



Planning Policy Committee – 21 July 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 policy work

Attachment(s)

Appendix 1 Local Plan Project Management

Appendix 2 Neighbourhood Plan and Village Design Statement 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)

Since the Planning Policy Committee (PPC) on 23 June 2014, the main focus has been on the preparation of policies for the Core Strategy. Members are reminded that the aim is to start consultation on a Pre-Submission Draft Core Strategy in October 2014.

- 2.2 Officers at East Northamptonshire Council (ENC) have been working very closely with other officers across North Northamptonshire and the Joint Planning Unit to prepare policies and background work. Certain policies are being developed which directly relate to East Northamptonshire and separate reports are being brought to this committee to consider some of those key issues, for example the vision and development objectives for Rushden East and principles for Deenethorpe.

- 2.3 Work and ENC officer input continues too on various background studies being undertaken through the JPU including, for example, a workspace assessment; cultural investment plan update; sports facilities framework; and transport modelling.

- 2.4 The first new Four Towns Working Party meeting will take place on 17 July 2014. Members are reminded that on 14 May 2014, Full Council agreed the membership as Cllrs Tony Boto, David Brackenbury, Richard Gell, Glenn Harwood MBE, Marika Hillson, Sylvia Hobbs, David Jenney, Andy Mercer, Gill Mercer, Bob Nightingale, Sarah Peacock, Anna Sauntson and Peter Wathen. It was agreed to appoint the Chairman and Vice-Chairman at the first meeting of the working party.

- 2.5 Now that the Rushden Lakes decision has been made (subject to the 24 July 2014 deadline for any Judicial Review of this decision) progress can be made with both the Core Strategy and Four Towns Plan.

- 2.6 Appendix 1 highlights some of the work that has been, is being or will need to be undertaken. To assist interpretation, tasks have been colour coded in the “Action” column with dark green being completed projects; light green being current or

forthcoming officer (or consultant) work; yellow being items for the Four Towns Working Party to consider in due course; pale orange for items that cannot be started yet as they need to await certain plan preparation stages to have been reached first.

2.7 Neighbourhood Plans and Village Design Statements (Appendix 2)

Members shall note that work continues for those who have already designated their Neighbourhood Plan boundary areas (6 Plans: Oundle, Rushden, Raunds, Barnwell, Chelveston and Higham Ferrers) and that in addition consultation over an extended 8 week period will be taking place for new boundary designations at Irthlingborough and Stanwick (see 23 June 2014 PPC). Officers continue to attend meetings, provide advice and information and prepare mapping etc. for Neighbourhood Plans. A guidance note is also being prepared by officers on the Habitats Regulations Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment requirements of Neighbourhood Planning to help provide information on this very technical aspect of planning. Natural England have also provided some guidance about the Special Protection Area. Appendix 2 highlights stages when the Policy Team are required to undertake work through the set processes of Neighbourhood Plans. As members will be aware, as these are community-led, timelines will be dependent upon their progress. Dates for the set stages will be added in as communities get closer to these stages. For information, progress on community-led Design Statements, which can be adopted by ENC as Supplementary Planning Documents, is also included in Appendix 2.

2.8 Other Work

Since the 23 June Planning Policy Committee, the planning policy professionals in the team remain at 2 officers, with the other existing Planning Policy Officer continuing a phased return to work. That should return to full time hours during August 2014. The other vacant Planning Policy Officer post should also be filled in August 2014. This will then bring the team back up to full force.

2.9 As well as the work highlighted above, the policy planners have been focussing on other areas of work, such as input to planning applications and appeals. Consultation on the Wind/Solar Energy SPD finishes on 7 July 2014 and a number of responses have already been received. Responses will all be reviewed after the deadline and brought back to the September PPC for consideration. An officer meeting on the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is also being held in July with Corby and Wellingborough officers to review comments in common.

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 Resource and Financial Implications

7.1 None. Staffing budgets have already been approved.

8.0 Constitutional Implications

8.1 No amendments to the Council's Constitution required.

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 to note work.

(Reason – to provide an update for Members' information)

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|--|--|-----------|--|
| Legal | Power: Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended); Localism Act 2011; The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 | | | | |
| | Other considerations: None | | | | |
| Background Papers: | | | | | |
| Person Originating Report: | | Karen Britton – Planning Policy and Conservation Manager Extn: 2142 kbritton@east-northamptonshire.gov.uk | | | |
| Date: 07/7/14 | | | | | |
| CFO | | MO | | CX | |

(Committee Report Normal Rev. 22)

APPENDIX 1 Local Plan Project Management (to end 2014)

| Project | Action | Jul-14 | Aug-14 | Sep-14 | Oct-14 | Nov-14 | Dec-14 |
|---|--|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Joint Core Strategy review work | see separate committee reports | | | | | | |
| Other Development Plan documents | | | | | | | |
| Spatial strategy | | | | | | | |
| Development of Spatial settlement strategy- prepare discussion paper | completed | | | | | | |
| Develop criteria for settlement boundary policy | complete (pending Member discussion) | | | | | | |
| Housing /Social Housing | | | | | | | |
| Review and update SHLAA sites and prepare SHLAA | completed | | | | | | |
| Update of Strategic Housing Market Assessment | considering updating re- 2011 census and other surveys | | | | | | |
| Prepare housing numbers distribution/site selection paper | complete (pending Member discussion) | | | | | | |
| Employment | | | | | | | |
| Employment Land Review- Stage 1 review existing sites | 80% complete | | | | | | |
| ELR Stage 2 Employment site assessment | not started | | | | | | |
| Town centres and retailing | | | | | | | |
| Prepare paper on methodology for town centre boundaries/retail frontages | 65% complete | | | | | | |
| Town centre boundary study-prepare | not started | | | | | | |
| Sustainability and Habitat Regulations (*timescales will run alongside the plan preparation) | | | | | | | |
| Sustainability Appraisal-Stage A scoping report | completed | | | | | | |
| Sustainability Appraisal-StageB develop and test policy options | 80% complete | | | | | | |
| Sustainability appraisal-Stage B appraisal of sites | not started | | | | | | |
| Sustainability Appraisal-Stage B-discuss site appraisals with WP/PPC | not started | | | | | | |
| sustainability Appraisal- Stage C prepare SA for pre submission plan | not started | | | | | | |
| Habitat Regulations Assessment-Stage 1 | completed | | | | | | |
| Habitat Regulations Assessment-Stage 2-evidence gathering | not started | | | | | | |
| Habitat Regulations Assessment-Stage 2-consultation on stage 2 | not started | | | | | | |
| Habitat Regulations Assessment-Stage 3-assessment of impacts | not started | | | | | | |
| Habitat Regulations Assessment -submission to NE | not started | | | | | | |
| Viability testing of policies | not started | | | | | | |
| Flood Risk | | | | | | | |
| Strategic flood Risk assessment -level 1 | completed | | | | | | |
| Strategic Flood Risk assessment level 2 | completed | | | | | | |
| Sequential testing /exception test of potential sites in zone 2/3 | not started | | | | | | |
| Update Flood Risk Management Strategy | completed | | | | | | |
| Natural Environment | | | | | | | |
| Landscape Sensitivity Studies for Wind and Solar | completed | | | | | | |
| Consultation on Energy and Solar SPD | due to commence 25 May for 6 weeks | | | | | | |
| Preliminary draft Open Space SPD (consult with CL) | completed | | | | | | |
| Built Environment | | | | | | | |
| Local listing-develop criteria and undertake survey update for 4TP area | completed | | | | | | |
| Consider Local listing criteria/call for sites | not started | | | | | | |
| Leisure | | | | | | | |
| Develop new leisure policies in line with business friendly approach | not started | | | | | | |
| Discuss policy approach with WP/PPC | not started | | | | | | |
| Transport | | | | | | | |
| Transport modelling of strategic sites (as Core Strategy above) | work ongoing | | | | | | |
| COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY (CIL) | | | | | | | |
| Prepare Draft Charging Schedule | completed | | | | | | |
| Consult on draft charging schedule | completed | | | | | | |
| Consider representations | started - send to Sept PPC | | | | | | |
| Submission & Prepare for Examination | not started | | | | | | |
| Prepare for Implementation | not started | | | | | | |
| Report to Council on Examination report | not started - anticipated early New Year | | | | | | |

APPENDIX 2 Neighbourhood Plans and Village Design Statements Project Management

| | Comments | Jul-14 | Aug-14 | Sep-14 | Oct-14 | Nov-14 | Dec-14 |
|--|---|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS | | | | | | | |
| Barnwell Neighbourhood Plan | | | | | | | |
| Consultation on the plan | not started | | | | | | |
| Examination | not started | | | | | | |
| Referendum | not started | | | | | | |
| Chelveston Neighbourhood Plan | | | | | | | |
| Consultation on the plan | not started hope to submit further draft plan information to ENC officers in Autumn 2014 | | | | | | |
| Examination | not started hope to be within next 12 months | | | | | | |
| Referendum | not started | | | | | | |
| Higham Ferrers Neighbourhood Plan | | | | | | | |
| Consultation on the plan | not started; consultant assisting them; just submitted Strategic Environmental Assessment/Habitats Regulation Assessment Screening Reports for officers to consider | | | | | | |
| Examination | not started; hope to submit for Examination around December 2014 | | | | | | |
| Referendum | not started | | | | | | |
| Irthlingborough Neighbourhood Plan | | | | | | | |
| Consultation on the plan | not started | | | | | | |
| Examination | not started | | | | | | |
| Referendum | not started | | | | | | |
| Oundle Neighbourhood Plan | | | | | | | |
| Consultation on the plan | not started; consultants assisting them; currently considering timetable with ENC officers | | | | | | |
| Examination | not started; hope to be within next 12 months | | | | | | |
| Referendum | not started | | | | | | |
| Raunds Neighbourhood Plan | | | | | | | |
| Consultation on the plan | not started; just appointed consultants to assist them | | | | | | |
| Examination | not started | | | | | | |
| Referendum | not started | | | | | | |
| Rushden Neighbourhood Plan | | | | | | | |
| Consultation on the plan | not started; consultant assisting them | | | | | | |
| Examination | not started | | | | | | |
| Referendum | not started | | | | | | |
| Stanwick Neighbourhood Plan | | | | | | | |
| Consultation on the plan | not started | | | | | | |
| Examination | not started | | | | | | |
| Referendum | not started | | | | | | |
| Nassington | | | | | | | |
| Presentation undertaken in June 2014 on Neighbourhood Planning at Parish Council's request | | | | | | | |
| VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENTS | | | | | | | |
| Oundle Town Design Statement | | | | | | | |
| TDS drafting in progress | no timeline given | | | | | | |
| Pilton, Stoke Doyle and Wadenhoe Potential Village Design Statement | | | | | | | |
| To date supplied initial advice and information on VDS | Working on TDS preparation | | | | | | |
| Tansor | | | | | | | |
| To date have requested information about VDS | | | | | | | |