

Central Lincolnshire Policy S35 Network and Hierarchy of Centres Evidence Report

Formerly Policy S34

March 2022



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1. Introduction

- 1.1. The Central Lincolnshire Local Plan is being updated since the first Local Plan for Central Lincolnshire, an area covering the districts of City of Lincoln, North Kesteven and West Lindsey, was adopted in April 2017.
- 1.2. This Evidence Report (which is one of a collection) provides background information and justification for Policy S35, which identifies the network and hierarchy of centres across Central Lincolnshire.

2. Policy Context

National Policy and Guidance

- 2.1. Since the Central Lincolnshire Plan was adopted the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was updated in July 2018 with subsequent additional changes being published in February 2019 and a further update in July 2021.

- 2.2. Paragraph 7 of the NPPF explains that:

“The purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. At a very high level, the objective of sustainable development can be summarised as meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. At a similarly high level, members of the United Nations – including the United Kingdom – have agreed to pursue the 17 Global Goals for Sustainable Development in the period to 2030. These address social progress, economic well-being and environmental protection.”

- 2.3. Paragraph 8 goes on to state that:

“Achieving sustainable development means that the planning system has three overarching objectives, which are interdependent and need to be pursued in mutually supportive ways (so that opportunities can be taken to secure net gains across each of the different objectives):

... b) **a social objective** – to support strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by ensuring that a sufficient number and range of homes can be provided to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by fostering a well-designed, beautiful and safe places, with accessible services and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities’ health, social and cultural well-being;...”

- 2.4. And Paragraph 20 that:

“Strategic policies should set out an overall strategy for the pattern, scale and quality of development, and make sufficient provision for:

a) housing (including affordable housing), employment, retail, leisure and other commercial development;...and

c) community facilities (such as health, education and cultural infrastructure);...”

- 2.5. Section 7 relates to Ensuring the vitality of Town Centres, where Paragraph 86 states that:

“... Planning policies should:

- a) define a network and hierarchy of town centres and promote their long-term vitality and viability – by allowing them to grow and diversify in a way that can respond to rapid changes in the retail and leisure industries, allows a suitable mix of uses (including housing) and reflects their distinctive characters;...”

2.6. Section 8 relates to Promoting healthy and safe communities. Paragraph 92 states that:

“Planning policies and decisions should aim to achieve healthy, inclusive and safe places which:

- a) promote social interaction, including opportunities for meetings between people who might not otherwise come into contact with each other – for example through mixed-use developments, strong neighbourhood centres, street layouts that allow for easy pedestrian and cycle connections within and between neighbourhoods, and active street frontages;... and
- c) enable and support healthy lifestyles, especially where this would address identified local health and well-being needs – for example through the provision of safe and accessible green infrastructure, sports facilities, local shops, access to healthier food, allotments and layouts that encourage walking and cycling.

2.7. Paragraph 93 goes on to state that:

“To provide the social, recreational and cultural facilities and services the community needs, planning policies and decisions should:

- a) plan positively for the provision and use of shared spaces, community facilities (such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, open space, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship) and other local services to enhance the sustainability of communities and residential environments;
- b) take into account and support the delivery of local strategies to improve health, social and cultural well-being for all sections of the community;
- c) guard against the unnecessary loss of valued facilities and services, particularly where this would reduce the community’s ability to meet its day-to-day needs;
- d) ensure that established shops, facilities and services are able to develop and modernise, and are retained for the benefit of the community; and
- e) ensure an integrated approach to considering the location of housing, economic uses and community facilities and services.

2.8. Section 9 relates to the promotion of sustainable transport requiring significant development to be focussed on locations which are or can be made sustainable, through limiting the need to travel and offering a genuine choice of transport modes (Paragraph 105). With Paragraph 106 stating that:

“Planning policies should:

- a) support an appropriate mix of uses across an area, and within larger scale sites, to minimise the number and length of journeys needed for employment, shopping, leisure, education and other activities; ...”

Local Policy

2.9. The adopted Local Plan includes Policy LP6 on Retail and Town Centres in Central Lincolnshire which established a retail hierarchy. It identified Lincoln City Centre as tier 1, four named Town Centres in tier 2 (Gainsborough, Sleaford, Market Rasen and Caistor), District and Local Centres in the Lincoln Urban Area, and ‘Rural Centres’ in settlements serving the local population. The Rural Centres were not specifically identified, but rather cross referenced to the settlement hierarchy as defined in Policy LP2, with development

appropriate in scale and nature to the size and function of the relevant centre encouraged, subject to the maintenance of the retail hierarchy as a whole. Policy LP34 identified District and Local Shopping Centres but for the Lincoln Urban Area only.

3. Context and Evidence

- 3.1. City, town and local centres are at the heart of communities, providing accessible shops and services, employment and leisure facilities. Vital and viable centres not only provide economic and social benefits, such as reducing social isolation and health inequalities, and improving community resilience, but areas of niche and independent retailing and distinctive historic retail premises also help to foster civic pride and promote local identity. However, our town centres and high streets are facing substantial challenges from the shrinking ‘front facing’ retail sector which has been exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic. As such many centres need to reinvent themselves to compete and thrive.
- 3.2. The most recent Central Lincolnshire City and Town Centres Study (2012) and update (2015) shows that, overall, Central Lincolnshire has a healthy market share of convenience goods expenditure, and whilst significant variations occur across the area depending upon location and goods type, there is a reasonably good market share of comparison goods expenditure. The study and update conclude that:
- Lincoln is the principal centre and is a popular and well-performing retail and leisure destination, its historic core attracting considerable numbers of tourists and shoppers each year. It has a large amount of retail floorspace and a strong representation from national retailers, reflecting its role as an important sub-regional shopping centre.
 - Gainsborough provides an important role for the local area and its performance has improved since the opening of Marshall’s Yard in 2007. There is, however, a distinct contrast between the new development and the older parts of the town centre in terms of vitality and viability.
 - Sleaford is a popular local retail destination; however, its comparison goods offer is relatively weak for a town of its size and catchment and is subject to significant leakage.
 - Market Rasen has a more localised role than Gainsborough, Lincoln and Sleaford and it suffers from leakage to other, larger centres.
 - Individual health checks of 23 additional centres across the area indicate that the vast majority are performing well, appear to be trading healthily and perform a key role serving the local population, including provision of leisure services.
- 3.3. The roles of these centres remain largely the same in 2020, however, the challenges facing the retail sector, principally from online retailers, has grown substantially with many familiar retail names being lost in recent years. City and town centres must now focus on developing as a destination and meeting place to continue to attract footfall with an even greater reliance on food and drink establishments, leisure uses and visitor attractions. This is supported in the Economic Needs Assessment (2020) which highlighted that whilst jobs in the retail sector are anticipated to reduce overall in Central Lincolnshire, job growth in the accommodation and food services sector and the arts, entertainment, recreation and other services sector would increase substantially.
- 3.4. In September 2020 the Government introduced changes to the Use Classes Order which brought together a range of “Commercial, Business and Service” uses under one Use Class (E). That new E Use Class is broadly compatible with the NPPF definition of Main Town Centre Uses, though not precisely. The aim of the new E Use Class is to allow units

in town centres to change to other uses that are suitable in town centres without the need for planning permission. With the exception of isolated village shops, which are exempt from this ability to change use without first seeking planning permission, this means that town centres should no longer be viewed in just 'retail terms'. That said, in order to implement wider policies in the NPPF (such as the sequential test for retail proposals), it remains necessary for the Local Plan (and associated Policies Map) to identify 'Primary Shopping Areas'.

- 3.5. The NPPF requires local plans to define a network and hierarchy of centres. Where development proposals are made for town centre uses outside of town centres and which are not in accordance with an up-to-date Local Plan, a sequential test should be applied with town centres coming first, then edge of centre sites, and only if suitable sites are not available (or are not expected to become available) in these locations should out of centre sites be considered.
- 3.6. The NPPF also stipulates that proposals for town centre uses outside town centres should provide an impact assessment. The default threshold whereby such assessments apply is 2,500m² of gross floorspace. The City and Town Centres Study advises against having a blanket threshold for all types of centres across Central Lincolnshire, as a store of 500 m² (e.g. a small, basket-based, supermarket) would be likely to have a greater impact on a lower tier centre than on, for example, Lincoln City Centre.
- 3.7. Masterplans have been drawn up for Lincoln, Gainsborough and Sleaford in recent years to help ensure their future survival and to put them in the best position to thrive and these may be updated to attract investment and to further strengthen the role of and guide the future direction of the centres. Work is also currently underway on a heritage-led masterplan for Market Rasen, and work by the neighbourhood planning groups in many areas seek to support the role of the local town or village centre.

4. Issues and Options Consultation

- 4.1. The Issues and Options Consultation in 2019 included the following proposal for shopping and town centres:

PROPOSAL 16 – Shopping and City and Town Centres

A City Centre Study is being prepared for Lincoln City Centre. It is proposed that the new Local Plan should reflect the evidence of this work and any outcomes to help ensure the plan positively addresses the ongoing role of the city centre and to help ensure it remains healthy. This may include reviewing boundaries and/or reconsidering acceptable uses within the centres.

Policies for the other main town centres may also be adjusted if evidence suggests that this is necessary.

It is proposed that the new Local Plan will maintain the designated District Centres and Local Centres in the 2017 Local Plan unless evidence suggests this is no longer suitable for any areas, and that additional District Centres, Local Centres and Rural Centres will also be designated across the rest of Central Lincolnshire.

- 4.2. This was accompanied by five related questions

Q16a – City and Town Centres

Do you agree that the new Local Plan should try to address the challenging retail environment through positively responding to issues and opportunities identified through work on the city and town centres?

Q16b – Specific Changes Required for the City and Town Centres

Are you aware of any specific planning policy changes that would help to strengthen the city or town centres? If yes please provide details

Q16c – Retaining Current Designated District and Local Centres

Do you agree that the District Centres and Local Centres identified in the 2017 Local Plan should be carried forward unless evidence suggests that this is not suitable? If no, please provide details.

Q16d – Designation of Additional Centres

Do you agree that the plan should designate District Centres, Local Centres and Rural Centres outside of the Lincoln Urban Area?

Q16e – Identifying New Centres

Is there a specific centre which you think should be designated as a District Centre, Local Centre or Rural Centre? If yes, please provide details.

- 4.3. There was good support from responses to the consultation to all questions seeking opinions and a number of suggestions were received in relation to 16b and 16e. The full details of the summary of responses can be found in the consultation report, replicated at Appendix A to this report.

5. Regulation 18 Consultation

- 5.1. A Consultation Draft of the Local Plan was published for consultation between 30 June and 24 August 2021. During this eight week consultation comments were received on the plan, the policies within the plan, and supporting information and evidence.
- 5.2. Several responses were received in support of the policy and a comment suggesting that Market Rasen and Caistor should be specifically referenced when detailing the need for impact assessments.

6. Proposed Approach in Draft Local Plan

- 6.1. Following consideration of the comments received to public consultation, national policy and guidance, and local policy and evidence, the proposed approach in the Draft Local Plan is to largely retain the existing network and hierarchy of centres. All existing centres have been surveyed and centres that no longer exist have been removed, new centres added, and boundaries amended to reflect changes that have occurred. In response to suggestions received, other local centres in Gainsborough and Sleaford have been added and village centres across Central Lincolnshire that meet the same criteria as existing centres have been specifically identified.

6.2. The Draft Local Plan has therefore identified the following hierarchy of centres with the geographical extent of the centres shown on the Policies Map:

Lincoln City Centre	Largest centre within Central Lincolnshire, having an extensive catchment and a sub-regional role, providing a wide range of town centre uses.
Town Centres at Sleaford, Gainsborough, Caistor and Market Rasen	Centres providing a range of facilities and services for a wider catchment area within the main towns and market towns.
District Centres in Lincoln and North Hykeham	Centres serving particular areas within the main settlements, typically including a range of services, restaurants, library and usually at least one supermarket.
Named Local and Village Centres in Lincoln, North Hykeham, Sleaford and Gainsborough and villages across Central Lincolnshire	Centres that serve their locality, typically including a convenience store or a small supermarket and a limited range of other local shops and services such as a pharmacy, sub-Post Office, newsagent, hot food takeaway.

6.3. New centres are also expected to be delivered at the proposed Sustainable Urban Extensions (SUEs) which would serve the new communities being formed. Other policies in the Plan (S69, S70 and S71) set out the details of what will be delivered at each SUE.

6.4. Whilst the City and Town Centres Study update (2015) identifies the quantitative need for additional retail floorspace in each of the four main centres over the Plan period, the subsequent challenges to the retail sector means that this additional floorspace is no longer needed. Instead, in an effort to ensure that our high streets are not diluted by sparsely occupied frontages, the boundaries of the town centres as shown on the Policies Map have been reduced to focus on the areas occupied by the town centre uses.

6.5. A locally set, tiered approach to the application of the impact assessment to reflect the role and function of a centre within its sphere of influence is being carried over from the adopted Local Plan but with clarification added regarding how it would be applied to Market Rasen and Caistor.

7. Reasonable Alternative Options

7.1. The following alternative options have been considered for this policy (option 1 being the preferred option).

7.2. **Option 2:** A policy that sets out a retail hierarchy with named centres in the upper tiers, identifying boundaries in the main towns only with a tiered locally set floorspace threshold for impact assessments. This option has been discounted because whilst it would provide the same degree of certainty for centres across the Lincoln urban area and the towns, it would have a less clear impact on other centres and could result in their dilution or loss.

7.3. **Option 3:** A policy that sets out a retail hierarchy identifying town centres and primary shopping areas only, relying on other Local Plan policies, other local authority documents and national policy for development elsewhere and national default floorspace threshold for impact assessments. This option has been discounted because it would only provide the minimum required, only specifically identifying town centres and primary shopping areas and relying on the default floorspace threshold for impact assessments. It would be

least likely to be sensitive to the very different roles and functions of the various centres across Central Lincolnshire and is most likely to result in the development of out of town retail parks and scattered uses which could result in major negative impacts to various SA objectives.

8. Conclusion

- 8.1. This Evidence Report demonstrates the rationale for the proposed policy as contained in the Proposed Submission Draft Central Lincolnshire Local Plan. This helps bring together relevant evidence that has informed this policy and how we have responded to comments received during the plan making process, as well as how the latest evidence and national guidance has been taken into account.

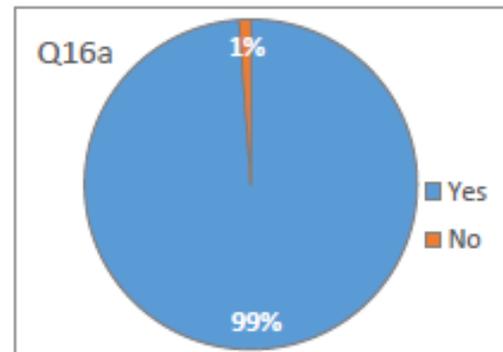
Appendix A

Extract from the Issues and Options Consultation 2019 for Proposal 16

Q16a – City and Town Centres

Do you agree that the new Local Plan should try to address the challenging retail environment through positively responding to issues and opportunities identified through work on the city and town centres?

- There were 87 responses to this question;
- 86 supported the proposal to try to address the challenging retail environment in the Local Plan;
- 1 respondent disagreed with the proposal.



3.59. There were a number of comments received in response to the question and the key issues can be summarised as follows:

- Needs a much broader plan, that considers all factors;
- City and town centres need to be redesigned to recognise that retail must reduce and not require ever increasing consumption. They should also be designed for access by sustainable means rather than private cars;
- More public transport, & key segregated and safe walking and cycling provision to become key. More cars and car parking does not make for a better retail centre;
- The Local Plan is a framework for the next 20+ years. Current retail practices are significantly more dynamic than this, and therefore the LP should refer to a shorter term policy which is regularly updated to reflect changing retail trends;
- The new Local Plan should try to address the challenging retail environment through positively responding to the issues and opportunities identified through work on the City and Town Centre Strategy;
- Our city and town centres seem to be decaying due to internet activities. Anything that can be done to improve them, and accessibility to them is to be encouraged;

- The Local Plan is one of the best places to address the challenging environment faced by town centres. The intention to review the evidence base which underpins the current Town Centre boundaries is fully supported. E.g. a focus on the historic Market Place of Gainsborough would allow more flexibility towards the river end of Lord Street to create anchors which can direct footfall from Marshalls Yard to the historic town centre;
- Suggest that the plan should be more permissive and encouraging of temporary uses where they activate vacant units, particularly, cultural uses such as performance spaces which add to town centre diversity and drive footfall to the benefit of other businesses;
- Suggest reference be made to the Extensive Urban Survey project currently underway which will help to define what makes each town unique and what gives it the character it has. This will provide an evidence base for decision-making in respect of creating more sustainable town centres and vibrant high streets. This study only addresses settlements in tiers 2 and 3 of the hierarchy;
- A City Centre Study is being prepared for Lincoln City Centre which may include reviewing boundaries and/ or reconsidering acceptable uses within the centres. Patricia wish to be engaged in this consultation process. Placing greater emphasis on flexibility will bring the Local Plan closer in line with NPPF;
- Retail is linked with households and employment and if the high street/ centre is full of empty buildings people are not attracted to an area. Whilst shops etc. are important to a town, the number of establishments required is not as great as in the past. It is essential that alternative uses are found for empty properties;
- The special character, as well as the retail/ service/ leisure focus of Lincoln must be maintained. The proposed Project Magna Carta designer outlet and leisure development at the A46/ Pennells Roundabout junction will be a major attraction for the area, supporting sustainable transport choices, potentially linked with proposed Park and Ride facility, as well as part funding and construction of major highways improvements to the A46 junction as a first phase, and potential financial partnering towards the completion of the proposed North Hykeham Relief Road;
- Severn Trent are only able to provide limited comments regarding this section. But we are aware that a number of councils are looking to enhance and re-invigorate town centres and retail areas. One of the key objectives within this is usually to develop a sense of place looking to introduce greener elements such as trees into the urban landscape. This approach can be effective for both biodiversity and ecology, but also where SuDS systems such as tree-pits or bio-retention systems can also provide benefits to flood risk. We would therefore encourage that any policies looking to re-develop town centres consider the benefits of retrofitting SuDS into the landscape;
- Historic England should be consulted in relation to the City Centre Study for Lincoln Town Centre.

Q16b – Specific Changes Required for the City and Town Centres

Are you aware of any specific planning policy changes that would help to strengthen the city or town centres? If yes please provide details

- 3.60. 26 of the 85 people who responded to this question said they knew of policy changes that would help to strengthen the city and town centres. The comments received in response to the question can be summarised as follows:

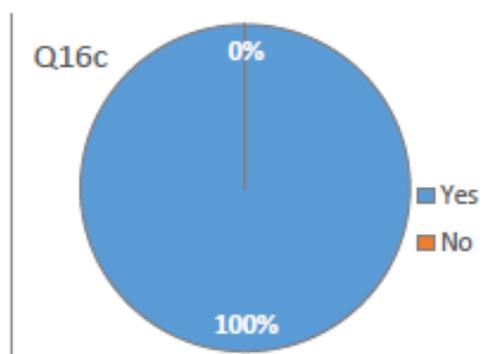
- Business Rate review to allow start up leisure & restaurant opportunities and Transport access in the evenings - Gainsborough shuts down after 4pm;
- Affordable car parking, cheaper for staff, better facilities like toilets;
- Provision of more and cheaper parking capacity within City & Town centres. Public transport services are often insufficient and outlying villages have to use private cars for routine shopping etc;
- Planning must provide sufficient attractive off street parking, eg Sleaford's new cinema complex makes no mention of parking: without which it is not viable and risks being a real nuisance in the town by generating significant congestion. To really make the point, such measures should consider replacing the Holdingham roundabout with a bridge;
- Lincoln is a nightmare for parking since it has a passive anti-car policy. Far more work is needed to make it car friendly. The decision to use roundabouts on the new bypasses is extremely short sighted and will cause major congestion necessitating further major expense and disruption in a few years' time;
- Improve/ increase bus routes into the centre;
- Improved transport networks and increased public transport availability such as later bus and train services;
- Fewer out of town retail centres;
- Centres must be considered for other uses rather than retail and government functions;
- Allow existing shops to be converted to dwellings where the shop has been vacant for say 1 year. This would re-vitalise town centres that are dying as shops close;
- The NPPF has an emphasis on the diversity of uses for town centres to ensure its long term vitality and viability, including opportunities for residential uses. It may be worth considering introducing residential uses within the Primary Shopping Area at ground floor using a 'take away (A5)' style restriction which some London Boroughs adopt. Where it restricts the level of residential permitted to a certain percentage of total frontage and restricts congregation of such uses so that they are spread out across the town centre rather than creating a large amount of dead frontage. This would help further promote existing Heritage led regeneration projects such as living over the shop etc.;
- Allow more commercial/ entertainment activities in centres after 17:30 to enliven & reduce antisocial behaviour, etc.
- Promotion of use of city/ town centre locations for leisure businesses will help reinforce locations as hearts of communities, bringing more people to these areas should also increase footfall for commercial businesses. It would also be a positive change to allow residential development within the town/ city centre as part of mixed-use developments, creating more diverse opportunities for development;
- Cycle and walking provision. Changes to TROs that currently allow for stopping in mandatory cycle lanes cause danger. Allowing cycling in the City centre would bring economic benefit as has been demonstrated in key studies;
- Ring roads at the outskirts of cities should help with internal congestion, however it is a problem during the length of time it takes to get the ring-roads organised;
- Strengthening city and town centres requires coordinated development in transport infrastructure and policy;
- Sleaford Masterplan to be revisited;
- Town centres must change to adapt to the digital revolution. Lincoln might be thought a mediocre shopping centre, but it is, potentially, a world-class visitor attraction. Sleaford and Gainsborough similarly do little to encourage visitors. Diversity of uses must be the future for city centres;

- National Government should level the playing field of taxation on products sold via the High Street versus on-line;
- The Agent of Change principle should be incorporated into design policies (and/ or within town centre or community facility policies). This will help protect existing uses such as theatres and pubs within town centres and elsewhere within the plan area where nearby residential use is proposed and ensure new residential uses within town centres are sensitively located;
- The Government has implemented a number of the reforms set out in the consultation, Planning Reform: Supporting the high street and increasing the delivery of new homes;
- Continue the E Bypass to the A607 but no further; reinstate the goods traffic loop line and construct replacement rail sidings/ distribution centre to handle import/ export container traffic etc.; duplicate the above loop line with the desired E.W link road abandon the newly engineered Tentercroft mess which is too near the city centre and only adds to the confused and ugly townscape round Pelham Bridge (which should be marked for demolition). An even better E.W link road would connect Tritton Road with South Park Avenue and on to Allenby and Outer Circle Road as a possibility thus relieving Broadgate and Lindum Hill. Suggest studying the 1932 edition of the OS Maps for central Lincoln - just change the emphasis from cars to people and don't mix cyclists and pedestrians. In Lincoln the Cathedral stands as a constant reproach to all the lost opportunities;
- Get rid of traffic wardens. They have ruined Gainsborough. Councils expect shoppers to come and then fine them. Every street is a car park, also same in Lincoln.

Q16c – Retaining Current Designated District and Local Centres

Do you agree that the District Centres and Local Centres identified in the 2017 Local Plan should be carried forward unless evidence suggests that this is not suitable? If no, please provide details.

- All 82 of the respondents who answered this question supported the proposal of carrying forward District and Local Centres that were designated in the 2017 Local Plan.



3.61. There were a number of comments received in response to the question and the key issues can be summarised as follows:

- This response is based on our understanding that Keelby is already a Local Centre;
- If the Council is serious in promoting an essentially car free zone, then I planning for connecting bus routes, stops, timetables between district and local centres and into the City Centre has made some headway. However question whether even with free travel the population density of these suburban districts is numerically sufficient to

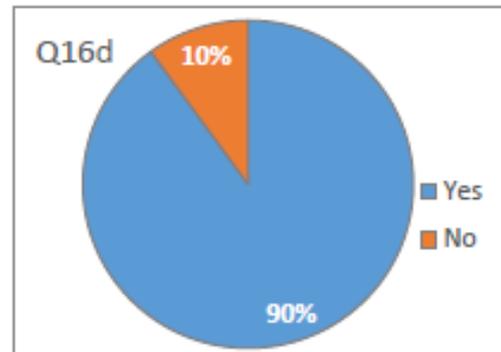
underpin a viable flexible system. Runcom New Town in Cheshire was specifically planned round public transport but Lincoln wasn't;

- But not to expand unless sustainable.

Q16d – Designation of Additional Centres

Do you agree that the plan should designate District Centres, Local Centres and Rural Centres outside of the Lincoln Urban Area?

- There were 80 responses to this question;
- 72 supported the proposal of designating District, Local and Rural Centres outside of the Lincoln Urban Area;
- 8 respondents disagreed with the proposal.



3.62. There were a number of comments received in response to the question and the key issues can be summarised as follows:

- With due caution. Agriculture is the mainstay of Lincolnshire not out of town retail parks;
- All the new towns will need them;
- Providing they are set within clear bounds to retain existing character;
- Possibly - the concept might engender better communications with places like Bardney, Woodhall Spa, Tattershall etc. Maybe resurrect the railway as Edinburgh has done with the very successful Border Railway down to Galashiels and Selkirk some 40 miles;
- In principle this would generally be supported although we would reserve judgment on this matter until further details are provided on how this would work in practice and any development management implications;
- Not sure of the purpose as there is no explanation in the consultation document;
- Local sites could be identified, but no advantage is evident;
- Depends on amount of development in the area;
- Proposed Project Magna Carta designer outlet and leisure development destination at the A46/ Pennells Roundabout junction, supporting sustainable transport choices, potentially linked with proposed Park and Ride facility, as well as part funding and construction of major highways improvements to the A46 junction as a first phase, and potential financial partnering towards the completion of the proposed North Hykeham Relief Road. The proposal promotes tourism in line with the policies of the development plan, whilst supporting existing attractions, providing circa 2500 employment opportunities, and can be delivered within three years.

Q16e – Identifying New Centres

Is there a specific centre which you think should be designated as a District Centre, Local Centre or Rural Centre? If yes, please provide details.

3.63. Of the 71 people who responded to this question, 17 said there were specific centres that should be designated. A list of these centres is provided below:

- As identified in the 2013 Genecon report commissioned by NKDC 'LN6 - a Plan for the future', there is a clear need for additional shops and amenities in the Whisby Road/ Teal Park area;
- Sleaford, Holdingham roundabout could do with becoming a rural centre;
- Sleaford and the River Slea corridor;
- Sleaford;
- Market Rasen, as a rural centre encouraging tourism to the Lincolnshire Wolds;
- Larger Villages such as Skellingthorpe should be given the opportunity to have a Rural Centre;
- This should be based on appropriate criteria to be developed in the Plan. Centres impacting on our village (Coleby) are Bracebridge Heath, Waddington and Navenby;
- Leadenham old railway station yard;
- Cherry Willingham;
- See Cherry Willingham Neighbourhood Plan;
- Scampton when free, Red Arrows will be gone. Too much emissions;
- All major towns below the level of Lincoln;
- Suspect that there are many, but insufficient knowledge to react authoritatively.

Next Steps

3.64. It is clear from the responses that work should be undertaken to understand how the local plan can help support our city and town centres. Evidence will be compiled to develop this understanding and to inform policy direction. It is also proposed that work will be undertaken to identify important local centres and rural centres outside of the Lincoln Urban Area. Suggestions and comments received will feed into these pieces of work.