



East
Northamptonshire
Council

Planning Policy Committee 10 December 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 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) meeting on 29 September 2014, officers have been focussing on a number of areas of work, including finalising the Wind and Solar Energy Supplementary Planning Document and accompanying statutory documents; assisting with the preparation of policies and evidence for the Pre-Submission Core Strategy; preparing data and reports for the Annual Monitoring Report; investigating issues concerning the Community Infrastructure Levy; and working with Neighbourhood Plan Groups. It should be highlighted that it is still currently anticipated that the Pre-Submission Core Strategy will commence consultation in January 2015, subject to approval being given by the Joint Planning Committee in December 2014.

- 2.2 Work is ongoing on the Four Towns Plan preparation and at the time of writing, a Member Working Party is due to take place on 25 November. This will include a workshop to consider "vision and objectives" and a paper on the proposed topic areas that the plan will cover.
- 2.3 Work is also ongoing on Rushden East and the Project Board is expected to review a final draft Landscape Character Appraisal of the area at the forthcoming meeting in December. The Planning Policy and Conservation Team are also just finalising consultant briefs, tender and contractual details for an employment study and a transport and movement study for the area, which will be project managed by the Team, with input from relevant agencies and organisations.
- 2.4 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. Within the timescale columns, where work is taking place it is blocked out in orange. For the New Year, the intention is to re-align this work programme to reflect the programme that is being followed for the Four Towns Plan. Dates beyond 2014 are therefore not shown within Appendix 1. This will be discussed with the Four Towns Plan Working Party, prior to presentation at the next Planning Policy Committee.

2.5 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 separate reports are being presented to this committee for new boundary designations at Irthlingborough and Stanwick, and a proposed revision for consultation regarding the existing Chelveston Neighbourhood Plan boundary.

2.6 It is proposed to hold the next Neighbourhood Planning Forum early in the New Year, where it is intended the main focus will be on how to prepare visions, objectives and policies, as there are now a number of groups seeking more guidance on these.

2.7 Appendix 2 highlights when the Planning Policy Officers 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 that some groups are now making good progress towards the formal 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.

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:					
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Date: 19.11.14					
CFO		MO		CX	

APPENDIX 1 Local Plan Project Management (to end 2014)				
Project	Action		Nov-14	Dec-14
Joint Core Strategy review work				
Pre - Submission Plan anticipated to be consulted upon starting in January 2015, subject to Joint Planning Committee' approval.				JPC
Other Development Plan documents				
Spatial strategy				
Development of Spatial settlement strategy- prepare discussion paper	completed			
Develop criteria for settlement boundary policy	complete (pending 4TPWP discussion)			
Housing /Social Housing				
Review and update SHLAA sites and prepare SHLAA	completed			
Update of Strategic Housing Market Assessment: SHMA Section 5 and the Housing Requirements Toolkit has been updated	completed			
Prepare housing numbers distribution/site selection paper	complete (pending 4TPWP discussion)			
Employment				
Employment Land Review- Stage 1 review existing sites	85% 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			
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	not started			
Transport				
Transport modelling of strategic sites (for Core Strategy)	work ongoing			
COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY (CIL) (see separate committee report)				
Prepare Draft Charging Schedule	completed			
Consult on draft charging schedule	completed			
Consider representations	completed			
Preliminary draft s106 Developer Contributions SPD (consult with CIL)	completed			

