

Report to:	EXECUTIVE
Relevant Officer:	Jane Saleh, Head of Planning Strategy
Relevant Cabinet Member	Councillor Mark Smith, Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Enterprise and Economic Development
Date of Meeting	19 February 2018

MARTON MOSS NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING APPROACH – THE WAY FORWARD

1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 The Blackpool Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy (adopted 2016) identifies the remaining lands at Marton Moss as being integral to the local distinctiveness of Blackpool and highly valued by the local community. Policy CS26 adopts a neighbourhood planning approach for Marton Moss to enable the local community to develop a shared vision and to shape and direct development which recognises and appropriately responds to this distinctive character.

The Planning Strategy Team carried out recent consultation with local residents and businesses within the Marton Moss area on two alternative approaches to neighbourhood planning in the area.

The purpose of this report is to:

- i) Present to members the Marton Moss Neighbourhood Planning Approach Consultation Statement which provides the detail of the recent consultation that has been undertaken and presents the outcomes and next steps.
- ii) To seek endorsement of the proposed way forward in respect of giving the community the maximum opportunity to commence a Neighbourhood Plan for Marton Moss.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 To agree publication of the Marton Moss Neighbourhood Planning Approach Consultation Statement on the Council's website (refer Appendix 3b).

- 2.2 To seek endorsement of the proposed way forward in respect of giving the community the maximum opportunity to commence a Neighbourhood Plan including the distribution of a letter to local residents.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

- 3.1 To provide further detailed policy to the Blackpool Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy in order to support Blackpool's future regeneration and growth.

- 3.2a Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

- 3.2b Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

- 3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:

As part of Marton Moss Neighbourhood Planning Approach consultation two options were put forward for the community to consider.

4.0 Council Priority:

- 4.1 The relevant Council Priority is:

"The economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool"

5.0 Background

- 5.1 The Blackpool Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy (adopted 2016) identifies the remaining lands at Marton Moss as being integral to the local distinctiveness of Blackpool and is highly valued by the local community.
- 5.2 Policy CS26 of the Core Strategy adopts a neighbourhood planning approach for this area (refer to Appendix 3a) to enable the local community to develop a shared vision and to shape and direct development which recognises and appropriately responds to this distinctive character.
- 5.3 The Council is now preparing Part 2 of the Local Plan which will set out detailed development management policies and allocate sites for development/protection. In accordance with Policy C26 the Council needs to understand which neighbourhood planning approach should be pursued for Marton Moss.
- 5.4 In order to inform the Council's decision on how to undertake a neighbourhood planning approach, the Planning Strategy Team commissioned Envision Consultants to carry out an independent consultation with local residents and businesses within

the Marton Moss area on two alternative approaches to neighbourhood planning in the area:

Option A: For the local community to produce a separate Neighbourhood Plan in accordance with paragraphs 183-185 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

In order to produce a Neighbourhood Plan, a Neighbourhood Forum must be set up. The Forum would oversee the whole process of preparing a Neighbourhood Plan with working groups set up for specific tasks.

As a minimum, the Forum must:

- be open to all those living or working in the Neighbourhood Area,
- have at least 21 members and
- have a written constitution

The local authority has to agree and formally designate the Neighbourhood Forum.

Option B: For Blackpool Council to take the lead and closely involve local people along with community based groups and other organisations to produce neighbourhood planning style development proposals and policies specific to Marton Moss.

In order to ensure that all residents and businesses in the area were consulted and had the opportunity to find out more information, the following comprehensive consultation approach was undertaken:

- 589 letters and information leaflets were sent to all addresses in the Marton Moss area
- Two drop-in events were held at St Nicholas C of E Primary School Hall, School Road on Saturday 18th November 2017, 10am-1pm, and Monday 20th November 2017, 5pm-8pm.

The letter and leaflet encouraged people to complete a simple online survey (hard copies of the survey were also available at the events).

5.5 Consultation Outcome

The results of the consultation are set out in the Marton Moss Neighborhood Planning Approach Consultation Statement (refer Appendix 4b).

In summary:

There were 83 responses at 70 addresses.

55% of respondents (44 people) stated the community should prepare their own neighbourhood plan, with 29 people willing to contribute time in the establishment of a forum. 34 people stated they would like to be considered for membership of the forum.

45% of respondents (37 people) believe that the Council should set out detailed plans for Marton Moss as part of the Council's Local Plan involving specific consultation with the local community, with 39% of these respondents interested in being involved in a formal local group which the Council may establish to develop planning proposals for the Marton Moss neighbourhood.

Although the overall level of response to the survey was limited (12%), the key result of the consultation was that a small majority of respondents favoured a Neighbourhood Plan.

Therefore, the Planning Strategy Team wishes to give the community maximum opportunity to pursue Option A: to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan.

5.6 Next Steps

It is proposed to notify all Marton Moss residents and businesses of the results of the consultation.

To help enable designation of the Neighbourhood Forum, the Council would notify separately all those people who expressed an interest in establishing a Forum and invite them to an information workshop. It is hoped this workshop will bring together all those that are keen to be involved in preparing a Neighbourhood Plan and provide the catalyst for the setting up of a Neighbourhood Forum. As the community has voted to prepare its own Neighbourhood Plan, the responsibility for preparing the plan now lies with the Neighbourhood Forum. The proposed workshop will need to clearly inform the Forum of their role and that they will need to appoint a Chair and establish specific roles to drive the process forward.

The Council's role would only be to provide assistance such as sharing evidence and advice on planning issues and policies, helping with consultation events and communication with external partners. The Forum will need to identify potential

sources of funding including applying for available Government grants. The Forum can use this money to employ a consultant with Neighbourhood Planning experience to assist in developing the Neighbourhood Plan.

- 5.7 Is the Corporate Delivery Unit aware of this report? Yes

The Corporate Delivery Unit has been consulted and has no issues to be raise.

- 5.8 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

5.9 **List of Appendices:**

Appendix 3a - Marton Moss Policy Map

Appendix 3b - Marton Moss Neighbourhood Planning Approach Consultation Statement (Jan 2018)

6.0 **Legal considerations:**

- 6.1 The Marton Moss Neighbourhood Planning Approach enables the implementation of Policy CS26 'Marton Moss' of the Blackpool Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy which forms part of the Council's statutory Development Plan.

7.0 **Human Resources considerations:**

- 7.1 The changes to planning approach would be resourced by existing staff within the Planning Strategy Team.

8.0 **Equalities considerations:**

- 8.1 There are no adverse equalities considerations. The Marton Moss Neighbourhood Planning Approach will contribute to the Council priorities set out in the Council Plan.

9.0 **Financial considerations:**

- 9.1 The work is being undertaken within existing budgetary provisions.

10.0 **Risk management considerations:**

- 10.1 Marton Moss neighbourhood planning policy will provide further detail to the Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy (adopted January 2016) which provide the statutory planning framework to enable and assist the delivery of Blackpool's future

development requirements. The Council needs to ensure that it has a planning framework that reflects the community and elected members priorities and needs.

11.0 Ethical considerations:

- 11.1 There are no adverse ethical considerations. The Marton Moss neighbourhood planning approach will contribute to the Council priorities set out in the Council Plan.

12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

- 12.1 Consultation was undertaken in accordance with the Council's Statement of Community Involvement.

13.0 Background papers:

- 13.1 Blackpool Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy (adopted January 2016)

Neighbourhood Planning information: <https://mycommunity.org.uk/take-action/neighbourhood-planning/>

14.0 Key decision information:

- 14.1 Is this a key decision? No
- 14.2 If so, Forward Plan reference number:
- 14.3 If a key decision, is the decision required in less than five days? No
- 14.4 If **yes**, please describe the reason for urgency:

15.0 Call-in information:

- 15.1 Are there any grounds for urgency, which would cause this decision to be exempt from the call-in process? No
- 15.2 If **yes**, please give reason:

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

16.0 Scrutiny Committee Chairman (where appropriate):

Date informed:

Date approved:

17.0 Declarations of interest (if applicable):

17.1

18.0 Executive decision:

18.1

18.2 Date of Decision:

19.0 Reason(s) for decision:

19.1 Date Decision published:

20.0 Executive Members in attendance:

20.1

21.0 Call-in:

21.1

22.0 Notes:

22.1