

**CABINET**  
**1 MAY 2018**

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## CABINET

1 May 2018

KEY DECISION: NO

### DATA PROTECTION ACT AND GDPR

#### 1. Decision:

The Cabinet Agreed:

- 1.1 That the actions to date and the planned measures to ensure compliance with the legislative requirements be noted.
- 1.2 To appoint the Assistant Director of Democratic & Regulatory Services at South Staffordshire Council as the Council's Data Protection Officer for 2 years effective from 2 May 2018.

#### 2. Statement of Reasons:

GDPR [the new data protection law] comes in to force on 25 May 2018. It replaces the European 'directive' that the current Data Protection Act 1998 is based on with a 'regulation'. GDPR needs to be read alongside the new Data Protection Bill. This Bill is currently going through the parliamentary process and when it comes in to effect [this must be at the same time as GDPR] it will replace the current Data Protection Act 1998.

The new law must be complied with by the Council as well as members of the Council in their own right as data controllers. Member training is scheduled for Thursday 19 April 2018. At that session members will be advised as to what support they will receive to help them comply with the new law.

Personal data is any information that relates to an identified or identifiable individual.

Data protection is regulated by the Information Commissioner's [Elizabeth Denham] Office.

The Commissioner has described GDPR [for those who currently comply with the law] as an "evolution" not a "revolution". She has also stated that she prefers the "carrot" rather than the "stick" which means that her approach is to encourage organisations to comply in the first instance.

It should be noted however that the new regime does include potentially much more severe penalties for data breaches and increased requirements to notify non-compliance to the ICO.

The ICO's guidance on the steps to be taken can be seen [here](#).

#### Action Taken

The Council has a project team (consisting of one or more representatives from each service area) led by David Campbell - a Solicitor employed by South Staffordshire Council.

In order to become 'GDPR compliant' the Council needs to take the following steps (following the ICO guidance referred to above):

#### 1. Awareness

*Senior Officers and Members should be made aware of the changes under GDPR so that impact and key areas can be identified and managed.*

The Council has allocated a significant amount of officer time into preparation work to ensure compliance. Senior Officers have been kept informed throughout and this report will update Members in respect of steps taken and action needed.

## **2. Information you hold**

*There is a need to undertake an information audit across the Council and have records of processing activities.*

Service teams have identified what personal data the Council processes, who has access, who it is shared with etc. This 'audit' has helped inform the project plan which is being implemented across the Council.

## **3. Communicating privacy information**

*Current privacy notes should be reviewed and a plan put in place for making any necessary changes.*

This work has been scoped as part of the project plan. There are a number of privacy notices in place across the Council and these are being reviewed and refreshed as necessary to include the lawful basis for processing the data, data retention periods and the right to complain.

## **4. Individuals' rights**

*Procedures should be checked and updated to ensure all the rights individuals have are included.*

These rights are a mix of refinement of the old and (some) new such as (not exhaustive):

- a) The right to access data
- b) The right to have incorrect data rectified
- c) The right to have data erased [new]
- d) The right to data portability [new – but unlikely to be a concern to the council]
- e) The right to restrict processing
- f) The right to object to processing [limited effect on the council]
- g) The right to object to marketing

The Council already has procedures in place to deal with the existing rights; possibly the most significant new right is the right to have data erased. This is not an absolute right and if there is a legitimate business need to retain data then this right can be overridden. However, the Council will need to have an appropriate procedure in place to deal with any such requests. This is being drafted and will be in place in time for May 2018.

## **5. Subject access requests**

*Procedures should be updated to allow for the new rules:*

- *generally information should be provided free of charge (currently there is a standard £10 charge)*
- *Information should be provided within one month (currently this is 40 days)*
- *If refusing a request for access, we must tell the person why and set out their rights to complain and to judicial remedy; again there is a time limit of one month to do this.*

Whilst the Council does not receive a significant number of subject access requests, procedures and systems are being reviewed to ensure we can comply within the new shorter timescales.

## **6. Lawful basis for processing data**

*The lawful basis for processing data must be identified, documented and set out on a privacy notice.*

For the Council's statutory functions this will usually be that we are acting in the public interest or exercising official authority. For non-statutory function such as leisure the basis will typically be that the council provides services under a contract.

This is important as the lawful basis impacts on a person's rights under GDPR; if using consent as a basis for processing data then an individual has greater rights to have that data deleted.

Again, officers are working through this in each service team to ensure the lawful basis for processing data is clear and documented.

## **7. Consent**

*How we seek, record and manage consent should be reviewed and refreshed as necessary.*

Consent must be freely given, specific, informed and unambiguous. There must be a positive opt-in.

Where the Council relies on consent to process data, the consents given will be reviewed as part of the preparation work and if necessary (this will be on a case by case basis) revised and renewed.

## **8. Children**

*GDPR brings in special protection for children's personal data and its use particularly for online services. The need for consent from either the child (if 16 or over) or the parent/guardian is explicit.*

## **9. Data breaches**

*Procedures should be in place to detect, report and investigate a personal data breach.*

Only certain breaches have to be notified to the ICO; where it is likely to result in a risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals e.g. discrimination, damage to reputation, financial loss etc. These breaches should also be notified to the individual concerned.

The Council currently has a procedure in place to deal with data breaches and this is being reviewed to ensure compliance with GDPR requirements. It is not anticipated that any significant changes will be necessary.

## **10. Data Protection by Design and Data Protection Impact Assessments**

*It will be a statutory requirement to adopt a privacy by design approach and to use Privacy Impact Assessments (or Data Protection Impact Assessments as they will be known) in certain circumstances.*

## **11. Data Protection Officers**

*It will be a statutory requirement to designate someone to take responsibility for data protection compliance, known as the Data Protection Officer (DPO).*

The DPO must have access to information across the Council and have the support of the leadership to carry out their role. The Council has approached three neighbouring Councils for quotes for the provision of a shared DPO. Two were not interested and only South Staffordshire

Council has quoted and has been assisting in the preparation of compliance towards GDPR. It is proposed that the Assistant Director Democratic & Regulatory Services from South Staffordshire Council is designated as a shared DPO for Lichfield District Council and will be invited to attend Leadership Team meetings/Legal & Democratic team meetings as and when required. The Council will receive a designated Solicitor for 1 day per week who is trained in GDPR. The team at South Staffordshire Council which consists of 4 solicitors will also provide advice and assistance on day to day GDPR issues and on Information Governance as and when required.

## 12. International

There are provisions for those organisations operating in more than one EU state but these are not applicable to the Council.

In order to ensure the Council is GDPR compliant, the following actions are also being taken:

- a) **A Service Level Agreement is currently being drafted;**
- b) **Review any contracts it has with 'data processors' i.e. external organisations who process personal data on behalf of the Council.** GDPR requires the Council as a controller of data to ensure that any processor complies with new legal requirements;
- b) **Review the existing 'organisational' and 'technical' measures it has in place and ensure that personal data is kept 'safe';**
- c) **Review and update its incident management plan and formulate procedures setting out when and how to notify the Commissioner and affected individuals if there was a breach of security i.e. unauthorised or unlawful processing, loss, damage or destruction of personal data.**

### 3.3 Next Steps

Whilst preparation work has been underway for some time, there is still a significant amount of work to be undertaken over the coming months.

Meetings are now being arranged with representatives of service teams to provide the necessary training/information in the drafting and giving of 'fair processing notices' to all individuals from whom the Council collects information from.

The meetings will also identify any data processor contracts that need to be looked at.

It is anticipated that these meetings will have all taken place by the end of April 2018. It will then be for service teams to draft the appropriate notices (with guidance and support) and to liaise with any current processors of data that the Council controls. Revised contract provisions, to take account of the new GDPR requirements are being finalised and will be made available to all service teams and incorporated into the Council's Standard Terms and Conditions.

Procedures to assist when people exercise rights have been drafted and the revised data protection policy is being finalised and will come forwards for approval shortly.

Discussions will take place with ICT re: any technical changes that may need to take place to keep data safe. These discussions will also inform the revision of the Council's current incident management plan. It is planned to complete the revision of the Council's information security policy/incident management plan by the end of April 2018.

A number of staff have already received training on the changes brought about by GDPR via team training sessions provided in-house. All those staff who regularly handle personal data will have received face-to-face training before the coming into force of the GPDR and those who do not will have undertaken an appropriate form of e-learning. The training programme will be risk-based

with those service teams that handle the most/most sensitive data being targeted first; these areas will receive face-to-face training. It is envisaged this will include Revenues and Benefits, Human Resources, Elections, Development Management and Local Plans. Records will be kept of all training undertaken.

### **Conclusion**

The Council is on track to meet the requirements of the new data protection rules. There will be a substantial amount of work between now and 25 May 2018, however, we are confident that we will be compliant with the new rules on the go-live date.

Regular updates will be given to Members on preparation for the changes to the data protection rules.

<b>3. Any Alternative Options:</b>
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The Council could have appointed an In-house DPO, but the costs including overheads would have been much greater. Having a shared service with South Staffordshire Council brings resilience as they have a team of experts on data protection issues/information governance as well as providing the services of a DPO.

**SUBMISSION OF LOCAL PLAN ALLOCATIONS DOCUMENT FOR INDEPENDENT EXAMINATION TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE**

**1. Decision:**

The Cabinet:

- 1.1 Approved the Local Plan Allocations document ([APPENDIX A<sup>1</sup>](#)), the accompanying Policies Map ([APPENDIX B<sup>2</sup>](#)) and the Regulation 19 Focused changes consultation document (Local Plan Allocations ([APPENDIX C](#)) and Policies map ([APPENDIX D](#)) for submission to the Secretary of State for Independent Examination.
- 1.2 Delegated authority to the Cabinet Member for Economic Growth, Environment & Development Services in consultation with the Head of Economic Growth to make any minor changes to the appearance, format and text of the Local Plan Allocations Document or the supporting documents prior to submission in the interests of clarity and accuracy.
- 1.3 Noted the summary of representations and approve the Council's suggested responses ([APPENDIX E](#)) to the consultation on the Local Plan Allocations Focused Changes document.
- 1.4 Approved the supporting submission documents which accompany the Local Plan Allocations as set out in Table 4 of the Cabinet report.
- 1.5 Approved the submission of the Local Plan Allocations March – May 2018 consultation document ([APPENDIX F](#) & [Map](#)), responses received ([APPENDIX G](#)) and summary of responses ([APPENDIX H](#)).
- 1.6 Noted the contents of paragraph 3.12 of the Cabinet report which identifies additional documents which may be of benefit to the Planning Inspectorate. Cabinet have previously received these documents at its meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2018.
- 1.7 Noted that the Planning Inspectorate may request the need for additional documents to be submitted prior and during the Examination process. To enable timely submission it is recommended Cabinet provide delegated authority be given to the Cabinet Member for Economic Growth, Environment & Development Services in consultation with the Head of Economic Growth to submit any requested documents.

**2. Statement of Reasons:**

*Overview*

- 2.1 The Local Plan Strategy adopted in February 2015, sets out the strategic vision and objectives for Lichfield District. The Local Plan Allocations document, once adopted, will form the second part of the District's development plan. The primary purpose of the Allocations document is to assist in encouraging appropriate development in Lichfield District which will contribute to sustainable and economic growth.
- 2.2 The Local Plan Allocations document covers:

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<sup>1</sup> Reflects the proposed minor modifications

<sup>2</sup> Reflects the proposed minor modifications

- Employment and housing allocations to meet the growth requirements set out in the Local Plan Strategy;
- Policy on Lichfield City Centre including defining primary and secondary retail frontages;
- Policy on Burntwood Town Centre;
- Changes to the Green Belt boundary to remove the developed area of the former St Matthews hospital as committed to within the adopted Local Plan Strategy;
- Policy on accommodating the needs of Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Show people; and
- A review of the remaining saved policies emanating from the Lichfield District Local Plan June 1998.

### *Consultation Stages*

2.3 In preparing the Local Plan Allocations document, Members will recall that the Council has undertaken a considerable amount of consultation and stakeholder engagement as part of the plan making process which has helped shape the final version of the document. The following rounds of consultation have taken place:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Consultation Stage</b>
August – October 2016	Open Consultation (Regulation 18) on the scope and nature of the Plan
March – May 2017	Consultation on the publication version of the Plan (Regulation 19)
January – February 2018	Additional ‘Focused Changes’ consultation on the publication version of the Plan (Regulation 19)

Table 1: Consultation Timetable

2.4 The Council consulted on the proposed scope and nature of the Local Plan Allocations document between August and October 2016. In total 98 representations were received and those responses alongside the evidence base were used to inform the preparation and site selection for the publication version of the Local Plan Allocations document. The Council undertook consultation on this document between March and May 2017 and in total approximately 5,000 responses (including generic responses and petitions) were received. Officers assessed each of the representations received and reviewed the housing land supply position. As part of this review officers took account of several appeal decisions from the Secretary of State which has a bearing on the land supply position. This analysis identified that from an overall housing land supply perspective there is enough capacity within the District to deliver the 10, 030 dwelling requirement in the adopted Local Plan Strategy without releasing Green Belt allocations as part of the Local Plan Allocations. This resulted in a further consultation on a revised publication document entitled ‘Focused Changes’ between January and February 2018.

2.5 The Council received 270 individual responses to the revised publication document. The key issues raised along with officers analysis and comments are outlined below.

Table 2: Key Issues and proposed responses to Regulation 19 Focused Changes Consultation

<b>Key Issue</b>	<b>Response</b>
The Allocations is not in conformity with the Local Plan Spatial Strategy as there is a significant over provision of dwellings attributed to ‘Other Rurals’, and under provision in other settlements including Burntwood, Shenstone, Whittington and Fazeley.	The Allocations document meets the overall dwelling requirement set out in the Local Plan Strategy.
Development industry challenge the removal of green belt sites within the	Further analysis of the housing supply was undertaken, taking into account any potential



Key Issue	Response
Local Plan Allocations and question that the document is reactive as opposed to proactive in allocating development sites.	windfalls to re-assess the need for Green Belt release. This is in line with emerging Government policy of exploring all options before releasing designated Green Belt land. The Allocations document meets the overall dwelling requirement set out in the Local Plan Strategy without the need to remove Green Belt land.
Policy BE2: Heritage Assets is in conflict with National Policy	Officers have made changes seeking compliance with NPPF.
Development industry questioned the deliverability of a number of the allocations, such as Rugeley Power Station and Arkall Farm.	The proposed allocated sites are being promoted through the Local Plan process and are considered deliverable within the plan period. In relation to Rugeley Power Station, the Council has worked closely with the landowner to prepare a Development Brief SPD to guide the future redevelopment of the site. With regards to Arkall Farm, the Council is awaiting the outcome of the planning inquiry. The Local Plan Allocations includes flexibility in terms of housing supply to support any unanticipated under delivery.
Development industry challenged the approach to calculating housing supply, such as allocations with permission.	The approach towards calculating supply is considered consistent across the District and as such all sites with permission have been included within the allocations as they are intended to come forward within the plan period and contribute towards meeting the housing provision of 10, 030 dwellings set out in the Local Plan Strategy.
Need to deal with neighbouring authority's shortfall in housing provision within the allocations rather than review	The Council is committed to reviewing its Plan in full to address housing shortfall issues within the Greater Birmingham Housing Market Area as set out within both the Local Plan Strategy and reaffirmed in the Local Plan Allocations document. The Local Development Scheme sets out that the Council will consult on its Scope, Issues & Options document in April 2018.
Comments relating to saved policies being deleted but not replaced, namely Saved Policy C9 and Saved Policy EMP5.	The District Council undertook a review of all saved policies in these circumstances it was not considered appropriate to carry these policies forward.
The proposal to protect the Borrowpit at Rugeley Power Station is challenged given its allocation in the Local Plan Strategy.	Rugeley Power Station is allocated to deliver a minimum of 800 dwellings within the plan period. Whilst the Borrowpit is allocated as part of the Local Plan Strategy, the Council consider it is worthy of retention as a landscape / water feature and acknowledge within the document there will be a net gain of 350 units on the former Power Station site.
The lack of provision for self-build sites was cited by a number of respondents.	The Allocations document meets the overall dwelling requirement set out in the Local Plan Strategy. The Local Plan Allocations does not include site specific allocations for self-build purposes. The Council maintains a self-build register.

2.6 In addition to the above, notable support was received from local residents for the retention of the Borrowpit as a key landscape/ water feature within the Rugeley Power Station site. Residents indicated support of the removal of proposed site allocations within the green belt, particularly at Burntwood and Shenstone.

2.7 A common theme associated with responses relates to the allocation of land for housing. For context Table 3 sets out the impacts on each of the settlements as a result of the current Strategic Development Allocations (identified in the Local Plan Strategy), completions, commitments and proposed allocations within the Local Plan Allocations.

Table 3: Settlement outputs

Settlement	Completions 2008-2017 (Gross) <sup>3</sup>	Committed supply (0-5 dwellings) 2017-2022 (Gross)	Strategic Development Allocation (SDAs)	Local Plan Allocation sites (LPAs) (Gross)	Totals Gross	Overall %
Lichfield City	660 (28%)	38 (13%)	2072 (56.6%)	1218 (24%)	3988	35%
Burntwood	389 (17%)	43 (15%)	240 (7%)	382 (7.5%)	1054	9%
East of Rugeley <sup>4</sup>	573 (25%)	0 (0%)	49 (1%)	800 (16%)	1422	12.5%
North of Tamworth <sup>5</sup>	36 (1.5%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1129 (22%)	1165	10 (%)
Fradley	34 (1.5%)	5 (2%)	1302 (35.5%)	80 (1.5%)	1421	12.5%
Armitage with Handsacre	84 (4%)	9 (4%)	0 (0%)	200 (4%)	293	3%
Alrewas	46 (2%)	5 (2%)	0 (0%)	142 (3%)	193	3%
Fazeley	128 (5%)	15 (5%)	0 (0%)	107 (2%)	250	2%
Shenstone	48 (2%)	6 (2%)	0 (0%)	50 (1%)	104	1%
Whittington	19 (1%)	1 (0.5%)	0 (0%)	18 (0.5%)	38	0.5%
Other Rural	314 (13%)	163 (27%)	0 (0%)	954 (19%)	1422	12.5%
Approx. Total	2331	285	3663	5071	11,350	100%
Windfall allowance (55 dwellings per annum)					660	
Approx. total cumulative net dwellings					11,515	

2.8 A full summary of all responses received can be found at [APPENDIX E](#).

#### Submission Documents

2.9 The Council has prepared a submission version of the Local Plan Allocations document ([APPENDIX A](#)) and this is supported by a number of other submission documents as set out in table 4. [APPENDIX A](#) is in conformity with the Council's adopted Statement of Community Involvement ([APPENDIX I](#)) and Local Development Scheme ([APPENDIX J](#)) which will also need to be submitted to the Inspectorate.

Table 4: Supporting submission documents

Document	Overview	Appendix
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<sup>3</sup> Includes completions from SDAs and LPAs where these have been delivered between 2008 and 2017

<sup>4</sup> Including 500 to meet needs arising within Rugeley

<sup>5</sup> Including 500 to meet needs arising within Tamworth Borough

<b>Document</b>	<b>Overview</b>	<b>Appendix</b>
Consultation Statement	Outlines the process community participation and stakeholder engagement the Council has undertaken for the Local Plan Allocations.	K
Schedule of Proposed Minor Modifications	A schedule of minor modifications to the Allocations which is linked to the Council's response to representations.	L
Schedule of Supporting Document Changes	A schedule of changes to the documents which support the Local Plan Allocations.	M
Sustainability Appraisal	Assesses the environmental, economic and social impact of the Local Plan Allocations. Further information on this is provided at paragraphs 3.21 – 3.23.	N
Infrastructure Delivery Plan	Sets out the infrastructure required for the Local Plan Allocations.	O
Duty to Cooperate Statement	Sets out the cross boundary issues and where agreement has been reached with neighbouring authorities. Further information on this is provided at paragraphs 3.14 – 3.17.	P
Habitat Regulations Assessment <sup>6</sup>	Ensures the Local Plan Allocations does not adversely affect any nature conservation sites protected by European legislation. Further information on this is provided at paragraphs 3.18 – 3.20.	Q
Soundness Self Assessment Checklist	Checklist to ensure and evidence that the Local Plan Allocations document is sound.	R
Legal Self Assessment Checklist	Checklist to evidence that the Local Plan Allocation document is legally compliant.	S
Equality Impact Assessment	Ensures the Local Plan Allocations document contributes to an equal society.	T
Legal Notice	Legal notice submitted alongside the Local Plan Allocations.	U

2.10 In addition to the supporting documents, an extensive evidence base has informed the Local Plan Allocations. This has been developed during the various stages of document preparation. Upon submitting the Plan for Examination the evidence base in the form of technical documents will also be submitted. The list of technical documents includes:

- Authority Monitoring Report 2016 & 2017
- Brownfield Land Register 2017
- Cannock AONB Landscape Character Assessment 2017
- Cannock Chase SAC Evidence Base Review 2016
- Employment Land Availability Assessment 2016 & 2017
- Employment Land Capacity Assessment 2016
- Five year supply paper 2016 & 2017
- Green Belt Supplementary report 2016
- Gypsy and Traveller methodology paper 2016
- Lichfield Canal Water Supply study 2016
- Lichfield Centres report 2017
- National Forest Background paper 2017
- Open Space Assessment 2016
- Rural Settlement Sustainability Study 2016
- Sequential test paper 2017
- Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Level 2 2017
- Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment 2016 & 2017

<sup>6</sup> No changes to the Habitat Regulations Assessment were required following the Focused Changes consultation

- Submission method paper 2017
  - Supplementary Green Belt report addendum 2017
  - Urban Capacity Assessment 2016
- 2.11 Other evidence exists that will have a bearing on the Local Plan Allocations. This will include evidence prepared to inform the Local Plan Strategy. This evidence will be presented to the Inspector upon their request.
- 2.12 The Inspector may also wish to consider the consulted version of the Local Plan Allocations Focused changes accompanying documents. Specifically it is envisaged that the Inspector may need to consider the Sustainability Appraisal ([APPENDIX V part 1, part 2, part 3 & part 4](#)), Habitat Regulations Assessment ([APPENDIX W](#)) and Infrastructure Delivery Plan ([APPENDIX X](#)) that accompanied this consultation. To facilitate this process these documents will be submitted to the Inspectorate. The Inspectorate will also receive full copies of representations received for the Focused Changes consultation and the March – May 2017 Regulation 19 consultation.

*Overview of Duty to Cooperate, Habitat Regulations Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal matters*

- 2.13 While all of the supporting submission documents and evidence base is important the three documents referenced above are the most significant for the purpose of the Examination. These documents will be considered by the Examiner to ensure that the Authority has complied with and met the relevant national legislation and guidance.

*Duty to Cooperate*

- 2.14 The duty to cooperate is both a legal and soundness test that requires cooperation between local planning authorities and other public bodies to maximise the effectiveness of policies for strategic matters in Local Plans. It places a duty upon the Local Planning Authority to engage constructively, actively and on an on-going basis when preparing a Local Plan and requires the local planning authority to have regard to the activities of other prescribed authorities.
- 2.15 All the prescribed authorities have been contacted to identify the strategic matters which pertain to the preparation of the Local Plan Allocations document. The strategic matters relate to cross boundary issues and have been identified as housing, employment, Rugeley Power Station Redevelopment Site, Cannock Chase AONB, Cannock Chase SAC, River Mease SAC, Gypsies and Travelling Show People, Transport, Water Abstraction and Flooding.
- 2.16 All of the prescribed authorities who responded to the Local Plan (Focused changes) document consider that the Plan complies with the Duty to Cooperate.
- 2.17 Whilst some matters remain the subject of ongoing discussions a duty to cooperate statement has been prepared to support the submission of the Local Plan to the Secretary of State updating the Council's position ([APPENDIX P](#)). The key issues are:
- Strategic housing issues relate to an ongoing request from Tamworth Borough Council who are unable to meet some of their housing, employment and gypsy and traveller requirements within their administrative boundary.
  - In addition a request from Birmingham City Council to assist in meeting their housing requirement as they are unable to meet all of their requirement within their administrative area.
  - Tamworth BC consider that their request for some of their housing requirement to be met within Lichfield District's administrative area should be addressed within this

Plan although they recognise that positive discussions have taken place to seek to address cross boundary issues.

#### *Habitat Regulations Assessment*

- 2.18 The only representation made to the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) is from Staffordshire County Council who have queried whether additional mitigation measures over and above those proposed within the existing mitigation strategy should be sought to mitigate the impact upon Cannock Chase SAC arising from the increase in housing at Rugeley Power Station, because of its proximity to the SAC.
- 2.19 The need for 'mitigation measures' is considered through the HRA for the Local Plan Allocations Focused changes document and at Appendix E, para 16 which requires that regard be had to the SAC. Policy NR7 in the adopted Local Plan Strategy and the adopted 'Guidance to Mitigate' provides sufficient mitigation and the opportunity to provide bespoke mitigation should the developer wish.
- 2.20 No representations have been received from Natural England. Natural England have contributed to the preparation of the recently adopted Rugeley Power Station Redevelopment Brief SPD and raised no issues in respect of compliance with the Habitat Regulations indicating that matters could be achieved either through the existing mitigation measures as part of the Cannock Chase SAC Strategic Project or within the site.

#### *Sustainability Appraisal*

- 2.21 The Sustainability Appraisal is a fundamental document for any Local Plan. It assists in ensuring the policies and allocations are appropriately developed when taking into account the agreed sustainability objectives.
- 2.22 A total of 17 representations were received associated with the Sustainability Appraisal which accompanied the Local Plan Allocations Focused changes consultation. No representations are considered to identify any concerns of a crucial and fundamental nature. Some representations disagreed with the scoring however there is not considered a need to update the Sustainability Appraisal as a result of feedback.
- 2.23 The consultation has triggered the need for two additional sites to be appraised, this work has been undertaken and is included within the submission version of the Sustainability Appraisal ([APPENDIX N part 1](#), [part 2](#), [part 3](#) & [part 4](#)).

#### *Local Plan Allocations 2017 March – May consultation document*

- 2.24 Table 1 documents the stages of document preparation. The above consultation was presented as a Regulation 19 stage consultation. As such the Council will need to submit the responses received to this consultation.

#### *Next Steps*

- 2.24 Subject to Cabinet approval, the Local Plan Allocations document will be submitted to the Secretary of State for an Examination to be held by an Independent Inspector. The Examination will establish whether the submission Local Plan Allocations complies with the relevant legal requirements and is considered 'sound'. To be sound the document should be positively prepared, justified, effective and consistent with national policy.
- 2.25 The timescales and programme for the examination will be dictated by the Planning Inspectorate once the Local Plan Allocations document has been submitted.

### *Local Plan Review*

- 2.26 Members of Cabinet received a report regarding the Local Plan Review on the 27<sup>th</sup> April 2018. The report sought Cabinet to endorse the Local Plan Review (and supporting documents) for a period of six weeks consultation. Consultation commenced on the 30<sup>th</sup> April.
- 2.27 The Local Plan Review is a separate piece of work and will cover the period 2020 – 2036. It will consider strategic issues such as the Greater Birmingham Housing Market Area shortfall, whereas the Local Plan Allocations will complete the Council's current Local Plan and is driven by the content of the Local Plan Strategy which covers the period 2008 – 2029. The pertinent point here is that the Local Plan Allocations and Local Plan Review are separate entities.

<b>3. Any Alternative Options:</b>
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- 3.1 Cabinet recommends to not submit the Local Plan Allocations and concentrates instead on the Local Plan Review;
- 3.2 Cabinet recommends an alternative Local Plan Allocations be prepared. This would require further public consultation before submission.