

# PLANNING POLICY COMMITTEE

**Date:** 18 June 2012

**Venue:** East Northamptonshire House, Cedar Drive, Thrapston

**Time:** 7.30pm

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

David Bateman  
Michael Finch  
Glenn Harwood mbe  
Sylvia Hobbs  
David Jenney

Eloise Lucille  
Bob Nightingale  
David Read  
Pam Whiting

## 47. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 March 2012 were approved and signed by the chairman.

## 48. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors Marian Hollomon, Sylvia Hughes, Gill Mercer and Steven North sent their apologies.

## 49. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND QUESTIONS

There were no declarations of interest and no questions.

## 50. 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, Four Towns Plan, Neighbourhood Plans, Masterplans and Community Plans.

Members noted that a significant amount of the Planning Policy Team workload was focused upon the emerging North Northamptonshire Core Strategy Review. The North Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit (JPU) propose to take some draft policies to the North Northamptonshire Joint Planning Committee (JPC) on 3 July 2012, in order to seek approval for informal consultation on them over the summer.

The Core Strategy Review is expected to include strategic policies to deliver the homes and jobs needed in the area. The Core Strategy Review may allocate specific strategic development sites or indicate broad locations for strategic development.

Members asked questions regarding the progress statistics provided as an appendix to the report, especially with regard to the Irthlingborough Masterplan and queried the nature and timescales surrounding the Neighbourhood Plan Toolkit.

It was

**RESOLVED:**

- (1) That the contents of the report be noted.
- (2) That Members support the redeployment of existing funding as proposed in the officer report.

*(Reason – to provide an update on progress and continue to make good progress with the Four Towns Plan)*

**51. NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE CORE STRATEGY REVIEW**

Members received a report from the Senior Planning Policy Officer which requested direction for the potential allocation of specific major development sites at Irthlingborough, Raunds, Rushden and Thrapston in the emerging North Northamptonshire Core Strategy Review.

It was noted that the North Northamptonshire JPU were leading the project and were proposing to take a draft Pre-Submission Core Strategy Review document to the North Northamptonshire JPC on 3 July 2012. It was further noted that the finished document would become the principal local planning document for the whole of North Northamptonshire.

Members specifically considered the following:

- Whether the explicit designation of Irthlingborough West as a strategic urban extension in the emerging Core Strategy Review should be endorsed, given that the current (2008) Core Strategy (Policy 9) implicitly provided direction to this effect.
- Whether any further potential strategic sites should be identified at Raunds, given the quantum of land already committed for development.
- Given the proposals to designate Rushden as a Growth Town through the emerging Core Strategy Review, where would be the best location for a future strategic urban extension
- Whether land east of the A605 Thrapston Bypass (north of Haldens Parkway) would be appropriate as a strategic employment site

Members discussed various aspects of the sites in question including disused iron ore mines under sites proposed at Irthlingborough, coalescence of Higham Ferrers and Rushden and the infrastructure needs of the areas in question.

It was

**RESOLVED:**

- (1) That designation of Irthlingborough West as a strategic land allocation (urban extension) be not endorsed at present, as Members wish to see the responses to the the Irthlingborough Masterplan Consultation ( expected back this Autumn), before making a decision on strategic site allocation for the town.

- (2) That there should be no designation of further specific strategic site allocations at Raunds.
- (3) That the following direction be provided as to the preferred location for a new strategic urban extension at Rushden;  
  
area RUS3 – for mixed use;  
  
with area RUS4 - for employment use, should any additional employment land need to be allocated; and  
  
area RUS7 retained as a green wedge.
- (4) That the allocation the allocation of land east of the A605 Thrapston Bypass (north of Haldens Parkway) be endorsed as a strategic employment site.

## **52. KINGS CLIFFE PROPOSED LOCAL NATURE RESERVE**

A report from the Planning Policy and Conservation Manager was provided to members which sought their approval for a 6-week public consultation to commence on the proposed Local Nature Reserve at King's Cliffe Meadow and the associated draft Management Plan.

Members noted that the 1.94 ha site at King's Cliffe, if designated, would be the third Local Nature Reserve (LNR) in the district after Kinewell Lake and Titchmarsh. The current use of the site is cattle grazing and no additional management of the site would be required after designation. Members noted that the site already had informal public access and the level of ENC input required to achieve designation would be minimal, with no requirement for financial outlay or alteration to the site.

It was

### **RESOLVED:**

That the Planning Policy Committee approve the public consultation.

*(Reason - to assist with implementing Policy 10 of the Rural North, Oundle, and Thrapston Plan; contribute to local and national biodiversity targets and provide partnership working opportunities with key stakeholders and the local community)*

**Chairman**