



Kirklees Local Plan

Technical Paper: Infrastructure

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1. Introduction

- 1.1. This technical paper explains national planning policy requirements for infrastructure planning as part of the plan making process. It explains how infrastructure issues have been considered in support of the Local Plan, where this information can be found, and which policies in the Local Plan have been included to ensure that appropriate infrastructure is maintained and provided in the future through the planning process.

2. National Planning Context

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

- 2.1. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) places great importance on Local Plans being evidence based. Paragraph 162 sets out the infrastructure evidence base required for Local Plans. This states that Local Planning Authorities should work with other authorities and providers to:

- *Assess the quality and capacity of infrastructure for transport, water supply, wastewater and its treatment, energy (including heat), telecommunications, utilities, water, health, social care, education, flood risk and coastal change management, and its ability to meet forecast demands; and*
- *Take account of the need for strategic infrastructure, including nationally significant infrastructure within their areas.*

- 2.2. The NPPF also promotes the deliverability of planned infrastructure and timeliness with which this can be brought forward. Paragraph 173 states that plans should be deliverable and sustainable development requires careful attention to viability and costs in plan-making and decision-taking. Specifically in relation to infrastructure delivery, the NPPF Paragraph 177 states that:

'It is equally important to ensure that there is a reasonable prospect that planned infrastructure is deliverable in a timely fashion. To facilitate this, it is important that local planning authorities understand district-wide development costs at the time Local Plans are drawn-up. For this reason, infrastructure and development policies should be planned at the same time, in the Local Plan. Any affordable housing or local standards requirements that may be applied to development should be assessed at the plan-making stage, where possible, and kept under review'.

- 2.3. The NPPF also states that Local Plans should 'plan positively for the development and infrastructure required in the area to meet the objectives, principles and policies of the NPPF' (paragraph 157).

National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG)

- 2.4. With regard to infrastructure, paragraph 018, reference 12-018-20140306 of the 2014 Planning Practice Guidance states:

A Local Plan is an opportunity for the local planning authority to set out a positive vision for the area, but the plan should also be realistic about what can be achieved and when (including in relation to infrastructure). This means paying careful attention to providing an

adequate supply of land, identifying what infrastructure is required and how it can be funded and brought on stream at the appropriate time; and ensuring that the requirements of the plan as a whole will not prejudice the viability of development.

Early discussion with infrastructure and service providers is particularly important to help understand their investment plans and critical dependencies. The local planning authority should also involve the Local Enterprise Partnership at an early stage in considering the strategic issues facing their area, including the prospects for investment in infrastructure.

The Local Plan should make clear, for at least the first five years, what infrastructure is required, who is going to fund and provide it, and how it relates to the anticipated rate and phasing of development. This may help in reviewing the plan and in development management decisions. For the later stages of the plan period less detail may be provided as the position regarding the provision of infrastructure is likely to be less certain. If it is known that a development is unlikely to come forward until after the plan period due, for example, to uncertainty over deliverability of key infrastructure, then this should be clearly stated in the draft plan.

Where the deliverability of critical infrastructure is uncertain then the plan should address the consequences of this, including possible contingency arrangements and alternative strategies. The detail concerning planned infrastructure provision can be set out in a supporting document such as an infrastructure delivery programme that can be updated regularly. However the key infrastructure requirements on which delivery of the plan depends should be contained in the Local Plan itself.

The evidence which accompanies an emerging Local Plan should show how the policies in the plan have been tested for their impact on the viability of development, including (where relevant) the impact which the Community Infrastructure Levy is expected to have. Where local planning authorities intend to bring forward a Community Infrastructure Levy regime, there is a strong advantage in doing so in parallel with producing the Local Plan, as this allows questions about infrastructure funding and the viability of policies to be addressed in a comprehensive and coordinated way.

3. Site Assessment Process

3.1. The following infrastructure providers have undertaken an assessment of Local Plan development site options as part of the site assessment process, and provided information about the site's individual impact:

- Highways England
- The Environment Agency
- National Grid
- Yorkshire Water
- Northern Gas Networks
- Northern Powergrid
- Network Rail
- Kirklees Clinical Commissioning Groups
- Kirklees Highways (Strategic and Development Management)
- Kirklees Strategic Drainage

- Kirklees Public Health
- Kirklees Education

3.2. More detail about these assessments can be found in the Local Plan Methodology.

4. The Infrastructure Delivery Plan & Addendum

4.1. The Infrastructure Delivery Plan looks at the cumulative impacts of the Local Plan, providing a comprehensive appraisal of the current provision of infrastructure and what investment will be required to support the growth promoted by the Local Plan. The Infrastructure Delivery Plan considers the following infrastructure categories:

- Transport
- Utilities
- Waste Management
- Telecoms
- Flood Risk and Drainage
- Education
- Health and Wellbeing
- Community and Cultural
- Emergency Services
- Open Space and Green Infrastructure
- Sports Leisure and Recreation

4.2. The Infrastructure Delivery Plan Addendum identifies updates which have arisen from the on-going infrastructure planning that has occurred since the Local Plan consultation held between 9th November 2015 and 1st February 2016. The report focuses on the three infrastructure areas Health, Education and Transportation where new information has become available following the October 2015 IDP.

5. Local Plan Policies Addressing Infrastructure

5.1. In the pursuit of sustainable development Kirklees Local Plan includes policies to ensure that relevant infrastructure is in place to support growth. Many of the Local Plan policies are supported by Technical Papers and further evidence explaining in more detail how certain areas of infrastructure have been considered and will be addressed. The policies listed below are some of those associated with infrastructure provision:

- PLP3 Location of New Development
- PLP4 Providing Infrastructure
- PLP5 Masterplanning Sites
- PLP19 Strategic Transport Infrastructure
- PLP20 Sustainable Travel
- PLP21 Highway Safety & Access
- PLP22 Parking
- PLP23 Core Walking and Cycling Network

PLP24 Design
PLP26 Renewable and Low Carbon Energy
PLP27 Flood Risk
PLP28 Drainage
PLP29 Management of Water Bodies
PLP30 Biodiversity and Geodiversity
PLP31 Strategic Green Infrastructure Networks
PLP44 New Waste Management Facilities
PLP45 Safeguarding Waste Management Facilities
PLP46 Waste Disposal
PLP47 Healthy, Active and Safe Lifestyles
PLP48 Community Facilities and Services
PLP49 Educational and Health Care Needs
PLP50 Sport and Physical Activity
PLP63 New Open Space

6. Conclusion

- 6.1. The issue of infrastructure provision has been considered at various stages in developing the Kirklees Local Plan. Infrastructure providers have been contacted directly relating to specific site options and their responses considered when drawing conclusions about these sites. This is explained in more detail in the Local Plan Methodology documents.
- 6.2. The provision of existing infrastructure and predicted impacts of Local Plan growth have been considered as part of the Infrastructure Delivery Plan and Addendum to ensure that the Local Plan is deliverable, and that future necessary infrastructure can be delivered in line with future growth.
- 6.3. Many policies within the Local Plan provide the framework to protect and deliver the necessary infrastructure in line with future growth. These policies have their own evidence which alongside the assessment of sites and strategic infrastructure assessment, provide a comprehensive evidence base in support of the Local Plan.
- 6.4. All these relevant supporting infrastructure documents are available for comment on the Local Plan website as part of the Publication Draft Local Plan Consultation:

www.kirklees.gov.uk/localplan