



East
Northamptonshire
Council

Planning Policy Committee – 16 September 2013

North Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit – Strategic Housing and Employment Sites consultation response

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 Strategic Housing and Employment Sites (including Updated Draft Background Paper on Strategic Housing and Employment Sites) – the “Strategic sites paper” – currently being undertaken by the North Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit (JPU). The closing date for comments is **11 October 2013**.

Attachment(s)

Appendix 1: Strategic sites paper

Appendix 2: Draft Consultation Response – Strategic Housing and Employment Sites

1.0 Background

- 1.1 In the week commencing 12 August 2013, North Northamptonshire JPU launched a non-statutory public consultation, regarding the Strategic Housing and Employment Sites paper (**Appendix 1**) and supporting [Updated Draft Background Paper on Strategic Housing and Employment Sites](#) (August 2013).
- 1.2 To assist the process, the JPU has put together a series of questions (see below) in respect of the Strategic sites paper. This represents a further non-statutory consultation for the emerging North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy (JCS) review. It is supported by the updated draft Background Paper which explains how potential sites have been assessed.

2.0 Strategic sites paper and supporting Draft Background Paper – consultation questions

- 2.1 The Strategic sites paper (Appendix 1) sets out draft development principles for the additional proposed JCS strategic site allocations at Nene Valley Farm, Rushden, and Rushden East. The draft text was discussed at the previous Planning Policy Committee (22 July 2013) and the JPU made a number of changes to this in response to the Committee’s stated views.
- 2.2 The JPU is now seeking our views, around the following questions:
 - a) *Is the methodology for assessing strategic sites, explained in the updated Background Paper, appropriate? If not, what changes are required?*
 - b) *Are the traffic light scores for sites in the updated Background Paper appropriate and is the information contained in the paper up-to-date?*
 - c) *Having regard to the evidence in the updated Background Paper, are the strategic sites listed in table 1 (above) the most appropriate housing and employment sites to deliver sustainable development across North*

Northamptonshire alongside the existing committed sites? If not, please explain the reasons for this and identify any alternative sites that should be included in the JCS?

d) Do the key principles and draft policy address all of the key issues associated with the relevant strategic site?

e) Do you support the broad location for a sustainable urban extension at Rushden East as identified on the key diagram (see page 25 [Appendix 1b])?

2.3 A draft response to each of these questions has been prepared (**Appendix 2**). This predominantly emphasises the need to provide a clear and systematic evidence trail, between the site by site assessments and any decision to include or exclude individual sites from the 'Short List of Strategic Sites' in the Draft Background Paper. There may be a need to provide greater clarity as to how sites have been selected (a "final sites" list), in order to clearly demonstrate that the methodology has been consistently and methodically applied. 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 JPU's proposed strategic sites, especially Nene Valley Farm and Rushden East. 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
- Effective management

9.0 Recommendation

- 9.1 Members are requested to review and endorse the draft East Northamptonshire Council response (Appendix 2) to the Strategic Housing and Employment Sites 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 Strategic Housing and Employment Sites paper that is currently out for consultation)

Legal	Power: Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012				
	Other considerations: None				
Background Papers: Minutes of previous Planning Policy Committee (22 July 2013) Updated Draft Background Paper on Strategic Housing and Employment Sites (August 2013)					
Person Originating Report:		Michael Burton – Senior Planning Policy Officer Ext: 2221 mburton@east-northamptonshire.gov.uk			
Date: 09 September 2013					
CFO		MO		CX	

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