Doncaster Sites and Policies Development Plan Document (DPD) 
Frequently Asked Questions following withdrawal of the DPD

This document sets out a number of responses to frequently asked questions that have arisen as a result of the withdrawal of the Doncaster Sites and Policies DPD. It provides details on a number of issues including the plan process, what will happen next and how you can be involved in the preparation of a new Local Plan. If you still have some questions about the DPD or the Local Plan please contact a member of the Local Plans Team for further information:

Email: ldf@doncaster.gov.uk
Telephone: 01302 734419
Website: www.doncaster.gov.uk/ldf

Q. Why was the Sites and Policies DPD withdrawn?
A. As part of the Examination in Public process, an independently appointed Planning Inspector held a number of hearing sessions in the Sites and Policies DPD. The outcome of this was that the Inspector raised a number of issues/concerns including:

1. The need for an objectively assessed housing need assessment,
2. The site selection methodologies and sustainability appraisal criteria need to be clearer particularly in relation to flood risk
3. The plan should be simpler and policies re-assessed against national policy.

In light of the above, Full Council decided on 25th September 2014 that it would not be a good use of resources to proceed with the Sites and Policies DPD and that the plan should be withdrawn. Full Council also agreed to proceed with the preparation of a Local Plan. Details on the Council’s correspondence between the Council and the Inspector, and the Full Council report can be found on www.doncaster.gov.uk/ldf.

Q. What will happen to the DPD now?
A. The Council will no longer proceed with the Sites and Policies DPD as it has been withdrawn. However the Council does have a statutory duty to prepare a planning framework and Full Council has agreed to prepare a single Local Plan for the borough. The Local Plan will take into account the issues raised by the Inspector as well as new evidence base which is being prepared and views and opinions from the public, stakeholders and landowners. The first part of the Local Plan process is a ‘Call for Sites’. This process is explained in a question below and on the ldf part of the website.

Q. I was involved in the Sites and Policies preparation process; will the Council keep me informed of the Local Plan process?
A. Yes, the Council will use its existing database of interested parties to send information out at every stage of the plan. It is important that you let us know if any of your details have changed or if you no longer wish to be kept informed.

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Development, Directorate of Renegaration and Environment, 4th Floor, Civic Office, Waterdale, Doncaster, DN1 3BU
Q. I have not been involved in the Sites and Policies DPD, but would like to be involved in the Local Plan preparation process, how should I inform you?
A. You should contact the Local Plans Team on ldf@doncaster.gov.uk and we will add you to our database.

Q. I made representations (sites and/or comments) to the Sites and Policies DPD in the past, will these be considered as part of the Local Plan process?
A. It is important that you submit any proposed sites to us which you wish us to consider as a proposed allocation for use such as housing, employment, minerals, gypsies and travellers and minerals. This process is called “Call for Sites” and the closing date is Wednesday 19th November 2014. More information on this can be found on the website: www.doncaster.gov.uk/ldf. It is important that any sites submitted as part of the Sites and Policies DPD are re-submitted to the Local Plan process.

As Local Plan process continues you will be invited to make representations on issues and policies at the relevant time.

Q. In the absence of the Sites and Policies DPD, what is the statutory development plan for borough?
A. The statutory development plan for Doncaster currently comprises the Core Strategy adopted May 2012), the Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham Joint Waste Plan (adopted March 2012) and the saved policies of the Doncaster Unitary Development Plan (adopted 1998) (including its Proposals Map). A number of neighbourhood Plans are at various stages of preparation; upon adoption a Neighbourhood Plan forms part of the statutory development plan. Planning applications will continue to be determined in accordance with the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise. Such material considerations include the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and other national guidance.

The withdrawn Sites and Policies DPD no longer carries any weight in the determination of planning applications.

Q. What is the Council’s current five year housing land supply position?
A. The Council produces and updates annually a 5 Year Deliverable Housing Land Supply Position Statement. The latest covers the period 1st April 2013 – 31st March 2018 and demonstrates a greater than 5 year supply (including a 20% buffer); http://www.doncaster.gov.uk/sections/planningandbuildings/localdevelopmentframework/monitoringandimplementation/index.aspx. An updated Statement is in preparation and will be published in due course.

Q. How does the withdrawal of the Sites and Policies DPD effect Neighbourhood Planning?
A. The National Planning Policy Framework states that neighbourhood plans should be in general conformity with strategic policies. In Doncaster’s case, this is the Core Strategy. More information on the Neighbourhood Planning process can be found at: http://www.doncaster.gov.uk/sections/planningandbuildings/neighbourhoodplans/index.aspx