



East
Northamptonshire
Council

Planning Policy Committee – 17 March 2014

Planning Policy and Conservation Update

Purpose of report

The purpose of this report is to provide members with an update on work on the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy, Four Towns Plan; Neighbourhood Plans and some other key areas of work

Attachment(s)

Appendix 1 Local Plan Project Management
Appendix 2 Community Planning Project Management

1.0 Background

- 1.1 This report provides an update on some of the 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 some of the work being undertaken.

2.0 Update

2.1 Local Plan (Appendix 1)

Work continues on research, study and survey work for the emerging Core Strategy, whilst the outcome of Rushden Lakes is still awaited. Subject to the date of that outcome, it is hoped that consultation on a proposed submission draft will take place in July 2014. Current study and survey work includes, for example a workspace assessment; recreation impact study; cultural investment plan; sports facilities framework and transport study. Members may also recall that some overwintering bird survey work (Appropriate Assessment) was also being undertaken, particularly of relevance to the Rushden East and Nene Valley Farm areas. The results of this are anticipated shortly.

- 2.2 Members will also be well aware that the Core Strategy work directly relates to taking forward the work to prepare the Four Towns Plan and that the Council's Policy Planners are therefore actively involved in the Core Strategy preparation.

- 2.3 The Joint Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) was published on 20th February 2014 <http://www.nnipu.org.uk/publications/docdetail.asp?docid=1425> and Planning Policy at East Northamptonshire Council (ENC) have also prepared a separate Contextual Information report for the district – a recent Member Briefing highlighted this http://www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk/site/scripts/download_info.aspx?downloadID=1866

- 2.4 On 12 February 2014, Council held an Issues Debate, which agreed that the focus should be to continue to prepare a Four Towns Plan for the south of the district, rather than roll the Four Towns Plan into a new District Plan. A report is in preparation to seek officer resources, to enable progress to be made on the Plan, as the team still remains at 2 officers currently. A new Four Towns Plan Member Working Party is also yet to be agreed.

- 2.5 Members shall note that some dates have been highlighted in the appendix 1 project plan at this stage, however full timetabling for the Four Towns Plan work will be provided once staff resources have been agreed.

2.6 Community Planning (Appendix 2)

Members shall note that meetings have been held, at the request of Glapthorn and Stanwick Parish Councils, to discuss Neighbourhood Plans. Meanwhile, work continues for those who have already designated their Neighbourhood Plan boundary areas (6 Plans: Oundle, Rushden, Raunds, Barnwell, Chelveston and Higham Ferrers). To date officers have provided advice, attended various meetings and dealt with requests for information. Appendix 2 highlights stages when the Policy Team are required to undertake work through the set processes. However, as these areas of work are all community-led, timelines will be dependent upon their progress. As no community is near these stages yet, no dates have yet been confirmed with ENC and cannot therefore be programmed in at this stage.

2.7 Finally, one of the biggest areas of work currently for Planning Policy is the preparation of documentation ready for the Community Infrastructure Levy, in order to commence the consultation on the Draft Charging Schedule (due to start 14 March 2014).

3.0 Conclusion

3.1 The report is provided for information only.

4.0 Equality and Diversity Implications

4.1 There are no equality and diversity implications.

5.0 Legal Implications

5.1 None

6.0 Risk Management

6.1 None

7.0 Financial Implications

7.1 None

8.0 Corporate Outcomes

8.1 The relevant Corporate Outcomes are:

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

9.0 Recommendation

9.1 Members to note work.
(Reason – to provide an update for Members' information)

Legal	Power: N/A				
	Other considerations: None				
Background Papers:					
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Date: 10/3/14					
CFO		MO		CX	

(Committee Report Normal Rev. 22)

APPENDIX 2 Community Planning Project Management

		Mar-14	Ap - 14	May-14	Jun-14	Jul-14	Aug-14	Sep-14	Oct-14	Nov-14	Dec-14
NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS											
Oundle Neighbourhood Plan											
Consultation on the plan	not started										
Examination	not started										
Referendum	not started										
Rushden Neighbourhood Plan											
Consultation on the plan	not started										
Examination	not started										
Referendum	not started										
Higham Ferrers Neighbourhood Plan											
Consultation on the plan	not started										
Examination	not started										
Referendum	not started										
Raunds Neighbourhood Plan											
Consultation on the plan	not started										
Examination	not started										
Referendum	not started										
Chelveston Neighbourhood Plan											
Consultation on the plan	not started										
Examination	not started										
Referendum	not started										
Barnwell Neighbourhood Plan											
Consultation on the plan	not started										
Examination	not started										
Referendum	not started										
DESIGN STATEMENTS											
Oundle Town Design Statement											
Consultation on draft SPD	not started										
Adoption of final SPD	not started										
Pilton, Stoke Doyle and Wadenhoe Potential Village Design Statement											
To date supplied initial advice and information on VDS- awaiting PC decision on if going ahead with VDS											