

PLANNING POLICY COMMITTEE

Date: 23 January 2012

Venue: East Northamptonshire House, Cedar Drive, Thrapston

Time: 7.30pm

Present: Councillors: - David Brackenbury (Chairman)
Tony Boto (Vice Chair)

David Bateman
Pauline Bradberry
Mike Finch
Philip Hardcastle
Sylvia Hobbs
Marian Hollomon

David Jenney
Eloise Lucille
Bob Nightingale
Stephen North
David Read
Pam Whiting

359. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 December 2011 were approved and signed by the chairman.

360. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Glenvil Greenwood-Smith sent his apologies.

361. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND QUESTIONS

There were no declarations of interest and no questions.

362. NORTHAMPTONSHIRE TRANSPORTATION PLAN CONSULTATION

The Committee considered a report from the Planning Policy and Conservation Manager which proposed a response to the Northamptonshire Transportation Plan Consultation. Members noted that the consultation had commenced on 28 November 2011 for a period of 8 weeks until 20 January 2012. It was further noted that the County Council had agreed to extend the consultation deadline to enable the East Northamptonshire Council Planning Policy Committee to provide its response.

A series of questions were provided within the consultation document to guide the response and these were provided in Appendix 2 to the report, with the proposed response. The committee was invited to comment on this proposed response, and was also given the opportunity to ask questions of the officers.

Following discussion, Members asked that the following additional points be included as part of the response :-

- Additional emphasis was needed regarding the need to dual the A45 and improve all road links to the A14.
- Further emphasis was required for better public transport provision and the pressing need for faster, more direct bus services, from East Northamptonshire to access Northampton.
- Support the Infrastructure Deficit Plan, page 13 and welcome Priority 3, page 18 to enable 100% countywide access to superfast broadband - additional attempts should be made to secure funding and assistance in order to facilitate the arrival of countywide superfast broadband; especially in rural areas.
- generally is that Page 9 RD2 trunking the A605 is most important; and RD4 dualling the A45 is a must to at least Thrapston.
- The perception of the document everything stops at Rushden. Further reference needs to be made to the rest of East Northamptonshire. There is a need for greater recognition of the amount of growth within East Northamptonshire that has taken place, is the subject of current applications or future plans needs to be fully factored in.

Not relevant for the consultation response, but as a general point raised, it was also noted that within the Document, the vision extract from the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy was very town-specific. It was hoped that the current review of the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy could emulate this.

RESOLVED:

That the consultation response presented by the officers be approved, subject to the additional points listed above.

(Reason - to improve transport with East Northamptonshire and across the County)

363. ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT

The Committee received an update from the Planning Policy and Conservation Manager regarding the previously presented Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) put forward at the meeting of the Committee on 12 December 2011 (minute number 308).

At that meeting Members had identified correlation discrepancies in supplied figures and had requested these be checked and amended if required. It was noted that these amendments had since been made and that a further alteration had been identified by officers relating to a site referred to as "Raunds North (Additional Barwood's Land)".

Members were informed that following a meeting between officers and NNJPU a new approach had been adopted to ensure a consistent AMR approach across North Northamptonshire and changes were highlighted to members. A revised deliverable housing land supply figure of 4.12 years was provided to the meeting as a result of the changes

Members were also advised about 2 amendments to the report: paragraph 2.4 should read Raunds – 4 sites and paragraph 9.1 the AMR has yet to be submitted.

Members were given the opportunity to ask questions of the officers and were asked to note the changes and amendments made.

Following extensive discussion it was

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted, including the recommendation to leave out unallocated greenfield sites listed in Appendix 1.

364. FOUR TOWNS PLAN, NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS AND MASTERPLANS - UPDATE

The Planning Policy and Conservation Manager reported on the progress with the Four Towns Plan, as well as updates on progress with Neighbourhood Plans and Masterplans. Members noted that the North Northamptonshire Core Spatial Strategy was under review and consultants had started on the Level 2 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA), following completion of Level 1 in 2011. Members were advised that to assist with the ongoing work, two temporary Planning Policy posts had been filled. A verbal update to the report was given that these two officers would be joining the Council in February 2012. Members commented that these appointments would be of great assistance.

Members were updated on current progress; Irthlingborough's Masterplan work was ongoing, Oundle 2020 Group were making good progress on their town design statement which was at an early drafting stage and a meeting was due with Raunds to discuss their progress. Officers had also been out to Stanwick to discuss neighbourhood and parish plans. It was

RESOLVED:

That the progress report be noted, while members appreciated that this item would feature on future agendas.

(Reason - to provide an update on progress for the Four Town Plan and in addition, to provide Members with updates on Neighbourhood Plan and Masterplan work)

Chairman