



REPORT TO:	Planning Policy Committee
DATE:	1 st February 2024
SUBJECT:	Local Plan Settlement Pattern
PURPOSE:	For Members to approve the revised Settlement Pattern for inclusion in the review of the East Lindsey Local Plan
KEY DECISION:	N/A
PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	Councillor Tom Ashton
REPORT AUTHOR:	Kay Turton
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	All
EXEMPT REPORT?	No

SUMMARY

Members will recall considering a number of reports relating to the methodology behind establishment of the Local Plan settlement pattern at previous meetings of this Committee. This report brings together the previous decisions of this Committee and Appendix A sets out the resulting Settlement Pattern, proposed for inclusion in the Local Plan review. This will be subject to consultation at a future date as part of consultation on the wider Local Plan review.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the spreadsheet, attached to this report as Appendix A be agreed as the Settlement Pattern for inclusion in the Local Plan review.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

The spreadsheet, attached as Appendix A, represents the culmination of the previous resolutions of this Committee.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Consider amending the methodology that has created the spreadsheet set out in Appendix A.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1** Members will recall considering a number of reports relating to the methodology behind establishment of the settlement pattern at previous meetings of this Committee. Those reports followed on from a member workshop held on 1st November 2021.
- 1.2** The appendix to this report contains a spreadsheet that sets out the culmination of the previous discussions, and the resulting Settlement Pattern proposed for inclusion in the Local Plan review.

REPORT

- 2.1** In 2021, Planning Policy committee asked that the methodology behind the Settlement Pattern be looked at afresh. To this end, a Member Workshop was held on 1st November 2021 to consider what changes should be made to the scoring system behind the Settlement Pattern.
- 2.2** Planning Policy Committee endorsed the changes that emerged from that workshop at its meeting on 17th February 2022. These were:
- The Commuter and Shoppers bus services should be combined. With 4 points being awarded for a service that runs at least once a day and allows enough time to carry out business in a town.
 - Great Carlton and Little Carlton be combined as they now have a segregated footpath linking the two settlements.
 - The points awarded for a doctor should be increased from 2 points to 4 points.
 - Pharmacies be added into the assessment and should score 4 points.
 - Public electric vehicle charging points be added to the assessment and be award the same points as petrol filling stations (2 points).
 - Vets be deleted from the scoring.
- 2.3** There was further discussion about other aspects of the scoring behind the settlement pattern, particularly in relation to employment. This remained unresolved at that meeting. However, Planning Policy Committee reached agreement at its meeting on 16th February 2023. Members resolved that the previous large employer category should be removed (as data was no longer readily available) and the methodology behind the employment points should be amended so that only the larger businesses in a community (with a rateable value over £10,000) be included. This was felt to better reflect the likelihood of those businesses providing employment opportunities. Any infrastructure projects (such as sewage treatment works, telecommunications etc) that do not employ people on site were removed. The employment category has always sought to establish the presence of a range of business types, to demonstrate a choice of employment in a community, which could

accommodate different skills. Therefore, businesses have been divided into 8 categories, and there must be a business with a rateable value of over £10,000 present in 5 or more categories to be awarded the points. The Strategic Road Network was also removed as one of the scoring criteria at that meeting.

- 2.4** Planning Policy Committee on 14th September 2023 considered the revised scoring and determined that the thresholds between the tiers should be retained at the current number of points : Large Village - 46 points or more; Medium Village -23 points or more; and Small Village -12 points or more; below 12 points, settlements are referred to as Hamlets.
- 2.5** At the meeting on 14th September 2023, members asked for the information behind the scoring to be sent to Parish Councils and Elected Members, to establish the accuracy of the recorded services and facilities in each settlement. These were sent out on 25th and 26th October 2023, with a deadline for returns of 24th November, although this was kept open for any late responses. The overall spreadsheet has been amended to reflect any changes brought to light by these replies.
- 2.6** Appendix A to this report contains a spreadsheet that sets out the culmination of the previous discussions, and the ensuing Settlement Pattern proposed for inclusion in the Local Plan review. The resulting changes to the Settlement Pattern are as follows:

	Number in 2018 Local Plan	Number in Revised Settlement Pattern
Large Villages	24	18
Medium Villages	39	23
Small Villages	34	45

N.B. there has never been a definitive list of Hamlets as there are many small groups of houses across the District. However, 14 settlements that were previously Small Villages have fallen below 12 points and would be classified as Hamlets for the purposes of the Local Plan.

The Settlement Pattern will be subject to consultation at a future date as part of consultation on the wider Local Plan review.

3. CONCLUSION

- 3.1** The spreadsheet, attached as Appendix A, brings together all the changes to the methodology agreed by members at previous Planning Policy Committee meeting. It also includes any updates brought about through the consultation with Parish Council's and elected members on services and facilities present in the villages. Therefore, it represents the culmination of the previous resolutions of this Committee. The Settlement Pattern will be subject to consultation at a future date as part of consultation on the wider Local Plan review.

EXPECTED BENEFITS TO THE PARTNERSHIP

The Local Plan assists the Partnership in all its priorities.

IMPLICATIONS**SOUTH AND EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCILS PARTNERSHIP**

None

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

None

STAFFING

None

WORKFORCE CAPACITY IMPLICATIONS

None

CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The Planning Policy Committee has delegated authority to make decisions that relate to the local Plan.

DATA PROTECTION

None

FINANCIAL

None

RISK MANAGEMENT

None

STAKEHOLDER / CONSULTATION / TIMESCALES

The list of services and facilities in each village and hamlet (not the towns) was sent to the relevant Parish Council and Elected member for comment. Four weeks were given for responses, although any responses submitted after the deadline were accepted. 36.17% of parish Council's and 37.14% of Elected Members responded to the consultation. This consultation led to changes to the recorded services and facilities in twenty-eight settlements.

REPUTATION

None

CONTRACTS

None

CRIME AND DISORDER

None

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY/ HUMAN RIGHTS/ SAFEGUARDING

None

HEALTH AND WELL BEING

None

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

None specifically from this report. Climate change and creating sustainable development is a key consideration in the production and review of a Local Plan. The policies being reviewed look at how housing growth can be accommodated in the more rural areas of the District in a sustainable way.

The Climate Change and Environment Service Manager and their team will be involved with the review process.

LINKS TO 12 MISSIONS IN THE LEVELLING UP WHITE PAPER

None

ACRONYMS

None

APPENDICES

Appendices are listed below and attached to the back of the report: -

APPENDIX A	Settlement Pattern
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BACKGROUND PAPERS

No background papers as defined in Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the production of this report.

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF THIS REPORT

Name of body	Date
<i>Policy Committee</i>	<i>14th September 2023</i>

REPORT APPROVAL

Report author:	Kay Turton – Senior Planning Policy Officer
Signed off by:	Simon Milson – Planning Policy and Research Service Manager
Approved for publication:	CLlr Tom Ashton – Portfolio Holder for Planning