

PLANNING POLICY COMMITTEE

Date: 19 March 2012

Venue: East Northamptonshire House, Cedar Drive, Thrapston

Time: 7.30pm

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

David Bateman Eloise Lucille
Pauline Bradberry Bob Nightingale
Glennil Greenwood-Smith David Read
Sylvia Hobbs Pam Whiting
David Jenney

436. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 January 2012 were approved and signed by the chairman.

437. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors Philip Hardcastle, Marian Hollomon and Steven North sent their apologies.

438. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND QUESTIONS

There were no declarations of interest and no questions.

439. NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE CORE SPATIAL STRATEGY, FOUR TOWNS PLAN, NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS AND MASTERPLANS UPDATE

The Committee considered a report from the Planning Policy and Conservation Manager which sought to provide members with an update on progress with the North Northamptonshire Core Spatial Strategy and Four Towns Plan and to request the convening of a new Four Towns Plan Working Party.

Members noted that progress was being made in a number of areas and in particular in terms of cross-cutting evidence based work being carried out with the North Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit (JPU) and with respect to East Northamptonshire Council's (ENC) own Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) work which was expected to be completed by Spring 2012. Members were also advised that a Senior Planning Policy Officer and a Planning Policy Officer commenced work during February in the two temporary planning policy posts that would be in place until the end of March 2014.

Members asked questions of the officers regarding the contents of the report. A request was made that a percentage system also be used on future updates to provide the committee with a clearer indication of estimated completion figures for the Four Towns Plan evidence base projects.

In addition, updates were provided to the committee regarding progress with Neighbourhood Plans and Masterplans. Members noted that the plans for Raunds and Oundle were progressing well and Irthlingborough was set for consultation in April. It was further noted that a first draft of a Neighbourhood Plan Toolkit had been completed, a move welcomed by members.

The report requested that members convene a new Four Towns Plan Working Party, ready for receipt of background papers for discussion. Members debated the format and remit of a potential Four Towns Working Party at length.

It was

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the contents of the report be noted.
- (2) That in lieu of creating an official Four Towns Working Party, members of the Planning Policy Committee meet in informal sessions following the conclusion of committee meetings to discuss relevant items regarding the Four Towns Plan, where appropriate.

(Reason – to seek a steer on key issues via Member input through an informal working party for the Four Towns Plan)

It was noted by members that meetings could also be held in-between Planning Policy Committees, if necessary. The initial meeting would consider Town Centre Boundaries and the agenda and any briefing notes for all meetings would be supplied 10 days before the meeting, rather than the usual 5 days for Planning Policy Committee.

Chairman