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# Planning for green space

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2014



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# Agenda

- What is a Local Plan?
- The changing planning context
- Update on Local Plan preparation
- Evidence Base
- Current policy position
- Moving forward





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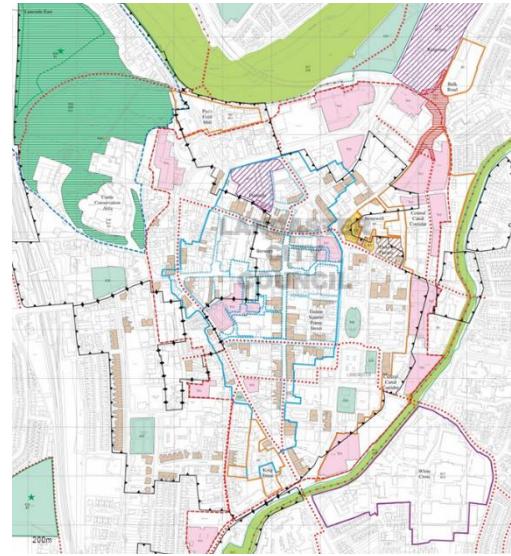


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# What is a Local Plan?

Sets the planning policy for the district:

- Allocates land to meet the future development needs of the district, including locations for employment, housing, leisure and retail opportunities;
- Identifies settlement boundaries;
- Allocates areas of environmental and historic importance which should be protected and enhanced;
- Establishes the detailed design and sustainability criteria that the council will use when determining planning applications



The existing Local Plan was adopted by the Council in 2004



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# Lancaster Local Plan

Current Development Plan for the district consists of:

- Saved policies of the 2004 adopted Lancaster District Local Plan
- Lancaster District Core Strategy 2008

These DPDs are also supported by a number of Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) including:

- SPD on Meeting Housing Needs

Lancaster District Local Plan  
Strike-Through Edition  
September 2008

LANCASTER CITY COUNCIL  
Promoting City, Coast & Countryside

Lancaster City Council  
[www.lancaster.gov.uk](http://www.lancaster.gov.uk)

Andrew Danson Cllr MP (MPF) Councillor  
Head of Planning Services  
Lancaster City Council  
Westgate House  
Goton Square  
Lancaster LA1 1PU  
4th December 2008



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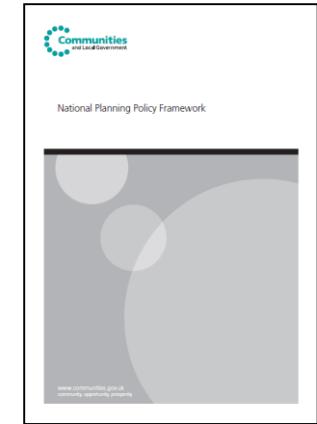
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# The Changing Planning Context....

- Since the Core Strategy was adopted:
  - Prolonged economic recession
  - New national planning policy – National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)
  - Removal of regional planning
  - New evidence on housing and employment needs
- Led the City Council to review its current policy position
- The Council is now preparing a new suite of Local Plan documents which together will address all planning policy matters and allocations
- On adoption of these new documents the remaining saved policies of the Local Plan and Core Strategy will be replaced.





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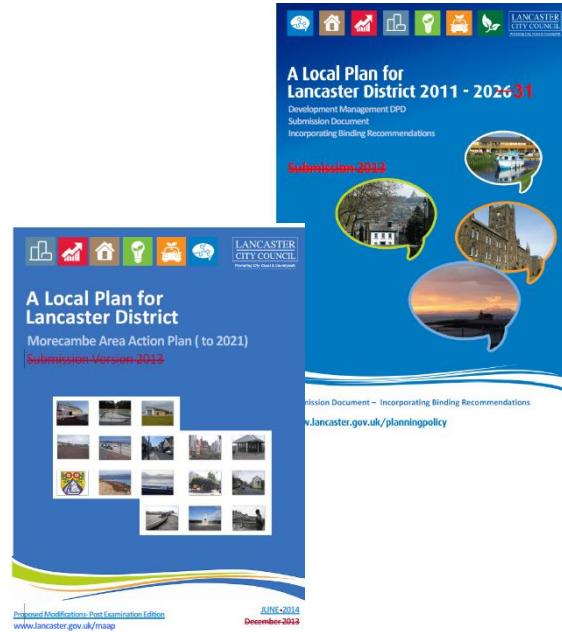


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## New Local Plan

The Council is working on the preparation of five key documents which will collectively form the district's Local Plan and will supersede the Core Strategy:

- Development Management DPD
- Morecambe Area Action Plan DPD
- Land Allocations DPD
- Arnside and Silverdale AONB DPD
- Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation DPD





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## What have we done to date?

- Development Management Document and Morecambe Area Action Plan
  - Following several stages of public consultation both documents were subject to independent examination in April 2014.
  - Found sound by the Planning Inspectorate in September and anticipate adoption by Full Council on the 17<sup>th</sup> December 2014.
- Land Allocations Document
  - Being progressed separately by the City Council.
  - Undertook Preferred Options consultation in October 2012.
  - Since then the council have undertaken further work on its evidence base, primarily in relation to future employment and housing land.
  - Undertook further consultation on meeting housing needs in June/July 2014
  - Anticipate further consultation in 2015



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# What is Green Infrastructure?

Strategically planned and delivered network of high quality green spaces and other environmental features.

Together these spaces offer a multifunctional resource delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits, including:

- Places for outdoor relaxation and play,
- Space and habitat for wildlife,
- Climate change adaptation,
- Environmental education,
- Local food production,
- Improved health and well-being.





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# National Planning – Green Infrastructure

## Open space and recreation facilities:

- Notes the importance of these spaces in contributing to the health and well-being of communities
- Calls for local assessments of open space, sport and recreation facilities identifying specific needs and potential areas of deficit or surplus
- Avoid loss of such space unless:
  - Shown to be surplus to requirements,
  - Loss of space would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality,
  - The development is for alternative provision, the need for which clearly outweighs the loss.
- Potential to identify areas of ‘Local Green Space’ – special areas of local importance.
  - Shown to have a particular local importance (beauty, historic significance, recreational value, tranquillity or richness of wildlife).
  - Should only be designated through the Local Plan process.
  - Should be in reasonably close proximity to the community which it serves



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# National Planning – Green Infrastructure

## Natural environment:

Calls for local authorities to contribute to conserving and enhancing the natural environment by:

- Protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, geological conservation interests and soils
- Recognise the wider benefits of ecosystem services
- Minimise impacts on biodiversity and provide net gains
- Establish coherent ecological networks that are resilient to current and future pressures

In delivering this the NPPF calls for Local Authorities to:

- Identify and map components of the ecological network – including designated areas, wildlife corridors and stepping stones
- Promote the preservation, restoration and re-creation of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species.
- Prevent harm to geological features.
- Identify Nature Improvement Areas



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# Local Evidence Base

- Designations

Designation	Area (ha)
SSSI	19,119
SPA	18,098
SAC	10,649
RIG	1,491
RAMSAR	10,507
BHS	6,155
AONB	30,638

- Agricultural land

	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5
Ha	0	625	21,331	15,495	16,512
%	0	1.1	37.7	27.4	29.2

- 86.5% of the urban population live within 720 metres of natural or semi-natural green space
- 80.6% of the urban population live within 480 metres of amenity green space
- 2 new children's play spaces delivered – Clay pits, Moss Lane in Morecambe and a new accessible play area in Ryelands Park in Lancaster
- 11 City Council owned allotments offering over 500 plots. Approx. 125 additional private and parish council plots.



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# Local Evidence base

## PPG17 Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities Study (2010 Refresh)

- Assesses existing open space, sport and recreation provision across the district (0.2ha in size or those areas of community value)
- Provides recommended standards of provision (quantity, quality and accessibility) which should be delivered
- Covers 9 space typologies:
  - Allotments
  - Amenity space
  - Natural and semi-natural greenspace
  - Parks and gardens
  - Cemeteries and church yards
  - Children and young people
  - Indoor sports facilities
  - Green corridors
  - Outdoor sports facilities



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# Lancashire Ecological Network

- Being prepared on behalf of the Lancashire Local Nature Partnership by the Lancashire Wildlife Trust and Lancashire Environment Record Network
- Seeks to identify linkages between known wildlife sites focussed on 3 broad habitat groups and the species they support:
  - Woodland scrub
  - Grassland
  - Wetland and heath
- Identifies:
  - Core Areas
  - Corridors
  - Stepping stones



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# Green Infrastructure – Adopted Local Plan

- Designated areas (International sites, AONBs, Local Nature Reserves, BHSS)
- Areas of Urban Green Space (Policy E29)
- Green Corridors (Policy E30) –
  - Lune Riverside
  - Lancaster Canal
  - Caton to Glasson cyclepath
  - Lancaster to Morecambe cyclepath
  - Burrow Beck
- Key Urban Landscapes (Policy E31)
- Key areas of outdoor playing space (Policy R1)





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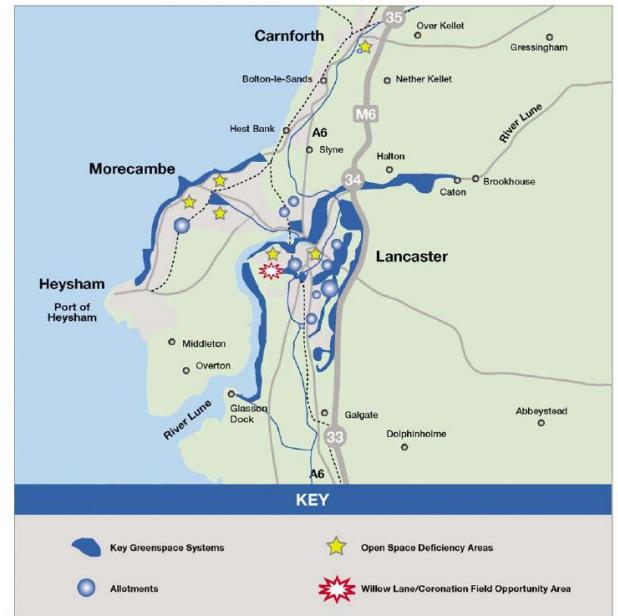
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## Green Infrastructure – Core Strategy

- Policy SC8 ‘Recreation and Open Space’ – aims to ensure that existing and future residents and visitors have access to sports facilities, green spaces and greenspace networks
- Calls for existing spaces to be retained
- New provision to be incorporated into new residential developments
- Identifies following greenspace network
- Policy E1 ‘Environmental Capital’ – calls for protection and enhancement of nature conservation sites, urban greenspaces, allotments.





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# Green Infrastructure – Development Management DPD

## Policy DM25 Green Infrastructure

- Integrity and connectivity of green infrastructure network will be managed, maintained, protected and enhanced.
- Encourages the integration of green spaces and green infrastructure into development proposals and forge linkages with existing green space networks.
- Where on-site provision is not possible a financial contribution will be sought towards the creation of new facilities off-site
- Development proposals which would result in the damage to the integrity of or severance of a green corridor will be resisted by the council.
- The loss of green spaces and corridors will only be considered acceptable where it is allowed as part of the development plan process and on balance achieves wider policy aims and objectives.
- In such circumstances it would be expected that replacement habitat/provision be provided which is of an equal or better standard (in both quantitative and qualitative terms) than existing.

## *Allotments*

- Seeks to protect existing allotments
- Supports the provision of new allotments

## *Garden Provision*

- Resists proposals which will involve the loss of garden spaces to built development



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# Green Infrastructure – Development Management DPD

## Policy DM26 Open Space, Sports and Recreational Facilities

- Protects areas of open space of environmental, economic and community value from development which would result in their loss either partially or fully.
- Where exceptional circumstances justify the loss of space the council will require the re-provision of equal or better provision than currently exists.
- The loss of space of space will only be considered where it can be demonstrated, via consultation, that the land in question no longer has an economic, environmental or community value.
- Development proposals located in recognised areas of open space deficiency will be expected and encouraged to provide appropriate contributions towards open space provision, either on-site or where this is not possible via a financial contribution towards provision off-site.



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# Green Infrastructure – Development Management DPD

## Policy DM27 The Protection and Enhancement of Biodiversity

- Provides protection for international, national and local designated biodiversity sites.
- Includes Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs),, Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Ramsar, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and Biological Heritage Sites (BHS) and Local Nature Reserves.

## Policy DM28 Development and Landscape Impacts

- Provides protection for designated landscape sites (National Parks and AONBs)
- Provides protection for the locally designated Key Urban Landscapes
- States that these areas will be conserved and important natural features safeguarded. Within these areas the council will only support development that preserves the open nature of the area and the character and appearance of its surroundings.
- Outside of protected landscapes the council will support development which is in scale and keeping with the landscape character and which are appropriate to its surroundings in terms of siting, design, materials, external appearance and landscaping.



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# Moving forward.....

## Land Allocations DPD

- Will formally allocate key areas of greenspace in the district
- Identifying:
  - Allotment provision
  - Areas of active recreation
  - Amenity areas
  - Green space networks/local ecological networks
  - Nature Improvement Area
  - Key Urban Landscapes





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## Moving forward.....

### Lancaster District Open Space Provision & Residential Development Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)

- Provides additional guidance on the application of Policy DM26 Open Space, Sports and Recreational Facilities of the Development Management DPD
- Includes information to assist in calculating the amount of open space provision or financial contribution that will be required from new developments
- Will apply to all proposals for residential development where there is a net increase of 5 or more new houses
- Provides information on the management of spaces
- Will be consulting on this in due course



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# Any questions?