

**Otley Town Council**

**Environment & Sustainability Committee**

**Date: 13 July 2015**

**Report: Neighbourhood Plan**

**Report by: Executive Officer**

**1. Purpose of Report**

1.1 To provide members with details of progress to date on the Neighbourhood Plan

**2. Background**

2.1 The Government's Localism Act 2011 gives communities like Otley the chance to have more a say in the development of their local area. Once adopted the Neighbourhood Plan will become enshrined in Leeds' Development Plan for the next 20 years.

2.2 Neighbourhood development plans are the first plans developed at a parish council level with legal force. They will form part of Leeds City Council's statutory planning documents and are additional to, not a replacement for, the Core Strategy and emerging Site Allocations Plan.

2.3 Neighbourhood plans can include policies for any aspect of land use planning as long as they are in general conformity with the National Planning Policy Framework, the strategic policies of the adopted development plan for the District and policies are underpinned by evidence. They should not be seen as being just about housing, their content will depend on the land use issues that are important to the local community. Neighbourhood Plans are, however, about shaping the development of an area in a positive manner. They should not promote less development than set out in a local plan or undermine its strategic policies. They may include issues of design, although any village and town design statements will continue to be a material consideration in the determination of planning applications.

2.4 Initial consultation on the Neighbourhood Plan also served to highlight a variety of non-planning issues and concerns. These ranged from potholes and the general condition of roads, and average to poor shopping facilities (including the preponderance of charity shops) to the need to protect existing schools and improve childcare facilities. While much of this falls outside the ambit of a statutory Neighbourhood Development Plan, the Town Council will nonetheless look to include actions to address such issues within the plan's non-

planning sections and to seek funding for such actions, as appropriate, via the new Community Infrastructure Levy.

2.5 Neighbourhood Plans when adopted, will form part of the development plan for the area, which will be used to determine applications alongside the Development Plan Documents prepared by the local planning authority.

### **3. Current Status**

3.1 After the initial consultation four focus groups were formed and these have been gathering evidence, carrying out further consultations with the aim of producing the next consultation document – **The Policy Intentions Document**. This will set out the proposed policy and land use intentions which the Town Council is minded to include in its final draft plan. The Policy Intentions Document enables the community to take the opportunity to comment and suggest improvements/additions that can be incorporated into the final draft plan.

3.2 It is anticipated that this consultation will be held during September with the aim of producing the final draft plan early in 2016.

### **4. Legal and Financial implications**

4.1 There are no immediate legal implications arising from this report.

4.2 Any expenditure will be covered within the agreed budget.

### **5. Recommendations**

5.1 Members are asked to note the content of this report