

Report to: Cabinet Meeting: 10 June 2025

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Claire Penny – Sustainable Economic Development

Director Lead: Matt Lamb, Director - Planning & Growth

Lead Officer: Matthew Norton - Business Manager, Planning Policy & Infrastructure Business Unit, Ext. 5852

Report Summary	
Type of Report	Open Report / Non-Key Decision
Report Title	Strategic Housing and Employment Land Availability Assessment
Purpose of Report	To present the draft Strategic Housing and Employment Land Availability Assessment ('SHELAA') Methodology Document Consultation Responses; and to agree the final methodology prior to carrying out a 'Call for Sites' exercise.
Recommendations	That Cabinet approve: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the proposed consultation responses as set out in Appendix 1 to the report; b) the proposed final Methodology Document as set out at Appendix 2 to the report; and c) a 'Call of Sites' exercise to be undertaken in the Summer 2025.
Alternative Options Considered	Cabinet has already approved the production of a new SHELAA Methodology therefore no alternative options have been considered.
Reason for Recommendations	To allow the District Council to approve the SHELAA Methodology and undertake a 'Call for Sites' exercise.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The draft document was discussed at the Council's Planning Policy Board on 25 February 2025 and Cabinet on 1 April 2025. It was agreed that the Council should consult on a new SHELAA methodology in order that site assessment work to inform the new Local Plan can be progressed following a 'call for sites' exercise.

- 1.2 The draft SHELAA Methodology was consulted on between 7 April 2025 and 19 May 2025. In total, 26 responses were received to the consultation. The SHELAA Methodology Post Consultation Statement, which details all responses and the Council's proposed response, is contained at **Appendix 1**.
- 1.3 Most respondents were supportive of the overall approach to the methodology and supportive of the exclusion of sites within Flood Zone 3 at Stage 1.
- 1.4 A number of respondents criticised the level and location of development in the District which falls outside the scope of this consultation. Decisions about site allocations are made in the plan-making process, and these decisions are informed by the SHELAA, evidence base documents and the results of community engagement. The SHELAA only advises how sites submitted to the 'call for sites' exercise will be assessed and does not determine where development may occur.
- 1.5 Several changes were made to the draft document to respond to the representations received which all comprised minor typos and amendments. A tracked changes version of the document can be viewed at **Appendix 2**.
- 1.6 A 'call for sites' exercise is proposed to be undertaken in Summer 2025. This is an exercise where the Local Planning Authority invites landowners, developers and the public to put sites forward for consideration in the new Local Plan to meet the future needs of the area. The sites submitted will then be assessed using the SHELAA Methodology.

2.0 Proposal

- 2.1 It is proposed that Cabinet approve the SHELAA Methodology and the proposed responses to consultation. This will enable site assessment work to inform the new Local Plan to be progressed following a 'call for sites' exercise in Summer 2025.

3.0 Implications

In writing this report and in putting forward recommendations, officers have considered the following implications: Data Protection; Digital & Cyber Security; Equality & Diversity; Financial; Human Resources; Human Rights; Legal; Safeguarding & Sustainability and where appropriate they have made reference to these implications and added suitable expert comment where appropriate.

Financial Implications – FIN25-26/8716

- 3.1 No direct financial implications have been identified.

Legal Implications – LEG2526/860

- 3.2 Cabinet is the appropriate body to consider the content of this report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

The Cabinet report of 1 April 2025 is published - <https://democracy.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=288&MIId=1019>