

## **Background**

The RPO version of the Local Plan sets out the strategic and non-strategic allocations for new homes and employment land within four Strategic Locations for Development, together with leisure, retail, tourism and community use, or a mixture of such uses. The RPO also comprises development management policies, which will inform decisions on planning applications; together with policies to define areas of open space and town centre boundaries and to protect the natural and built environment.

The RPO version has been written to address the key policy issues of the borough, and has been informed by the results of the 'Vision , Issues and Objectives' public consultation undertaken in February and March 2011, the 'Issues and Options' public consultation undertaken in June and July 2012, and the Preferred Option consultation carried out in June and August 2013.

The next stage after this RPO version will be the preparation of the Publication version, which will be issued for consultation on 'soundness' in summer 2016, before being submitted (i.e. the Submission document) to the Secretary of State. The Plan will then be examined by an independent Planning Inspector into the 'soundness' of its policies before adoption by Fylde Council in Spring 2017.

### Pre-consultation

Before the consultation, a 'pre-consultation' took place with statutory consultees and infrastructure providers in June and July 2015. A draft of the RPO consultation document and the Infrastructure Delivery Plan (the IDP) were sent to these officers and organisations for comments, and these comments were used to amend the document before consultation.

## **Consultation material**

The RPO version was produced for comment, together with the draft IDP; and technical assessments including the Health Impact Assessment, Rural Proofing Assessment and Viability Assessment.

### Media

A press release was issued and a newspaper advert was placed in the public notices in the Lytham St Annes Express on 12 October 2015 for one week.

### Flyers and posters

Posters were produced to advertise the consultation and were displayed at various locations around the borough, including shops and parish notice boards.

A 12 page booklet was produced which summarised the salient issues in the RPO version of the Local Plan and the Infrastructure Delivery Plan. The booklet was handed out to people attending the consultation events for them to take away. A prominent notice was displayed in the booklets offering further assistance in formulating and submitting consultation comments, in accordance with the Council's Statement of Community Involvement (the SCI, 2011).

The two generic banners used during the initial 'Issues and Options' consultation were used for the consultation drop-in events. In addition, material for display boards was produced for use at the consultation events, and this included maps of strategic and non-strategic sites across Fylde and information regarding retail centre' boundaries, Areas of Separation and pitches for Gypsies and

Travellers, Holiday Areas, The Island Seafront Area, Ribby Hall Village, the Fylde Coast Highways and Transport Masterplan display board, and neighbourhood development planning.

### **Who was consulted?**

Emails or letters were sent to the consultation bodies set out in Regulation 2 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012, which the council is required to consult under Regulation 18. These bodies are contained on the council's Register of Consultees. Other relevant bodies and individuals who are registered on the council's Register of Consultees were notified. The Register of Consultees is updated regularly to take account of requests received from consultants, organisations, residents and other parties to be informed of future planning policy consultations.

Council staff were informed through the council's intranet and emails were sent to Heads of Service. There was also an article in the council's staff newsletter, 'Grapevine' in the October edition. The council's management team was briefed by the Head of Planning and Regeneration.

### Online consultation system

The council encouraged respondents to make and submit comments using the online Planning Policy consultation system. A dedicated webpage for the consultation was established, containing information on the drop-in events and consultation material.

A link to the council's online consultation system allowed users to register to view the consultation document. The representation form was structured to encourage respondents to provide information and evidence in support of their comments. The representation form was designed to ensure that respondents would identify which part of the Local Plan, IDP or technical assessments they were responding to. This is important for processing the comments, and ensures that the council attributes comments to the correct section of the document when processing them. The consultation system allows users to view other consultees comments once they have been vetted by the council.

Comments could also be submitted on a paper or electronic representation form and returned via freepost or email.

### **How the community was involved**

The following methods were used to involve the community:

#### Libraries

The consultation document and other supporting material and technical assessments were provided on line at all the libraries in the borough. A meeting was held with all Fylde library staff about the local plan and how members of the public could make comments on the document.

#### Consultation events

The RPO consultation followed a similar format to the previous consultation exercises undertaken at the Issues, Vision and Objectives, Issues and Options and Preferred Option stages. Drop-in consultation events were held at nine venues around the borough to allow the general public and others to view the RPO version of the Local Plan and the supporting information and to speak with planning policy officers. The drop-in events commenced on the 19 October and ended on 5 November 2015 and were held at St Annes, Kirkham, Wesham, Warton, Elswick, Staining, Marton (Fylde-

Blackpool Periphery), Wrea Green and Newton. The events ran from 3.00 pm – 7.00 pm to allow as many people as possible to attend.

Date	Location	Time
Monday 19 October	<b>Wrea Green</b> – Wrea Green Institute, Station Road, Wrea Green Preston, PR4 2PH	3pm – 7pm
Tuesday 20 October	<b>Staining</b> – St Luke’s Church, Staining Road, Staining, FY3 0BW	3pm – 7pm
Wednesday 21 October	<b>Elswick</b> – Elswick Village Hall, Roseacre Road, Elswick, PR4 3UD	3pm – 7pm
Thursday 22 October	<b>Warton</b> – Warton Village Hall, Church Road, Warton, Preston, PR4 1BD	3pm – 7pm
Tuesday 27 October	<b>Wesham</b> – Kirkham and Wesham Scout Centre, Church Road, Wesham PR4 3DR	3pm – 7pm
Wednesday 28 October	<b>Newton</b> – Newton Village Hall, Vicarage Lane, Newton, Preston, PR4 3RX	3pm – 7pm
Tuesday 3 November	<b>St Annes</b> – Fylde Council, Town Hall, St Annes, FY8 1LW (Foyer Area)	3pm -7pm
Wednesday 4 November	<b>Marton (Blackpool)</b> – St Monica’s Church Hall, St Monica’s Way, Blackpool	3pm – 7pm
Thursday 5 November	<b>Kirkham</b> – Kirkham Community Centre, Mill Street, Kirkham, Preston, PR4 2AN	3pm – 7pm

The locations of the events were chosen to correspond with the four Strategic Locations for Development and also Wrea Green, Staining, Elswick and Newton. An event for Wesham was also requested by Cllr Nulty. Venues were used for the events as a high turnout was expected.

Large scale maps and supporting text mounted on boards were used for the display material. Reference copies of the consultation document and supporting technical assessments were available for people to view and discuss with planning officers.

Levels of attendance at the consultation events varied. Elswick and Warton were particularly well attended, whilst the events in Staining, Wrea Green and Marton had very low attendances.

### Councillors

Councillors and officers were informed of the consultation and the drop-in events, and were invited to all of the drop-in events, including the one in the foyer at St Annes Town Hall on 3 November 2015 between 3.00 pm and 7.00 pm, to view and discuss the RPO version and the related documents. Each councillor and Parish Council was provided with links to the consultation documents on the council’s website.

### **Consideration of comments received**

The consultation webpage and questionnaire stated that respondents’ contact details must be provided for responses to be considered. This helps to prevent multiple responses from the same

individual or organisation, and it also allows the respondent to be contacted if a need arises to clarify any comments. Some respondents to the consultation did not include their contact details. Consequently, these responses have not been considered.

In total there were **205** respondents to the Local Plan consultation who submitted **953** representations. Of these, **28** responded using the online planning policy consultation system, **89** emailed their comments and **88** posted their comments. A further **2** respondents submitted representations on the Infrastructure Delivery Plan. In addition, a petition was submitted with **32** signatories, objecting to the allocation of 140 homes at Elswick. All representations received have been acknowledged and summarised into the Planning Policy consultation database, divided by chapter, policy and/or paragraph. The majority of responses were received from Elswick residents objecting to the level of housing proposed for the settlement in the RPO version of the Local Plan.

### Consultation Summary

Overall, the comments received during the consultation were informative in determining the views of the public and stakeholders in relation to the RPO version of the Local Plan. The comments also highlighted other important considerations that will be taken account of in developing the next version of the Local Plan – the Publication version.

A separate report, comprising a Decision Item, will be presented to the Development Management Committee in March 2016, which will set out a summary of the representations received as part of the consultation into the RPO version of the Local Plan, along with the council's response to the representations and recommendations for changes to the text of the Local Plan.