



**SOUTH  
KESTEVEN  
DISTRICT  
COUNCIL**

## **CABINET MEMBER DECISION**

### **DECISION:**

**To approve the Annual Position Statement and accompanying engagement statement for submission to the Planning Inspectorate by the deadline of 31 July 2020.**

#### **(1) Details of Decision**

Submission of the Annual Position Statement to the Planning Inspectorate with the purpose of fixing the district's 5-year housing land supply.

#### **(2) Considerations/Evidence**

Option A: To submit the final APS to the Planning Inspectorate by the government-imposed deadline of 31 July 2020.

Option B: To not submit the APS by the government-imposed deadline but to publish as the Council's 5 Year Housing Land Supply Statement (a regulatory requirement).

#### **(3) Reasons for Decision:**

National Planning Policy Guidance on Housing Supply and Delivery, produced by the Ministry of Communities Homes and Local Government in 2019, enables Councils with recently adopted Local Plans to formally confirm/fix their 5 year housing land supply for 1 year by submitting an Annual Position Statement (APS) to the Planning Inspectorate. The APS must be submitted to the Planning inspectorate for review by 31 July 2020.

The South Kesteven Local Plan was adopted on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2020 and as such is deemed recently adopted until 31 October 2021.

The Annual Position Statement and accompanying Engagement Statement has been prepared and published for consultation with landowners, developers and stakeholders.

Two rounds of consultation have been undertaken whilst preparing the APS.

The first sought deliverability information from the development industry and achieved a good response rate of 68%. The second round of consultation on the draft APS included the development industry and stakeholders. The APS consultation was also published on a [dedicated APS webpage](#) on the Council's website enabling any interested party to respond, including the public. The Council received 19 responses of which 17 were positive. Two responses were received querying the 5 year housing land supply which the Council will rebut through the final APS.

The Government's Planning Advisory Service has worked closely with the Council; providing advice, support and constructive comments on the APS which the Council has taken into account.

The South Kesteven Annual Position Statement demonstrates a 5 year housing land supply of 5.50 years.

In consultation with the development industry, the potential impacts of Covid-19 have been considered.

Submission of the APS to the Planning Inspectorate is the preferred option because:

- The APS demonstrates a 5 year housing land supply of 5.5 years;
- The APS is based on advice and feedback from the Government's Planning Advisory Service;
- If approved by PINS, South Kesteven's 5 year housing land supply will be fixed for 1 year;
- If the APS is simply published on the Council's website (option B) but not submitted to PINS and approved, the Council's 5 year housing land supply will be subject to costly resource heavy planning appeals;
- If the 2020 APS is approved by PINS, the Council will be eligible to submit an APS in 2021, and fix its 5 year housing land supply for another year. If an APS is not submitted this year, the Council will not be eligible to submit APSs or fix its 5 year housing land supply in subsequent years.

## **Conflicts of Interest**

**(Any conflict of interest declared by any other Cabinet Member consulted in relation to the decision to be recorded).**

None.

## **Dispensations**

**(Any dispensation granted by the Standards Committee on respect of any declared conflict of interest to be noted).**

None.

**Decision taken by:**

**Name:** Councillor Robert Reid

**Portfolio:** Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning

**Date of Decision:** 31 July 2020

**Date of Publication of Record of Decision:** 31 July 2020

**Date decision effective (i.e. 5 days after the date of publication of record of decision unless subject to call-in by the Community DSP Chairman or any 5 members of the Council from any political groups):**

31 July 2020. As this decision has been made under the urgent non-key decision procedure, it is not eligible for call-in.