

Date: 15 December 2020

Report: UPDATE ON YORKSHIRE DALES NATIONAL PARK LOCAL PLAN 2023-2040

Purpose of the report

1. To summarise the response to the recent Local Plan 'Ambitions' consultation; to report on the launch of a new 15-30 age group consultation and to review the Local Plan timetable.

Recommendation

2. That the Authority:
 - a) notes the outcome of the recent local plan Consultation;
 - b) approves using the same 'vision for 2040' in the Local Plan as that set out in the National Park Management Plan 2019-24;
 - c) approves an amended Local Plan timetable, as set out in **Annex B**

Strategic Planning Framework

3. The information and recommendations contained in this report are consistent with the Authority's statutory purposes and its approved strategic planning framework:
 - **Corporate Plan 2020-21**
Objective 33: Work with neighbouring authorities to produce a single, updated Local Plan for the whole of the National Park by 2023, which will help achieve the vision and objectives in the National Park Management Plan.

Background

4. In August the Authority launched the first of the planned consultation on options for the new Local Plan ([Consultation No. 2- Exploring our options: 'Ambitions'](#)). The consultation was designed to survey public opinion on three specific areas of policy to determine how ambitious the new Local Plan should be. These areas were:
 - a. the number of new homes needed to support community sustainability;
 - b. the level of emissions to aim at in new development; and
 - c. what kind of development would be needed on farms.
5. An invitation to take part in the consultation was e-mailed to all parish councils and parish meetings as well as a range of our statutory' partners and wider stakeholders. Consultees were also invited to suggest additional groups to add to the consultation list and the consultation was made available online.

6. The consultation was promoted via the Authority website, several newspaper articles and social media channels. Comments were invited by the 25th September 2020.
7. There has been a good reply rate, with 120 responses received from 40 organisations and 80 individuals. 60 respondents took part in the online survey and 60 responded via e-mail or letter.

Consideration

8. **Annex A** shows the results of the consultation. It is worth noting the high return of 'option not specified'. This reflects the complexity of the issues presented and the limitations of prescribing options. Online survey respondents were more likely to return a specific response than those responding by letter or e-mail.
9. Based on the views of those who expressed a preference, the most popular options were:

<i>Vision</i>	The existing vision in the National Park Management Plan is the right vision for the new Local Plan.
<i>Community sustainability</i>	Option 2 (30 new homes per year) and Option 3 (70 new homes per year) shared similar support
<i>Carbon futures</i>	Option 2 ('Low carbon')
<i>On-farm development</i>	Option 2 ('Nature-friendly farming')

10. It is important to stress that the options in relation to carbon and on-farm development were never intended to be mutually-exclusive absolutes. It follows that the responses are not absolute either – but they do give an initial steer to help in starting to work up more detailed options (see paras 15-16 below).
11. The one area where the position is now sufficiently clear is in relation to the vision for the Local Plan. The proposal to use the same vision for 2040 that is set out in the [National Park Management Plan 2019-24](#) . This received broad support, and was also strongly supported by the organisations on the National Park Management Plan Steering Group. It is, therefore, recommended that the Authority confirms that this vision will be used for the Local Plan

15-30 Consultation

12. Immediately after the Ambitions consultation closed on 25th September 2020, a corresponding consultation was launched to gather the opinions of 15-30 year olds. This identifies the same themes but with a slimmed down format. This consultation is online-only. It comprises the following questions:
 - How do you think we should be getting young people involved in planning the future of the National Park?
 - How can we make it easier for young people to find affordable homes in the Park?
 - How should we be tackling climate change?
 - How should we manage the Dales landscape?
 - Would you mind letting us know your age?

13. A link to the consultation was published on the Authority's homepage and the consultation was promoted in the press and social media channels. A [video](#) has been produced featuring younger people who live and work in the Park talking about what they want their future National Park to look like. Paid-for advertising on Facebook and Instagram meant that the consultation could be targeted at 15-30 year-olds living in or around the National Park. To date 69 young people have responded.
14. The consultation is still ongoing and it is hoped that more responses will be received over the coming months as the Authority expands its youth network through targeted engagement work.

Further options

15. The outcomes of the Ambitions consultation are being used to inform the next two options papers. The third consultation will focus on housing growth and will be published on the 6th January. This will introduce options for a new 'spatial strategy' looking at the relationship between the National Park and its surrounding towns, the future distribution of new housing, and the size/type of homes needed. This will continue the discussion started in the summer about the housing target and launch a process for finding new development land, which will involve a 'call for sites' and a review of infill policy.
16. A fourth consultation is then proposed in the Spring to review barns policy, housing site viability (the potential for sites to yield a proportion of affordable housing), and the future of the Authority's occupancy strategy.

Local Plan timetable

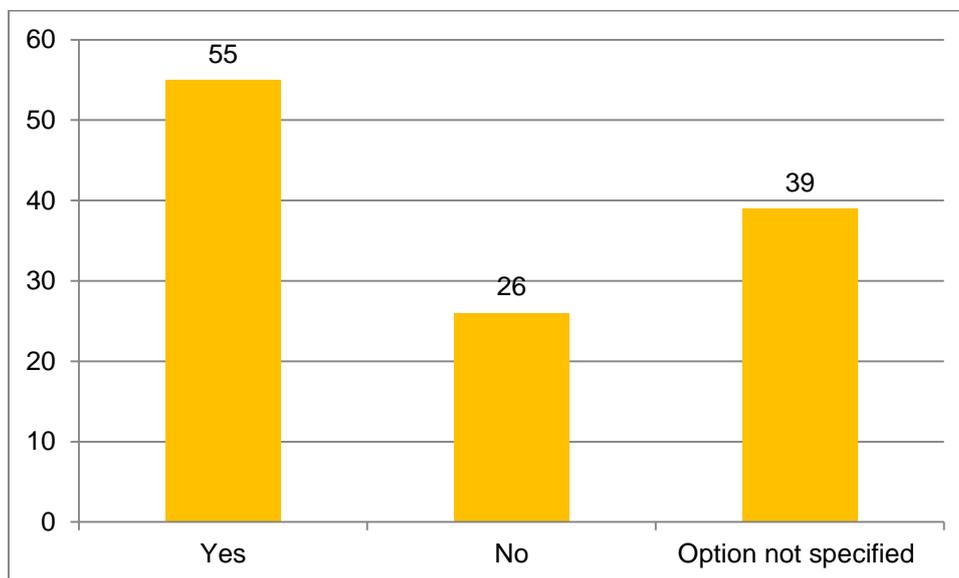
17. As reported to the September Authority meeting the Government is proposing fundamental change to the English planning system. It has announced its intention to move to a 'rules based', zonal system and to have new style local plans adopted across the country by December 2024. That would mean the Authority having to change tack within the next 24 months, and moving to a completely new system.
18. Given this uncertainty it is recommended that the Authority amends the timetable set out in our Local Development Scheme. Whilst it makes good sense to continue to consult widely on strategic planning options (this work will be useful whatever happens), there is a very considerable risk of wasted time and effort (to say nothing of public confusion) in producing a full draft Local Plan in 2021 as originally planned. A revised timetable is proposed in **Annex B**, which will allow time for the Government's intentions to become clearer.

Rosie Corner
Local Plan Officer

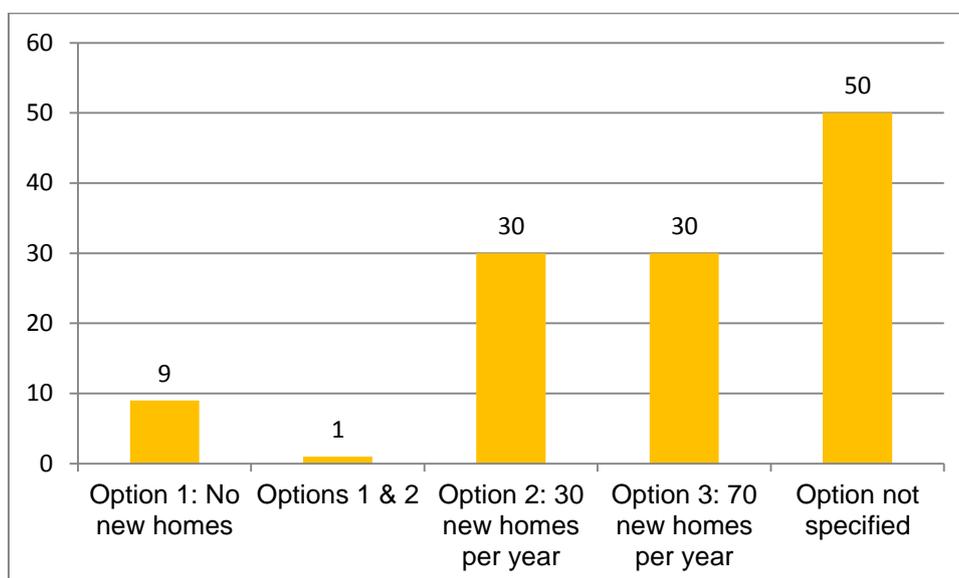
2 December 2020

Ambitions consultation results

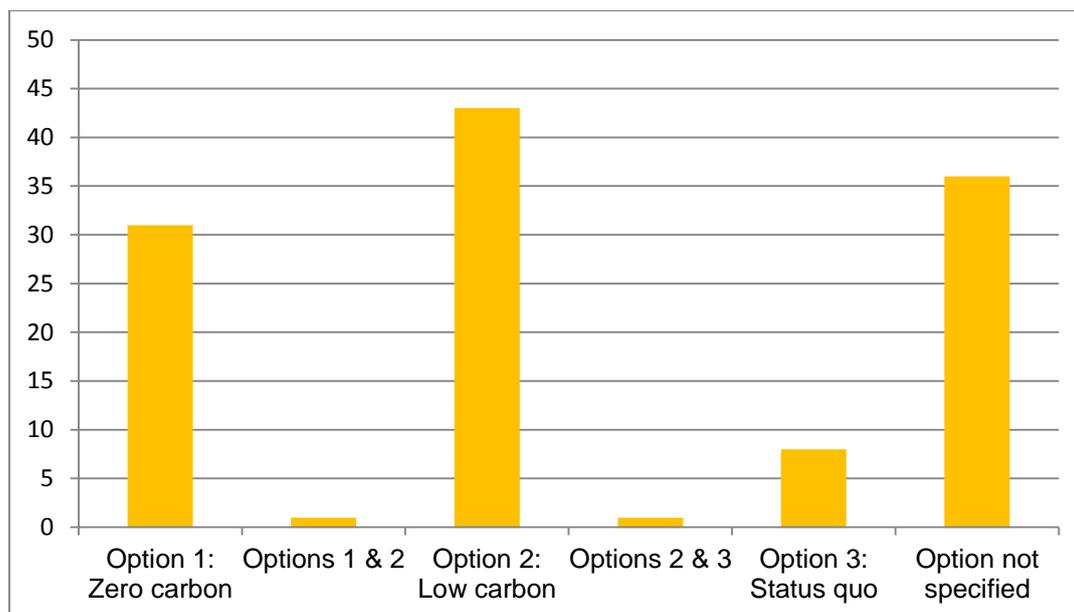
Question 1: Do you agree that the proposed vision for the new Local Plan is the right one?



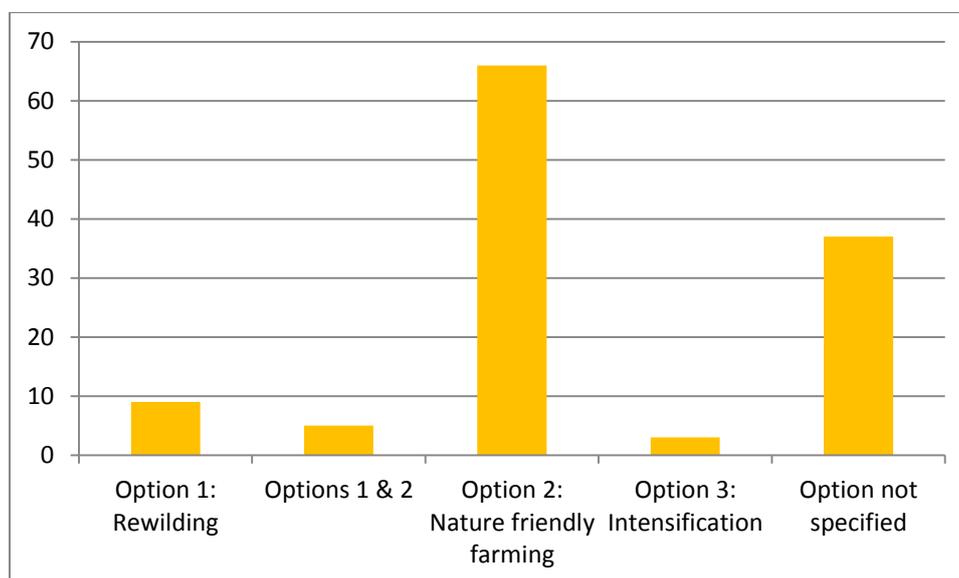
Question 2: Community sustainability



Question 3: Carbon futures



Question 4: On-farm development



Local Development Scheme (adopted March 2019)

Stages in the production of the Local Plan

Proposed first Revision (December 2020)

1. Evidence gathering (2019 – 2023) –
Evidence gathering (2019 – 2023)

2. Issues and options consultation (January 2020 – September 2021)
Consultation No 1 'Issues' December 2019
Consultation No 2 'Ambitions' August 2020
Consultation No 3 'Housing Growth' January 2021
Consultation No 4 'Barns, Viability and Household Targeting' March 2021
Consultation No 5 'Minerals, Tourism, Biodiversity and Heritage' July 2021

3. Draft Plan (January 2022 – March 2022)
Monitor progress on planning White Paper

4. Publication (October 2022 – December 2022)
Monitor progress on planning White Paper

5. Submission & pre-examination (November 2022)
Monitor progress on planning White Paper

6. Examination & post-examination (May 2023 – December 2023) –
Monitor progress on planning White Paper