



East
Northamptonshire
Council

Planning Policy Committee 29 September 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

Appendix 2 Joint Core Strategy timetable

Appendix 3 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 21 July 2014, the main focus has been on the preparation of policies for the Core Strategy. Members are reminded that the Core Strategy forms Part 1 of the Local Plan, while the Four Towns Plan will form Part 2 of the Local Plan. It is the aim to commence consultation on the Pre-submission Core Strategy in January 2015, following approval by the Joint Planning Committee. The current Joint Core Strategy timetable is attached at Appendix 2. The Core Strategy will provide the strategic policy framework for development within the District.

- 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 the policies and background evidence work for the Core Strategy. As Members are aware, certain policies in the Core Strategy are being developed which directly relate to East Northamptonshire, such as Rushden East and Deenethorpe. A separate report is being brought to this committee on Deenethorpe.

- 2.3 Work and ENC officer input also continues on various background studies being undertaken through the JPU including, for example the cultural investment plan update, strategic sports facilities framework update and transport modelling. It is currently anticipated that these pieces of work will be completed by October 2014.

- 2.4 Members will be aware that the first new Four Towns Working Party meeting on 17 July 2014 was postponed by the Leader, with a new date set for 8 October 2014. It was agreed to appoint the Chairman and Vice-Chairman at the first meeting. Consideration will also be given to the group's Terms of Reference and Members will be brought up to speed on the Local Plan and potential work streams.

- 2.5 Appendix 1 highlights some of the Local Plan work. 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.

2.6 Neighbourhood Plans and Village Design Statements (Appendix 3)

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 consultation over an extended 8 week period is due to complete on 15 September 2014 for new boundary designations at Irthlingborough and Stanwick, which will be reported to a future committee. Officers continue to attend meetings, provide advice and information and prepare mapping etc for Neighbourhood Plans.

2.7 A Neighbourhood Planning Forum was held on 1 September 2014 at East Northamptonshire Council for those actively preparing a Neighbourhood Plan. There were representatives present from all of the communities preparing a Neighbourhood Plan (a total of 19 people attended, excluding officers). The Forum discussed ideas and lessons learnt to date and highlighted progress with Plans. It is anticipated that the next Forum will look at writing visions, objectives and policy.

2.8 Toolkits have also now been produced by officers on Habitats Regulations Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment requirements of Neighbourhood Planning to help provide information on these very technical aspects. Natural England have approved and welcomed these Toolkits. They are now available on the Neighbourhood Planning webpage.

2.9 Appendix 3 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. Prior to the formal consultation stage being carried out by ENC, the Town/Parish Council are required to carry out an informal consultation with their community. Members shall see from the comments made on appendix 3 that some groups are now commencing that informal stage. For information, progress on community-led Design Statements, which can be adopted by ENC as Supplementary Planning Documents, is also included in Appendix 3.

2.10 Other Work

As well as the items highlighted above, the policy planners have been focussing on other areas of work. Consultation on the Wind and Solar Energy SPD closed on 7 July 2014 and a number of responses are being reported to this committee in a separate report. BNP Paribas are also reviewing the CIL responses relating to their work and an additional Planning Policy Committee meeting may be required in October to consider responses.

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 arising from this report

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 None

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 progress to date.

(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: | | | | |
| Background Papers: | | | | | |
| Person Originating Report: Karen Britton – Planning Policy and Conservation Manager Extn: 2142 kbritton@east-northamptonshire.gov.uk | | | | | |
| Date: 4.9.14 | | | | | |
| CFO | | MO | | CX | |

| APPENDIX 1 Local Plan Project Management (to end 2014) | | | | | | | |
|---|--|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--|
| Project | Action | | Sep-14 | Oct-14 | Nov-14 | Dec-14 | |
| Joint Core Strategy review work | | | | | | | |
| see appendices and 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) | | | | 4TPWP | | |
| 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) | | PPC | | | | |
| 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 | | | | | | |
| Wind and Solar Energy SPD | completed | | PPC | | | | |
| Preliminary draft Open Space SPD (consult with CIL) | completed | | | | | | |
| Heritage | | | | | | | |
| Local listing-develop criteria and undertake survey update for 4TP area | completed | | | | | | |
| Local Listing SPD preparation (consultant to be employed) | not started | | | | | | |
| Leisure | | | | | | | |
| Develop new leisure policies in line with business friendly approach | not started | | | | | | |
| Discuss policy approach with WP/PPC | not started | | | | 4TPWP | | |
| 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 | work ongoing | | | | | | |

Joint Core Strategy (JCS) Timetable September 2014

| Dates | Details |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| 2nd October 2014 | Joint Planning Committee (JPC) to endorse further sections of JCS and supporting evidence base |
| 3rd November 2014 | JPC to consider final draft JCS and Background papers |
| 18th December 2014 | JPC considers implications of Sustainability Appraisal and other appraisals and agrees Pre Submission JCS |
| 8th January 2015 | Consultation on Pre Submission JCS for 6 weeks (to 19 th February) |
| March 2015 | JCS submitted to Planning Inspectorate (PINS) |
| April-November 2015 | Examination period Includes Pre Hearing Meeting if required, Hearing sessions June 2015 and consultation on Main modifications |
| November 2015 | Inspectors Report for fact check |
| December 2015 | JPC to consider Inspectors Report and adopt JCS |

APPENDIX 3 Neighbourhood Plans and Village Design Statements Project Management

| | Comments | 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. The informal consultation stage started 1 August 2014 until mid Sept. 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; submitted Strategic Environmental Assessment/Habitats Regulation Assessment Screening Reports for officers to consider. Aim to start informal consultation in October 2014 | | | | |
| Examination | not started | | | | |
| 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; aim to start informal consultation stage in mid/late Sept. 2014 | | | | |
| 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 | aim to start informal consultation in the Autumn 2014; consultant assisting them | | | | |
| Examination | not started | | | | |
| Referendum | not started | | | | |
| Stanwick Neighbourhood Plan | | | | | |
| Consultation on the plan | not started, aiming to appoint consultants to help review evidence | | | | |
| Examination | not started | | | | |
| Referendum | not started | | | | |
| Nassington | | | | | |
| Presentation undertaken in June 2014 on Neighbourhood Planning at Parish Council's request | Have decided not to do a Neighbourhood Plan | | | | |
| VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENTS | | | | | |
| Oundle Town Design Statement | | | | | |
| TDS drafting in progress | draft TDS text submitted to officers for comment - feedback has been given back to the group | | | | |
| Pilton, Stoke Doyle and Wadenhoe Potential Village Design Statement | | | | | |
| To date supplied initial advice and information on VDS | Working on their TDS | | | | |
| Tansor | | | | | |
| To date have requested information about VDS | | | | | |