



East  
Northamptonshire  
Council

## Planning Policy Committee 26 January 2015

### 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 Four Towns Plan Progress

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 is 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

Since the Planning Policy Committee (PPC) on 10 December 2014, officers have been focussing on the preparation of policies and evidence for the Pre-Submission Joint Core Strategy; preparing data and reports for the Annual Monitoring Report; investigating issues concerning the Community Infrastructure Levy; undertaking consultant tenders for study work on Rushden East; and working with Neighbourhood Plan Groups.

- 2.2 The Pre-Submission Joint Core Strategy was approved at the Joint Planning Committee on 18 December 2014 for consultation and it is anticipated that this will commence in late January 2015. Members may wish to view the current approved Core Strategy timeline, which is presented in the separate Local Development Scheme committee report being considered by this committee. Work is ongoing on the Four Towns Plan preparation, which included a Member Working Party held on 25 November 2014. This involved a workshop, facilitated by Heather Lounds and Julie Tanner of OPUN, to consider and discuss a "vision and objectives" for the Four Towns Plan.

- 2.3 Members should also note for information that the Government has just announced their intention to set new regulations for Neighbourhood Plans, which they hope to have in place by the end of January 2015. It is anticipated that this will require Councils to confirm new Neighbourhood Area boundaries within an 8 week period of publicising they have received an application from a Parish (where the proposed boundary follows an existing parish boundary). The consultation period for the proposed Neighbourhood Area will also be reduced down from 6 to 4 weeks. More details about this and the anticipated implications for East Northamptonshire Council will be reported to committee, once the full details of the new regulations have been published.

- 2.4 Appendix 1 highlights some of the key areas of work on the Four Towns Plan. Members should note that this content may be amended throughout the process of plan preparation. The intention is to consider and discuss the different sections and issues relating to the Plan at forthcoming Four Towns Plan Working Party Meetings. This table will therefore be updated and added to as work is discussed and/or carried out and will be presented back to each Planning Policy Committee to provide a progress update. Work on the Core Strategy will also be reported at future meetings.

## **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 (8 Plans: Barnwell, Chelveston, Higham Ferrers, Irthlingborough, Oundle, Rushden, Raunds and Stanwick. Consultation on a revised Chelveston Neighbourhood Area boundary ends on 16 February 2015.

2.6 The next Neighbourhood Planning Forum will take place on Thursday 12 February 2015. Those invited consist of the Groups already preparing Neighbourhood Plans within the District and any area that have advised the Planning Policy and Conservation Team that they are currently actively considering potentially progressing one. In this respect, invitations have been extended to King's Cliffe Parish Council and Wakerley Parish Meeting who have requested meetings with officers in January and February 2015 respectively. Members may be interested to note that Wakerley are currently considering a potential cross-boundary Neighbourhood Plan with Barrowden Parish Council (Rutland), therefore the invitation has been extended to Rutland and Barrowden representatives.

2.7 Appendix 2 highlights when the Planning Policy and Conservation Team are required to undertake work through the set processes of Neighbourhood Plans. As members will be aware, as the Plans are community-led, timelines will be dependent upon their progress. Dates for set stages will be added in as communities get closer to these stages.

2.8 Prior to the formal consultation stage being carried out by ENC, the relevant Town/Parish Councils are required to lead the process of continuous engagement – including informal consultation – with their respective communities. Members will see from the comments made in Appendix 2 that some groups are now making good progress. Higham Ferrers have also now discussed key work timescales with officers and officers have confirmed Higham's estimated programme of formal stages i.e. to ensure that proposed dates are realistic for plan-making and the referendum.

2.9 For information, progress on community-led Design Statements is the preferred approach for certain Town/ Parish Councils/ Parish Meetings (details in Appendix 2). These may then be adopted by ENC as Supplementary Planning Documents.

## **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
- Effective processes: Strong strategic partnerships, community leadership and management

## 10.0 Recommendation

10.1 Members to note progress to date.

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

<b>Legal</b>	Power: Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended); Localism Act 2011; The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012				
	Other considerations:				
<b>Background Papers:</b>					
<b>Person Originating Report:</b> Karen Britton – Planning Policy and Conservation Manager Extn: 2142 <a href="mailto:kbritton@east-northamptonshire.gov.uk">kbritton@east-northamptonshire.gov.uk</a>					
<b>Date:</b> 07.01.15					
<b>CFO</b>		<b>MO</b>		<b>CX</b>	

# Appendix 1 Four Towns Plan Progress

**Key:** 4TPWP = Four Towns Plan Working Party

T.B.C = To be confirmed

Proposed sections			
Sections	Sub-sections	Anticipated for consideration when ? <i>(dates relate to 4TPWP)</i>	Notes
Introduction		T.B.C	Prepared towards end of process
Plan Vision and Outcomes		4TPWP Workshop November 2014 & January 2015 4TPWP to confirm	Workshop held in Nov.14, 4TPWP Jan.15 to approve Vision and Objectives
	Context for Neighbourhood Planning	T.B.C	Preparation ongoing throughout the plan preparation – to be finalised towards end of process
	Duty to Cooperate	T.B.C	Preparation ongoing throughout the plan preparation – to be finalised towards end of process
Spatial development strategy	Settlement-specific spatial development strategy	January 2015	In preparation
	Settlement boundaries	January 2015	In preparation
Environment (historic/ built)	Town centre regeneration	Keep under review	Keep under review to consider if required in 4TP, as Neighbourhood Plans are taking this forward
	Replacement dwellings in the open countryside	February 2015	In preparation
Environment (green infrastructure – specific proposals)	Designation of local green spaces (i.e. locations for new public open space, allotments, Local Nature Reserves etc)	February 2015	In preparation
	Protection of existing green spaces/ important open spaces	February 2015	In preparation

	Implementation of Green Infrastructure Delivery Plan (GIDP)	February 2015	In preparation
Sustainable (Strategic) Urban Extensions (SUEs)	Rushden East	March/April 2015	Not started
Site Allocations	As required	March 2015	Not started
Social issues – housing	Gypsy and traveller provision	March 2015	Not started
Town centres and retail	Town centre boundaries (defined town centres and primary shopping areas)	February 2015	In preparation
	Town centre car parking	January 2015	Officers have further considered this issue and will discuss at 4TPWP
	District/local/ neighbourhood centres	February 2015	Not started
Economic development	Tourism	March 2015	In preparation
	Existing Employment Areas	March 2015	In preparation
	Potential Employment Areas	Keep under review	Keep under review to see what is required
<b>TECHNICAL WORK</b>		Dates T.B.C in line with work above	The work below will be programmed in, as and when they are required in due course
Viability testing			
Soundness tests			
Legal Compliance			
Sustainability Appraisal (SA)			
Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA)/ Appropriate Assessment			
Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA)			

**APPENDIX 2 Neighbourhood Plans and Village Design Statements Project Management**

	Comments	Jan-15	Feb-15	Mar-15	Apr-15	May-15	Jun-15	Jul-15	Aug-15	Sep-15	Oct-15	Nov-15	Dec-15
<b>NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS</b>													
<b>Barnwell Neighbourhood Plan</b>													
Consultation on the plan	not started												
Examination	not started												
Referendum	not started												
<b>Chelveston Neighbourhood Plan</b>													
Consultation on the plan	not started; they have undertaken some informal consultation (1 August 2014 until mid Sept 2014). SEA/HRA Screening Reports done.												
Examination	not started hope to be within next 12 months												
Referendum	not started												
<b>Higham Ferrers Neighbourhood Plan</b>													
Consultation on the plan	not started; consultant assisting them; SEA/HRA Screening Reports done. NPIERS (Neighbourhood Planning Independent Examiner Referral Service) pre-submission health check carried out.												
Examination	not started												
Referendum	not started												
<b>Irthlingborough Neighbourhood Plan</b>													
Consultation on the plan	not started												
Examination	not started												
Referendum	not started												
<b>Oundle Neighbourhood Plan</b>													
Consultation on the plan	not started; consultants assisting them; draft plan in preparation												
Examination	not started; hope to be within next 12 months												
Referendum	not started												
<b>Raunds Neighbourhood Plan</b>													
Consultation on the plan	not started; consultants currently preparing draft plan												
Examination	not started												
Referendum	not started												
<b>Rushden Neighbourhood Plan</b>													
Consultation on the plan	not started; a number of working groups have now been set up to consider different issues; draft plan in preparation; consultant assisting them												
Examination	not started												
Referendum	not started												
<b>Stanwick Neighbourhood Plan</b>													
Consultation on the plan	not started; consultant appointed to help review evidence base												
Examination	not started												
Referendum	not started												
<b>Nassington</b>													
Presentation undertaken in June 2014 on Neighbourhood Planning at Parish Council's request	Have decided not to do a Neighbourhood Plan												
<b>VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENTS</b>													
<b>Oundle Town Design Statement</b>													
TDS drafting in progress	draft TDS text submitted to officers for comment - feedback has been given back to the group												
<b>Pilton, Stoke Doyle and Wadenhoe Potential Village Design Statement</b>													
To date supplied initial advice and information on VDS	Working on a TDS												
<b>Tansor</b>													
To date have requested information about VDS													

Note re-this table: "Consultation on the plan" where it states "not started" relates to the "Regulation 16 Consultation" (i.e. the final statutory consultation regarding the submission draft Neighbourhood Plan)