



East
Northamptonshire
Council

Planning Policy Committee – 16 December 2013

Rushden East Project Board

Purpose of report

To consider a request from Higham Ferrers Town Council for representation on the newly established Rushden East Project Board.

Attachment

Appendix 1 Letter from Higham Ferrers Town Council

1.0 Background

- 1.1 As Members are aware Rushden is proposed as a growth town in the emerging review of the North Northamptonshire Core Spatial Strategy and Rushden East is proposed as a Sustainable Urban Extension.
- 1.2 The Planning Policy Committee at its meeting on 21 October 2013 resolved to set up a Project Board to oversee the planning and implementation of Rushden East. At that time it was anticipated that the focus would be within the Rushden Town Council boundary. It was therefore agreed the Board would consist of 5 named ENC Members together with 2 Rushden Town Council Members and 1 Northamptonshire County Council Member. Letters have been sent to the Town and County Councils seeking those nominations.
- 1.3 A letter has now been received from Higham Ferrers Town Council which is attached as Appendix 1. In essence the Town Council are seeking two representatives on the Project Board in view of the close connection between the two towns and the likelihood of the development at Rushden East involving some land within their area. It should be noted that the recent neighbourhood plan consultation within Higham Ferrers indicated support for a higher level of development than previously anticipated and an appropriate location for this could be east of the A6 as part of Rushden East. An extension of the area for consideration for Rushden East across the boundary into Higham is seen as potentially important to assist with the potential accessibility and design of Rushden East.
- 1.4 There can be little doubt that Higham Ferrers would be significantly affected by the development of Rushden East and given the boundary between the two Town Council areas some development within Higham Ferrers is very likely. This also might help to overcome the outstanding objection to Rushden East from the Duchy of Lancaster which has development aspirations in the area. Some representation from Higham Ferrers on the Project Board would therefore be appropriate but given the need for a manageable size and the likely balance of development within the two areas one representative may be seen as sufficient. In the event of absence a substitute could attend.

2.0 Equality and Diversity Implications

- 2.1 There are no equality and diversity implications.

3.0 Legal Implications

- 3.1 At this stage there are no legal implications.

4.0 Risk Management

4.1 There are no risks at this stage.

5.0 Financial Implications

5.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

6.0 Corporate Outcomes

6.1 The relevant corporate outcomes are:

- Regeneration and Economic Development
- Sustainable Development
- Strong communities
- High quality built environment
- Strong strategic partnerships
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7.0 Recommendation

7.1 That one representative from Higham Ferrers Town Council be invited to join the Rushden East Project Board.

(Reason – to make progress on masterplanning Rushden East)

Legal	Power: Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 Localism Act 2011, Section 61G of The Town And Country Planning Act 1990				
	Other considerations: None				
Background Papers: N/A					
Person Originating Report:		David Reed (Head of Planning) Tel: 01832 742218			
Date: 3/12/13					
CFO		MO		CX	

Higham Ferrers Town Council

Sandra Mitcham BA(Hons)
FILCM
Town Clerk



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SUCCESSOR TOWN COUNCIL TO
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Mayor 2013-14: Councillor A Dunn

Mr D Reed
East Northamptonshire Council
Cedar Drive
Thrapston
Northants
NN14 4LZ

Date: 20th November 2013

Dear Mr Reed

Rushden East Board

I am writing to formally request that Higham Ferrers Town Council has two representatives on the Rushden East Board.

The Town Council support the development of Rushden East and were of the view that any development in this vicinity would breach the parish boundary. They were also under the impression that the two Town Councils would work together in a spirit of co-operation for the joint benefit of our area. Early indications from the Neighbourhood Plan consultation indicate that residents would prefer a higher level of growth for Higham Ferrers than specified in the current Core Strategy. This growth is 600 -750 dwellings and the preferred location is joined to Rushden East.

Irrespective of the possibility of higher growth for Higham Ferrers in this area, any development at Rushden East of the size proposed would have a significant impact on Higham Ferrers and its infrastructure. Councillors from our town consider it vital that Higham Ferrers has places on the Board so that the residents can be effectively represented.

I look forward to an early request to this request.

Yours sincerely,
SJ Mitcham

S Mitcham BA(Hons), FILCM
Town Clerk
cc. S Matthews



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