

# Neighbourhood Planning Process

## The Core Strategy

The Core Strategy is a key planning document for Blackpool. It sets out where new development, for example housing, employment, retail and leisure, should be located to meet Blackpool's future needs to 2027. The Core Strategy Revised Preferred Option is currently out to public consultation (7<sup>th</sup> June 2012 to 20<sup>th</sup> July 2012) and comments are invited on the proposed policies and approaches.

## What does the Core Strategy say about Marton Moss?

The Core Strategy identifies the remaining lands at Marton Moss as being integral to the local distinctiveness of Blackpool and that it is valued by the local community. A neighbourhood planning approach is proposed to develop a policy framework for the area (see Policy CS27 of the Core Strategy Revised Preferred Option).

This approach means getting the community more involved in deciding what it wants for the area, for example how to retain the Moss' distinctive character as well as deciding where and what type of development may be acceptable.

There are two ways which we can go about developing this policy framework.

- One way is setting it out in a community led **Neighbourhood Plan**.

- The other way is setting it out in a local authority led **Site Allocations and Development Management document**.

## What is a Neighbourhood Plan?

The new Localism Act provides additional rights and powers for communities to influence and shape new development in their area. It allows a community to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan which sets out policies for the use and development of land in a specific Neighbourhood Area.

These policies can be about the type, design, location and mix of development as well about retaining and protecting important buildings and open spaces.

The policies can be detailed or general, but they have to be in line with the strategic policies of the Core Strategy and also with government policy set out in the National Planning Policy Framework.

To produce a Neighbourhood Plan you have to set up a Neighbourhood Forum in areas where you do not have Parish Councils.



## What is a Neighbourhood Forum?

In Blackpool if a community wants to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan for their area they need to set up a Neighbourhood Forum. This Forum can include residents, businesses and local councillors. As a minimum, the Neighbourhood Forum should:

- be open to those living and working in the Neighbourhood Area,
- have a written constitution, and
- have at least 21 members.

The local authority has to agree and formally designate the Neighbourhood Forum.



## How would Blackpool Council help the community prepare a Neighbourhood Plan?

If the local community wants to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan for Marton Moss, the plan would be led by the community with the Council providing assistance. This assistance could involve:

- Sharing evidence and information on planning issues;
- Helping with consultation events;
- Providing advice on assessments and evidence;
- Providing advice on whether emerging policies in the Neighbourhood Plan fit with national and core strategy policies;
- Helping the community communicate with external partners where required.



## What are the key stages in preparing a Neighbourhood Plan?

There are a number of key stages which the community need to do to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan. These are:

**1. Defining the neighbourhood** – The Neighbourhood Area to which the plan relates has to be agreed by the community and local authority.

**2. Preparing the plan** – The Neighbourhood Forum prepares the plan. Before submitting a plan proposal to the local authority, the Neighbourhood Forum will need to publicise and consult on the plan.

**3. Independent check** – The Neighbourhood Plan is submitted to the local authority who will then appoint an independent examiner to consider the plan, including whether the plan is in line with national policy, the strategic policies of the Core Strategy and with other laws and obligations. The examiner can recommend whether the plan is put to a community referendum, or that the plan should be modified.

**4. Community referendum** – The local authority will organise a community referendum on the Neighbourhood Plan. If the plan is approved by a majority of those voting in the referendum, the local authority will approve the Neighbourhood Plan.

**5. Legal status** – Once approved, the plan will then become a part of the development plan for the area and will be used for making decisions on planning applications in the Marton Moss area.

**You can find further information on neighbourhood planning on the following websites:**

**Planning Portal:** <http://www.planningportal.gov.uk/inyourarea/neighbourhood/>

**Department for Communities and Local Government:** <http://www.communities.gov.uk>



## What happens if the community do not want to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan?

If the community do not want to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan, local planning policy for the Marton Moss area will be developed as part of a Site Allocations and Development Management document. This document is produced by the local authority engaging with and involving the community to get the right policies for the area.

A Site Allocations and Development Management document identifies sites for development, or sites for safeguarding or protection and also includes development management policies to guide development. A specific section of this document would be about Marton Moss.

The keys stages in preparing the Site Allocations and Development Management document are set out below:

**1. Scoping of issues and preferred options** – This involves engaging with the community to develop specific draft policies and proposals for Marton Moss which are then formally consulted on.

**2. Pre-Submission** – The responses to the consultation at stage 1 are considered, a Pre Submission document is produced and further consultation with the community on the policies and proposals in the document is involved.

**3. Submission** - The document along with all the comments received is submitted to the Secretary of State for examination.

**4. Examination** of the Site Allocations and Development Management document by an Inspector, followed by the Inspector's Report and formal adoption.

## How can I comment on the Core Strategy?

The Core Strategy Revised Preferred Option is out to public consultation between 7<sup>th</sup> June and 20<sup>th</sup> July 2012. During this time, we welcome your comments on the policies and supporting text set out in the Core Strategy, so together we can shape Blackpool's future development.

### Comments can be submitted by:

**Post:** Development Plans and Projects, PO Box 17, Corporation Street, Blackpool, FY1 1LZ

**Email:** [development.plans@blackpool.gov.uk](mailto:development.plans@blackpool.gov.uk)

**Online:** [www.blackpool.gov.uk/corestrategy](http://www.blackpool.gov.uk/corestrategy)

