



East
Northamptonshire
Council

Planning Policy Committee – 16 September 2013

North Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit – Urban Structure Study Consultation Draft

Purpose of report

The purpose of this report is to secure agreement for a formal East Northamptonshire Council response in respect of a consultation regarding the Urban Structure Study Consultation Draft (USS), currently being undertaken by the North Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit (JPU). The closing date for comments is **11 October 2013**.

Attachment(s)

Appendix 1: Urban Structure Study Consultation Draft

Appendix 2: Draft Consultation Response – Urban Structure Study

1.0 Background

- 1.1 In the week commencing 12 August 2013, North Northamptonshire JPU launched a non-statutory public consultation, regarding the Urban Structure Study Consultation Draft (USS) paper (**Appendix 1**). This updates the initial draft USS, published by the JPU last year.
- 1.2 To assist the process, the JPU has put together a series of questions (see below) in respect of the USS Consultation paper. This represents a further non-statutory consultation in support of the emerging North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy (JCS) review. The USS supports the [Updated Draft Background Paper on Strategic Housing and Employment Sites](#) (August 2013), providing an important consideration in assessing potential strategic development sites.

2.0 Urban Structure Study Consultation Draft – consultation questions

- 2.1 The initial draft USS was published last year, as a “work in progress”. The JPU has now finalised drafting the USS (Appendix 1) and is consulting upon the content. It is emphasised that the USS provides a critical evidence base for the selection of strategic development sites for the JCS review and will also be important in the site selection process for site specific development plan documents and/ or Neighbourhood Plans. Our views are sought, around the following questions:
 - a) *Are the vision and the guiding design principles set out in Chapter 1 appropriate for the towns in North Northamptonshire?*
 - b) *Is the methodology of the study appropriate or are there other techniques that should be used?*
 - c) *Is the study correct in its assessment of opportunities, constraints and spatial principles for each town?*
 - d) *Do you agree with the grading of sectors for growth around each town (based purely on potential for integration)?*
 - e) *Are the key issues identified for the potential strategic sites correct?*

2.2 A draft response to each of these questions has been prepared (**Appendix 2**). The draft comments relate to the methodology criteria, scope of the USS and overall scoring for Nene Valley Farm. Members are asked to consider these initial comments and expand upon or develop these as necessary.

3.0 Conclusion

3.1 The draft response (Appendix 2) has been prepared to enable Members to formulate a formal response to the USS Consultation Draft, in order that this may be formally adopted as a supporting evidence document for the emerging JCS review. Members are asked to review each of these responses and consider whether these are appropriate and/ or whether there are any further issues or concerns.

3.2 Representations must be submitted to the JPU, by 5pm on **Friday, 11 October 2013**. The JPU will then review and collate these and a summary report will then be presented to the North Northamptonshire Joint Planning Committee.

4.0 Equality and Diversity Implications

4.1 There are no equality and diversity implications arising from this report.

5.0 Legal Implications

5.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

6.0 Risk Management

6.1 There are no risks associated with this report.

7.0 Financial Implications

7.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

8.0 Corporate Outcomes

8.1 The relevant Corporate Outcomes are:

- Good quality of life: Sustainable development, Strong communities, High quality built environment
- Effective partnership working
- Strong community leadership

9.0 Recommendation

9.1 Members are requested to review and endorse the draft East Northamptonshire Council response (Appendix 2) to the Urban Structure Study Consultation Draft paper and/ or put forward any additional/ further comments that they may wish to make.

(Reason – to provide a formal Council response to the North Northamptonshire JPU's Urban Structure Study Consultation Draft paper that is currently out for consultation)

Legal	Power:				
	Other considerations: None				
Background Papers: Updated Draft Background Paper on Strategic Housing and Employment Sites (August 2013)					
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Date: 09 September 2013					
CFO		MO		CX	

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