

Report of Director of City Development

Report to Executive Board

Date: 23rd June 2021

Subject: Leeds Local Plan Update – Public Consultation on the Scope of the Plan

Are specific electoral wards affected? If yes, name(s) of ward(s): ALL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Has consultation been carried out?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Will the decision be open for call-in?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, access to information procedure rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Summary

1. Main Issues.

- The Local Plan for Leeds comprises a number of Development Plan Documents (DPDs), including a Core Strategy, Site Allocations Plans and Natural Resources and Waste Plan, which together form full statutory planning policy coverage for development within the Leeds Metropolitan District. Government advises that plans are kept up to date and reviewed to see if they need to be updated every five years and whilst these DPDs already contain policies to help deal with climate change they were made before the Council's declaration of a Climate Emergency.
- This report seeks approval to commence public consultation on the scope of a Local Plan Update (LPU), to seek views from the public, businesses and other stakeholders on what policies the Plan ought to contain.
- Informed by declarations made at Full Council, a review of policies, and detailed discussions with Development Plan Panel it is proposed that the objective of the LPU should be the introduction of new and enhancement of existing planning policies to help address the climate emergency. This

includes policies on carbon reduction, flood risk, green infrastructure, place-making and sustainable infrastructure.

- The first statutory step in plan-making is to consult on this scope and invite views as to whether it is the right focus and what the direction of travel of specific policy areas might be. To aid consultation, 6 papers have been prepared, with an introductory scope and summary paper, accompanied by 5 detailed topic papers. In addition, to assist discussion and help consultees engage with the Council's initial proposed direction of travel on some topics, options are discussed for potential future policies.
- This consultation period provides an opportunity to hear the specific views of a wide variety of stakeholders with key roles to play in planning for the climate emergency e.g. from people young and older about the types of places they want to live, play and move about in, the ways that places can help deliver health benefits and more accessibility to green space; from groups keen to help protect biodiversity and trees; from developers who will be required to build to better standards and layout places that are attractive and resilient and investors who can capitalise on innovative and attractive places to live and work.
- Members will note that the scope of the policy areas within this proposed update do also take the opportunity through better place-making and ideas like 20-min neighbourhoods to align with the Council's ambition for health and well-being and inclusive growth.

2. Best Council Plan Implications

- There is a clear role for planning in delivering against all of the Council's priorities as established through the Best Council Plan. At this early stage of preparation, the contents of the Local Plan Update are not known, however, it is considered that the LPU could contribute positively to the Council's key strategies, as follows:

Climate Emergency – by managing the transition to zero carbon via policies including: increasing the energy efficiency of buildings, the design of places, the location of development, accessibility to public transport, renewable energy supply and storage;

Health and Well-being Strategy – through policies including the design of places, quality of housing and accessibility to green infrastructure and services;

Inclusive Growth Strategy – through policies including the links between homes and jobs, the location of development, green infrastructure and connectivity.

3. Resource Implications

- The preparation of the Local Plan Update and accompanying evidence base is a resource intensive endeavour which incurs additional cost, in terms of evidence base preparation and consultation, at a time of increased budget pressure. In general, costs will be met from within existing budgets.

4. Recommendation

Executive Board is requested to:

- (i) agree the proposed initial scope of the Local Plan Update as follows:
 - Update and create new policies; make consequential changes, within the Adopted Leeds Core Strategy (amended 2019), the Natural Resources and Waste Local Plan (2013) and Unitary Development Plan (2006) which focus on: carbon reduction, flood risk, green infrastructure, place-making and sustainable infrastructure in order to adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change and ensure the delivery of sustainable development within the Leeds Metropolitan District for a period of at least 16 years from Adoption.
- (ii) Agree commencement of consultation on this scope for a period of eight weeks using supporting topic papers (Appendix 1 and 2);
- (iii) Refer the consultation documentation (Appendix 1 and 2) to the Infrastructure, Investment and Inclusive Growth Scrutiny Board for consultation in accordance with the requirements of the Budget and Policy Framework;
- (iv) Authorise the Chief Planning Officer, in liaison with the Executive Member for Infrastructure and Climate, to approve any amendments to the consultation material in advance of public consultation;
- (v) Note that the Chief Planning Officer is responsible for the implementation of these recommendations.

1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Executive Board of the proposed scope for the Local Plan Update, namely a focus on new or revised planning policy to help further address the climate emergency. On this basis, the report seeks approval to commence consultation on the proposed scope of the Local Plan Update contained within the consultation documents at Appendix 1 and 2.

2. Background information

- 2.1 The Leeds Local Plan sets the land use and spatial planning framework for how Leeds will develop. The current Leeds Local Plan is a set of five Development Plan Documents (DPDs) mainly covering the period between 2012 and 2028, but with some policies covering up to 2033. The Local Plan and 17 Neighbourhood Plans together form the statutory Development Plan, which is used, alongside the National Planning Policy Framework, to help direct decisions on planning applications in Leeds.
- 2.2 The Core Strategy DPD sets the overall strategic framework for development in Leeds and is underpinned by other DPDs covering Natural Resources and Waste and site allocations as well as saved policies in the Unitary Development Plan. A number of years have passed since the Core Strategy (CS) was adopted in 2014. It was subject to an update in 2019, which was selective and focussed largely on housing, leaving much of the remainder untouched. The Natural Resources and Waste DPD was adopted in 2013.
- 2.3 The LPA has a statutory duty to review policies every five years to determine whether they require updating. Within the context of national planning guidance, evidence and local priorities, it is crucial therefore that the Local Plan is kept up to date and subject to regular review and update, to ensure it remains fit for purpose in providing certainty for communities and investors.
- 2.4 Following the declaration of the Climate Emergency in March 2019, in September 2019 Council approved that: *“To reflect the Council’s declaration of Climate Emergency ... Council commits to including measures to address the Climate Emergency in subsequent Core Strategy Reviews. This should include a strategic plan to deliver more trees in the city, a greater emphasis on how new housing developments are accessed i.e. not solely by the private car and a clear commitment to review Spatial Policy 12 of the Core Strategy relating to growth at Leeds Bradford Airport, as a matter of urgency, and notes that the Council has already committed to bringing a timetable to Development Plan Panel this Autumn”*.
- 2.5 Through Development Plan Panel (DPP) consideration and under delegated decision by the Chief Planning Officer, all policies across the Local Plan were reviewed in July 2020 (postponed from March 2020). The policies identified as in need of updating are wide in scope. As a result DPP considered that, to reflect Council priorities and resources available, the Local Plan Update should focus initially on policies for the Climate Emergency in Leeds in addition to responding to the Council’s resolution made in July 2019 outlined above. Other matters e.g. around employment land, minerals and waste and local and town centres would be updated by future DPDs. This approach of partial review was used for the Core Strategy Selective Review and enables a more focussed and manageable plan-making process to be undertaken at greater speed.

- 2.6 Throughout 2020 DPP have considered in more detail the possible scope of an update to the Local Plan, known as the Local Plan Update (LPU). The views expressed by the Panel (including at a dedicated climate change policy workshop) made clear that the priority for the LPU is to consolidate and move beyond existing local planning policies to help address climate change and increase resilience to its impacts, through the establishment of new policies and guidance within the Leeds Local Plan, which helps address the climate emergency declaration to achieve net zero emissions by 2030. Having set the broad scope of the LPU on 3rd November 2020 Members of DPP considered potential policy approaches on topics related to carbon reduction and renewable energy, green infrastructure and place-making. Issues relating to flood risk, sustainable infrastructure and strategic place-making were considered in January 2021. DPP endorsed the detailed consultation material on the 18th May 2021, subject to minor revised wording to help clarify matters relating to the Child Friendly City, blue infrastructure, solar farms and the wider community benefits of place-making. These themes and topics have also been considered and influenced by the Climate Emergency Advisory Committees (CEAC) for Planning, Building and Energy and Food and Biodiversity with the former advocating for more energy efficient homes and the latter group keen to see alignment with the Council's emerging policies on local food production.
- 2.7 The first regulatory milestone in the preparation of a Development Plan Document such as the LPU, is an initial stage of public consultation ('Regulation 18' consultation). The purpose of this stage is to ascertain views on what matters the LPU will need to consider and address i.e. its scope in order to achieve its identified objective. The regulations specify that, as part of the plan preparation process, we must invite representations on what the Local Plan ought to contain. Whilst being mindful of the need not to pre-judge the outcome of that consultation, it is considered that it would be helpful to respondents and speed up the process if the Council's general preferred scope of policies (with initial options for what they could contain) was used as a means of generating responses to the Plan at this early stage. This would help shorten the timescale for preparation, focus comments and in due course help clarify the tests of soundness that are required by national policy.
- 2.8 As the LPU is a statutory plan-making process it is important to note that issues raised during forthcoming formal consultation stages, in addition to the focused input of specialist bodies (for example infrastructure providers and the West Yorkshire Combined Authority - WYCA), will also inform the future direction and content of the LPU. The preparation of the LPU is an iterative process and possible options will narrow and refine in response to emerging information and evidence as work on the plan progresses. This work will also need to take into account new evidence and Government legislation as it emerges.

3. Main Issues

The material for the LPU scoping consultation is set out in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2. What follows below is a consideration of the main issues in relation to that statutory consultation.

Background to the Objective of the Local Plan Update

- 3.1 Leeds City Council has declared a climate emergency and has set an ambition for Leeds to work towards carbon neutrality by 2030. This is a massive task,

needing a sustained effort from not just the Council, who aim to lead by example, but for other agencies, businesses and residents of Leeds to take this huge step.

- 3.2 To achieve our ambitions by 2030 and beyond, a rapid period of transition is necessary, along with big step changes. The Council aspires to achieve these because the evidence shows that they are needed now.
- 3.3 In parallel to considering the climate emergency, the Council has also focused on the ecological crisis that is being faced, with a loss of 70% of insects over the last thirty years across Europe. The Council has also sought to align the resilience that Leeds needs to adapt to climate change with its policies for health and well-being and inclusive growth as they are inter-related. A need for resilient places has also been heightened during the past year by the global pandemic, its localised impacts on communities in “lock down” and its impacts on the economy.
- 3.4 The land use planning system plays a critical role in mitigating and adapting to climate change. Specifically, it can shape places in ways that contribute to reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, it can minimise vulnerability and improve resilience; encourage the more prudent use of existing resources and support the move towards renewable and low carbon energy and associated infrastructure.

Planning Policy Context

- 3.5 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2019) sets national guidance for planning. Section 14 (¶¶148 – 154), stresses that the planning system should support the transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate. In particular Planning should, “...*help to: shape places in ways that contribute to radical reductions in greenhouses gas emissions, minimise vulnerability and improve resilience; encourage the reuse of existing resources, including the conversion of existing buildings; and support renewable and low carbon energy and associated infrastructure*”.
- 3.6 It is noted that the Government is committed to updating the NPPF as part of its wider Planning White Paper reforms. The Council’s response to the White Paper (considered by Development Plan Panel and CEAC Panel Members) alerted the Government to the need for stronger national policies on climate change in order to plan for zero carbon in advance of the Government’s target of 2050 and cautioned against setting nationally prescribed development management policies which may impact on the ability of the Council to have stronger local ambitions for tackling climate change.
- 3.7 The Government has begun the process of consulting on amendments to the NPPF with an initial consultation (released on 30th January 2021) focussed mainly on changes which improve the quality of design and beauty, but it is expected that as the Council’s LPU progresses further NPPF changes will be made.
- 3.8 In addition to the statutory requirement to take the NPPF into account in the preparation of Local Plans and in decision taking, there are wider statutory duties on local planning authorities to include policies in their Local Plans designed to tackle climate change and its impacts, including:

- Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 - Planning must secure that the development and use of land contributes to the mitigation of and adaptation to climate change;
- Planning Act 2008)- A duty that Plans have climate change targets and policies;
- Planning & Energy Act 2008 - Powers to require some low-carbon energy generation from new development;
- Climate Change Act 2008 - Establishes the importance of planning in securing legally binding targets.

The Climate Emergency in Leeds

3.9 The Climate Emergency affects Leeds in a number of ways, some of which are specific to the nature and character of Leeds. Leeds has to be ready to deal with a changing climate (and the associated mitigation and adaptation necessary) in the following ways:

- Adapt to a changing climate by preparing for heat waves and their impacts. It is recognised that as a large urban area Leeds will experience an increase in temperature fluctuations. The health impacts of heatwaves can be significant, particularly for vulnerable people, when excess deaths can occur. Therefore it is crucial that we make places ready for extremes of temperature to ensure they are resilient. In Leeds the urban heat island effect will affect those who are most vulnerable within Leeds, including elderly, those with respiratory conditions and those in built up high density areas.
- Plan for flood risk. Leeds is also well aware of the issues that flooding brings e.g. the damage caused by Storm Eva in 2015, will increase as the global and local climate changes.
- Heatwaves also have impacts on infrastructure and water resources which will need to be used more wisely in development and in agriculture.
- Temperature changes won't just affect people and there will be a need to plan for better biodiversity and resilient local habitats for our species.
- Climate change won't just affect the urban area, but also the countryside around our city and our major settlements. This will see a changing role for local food production, tree and woodland planting and opportunities for renewable energy.

3.10 A Climate Conversation was launched in 2019 as a result of the declaration of the Climate Emergency and nearly 8,000 people responded to the Council with the overwhelming majority agreeing with the scientific consensus that the climate is changing due to human activity, that they are worried about it and that tackling the climate emergency, becoming a carbon-neutral city and protecting wildlife diversity should be priorities for the Council.

3.11 The majority of responses also considered that more should be done around the following issues

- transport, especially suggestions for a mass transit system;
 - minimising waste and encouraging recycling;
 - build 'greener' developments, e.g. requiring stricter energy efficiency standards, the installation of renewables;
 - make it harder to develop on green field sites;
 - plant more trees.
- 3.12 In addition, the Leeds Climate Change Citizen's Jury was put together in 2019, who made recommendations to the Council on how best to tackle the climate emergency. Their 12 recommendations included taking action to reduce use of private cars, increase the energy efficiency of housing and creating more green spaces in Leeds.
- 3.13 Taken together, these issues have helped set the objective and scope of the LPU and are addressed through the sections on sustainable infrastructure, whole life carbon and place-making, carbon reduction, and green infrastructure topics.
- 3.14 It is important to note that Leeds has a Local Plan with existing policies aimed at addressing climate change. These policies range from a spatial strategy which encourages growth in sustainable locations, to detailed policies on carbon reduction, green infrastructure, flood risk, biodiversity, flood risk, heat networks, electric vehicles, renewable energy generation, air quality and tree replacement. However, these policies largely pre-date the declaration of the Climate Emergency and the aspiration to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2030. In order to ensure that the existing suite of policies is heightened and maximised work has been undertaken throughout 2019 and 2020 on developing training and awareness raising especially on the subject of master planning and place making so that Council decisions are as aligned with the Climate Emergency as they can be using existing policies. This work also forms the basis for Member training on planning, climate change and sustainable development for the coming year.

The Proposed Scope of the Plan

- 3.15 As set out in paragraph 2.4 Full Council has resolved that the scope of the Local Plan Update should be focussed on measures to improve and enhance the planning policy framework to help address the climate emergency. This objective has also be informed and endorsed by Development Plan Panel.
- 3.16 Since the declaration of the Climate Emergency work has progressed on focussing on improving the delivery outcomes of existing policies that the Council has, so as to (a) understand what new policies are needed, and (b) ensure that all new development is doing its best to meet the Climate Emergency now.
- 3.17 As a result, it is felt that there are many policy areas that would benefit from further consideration through the Local Plan Update. The scoping consultation is an opportunity for the Council to share its direction of travel on new and updated policies with the public, businesses and consultation bodies.

- 3.18 As part of this consultation, therefore, we are clearly setting out that the proposed subject of this Local Plan Update will be a focus on carbon reduction, flood risk, green infrastructure, place-making and sustainable infrastructure in order to adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change and ensure the delivery of sustainable development within Leeds.
- 3.19 It is proposed that this will take the form of new and updated policies within the Core Strategy and may result in consequential changes to the Natural Resources and Waste Local Plan (2013) and the saved Unitary Development Plan (2006).
- 3.20 Taking these considerations together, and working in consultation with Development Plan Panel, 5 broad topic areas have emerged, with multiple policy areas sitting underneath. These are set out below:

Topic Area	Policy Areas Covered
Carbon Reduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whole life carbon costs for buildings • Reducing carbon emissions from buildings • Sustainable construction • Resilience to Heat • Renewable energy generation • Heat networks • Energy storage
Flood Risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flood risk • Functional floodplain • Sustainable Drainage Systems
Green Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Green Infrastructure • Tree Planting • Tree Replacement • Biodiversity • Nature Conservation • Green space • Space for local food growing
Place-making	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Place-making (incl. 20-Minute Neighbourhoods) • Local Place-making
Sustainable Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High Speed 2 • Leeds City Station • Mass Transit • Leeds Bradford Airport • Digital Infrastructure

- 3.21 As a whole they set a scope and a draft direction of travel, which helps address the following 5 headline objectives:

(1) Carbon reduction: For new development, Leeds will seek to minimise energy demand and meet all demands for heat and power without increasing carbon emissions, to allow Leeds to meet its climate emergency commitment of zero carbon by 2030. This is supported by topics concerning:

- Ensuring that the level of embodied carbon in a development is considered and monitored from construction to demolition;
- reducing Carbon Emissions from Buildings for example, by exploring whether all development could be built to a zero carbon standard;
- ensuring Sustainable Construction for example, through setting clear standards;
- Renewable Energy and heat generation and storage infrastructure for example, through consideration of mechanisms to increase the generation and storage of low carbon and renewable heat and power both through stand-alone generation and within new developments.

(2) Flood Risk: Leeds will ensure that new developments are located and designed to avoid, reduce and mitigate flood risk, increase biodiversity and reduce the carbon footprint of risk reduction schemes through natural flood solutions. This is supported by topics concerning:

- ensuring that the Council's policies are supported by up to date evidence on flood risk;
- avoiding development in flood risk areas and managing the functional flood plain;
- reducing the speed of surface water run off through more sustainable and natural drainage systems for example, through standards and limits to the paving over of front gardens.

(3) Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity: Leeds will create new Green Infrastructure (GI) (including Green Space and Natural Environment) through the planning process, and identify, improve, protect and extend existing GI to address the challenges of climate change and create a healthy city. This is supported by topics concerning:

- ensuring a strong, clear and consistent approach to the delivery of new green infrastructure as well as the enhancement and protection of existing GI alongside a better understanding of the roles and benefits of individual GI attributes e.g. for play, for well-being, biodiversity (through hedgerow planting), opportunities for local food growing and more attractive routes to encourage less car use; ensuring stronger protection for trees for example, through new land for trees, tree retention and replacement which considers the carbon sequestration value of trees, in addition to amenity and alongside other considerations;
- ensuring that local wildlife sites and nature conservation designations are effective at protecting species and habitats and that new development delivers appropriate levels of net gain for biodiversity;

(4) Place-making: Leeds will work in the public interest, prioritising the safety and well-being of people within a framework of long-term sustainable development by allowing development that promotes safe, healthy and resilient places, reflects the issues associated with inclusive growth and an environment which leaves a positive legacy for all people. This is supported by topics concerning:

- ensuring a sustainable strategic pattern of development that helps adapt to the impacts of climate change and balances development needs with environmental constraints for example, through policies on 20-minute neighbourhoods;
- ensuring high quality design of places for example, through good practice, standards and design guides that helps ensure better quality, form and layout;
- As part of policies that promote place-making the Council is mindful of having policies that contribute positively to the Councils' climate change ambitions, including increasing active travel and reducing private car use. Linked to this will be matters related to car parking standards which can be managed through supplementary guidance which align with the Council's wider transport strategies.

(5) Sustainable Infrastructure: Leeds will ensure the delivery of an accessible and integrated transport system which focuses on public transport and active travel, is worthy of its role at the heart of the Leeds City Region, and supports communities and inclusive growth. This is supported by topics concerning:

- preparing for and maximising the benefits that the national High Speed 2 rail infrastructure project may bring to the City, if built, for example through shaping the development of Leeds Station, integrating the HS2 line into our city and seeking opportunities for new green and public spaces to be created alongside HS2, as well as ensuring high levels of permeability;
- preparing for any mass transit system that is provided in Leeds so that it can align with wider spatial priorities and deliver wider benefits;
- managing the future development of Leeds Bradford Airport and access to it in a sustainable manner;
- supporting reliable, high-speed data at work, home and whilst on the move, so that Leeds is a modern, resilient and efficient economy which can support increased remote working;
- ensuring a sustainable strategic pattern of development that helps reduce the need to travel by private car and positively promotes active travel for example, through policies on 20-minute neighbourhoods and place-making.

3.22 These topics have been created following engagement across the Council and seeks to deliver a consistent vision as already expressed through documents

such as the draft Connecting Leeds Transport Strategy and the White Rose Forest Strategy.

- 3.23 Consultation material has been created for each of the topic areas (appendix 2), with a summary document as an introduction to the whole consultation material (appendix 1). It is not the intent at this stage to present detailed policies. Rather, this first consultation stage is being used to explain the scope of the document and to seek views on the direction of travel.
- 3.24 As set out above, the consultation will not prescribe what the LPU should conclude on a particular matter as, at this initial stage in the process, consultation will help to clarify the scope, seek support for particular options and continue to develop an evidence base to justify the Council's preferred options in due course. The work that has informed this consultation material therefore does not seek to prejudge consultation on the scope of the LPU, rather it serves to help inform it.
- 3.25 With regard to Leeds Bradford Airport, it is recognised that Leeds Bradford Airport have recently submitted a planning application for a new terminal building and associated flight regimes, which the Council moved to approve in principle on the 11th February 2021. This application was assessed against existing Local Plan policy and other material considerations. The Secretary of State has the right to 'call-in' this application, although at the present time this right has not been exercised. However, this Local Plan Update process is a separate planning process to the planning application, and will guide the long term future of the airport not the current planning application. Consequently the focus of the consultation will be on the future of the Airport post-completion of the development already outlined.

Timescales

- 3.26 It is intended that public consultation will commence in July 2021.

4. Corporate considerations

4.1 Consultation and engagement

- 4.1.1 The initial proposed scope of the LPU has been shaped with reference to the Council's Climate Conversation and engagement with cross Council services to ensure alignment with strategies such as the Leeds Transport Strategy.
- 4.1.2 Initial discussion has also taken place with the West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA). WYCA have ambitions for the sub-region as a whole to be net-zero carbon by 2038 and to have made significant progress by 2030. The ambitions within this LPU align with that and there is support for joint work at a city region level on tackling the climate emergency through planning. This will be through aligning with and helping to shape a Zero Emissions Investment Framework (ZEIF) which was a commitment in the West Yorkshire Devolution Deal and the Leeds City Region Energy Strategy & Delivery Plan.
- 4.1.3 Development Plan Panel have been closely involved in the production of the Local Plan Update. The Panel met on the 18th May 2021 and endorsed the consultation material for Executive Board's approval, subject to minor revised wording to help clarify matters relating to the Child Friendly City, blue infrastructure, solar farms and the wider community benefits of place-making.

- 4.1.4 The consultation on the scope of the Local Plan Update will be subject to an 8 week consultation. Due to the current restrictions arising from COVID-19, it will not be possible to undertake face-to-face consultation. The Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) has been revised on an interim basis to allow consultation to take place with a digital emphasis. All consultation material will be publicised and made available digitally on the Council's website. Statutory consultees will be consulted in line with national regulations.
- 4.1.5 In advance of going out to consultation, officers will develop a consultation strategy for the LPU consultation, to be agreed by the Chief Planning Officer in consultation with the Executive Member for Infrastructure and Climate. This will place an emphasis on inclusion, to ensure that measures are taken to gain the views of all people, including young people, the elderly, minority groups and local community groups. In addition, a communications strategy will be created through the Council's Communications and Creative Services teams.

4.2 **Equality and diversity / cohesion and integration**

- 4.2.1 An Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Integration screening (Appendix 3) has been undertaken in considering the equality impact of this report and due regard has been given. Equality has been a key consideration of the scoping work so far, with each topic area considering the equalities impacts of the Plan. The Local Plan Update is at an early stage and as such the recommendation proposes consultation on the scope of the Local Plan Update, this will allow an early opportunity to seek comments and to engage the community before policy formulation is commenced. Further due regard to equality will be undertaken throughout the process at appropriate stages.

4.3 **Council policies and the Best Council Plan**

- 4.3.1 There is a clear role for planning in delivering against all of the Council's priorities as established through the Best Council Plan. At this early stage of preparation, the contents of the Local Plan Update are not known, however, it is considered that the LPU could contribute positively to the Council's key strategies, as follows:

Health and Well-being Strategy – through policies including the design of places, quality of housing and accessibility to green infrastructure and services;

Climate Emergency – by managing the transition to zero carbon via policies including: increasing the energy efficiency of buildings, the design of places, the location of development, accessibility to public transport, renewable energy supply and storage

Inclusive Growth Strategy – through policies including the links between homes and jobs, the location of development, green infrastructure and connectivity.

4.4 **Resources, procurement and value for money**

- 4.4.1 The preparation of the Local Plan Update and accompanying evidence base is a resource intensive endeavour which incurs additional cost, in terms of evidence base preparation and consultation, at a time of increased budget pressure. In general, costs will be met from within existing budgets.

4.5 Legal implications, access to information, and call-in

- 4.5.1 As a Development Plan Document, the Local Plan Update falls within the Council's Budget and Policy Framework. As such, this report is not subject to call-in. However, the consultation documents will be referred to Scrutiny Board for Infrastructure, Investment and Inclusive Growth with an invitation for them to make representations.
- 4.5.2 Consultation must be in accordance with Regulation 18 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. This requires that the Local Planning Authority must notify residents, businesses and consultation bodies on the "*subject of the local plan which the local planning authority propose to prepare and invite each of them to make representations to the local planning authority about what a local plan with that subject ought to contain*". Representations received shall be considered prior to the preparation of the publication draft LPU.

4.6 Risk management

- 4.6.1 The proposed direction of travel and initial options that are subject to consultation have not been assessed for their viability. Following public consultation, officers will collate the evidence and views presented by consultees, in order to create detailed policy approaches. Those approaches and alternative options will be subject to detailed viability assessments, in order to inform future versions of the Plan. As such, the service will need to commission a technical evidence base in regard to feasibility, deliverability and viability, which is expected to be funded through existing budgets.
- 4.6.2 It is also recognised that there are risks to pursuing a Local Plan Update focussed on the climate agenda. Changes to the planning system as proposed within the Government's White Paper 'Planning for the Future' may result in national Development Management policies (as expressed through a revised NPPF) not giving local authorities flexibility to set their own policies on the matters proposed to be in scope for the Local Plan Update. In addition, proposed changes to the building regulations may result in local authorities having no scope to prescribe carbon emission rates from new development. It is also possible that the Government will change how Local Plans are consulted on and the stages of consultation and preparation required. Should this happen, this may require the Council to revise documentation and return to earlier stages of consultation, depending on when the changes are introduced. At present however, LPA's are being encourage to continue progressing with their Local Plans.

5. Conclusions

- 5.1 This report recommends that the Council commences consultation on the Local Plan Update in accordance with Regulation 18 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.

6. Recommendation

Executive Board is requested to:

- (i) agree the proposed initial scope of the Local Plan Update as follows:
 - Update and create new policies, make consequential changes, within the Adopted Leeds Core Strategy (amended 2019), the Natural Resources and Waste Local Plan (2013) and Unitary Development Plan (2006) which focus on: carbon reduction, flood risk, green infrastructure, place-making and sustainable infrastructure in order to adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change and ensure the delivery of sustainable development within the Leeds Metropolitan District for a period of at least 16 years from Adoption.
- (ii) Agree commencement of consultation on this scope for a period of eight weeks using supporting topic papers (Appendix 1 and 2);
- (iii) Refer the consultation documentation (Appendix 1 and 2) to the Infrastructure, Investment and Inclusive Growth Scrutiny Board for consultation in accordance with the requirements of the Budget and Policy Framework;
- (iv) Authorise the Chief Planning Officer, in liaison with the Executive Member for Infrastructure and Climate, to approve any amendments to the consultation material in advance of public consultation;
- (v) Note that the Chief Planning Officer is responsible for the implementation of these recommendations.

7. Background documents¹

7.1 None.

8. Appendices

- 8.1 Appendix 1: Local Plan Update Scoping Consultation material – ‘Introduction, Scope and Summary’ Paper
- 8.2 Appendix 2: Local Plan Update Scoping Consultation material – Detailed Topic Papers
- 8.3 Appendix 3: Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Integration screening

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the council’s website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.