



East
Northamptonshire
Council

Planning Policy Committee – 22 July 2013

Planning Policy and Conservation Update

Purpose of report

The purpose of this report is to :

- Provide an update on progress on some of the key elements of the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy, Four Towns Plan; Neighbourhood Plans and other areas of planning policy and conservation work
- Seek approval for the release of funds from the Team's consultancy budget

Attachment(s)

Appendix 1 Local Plan Project Management

Appendix 2 Neighbourhood Planning and other projects – Project Management

1.0 Background

1.1 At Planning Policy Committee on 12 December 2011, members requested that progress on the Local Plan documents and other relevant policy documents be reported at subsequent committees. This report provides an update on these and some of the other areas of work that the Planning Policy and Conservation Team are involved in. Members should note that this is not an exhaustive list, but is provided to give a flavour of work in progress.

1.2 Members are reminded that the appendices are colour-coded to indicate broadly as follows:

red = working party or committee

yellow = Local Plan

green = Neighbourhood Plan, Supplementary Planning Documents e.g. Design Statements (Note: Neighbourhood Plans once adopted will form part of the Local Plan)

blue = all other work e.g. Monitoring/Research, Conservation etc.

2.0 Update

2.1 Local Plan (Appendix 1)

Work continues to progress on the Core Strategy and other Development Plan documents. From previous reports and discussions, members will be aware of the intrinsic links between the plans and members are reminded that they can view all items relating to the Joint Core Strategy and Joint Planning Committee via <http://www.nnjpu.org.uk/>

2.2 Core Strategy

The Interim Housing paper (considered at the Planning Policy Committee, 13 June 2013) is still to be considered by some of the respective committees of the other North Northamptonshire' Local Authorities. Once the paper has been agreed, the aim is to circulate this for wider consultation (estimated consultation period August/ September 2013). The JPU also aim to run a workshop session for town and parish councils during the consultation period).

2.3 Consultants BNP Paribas are currently undertaking a viability assessment of the emerging Core Strategy. Consideration is also being given to potentially updating the Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA), based on the 2011 census and new household projections. The SHMA provides information on housing markets, housing needs, past delivery of homes and projected requirements etc. The current SHMA (published August 2012) can be viewed at:

<http://www.nnjpu.org.uk/publications/docdetail.asp?docid=1261> with a summary at:
<http://www.nnjpu.org.uk/publications/docdetail.asp?docid=1260>

2.4 **Other Development Plan documents**

ENC officers have been working with the JPU on various papers and reports, including the strategic sites paper focusing on Rushden East and Nene Valley Farm, Rushden (refer to the separate committee report). In addition, Members shall note that various other papers are also complete and ready for Member review.

2.5 **Neighbourhood Plans and other projects (Appendix 2)**

As reported verbally at the last committee, Chelveston have confirmed that they wish to progress work on a Neighbourhood Plan. Meanwhile, Ounde Town Council are currently in the process of appointing consultants to assist them in preparing their Neighbourhood Plan. Rushden have now submitted an application for a Proposed Neighbourhood Plan Area (see separate agenda item). Work continues on the Community Infrastructure Levy; and the Rushden Transport Study is anticipated to be completed by August 2013, following the recent two stakeholder workshop sessions.

3.0 **Team Issues**

Members shall note that there have been a number of changes to staffing within the Team recently: these include the resignation of the Research and Monitoring Officer, who left the authority in June; the Design Officer now working in the Joint Planning Unit (whilst still employed by ENC); and one of the Team's planners being on long-term sick leave. The remaining officers within the Team are therefore currently covering extra work, in addition to their own workloads. To enable progress to continue to be made on plan preparation and associated work, Member's approval is therefore now being sought to release £20,000 funds from the Team's consultancy budget to enable certain projects to be completed by employing external consultants on a temporary basis. The key project to be completed through these means would be the Wind Energy Supplementary Planning Document, however subject to staff resources, this may extend to requiring support for specific work needed for the preparation of the Development Plan.

4.0 **Conclusion**

4.1 This progress report is provided for members' information and to seek approval for the use of the Team's consultancy budget to employ external consultants on a temporary basis.

5.0 **Equality and Diversity Implications**

5.1 There are no equality and diversity implications.

6.0 **Legal Implications**

6.1 The lack of an up-to-date plan would potentially result in more planning appeals, with associated potential costs for the Council.

7.0 **Risk Management**

7.1 Delays to the preparation of the Local Plan will result in the south of the District not having an up-to-date, robust detailed planning policy framework to defend against any unwanted development. However, the existing North Northamptonshire Core Spatial

Strategy (adopted June 2008) does provide a strategic policy framework for this area, and a small number of “saved” policies from the 1996 District Local Plan still remain in force.

8.0 Financial Implications

8.1 No additional costs - the Team already have a consultancy budget that would cover the proposal.

9.0 Corporate Outcomes

9.1 The relevant Corporate Outcomes are:

- Good quality of life: Regeneration and Economic Development, Sustainable Development, High quality built environment
- Strong strategic partnerships

10.0 Recommendation

10.1 Members note current progress and approve the release of funds from the Team’s consultancy budget.

(Reason – to provide an update on key aspects of work for Members’ information and to ensure that progress continues to be made on preparing the Development Plan and associated projects)

Legal	Power: Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, Localism Act 2011 Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended), The Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2008, Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012, Localism Act 2011				
	Other considerations: None				
Background Papers: Minutes of Planning Policy Committee, 12 December 2011					
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Date: 8/07/13					
CFO		MO		CX	

(Committee Report Normal Rev. 22)

APPENDIX 2 Neighbourhood Planning and other Projects - Project Management

		Jul-13	Aug-13	Sep-13	Oct-13	Nov-13	Dec-13	Jan-14	Feb-14	Mar-14
Neighbourhood Planning and other Projects										
NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS										
Oundle Neighbourhood Plan										
Preparation of the neighbourhood plan	10% complete									
Consultation on the plan	not started									
Examination	not started									
Referendum	not started									
Rushden Neighbourhood Plan										
Manage the Rushden Transport Study	75% complete									
Consultation on Proposed NP Boundary Area										
Preparation of the neighbourhood plan	in progress									
Consultation on the plan	not started									
Examination	not started									
Referendum	not started									
Higham Ferrers Neighbourhood Plan										
Preparation of the neighbourhood plan	10% complete									
Consultation on the plan	not started									
Examination	not started									
Referendum	not started									
Raunds Neighbourhood Plan										
Consideration by the Town Council on new boundary proposal	in progress									
Preparation of the neighbourhood plan	not started									
Consultation on the plan	not started									
Examination	not started									
Referendum	not started									
Chelveston Neighbourhood Plan										
Decide on and submit proposed NP Boundary Area	just starting									
Preparation of the neighbourhood plan	not started									
Consultation on the plan	not started									
Examination	not started									
Referendum	not started									
DESIGN STATEMENTS										
Oundle Town Design Statement										
Working with OTC and community	50% complete									
Pilton, Stoke Doyle and Wadenhoe Potential Village Design Statement										
To date supply of advice and information on VDS - awaiting PC decision to go ahead with VDS										
Assist preparation of VDS	not started									
Consultation	not started									
SURVEYS AND MONITORING										
Residential Surveys-annual monitoring report										
Carry out residential survey of District	100%complete									
Retail Surveys										
Carry out retail survey of District for 2013	not started									
Industrial/Commercial Surveys -annual monitoring report										
Carry out industrial and commercial surveys of District	started									
Retail/ Leisure Surveys-annual monitoring report										
Carry out leisure survey of District	started									
Monitoring Reports and Contextual Information										
Prepare monitoring data/report and information for 2012/13	10% complete									
CONSERVATION AREA WORK										
Islip Conservation Area -Designation										
Consult on plan and report back to PPC							PPC			
Article 4 Directions Review/Update										
Awaiting legal advice before progress can be made and timetable re-set	not started									
Review Programme of Conservation Area designations										
Review current programme	not started									
ICT Corporate Project: Web Refresh										
Team website pages being updated										
Planning Services Satisfaction Survey										
Preparing surveys, setting up ICT systems and analysing responses										
Rockingham Potential Local Development Order										
Investigating feasibility of LDO with CBC and NNDC										
King's Cliffe Meadow: Local Nature Reserve designation										
Some improvements to the site are required before Natural England will support the LNR designation. Bid has been submitted to seek grant funding to enable this to happen (partnered by NCC and Wildlife Trust).										

NB Assistance on Community Masterplans and Community Plans is being provided as requested e.g:
 Irthlingborough Masterplan
 King's Cliffe Community Plan
 Stanwick Community Plan
 Thrapston Community Plan
 Woodford Community Plan