

North Yorkshire Local Access Forum**17 January 2018****Harrogate Publication Draft Local Plan****Report of the Secretary****1.0 Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 To advise members of the consultation by Harrogate Borough Council and to invite the Forum to consider its response to the consultation.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 Harrogate Borough Council will shortly be formally consulting on the Publication Draft version of its Local Plan. The consultation is planned to run from 26 January until 4.30pm on 9 March 2018.
- 2.2 In advance of the formal consultation process, Rachael Hutton and Joe Varga from the Planning Policy team at Harrogate Borough Council have agreed to attend the Forum's meeting to introduce the consultation and to respond to Forum members' questions. It is hoped that this will be useful in helping the Forum to consider the contents of any formal response it wishes to submit as part of the forthcoming consultation process.
- 2.3 Members will recall that the Local Access Forum considered an earlier draft of the Local Plan in November 2016, and submitted a formal response to this consultation. The Forum also responded to the Additional Sites Consultation in August 2017. A summary of the responses to the Forum's formal comments is attached. These have been derived from the Harrogate District Draft Local Plan and Additional Sites: Consultation Statement including Key Issues document, which was presented to Harrogate's District Development Committee and Cabinet meetings in November 2017.

3.0 Responding to the consultation

- 3.1 The North Yorkshire Local Access Forum will be invited to participate in the forthcoming consultation and all Forum members will be notified of the consultation details when these are published.
- 3.2 In the meantime, the link below is to the report on the Publication Draft Local Plan that was considered at Harrogate Borough Council's Cabinet meeting on 29 November 2017:
- <https://localdemocracy.harrogate.gov.uk/submissiondocuments.asp?submissionid=31802>
- 3.3 It is suggested that the Forum adopts the usual approach to preparing consultation responses – ie that the relevant District Council liaison representative and the Secretary work together to draft a summary based on the discussion at the meeting, and adding any additional issues arising from consideration of the consultation documents. The draft response will then be circulated by email for members' comments prior to formal submission on behalf of the Forum by the given deadline.

4.0 Recommendations

- 4.1 That the Local Access Forum considers the content of any response it wishes to submit to the Harrogate Publication Draft Local Plan consultation.
- 4.2 That the relevant District Council liaison representatives and the Secretary prepare a draft formal response to the consultation, and circulate it by email for members' comments prior to submission on behalf of the Forum.

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Report author: Kate Arscott, Secretary to North Yorkshire Local Access Forum

Background Documents: 2017-08-25 LAF Submitted comments on Harrogate Local Plan Alternative Sites consultation

2016-12-20 LAF submitted comments on Harrogate Local Plan Consultation

Harrogate Local Plan – Response to LAF comments submitted on previous draft local plan consultation – December 2016 and Alternative Sites Consultation - August 2017

Comment	Comment ref	HBC response
December 2016		
<p>The LAF welcomes the clear recognition of the importance of access issues throughout the document, and the strong emphasis on alternative transport options to the car. This is backed up by policies covering health and recreation, and the LAF commends the draft Plan in this respect.</p>	<p>1244 (North Yorkshire Local Access Forum)</p>	<p>Noted</p>
<p>The LAF notes that the site assessments which accompany the draft Plan do not include Public Rights of Way at this stage. The LAF understands the reason for this and that they will be included at a later stage when strategic choices about preferred sites have been made. The LAF is confident, on the basis of the commitments in the draft plan, that Harrogate Borough Council will seek to honour existing Public Rights of Way as proposals for development come forward.</p>	<p>4169 (North Yorkshire Local Access Forum)</p>	<p>Addressing the impacts of development on public rights of way is covered by Policy HP5. In addition, site requirements have been drafted for each site allocation. Where there is a public right of way in the vicinity of an allocated site then the need to consider the impact of development on the public right of way and mitigation required is identified as one of the guidelines.</p>
<p>Chapter 6 – Transport and Infrastructure</p> <p>T13: Parking provision - The LAF is concerned that, in order to support sustainable transport and promote healthy lifestyles, cycle parking provision is made available at transport hubs and in town centres/public places. This is in keeping with Yorkshire’s image as a cycling county.</p>	<p>1245 (North Yorkshire Local Access Forum)</p>	<p>Noted</p>
<p>Chapter 8 – Heritage and Placemaking</p> <p>The Local Access Forum strongly supports draft policy HP5: Public Rights of Way, and the commitment to protect and enhance the recreational and amenity value of rights of way. The LAF particularly welcomes this recognition of the importance of the ambience as well as the access aspects of rights of way.</p> <p>Section 106 monies intended to apply to Public Rights of Way should be ring-fenced for this purpose, and, in conjunction with North Yorkshire County Council as the Highways Authority, the choice of appropriate surface materials for the range of intended users should be determined with a view to minimising future maintenance costs.</p>	<p>1246 (North Yorkshire Local Access Forum)</p>	<p>Noted support for policy</p>

August 2017

Encouraged that there is reference within the plan to public rights of way and cycling (summary of full comment – see below)

AS4359

Noted

At this stage, the NY LAF recognises the underlying principles and aims – stated clearly in the HDLP – that continue to underpin these proposals for additional sites. We also acknowledge that the proposals for the additional sites – like the original site proposals – currently indicate no rights of way (footpaths or bridleways). Our understanding is that once decisions have been taken (following the consultation) on which of these development proposals are to be taken forward, then the chosen proposals will indicate the rights of way and how they are affected (and/or modified) – and retained. These proposals will include developer guidelines, setting out the Public Rights of Way to be maintained, enhanced or increased.

We are encouraged that within the HDLP, underlying principles and aims state repeatedly the importance of rights of way within the communities. We also acknowledge the importance given throughout the HDLP to cycling. These following statements – extracted from the HDLP – illustrate this: -

- *The district's network of public rights of way, together with permissive routes, provide an important recreational resource that enables the public to experience and enjoy the district's high quality natural, built and historic environments through activities such as walking, cycling and horse riding. As such, these routes play an important role in ensuring the physical and mental health. The network is also an important sustainable transport resource, providing safe connections for low carbon forms of travel within, around and between settlements.*
- *This policy aims to protect public rights of way so that the routes and their existing recreational and amenity value is not undermined by new development. It also aims, where appropriate, to use development to deliver enhancements to the public rights of way network, whilst not making development unviable. The policy strongly encourages the addition of new links to the existing network to encourage their greater use by providing more convenient access points and connecting to more places. Although this is most easily achieved where a right of way crosses or runs adjacent to a development site, there will be occasions where new links can be provided to rights of way that are at a greater distance from the development site at minimal expense, for example, where the site and the land between the site and the public right of way is under the same ownership. The policy also encourages enhancements through improved facilities, such as gates, stiles and signage etc., as well as improved surfaces and boundary treatments. The nature of improvements and any materials used should be discussed with NYCC prior to the submission of a planning application.*
- *..... promote improvements to public transport, including the provision of better parking at rail stations and park and ride facilities, the creation of walking and cycling routes, provision of electric vehicle charging points for both cars and cycles.*

During this period of consultation (both for the original proposals and for the additional sites) it has been impossible to determine whether or not these worthy principles have underpinned practical developments “on the ground”. During personal contacts with officers from Harrogate Borough Council, members of the NY LAF have been consistently informed that the forthcoming proposals (following this round of consultation) will show clearly the ways in which these principles have directed the more detailed plans, applicable to each of the chosen site/proposals.

Members of the NY LAF are expecting to see practical and tangible evidence that the above commendable statements of principle are both reflected and evident in the detailed plans, due to be published after this period of consultation. We understand that the detailed plans will be available for consultation in January 2018. Would you please ensure that these detailed plans are made available to the NY LAF as soon as they are published.