



New Forest NPA Local Plan Update

New Forest Access Forum

4 December 2017

- 1. Summary of key Local Plan policy approaches**
 - Including whole-Estate Plans and habitat mitigation measures
- 2. Response to points raised by NF Access Forum**
 - NFAF comments on the consultation draft Local Plan (October 2016)
- 3. Updated timetable for consultation on Submission draft Plan**
 - Final 6-week consultation due to commence January 2018



New Forest National Park Local Plan Review

- The Local Plan sets out what will happen where in the National Park.
- The current National Park Local Plan – the Core Strategy – dates back to 2010 and requires updating.
- The Local Plan policies will, once adopted, be used to determine the circa 900 planning applications submitted per annum in the Park.
- Importantly the NPA's Local Plan can only include policies that:
 - (i) relate to matters within the boundary of the National Park; and
 - (ii) cover issues where planning permission is required.
- Other issues will be taken forward through other avenues including the National Park Partnership Plan; the concurrent review of the Recreation Management Strategy (RMS); and the Local Plan reviews undertaken by neighbouring planning authorities including NFDC.



Summary of key Local Plan policy approaches

- The draft Local Plan proposes a housing target of between 700 – 800 new dwellings in the Park over the Plan-period (2016 – 2036). This includes site allocations, but falls below the identified need.
- The draft Plan includes planning policies aimed at protecting the designated habitats and landscape of the National Park.
- Policies supporting the local economy; the protection of the built environment of the Park; visitor facilities; and the role of the larger Estates in delivering the two Park purposes are also included.





Summary of key Local Plan policy approaches



- The NPA's habitat mitigation scheme (2012) will be updated alongside the Local Plan to ensure new development funds mitigation measures.
- The Local Plan review is supported by a range of evidence base studies including a Habitats Regulations Assessment, Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and transport modelling.
- The Local Plan will include a monitoring and implementation section. Each year the NPA produces an Annual Monitoring Report which assesses the performance of the policies.



Response to points raised by the New Forest Access Forum (2016)



- There is a desire for a consistent, cross-LPA approach to habitat mitigation. This can include SANG areas, ranger provision & access improvements.
- The Local Plan will include policy coverage of new SANG provision & will protect existing open spaces.
- The Local Plan proposes a relatively restrictive approach to new campsites and holiday parks. 28 day 'pop up' camp sites now account for some 7,000 extra overnight stays in the Forest.
- The Local Plan will include policy support for the safeguarding of disused railway lines.
- Reference will be made to the England Coast Path within the Local Plan.



Response to points raised by the New Forest Access Forum (2016)

- It is important to note that some of the issues previously raised – including the enhancement of public transport and a review of New Forest car parks – fall outside the scope of the Local Plan.
- Some of the points raised previously will be taken forward through the RMS update.
- The Local Plan Review will however provide the planning policy ‘hooks’ for this update.
- For example, the Local Plan supports measures to relieve visitor and recreational pressures where this would assist the conservation of designated nature conservation sites.





Local Plan Review – Timetable for remaining stages

- The proposed Submission draft Local Plan is due to be considered by NPA members on 14 December 2017.
- Subject to approval, the draft Local Plan will then be published for a final 6-week period of consultation commencing in **January 2018**.
- The New Forest Access Forum will be directly notified of this consultation in the new year.
- The aim is to then submit the final draft Local Plan (and the representations received) to the Secretary of State for independent examination in Spring 2018.
- The Examination is likely to take place in late Summer 2018, with a report expected by the end of 2018.