

# Central Lincolnshire Policy S52 Universities and Colleges Evidence Report

Formerly Policy S51

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 S52, which relates to Universities and Colleges.

## 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. Section 8 of the NPPF relates to ‘Promoting healthy and safe communities’ within this section Paragraph 95 states:

*“It is important that a sufficient choice of school places is available to meet the needs of existing and new communities. Local planning authorities should take a proactive, positive and collaborative approach to meeting this requirement, and to development that will widen choice in education...”*
- 2.3. The Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) was first introduced in 2014 which offers ‘live’ government guidance. The PPG provides guidance to help in the implementation of policy in the NPPF. At the time of writing there was no specific guidance in relation to meeting the needs of further education.
- 2.4. The above NPPF policy has been taken into account in preparing the Draft Local Plan as a whole, and Policy S52 in particular.

### Local Policy

- 2.5. The adopted Local Plan contains a specific policy that relates to Lincoln’s Universities and colleges. This policy acknowledges the importance of the institutions to Lincoln’s economy and seeks to support their growth where they are well designed and integrated with their surroundings.

## 3. Context and Evidence

- 3.1. In recent years the further education facilities within Lincoln have continued to be successful and expand. Lincoln’s two universities and college have an important role to play in supporting the local economy, principally within Lincoln, in raising skills levels within the area as well as providing leisure and business facilities for the wider community.
- 3.2. Lincoln University’s academic buildings are predominantly located around Lincoln’s Brayford Pool, close to the city centre, and include the Science and Innovation Park and Enterprise Building as well as Performing Arts Centre and the Engine Shed, the largest live music venue in the region. Bishop Grosseteste University is located in uphill Lincoln and as well as academic facilities, provide BG Futures business incubation units,

conference and events facilities as well as The Venue Cinema. Lincoln College is principally located on Monks Road and Lindum Hill, Lincoln, close to the city centre also offer a range of conference and meeting facilities.

- 3.3. There is a need to both support the growth and development of Lincoln's universities and college yet also balance such growth against the need to protect Lincoln's unique natural and historic environment and to ensure that any development takes place in the most sustainable locations and manner.
- 3.4. The Central Lincolnshire Authorities have responded to these issues in a variety of ways including working closely with the universities and college in developing their masterplans as well as working with associated businesses and communities.

## 4. Issues and Options Consultation

- 4.1. The Issues and Options consultation identified the existing policy LP32: Lincolns Universities and Colleges as a policy not intended to be changed. No comments were received in relation to this policy or the intention not to change it.

## 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. Only a small number of comments were made on this policy. These comments have been summarised as follows:
  - Support provided for this policy.
  - Suggestion that other college campuses may benefit from being referenced in this policy.
- 5.3. It is not considered necessary to make any changes to this policy in light of the comments received, as the policy provides adequate wording to be applicable to other college campuses within the Central Lincolnshire area.

## 6. Proposed Approach in Draft Local Plan

- 6.1. The Draft Local Plan includes a policy in relation to universities and colleges. This policy has been carried forward unchanged from the Adopted Local Plan.

## 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: No policy relating to universities and colleges, rely on national policy. This option was discounted as it would not provide the support or certainty in relation to the development of the universities and colleges that is provided by the preferred option.

## 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.