

**NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL  
REPORT**

To: COATBRIDGE AREA COMMITTEE	Subject: NORTH LANARKSHIRE LOCAL PLAN	
From: DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT		
Date: 25 September 2003	Ref: PL/lpt/ nllp/djo	

**1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To advise the Committee of the process and timetable for key stages of the North Lanarkshire Local Plan and to outline the Committee's place in the process.

**2. Background**

- 2.1 In October 2002 the Planning & Environment Committee decided that local planning in the Council area would be taken forward by means of a Council Wide Local Plan replacing the current framework of 1 subject and 11 separate area plans. In August 2002 the Planning & Environment Committee approved a report recommending setting up a Local Plan Progress Panel to monitor progress and a series of Local Plan Workshops to channel Area Committees' involvement.

**3. Sustainability**

- 3.1 A North Lanarkshire Local Plan will be prepared in accordance with EU Directive 2001/42/eu and subject to a full environmental or sustainability appraisal.

**4. North Lanarkshire Local Plan Format**

- 4.1 The local plan will comprise three elements:

- A Policy Document containing the land use planning strategy and Council-wide policies for each topic such as industrial development, retailing etc.
- Three Area Action Plans containing proposals specific to the Northern, Central and Southern areas - each area will have a Local Plan Team lead officer who will liase with and advise the respective Area Committees during the various stages of the local plan process
- Proposals Maps illustrating local plan policy

## **5. North Lanarkshire Local Plan Process**

- 5.1 The recent Planning Audit commended the Council's move to a new local plan framework inside a Council-wide Local Plan and strongly recommended that the plan be progressed as a priority for the Council. It found that the proposed move towards such a plan would present an opportunity to break new ground, to consolidate efforts and to produce a unified vision. The audit stressed that, in determining planning applications, development policy should be the primary consideration and deviation from the development plan should only be considered in exceptional circumstances. Ensuring a high level of involvement in the plan and ownership of the plan within the Council is therefore important and the active involvement of the Area Committees is a vital ingredient in meeting this objective.
- 5.2 The plan process has within it a number of statutory requirements relating to timescale and procedure and will take an estimated three years to complete. This new local plan framework has been designed to involve key players as much as possible at each stage. There will be three main stages in the North Lanarkshire Local plan process. Firstly, there is the pre-draft stage where the Council indicate in broad terms its aims for the plan and key issues. Secondly, there is the consultation draft stage where the draft plan is issued and opinion sought. Thirdly, there is the finalised stage where the Council produce a final plan and outstanding objections are considered through a local public inquiry. This report deals with the first two stages (pre-draft and consultation draft). The Area Committee's opportunity for involvement in these stages is outlined below.

### **Pre-draft Stage**

- 5.3 For the end of December 2003 the Director of Planning & Environment will produce a context within which the Area Committee can consider the key issues. This pre-draft output will be circulated in line with the plan's consultation strategy, involving the public, key stakeholders and other agencies. This will be the first opportunity for the Area Committee to engage in the process and contribute to the fundamental approach of the plan. The precise working arrangements for such will be a matter for the Area Committee but could involve a sub-group or working group responsible to the Committee.

### **Consultation Draft Stage**

- 5.4 From February 2004 the Director will assess comments on the pre-draft stage material and, in conjunction with the Area Committees, develop policies for each of the land use planning topics and proposals for each Action Plan area. This will be the second stage in terms of opportunity for the Area Committee to contribute to the plan's development. It is estimated that this stage will result in a Consultation Draft North Lanarkshire Local Plan going before the Planning & Environment Committee for approval in the second half of 2004.

## **6. Managing the North Lanarkshire Local Plan Process**

- 6.1 Final output from the key stages of the local plan process will be reported to the Planning & Environment Committee. To manage the process during each of the three key stages the Planning & Environment Committee have established a Local Plan Progress Panel that will monitor and co-ordinate progress of the Area Committees. The Progress Panel will comprise the Convener and Vice-Conveners of Planning & Environment along with the Planning and Development Service Manager, Strategic Planning Manager and Team Leader Local Plans. This group will meet on an irregular basis throughout the writing of the plan to assess progress against an agreed timetable.
- 6.2 Appended to this report is a diagram outlining the proposed interaction of the Area Committee in the local plan process and the timeline for the key elements leading to a Consultation Draft North Lanarkshire Local Plan.

## **6. Corporate Considerations**

- 6.1 Once adopted the North Lanarkshire Local Plan will reflect the Councils land use proposals for a 5-year period. It will also co-ordinate and influence the investment decisions by private interests and other external agencies.
- 6.2 Other than staff time, resources involved for this phase of the Local Plan process will involve costs associated with printing and advertising, which will be charged to current financial year development plan budgets.

## **6. Recommendations**

- 6.1 It is recommended that the Committee note the contents of this report and agree to establish appropriate working arrangements to develop proposals for the North Lanarkshire Local Plan.

*Catherine Lawson*

**David M. Porch**  
**DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT**

Background Papers.

Local Plan Update and Review of Local Plan Framework Options - Planning and Environment Committee Report October 2002  
North Lanarkshire Local Plan - Planning and Environment Committee Report August 2002

Local Government Access to Information Act: for further information about this report, please contact David Jones Team Leader Local Plans on 01236 618133

**APPENDIX**

**Interaction of the Area Committee in the Local Plan Process and Timeframe to a Consultation Draft**

