

## Email from North Northamptonshire Strategic Planning team (formerly Joint Planning and Delivery Unit) to East Northamptonshire area Planning Policy team, 10 June 2021

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 10 June 2021 10:22

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]

**Subject:** RE: Inspector's question regarding a JPDU response regarding the key stages at which the JPU engaged with ENC on LPP2

Hi [REDACTED],

Please find below our suggested response, please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any queries regarding this:

“The North Northamptonshire Joint Planning & Delivery Unit (JPDU) worked with East Northamptonshire Council (ENC) throughout the preparation of its Local Plan Part 2 (LPP2) as per the requirements of the Duty to Cooperate. This work was mainly completed on an informal basis as per para 12 of the JPU 2013 Memorandum of Intent in relation to the function of the JPU and its relationship with the four Partner Local Planning Authorities (PLPAs), which states that; *“The intention is to facilitate preparation of sound DPDs as far as possible through informal ‘behind the scenes’ advice. However should the PLPA not take the JPU comments on board, it may be necessary for the JPU to make objections via the statutory plan making process”*. With this in mind, the JPDU only made formal representations to the ‘Additional sites consultation’ in March 2020 due to concerns relating to the proposed Rushden Lakes West site, as well as the follow up ‘Alternative sites consultation’ in November 2020, but did not deem it necessary to respond at the Regulation 19 stage given these previous concerns had been addressed.

In addition to the above, the JPDU also did not consider it appropriate to respond at the Regulation 19 stage given the timing of the consultation. The end of the consultation period coincided with the imminent transition to the North Northamptonshire Council unitary authority in which the JPDU and ENC were subsumed into one council with the other three PLPAs. This would in effect mean the council’s planning policy team would be responding to its own plan, which could cause some confusion come the examination period for the LPP2.

For clarity, and to assist with the examination process, the JPDU did not have any issues with the soundness of the LPP2 and is satisfied that the plan is in general conformity with the policies of the Joint Core Strategy (JCS).”

Kind regards,

[REDACTED] | **Planning Policy Officer**  
**Strategic Policy, Design & Delivery**  
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