

Minutes of **Central Lancashire Strategic Planning Joint Advisory Committee**

Meeting date **Wednesday, 7 February 2024**

Members present: Councillors James Flannery (Chair), Caleb Tomlinson, Elaine Stringfellow, Alistair Bradley, Alistair Morwood, Craige Southern, Javed Iqbal and County Councillors Alan Cullens and Michael Green

Officers: Kim Rennie (Interim Deputy Chief Executive- Chorley and South Ribble), Gayle Wootton (Director of Planning and Property- Chorley and South Ribble), Chris Hayward (Director of Housing and Development -Preston), Elizabeth Hindle (Head of Planning and Enforcement- South Ribble), Zoe Whiteside (Head of Spatial Planning- Chorley), Catherine Thomas (Planning Manager- South Ribble), Carolyn Williams (Planning Policy Manager- Preston), Katherine Greenwood (Principal Planning Officer- Chorley), Marcus Hudson (Acting Head of Planning and Environment (Planning and Transport) - Lancashire County Council), Benjamin Vickers (Principal Planning Officer (Policy)- South Ribble), Emma Price (Planning Policy Officer- Chorley) and Ben Storey (Democratic and Member Services Officer- Chorley and South Ribble)

Guests: Sabin Karimbil (Jacobs Consultants) and Richard Askew (Lancashire County Council)

Apologies: Councillor Amber Afzal

Other members: Councillors Margaret France (Chorley Council), Mary Green (South Ribble Borough Council) and attending virtually, Councillors Alan Whittaker (Chorley Council), Julia Berry (Chorley Council) and Kath Unsworth (South Ribble Borough Council)

Public: 0

38 Appointment of Chair for the Meeting

Resolved: (Unanimously)

That Councillor James Flannery be appointed as Chair for the meeting.

39 Welcome by Chair and Introductions

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited those members attending to introduce themselves.

The Committee welcomed the new Director of Planning and Property at Chorley and South Ribble, Gayle Wootton to her first meeting.

The Committee also looked forward to Councillor Amber Afzal, the new Cabinet Member for Planning and Regulation at Preston City Council, attending future meetings.

40 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Amber Afzal who was substituted by Councillor Javid Iqbal.

41 Declarations of Interest

No interests were declared.

42 Minutes of meeting Monday, 4 December 2023 of Central Lancashire Strategic Planning Joint Advisory Committee

Resolved: (Unanimously)

That the minutes of the last meeting, held on Monday, 4 December 2023, be approved as an accurate for signing by the Chair.

43 Strategic Transport Assessment for the Local Plan

The Chair welcomed representatives from Jacobs alongside officers from Lancashire County Council to deliver a presentation to the committee around transport evidence, methodology and the various metrics involved and stages of the process.

Members questioned the use of data from the 2011 census, given significant changes in population, methods of travel, the impact of the pandemic and increasing ambitions to promote sustainable and active travel. In response, the Committee heard that the 2011 census was the best available source of the detailed level of data set required due to the 2021 census data being skewed due to the impact of the pandemic on travel. Members were reassured that other evidence, such as current travel models would contribute to assessments at future stages.

The Committee also heard about opportunities, through the development of the Local Plan, to use the more progressive 'decide and provide' process in terms of approach to methodology and achieving ambitions around sustainable modes of travel.

With consultant support from Jacobs, the full assessment was expected to be completed on time.

Resolved – that the update and presentation be noted.

44 Local Plan Update

The Head of Spatial Planning (Chorley) presented the report which provided the committee with an update on a number of areas the teams were progressing, including viability assessments, retail and housing studies, employment land and site assessment work and drafting of policies for the Local Plan.

Resolved – that the update be noted.

45 National Planning Policy Framework Update

The Principal Planning Officer (South Ribble) presented the report which outlined and highlighted key changes within the revised National Planning Policy Framework which was published in December 2023.

Clarification on changes around housing delivery and the five-year land supply requirements were provided to members, including the additional point that the framework states that the standard method for calculating housing need is now considered as an ‘advisory starting point.’

In response to a query about speculative planning applications on greenbelt land, it was noted that an assessment would still be required as to whether the criteria for ‘very special circumstances’ had been met and would be assessed differently in plan preparation. However, changes to the framework suggested that the need to review or release greenbelt land may not be required.

Resolved – that the update be noted.

46 Local Development Scheme Update

The Planning Policy Officer presented the report which highlighted a revised timetable for completion of the Central Lancashire Local Plan and sought agreement to recommend the updated Local Development Scheme for approval by Council or Cabinets at each of the three central Lancashire authorities (Chorley, Preston and South Ribble.)

Following significant changes to legislation around planning policy and plan-making, confirmation was provided that the three authorities remained committed to the delivery of the new Central Lancashire Local Plan under the existing statutory plan-making regime with the revised Local Development Scheme outlining how the June 2025 deadline for submission would be met.

The Local Development Scheme agreed in December 2022 had proposed that the Regulation 18 Preferred Options consultation would be carried out in two parts, however given the deadlines for submission the second consultation was no longer feasible. The consultation on the publication version of the Central Lancashire Local Plan, scheduled for early 2025, would provide an opportunity for further engagement.

Resolved – that the update be noted.

47 Dates of Future Meetings

The Committee noted the proposed meeting dates of the Central Lancashire Strategic Planning Joint Advisory Committee for the 2024/2025 municipal year.

48 Exclusion of Press and Public

Resolved: (Unanimously)

That the public be excluded from this meeting during consideration of the following items of business on the grounds that there is likely to be disclosure of exempt information which is described in the paragraphs of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 which are specified against the heading to each item, and that in all the circumstances of the case the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing it.

49 Site Assessment Update

The Principal Planning Officer (Chorley) presented a confidential update on progress around assessing identified sites and the ongoing work with partner organisations to complete them. The Committee were also provided an update on flood risk assessments and transport modelling work.

Resolved – that the update be noted.

Chair

Date