

**Halton with Aughton Neighbourhood  
Plan  
Area Designation**

**Consultation Report**

**May 2015**

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 Neighbourhood planning gives communities the chance to decide where new development should be and what it should look like. For example, new homes, shops and offices. A plan must be in line with the District's Local Plan and is subject to an independent examination and community referendum. If approved, a neighbourhood plan forms part of the district's Local Plan and it is used in helping to make decisions on planning applications.
- 1.2 One of the first stages of developing a neighbourhood plan is to agree the area that this will cover.

## 2. Background

- 2.1 Halton with Aughton Parish Council submitted an application on 6 March 2015 to designate their neighbourhood plan area, this proposal covered the whole parish area.
- 2.2 Lancaster City Council consulted on the application for 6 weeks, from 9 March 2015 to 20 April 2015, before making a decision.
- 2.3 A press release was issued and an article appeared on The Lancaster Guardian website on Friday 13 March 2015. An information email was also sent out to the planning policy consultation list (1,459 contacts).
- 2.4 The application letter, completed form and a map of proposed area could be viewed on the council's website and in in The Centre@halton, The library on Pennystone Road or the noticeboard at the Top shops.
- 2.5 Comments could be sent to the Planning and Housing Policy Team by email or post.

## 3. Summary of Consultation Responses

- 3.1 Six organisations and two individuals responded to the Halton with Aughton neighbourhood plan designation area consultation.
  - Cllr Woodruff (9.3.15)
  - Health and Safety Executive (10.3.15)
  - Nick Moule (10.3.15)
  - Highways England (13.3.15)
  - English Heritage (17.3.15)
  - Coal Authority (19.3.15)
  - Lancashire County Council Property Services (15.4.15)
  - United Utilities Water Limited provided a late response (22.4.15)
- 3.2 There have been no objections to the proposed Halton with Aughton neighbourhood plan designation area, however a range of advice and guidance has been provided by a number of respondents.

- 3.3 Cllr Woodruff fully supported the application and highlighted the localism agenda. He also raised the urgency to progress and adopt the Lancaster District Local Plan.
- 3.4 The Health and Safety Executive highlighted that a number of consultation zones were within the proposed neighbourhood plan boundary. Various issues were raised including housing allocations, workplace allocations and mixed use allocations. They recommended that consultation zones should be marked on future maps to identify future development proposals that could encroach on consultation zones and the extent of any encroachment that could occur. They suggested that proposal maps in site allocation development planning documents may be suitable for presenting this information. They particularly recommended marking the zones associated with MAHPs and the HSE advises that Halton with Aughton should contact the pipeline operator for up to date information on pipeline location, as pipeline can be diverted by operators from notified routes. HSE have sent a copy of their response letter to the relevant pipeline operator.
- 3.5 Nick Moule suggested that Caton should be included in the neighbourhood plan area (Caton have since submitted their own application). He recognised the implications for officer resources, suggested that the neighbourhood plan would need to take the wider district needs into account, should not restrict future housing growth and should seek to provide a mixture of housing, importantly provision of social housing.
- 3.6 The Highways England has no objection to the application or the proposed boundary of the proposed Neighbourhood Plan area. However, they noted that the proposed Plan area covers both sides of the M6 motorway for a short stretch to the north of the existing Junction 34. They highlighted that they would be interested in any development that may affect the safe and efficient operation of the M6 motorway, especially development that:
- is located on land adjacent to the motorway.
  - is likely to generate a traffic impact upon the motorway and those routes access to it.
- The Highways England requested to continue to be consulted as the Halton with Aughton Neighbourhood Plan progresses.
- 3.7 English Heritage had no comment to make and do not wish to be consulted at future stages of the neighbourhood plan, unless the developing plan proposes significant impacts or changes in relation to designated heritage assets or their setting. However, they provided a range of guidance including evidence base, spatial portrait, plan policies, development management Policies, strategic cross boundary issues and site allocations.
- 3.8 The Coal Authority had no specific comments to make as the proposed neighbourhood plan area is outside the defined coalfield, they therefore do not wish to be consulted on this in future.
- 3.9 Lancashire county Council Property Services highlighted that they own a number of properties and parcels of land within the proposed Neighbourhood Plan boundary. They asked to continue to be engaged in the development of the Halton Neighbourhood Plan.
- 3.10 United Utilities Water Limited had no comments to make. However, they would like to be included in further consultations to ensure that they can facilitate the delivery of necessary sustainable infrastructure in line with the Neighbourhood Plan delivery targets, whilst safeguarding services for their customers. They requested that this response should be considered in conjunction with historical responses.

- 3.11 Should interested parties wish to read the full submissions made in relation to the area designation these are available upon request from the Planning and Housing Policy Team on 01524 582329 or [planningpolicy@lancaster.gov.uk](mailto:planningpolicy@lancaster.gov.uk).

#### **4. Conclusion**

- 4.1 Following the statutory 6 week consultation, there have been no objections to the proposed Halton with Aughton neighbourhood plan designation area. Accordingly the Council will seek to formally designate Halton with Aughton Parish as a Neighbourhood Planning Area.