement was issued in late 2016 to indicate that rather than NDPs policies becoming out of date as soon as the LPA didn't have a 5 YLS they would be 'safeguarded' for an extra 2 years. Therefore at the time this was seen as a positive move. This was then wrapped into the changes to the NPPF in early 2018 however the wording has been slightly amended in the NPPF to put the emphasis back on sustainable development. The government are aiming to balance the need to meet housing requires with that of their NDP promotion.

10. Any news on future changes to the planning system and NDPs from the new government?

The government is expected to issue a white paper soon after the budget statement in March 2020. The indication was that this could be key to the way the HCS is revised.

11. When will the feedback forms be issued to parish clerks?

Not covered

12. When will the survey request be issued to parish clerks?

Already received and returned to HC

Conclusion

Karla believes we should be considering a "Substantial" review and that a Reg. 14 consultation may be appropriate in addition to the required Reg 16 and Examination, with a potential for a Referendum.