



East
Northamptonshire
Council

Planning Policy Committee 20 July 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 work being undertaken by the Planning Policy and Conservation team.

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 about the key areas of work for which the Planning Policy and Conservation Team has involvement. Members should note that this is not an exhaustive list, but is provided to give a flavour of some of the work being undertaken. It should also be noted that more detailed updates regarding the Four Towns Plan are provided to Four Towns Party Working Party meetings.

2.0 Local Plan Update

2.1 Local Plan Part 1 (North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy)

At the last Planning Policy Committee meeting (**23 February 2015**), Members discussed the Pre-Submission Draft North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy (JCS) 2011-2031. At the time, the JCS was subject to statutory consultation, in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012, Regulations 19 and 20.

- 2.2 The Regulation 19/20 consultation ended on 9 March 2015. Following this, North Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit (JPU) officers, assisted by the Planning Policy team, reviewed representations received through the Regulation 19/20 consultation.

- 2.3 The JPU collated all of the representations received during the 26 January – 9 March 2015 Regulation 19/20 consultation. These were used to prepare a set of “Focused Changes” to the Pre-Submission Draft JCS. The JCS “Focused Changes” were agreed by the North Northamptonshire Joint Planning Committee (JPC) on 4 June 2015. These JCS Focused Changes are now subject to a second round of consultation under Regulations 19/20; closing date **27 July 2015**.

- 2.4 Shortly after the close of the Focused Changes consultation (end of July/ early August 2015), it is intended that the JCS be submitted to the Secretary of State for examination in accordance with the North Northamptonshire Joint Committee Local Development Scheme (LDS) Timetable Update¹ (April 2015). Examination hearing sessions are expected to take place during autumn 2015, with the Planning Inspector’s report received early in 2016 and anticipated adoption of the JCS during spring 2016.

¹ <http://www.nnjpu.org.uk/docs/LDS%20Update%20April%202015.pdf>

2.5 **Local Plan Part 2 (Four Towns Plan)**

The Four Towns Plan Working Party has met on three occasions since the last Planning Policy Committee meeting (23 February 2015). Details about current progress with the Four Towns Plan and key areas of ongoing work are set out in **Appendix 1**. Members should note that this content may be amended throughout the process of plan preparation. The intention is to continue the process of discussing individual sections and/ or issues relating to the Plan through the Four Towns Plan Working Party. 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.

2.6 It must be emphasised that the ongoing priority for the Planning Policy team is the preparation of the Local Plan. This is both through providing support to the JPU in respect of the emerging JCS (Local Plan Part 1) as and when necessary and directly leading preparation of the Four Towns Plan (Local Plan Part 2).

3.0 **Neighbourhood planning update**

3.1 Since the last meeting of the Planning Policy Committee, significant progress has been made across the District in preparing Neighbourhood Plans. Members should note the following developments in neighbourhood planning during 2015; full details are provided in **Appendix 2**:

- Four new Neighbourhood Areas have been formally designated – Brigstock, Barrowden and Wakerley (Barrowden parish is within Rutland), Deene and Deenethorpe, and King's Cliffe, bringing to 12 the total number of designated Neighbourhood Areas;
- On 8 April 2015, the Full Council approved a revision to the designated Neighbourhood Area for Chelveston cum Caldecott, together with delegated powers for the Head of Planning Services to approve future Neighbourhood Areas;
- Publication of Pre-Submission draft Neighbourhood Plans for Chelveston cum Caldecott and Higham Ferrers, followed by six week consultations in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, Regulation 14;
- Submission of the Higham Ferrers Neighbourhood Plan to East Northamptonshire Council for examination on 11 June 2015 (see Agenda Item 7).

3.2 Members should note that the current progress with Neighbourhood Plans, especially in the case of Chelveston cum Caldecott and Higham Ferrers (where formal draft Neighbourhood Plans have been published), will have implications for the Four Towns Plan. Members should note that the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) directs that: "*Local planning authorities should avoid duplicating planning processes for non-strategic policies where a neighbourhood plan is in preparation*" (paragraph 185). In other words, it is critical that the processes for preparing Neighbourhood Plans and the Four Towns Plan are integrated as far as possible.

4.0 **Village Design Statements**

4.1 Some Parish Councils have decided that preparing Neighbourhood Plan is not the most appropriate approach for them. Pilton, Stoke Doyle and Wadenhoe Parish Council decided in 2013 to produce a Village Design Statement (VDS) for the three villages covering the whole of the Parish Area.

4.2 Pilton, Stoke Doyle and Wadenhoe Parish Council submitted a draft VDS to East Northamptonshire Council in April 2015. Members are being asked to approve this document for consultation, with a view to adopting it as a Supplementary Planning Document (see Agenda Item 6). Full details of other emerging/ proposed Town/ Village Design Statements are set out in **Appendix 2**.

6.0 Conclusion

6.1 This report is presented for information to Members, to explain recent progress in the preparation of the Four Towns Plan, Neighbourhood Plans and Town/ Village Design Statements. It is presented for information only, with no policy decisions required.

7.0 Equality and Diversity Implications

7.1 There are no equality and diversity implications arising from this report.

8.0 Legal Implications

8.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

7.0 Risk Management

7.1 There are no significant risks arising from this report.

8.0 Resource and Financial Implications

8.1 There are no resource or financial implications arising from this report.

9.0 Constitutional Implications

9.1 There are no constitutional implications arising from this report.

10.0 Corporate Outcomes

10.1 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.

11.0 Recommendation

11.1 Members are asked to note the current progress to date with the Local Plan, Neighbourhood Plans and Town/ Village Design Statements.

(Reason – to keep Members informed as to current progress with plan making)

Legal	Power: Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 Town & Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended)				
	Other considerations: None				
Background Papers:	North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy 2011-2031 Focused Changes (June 2015) Chelveston cum Caldecott Neighbourhood Plan Consultation Version (January 2015) Higham Ferrers Neighbourhood Plan submission documents (June 2015) Draft Pilton, Stoke Doyle & Wadenhoe Village Design Statement (April 2015)				
Person Originating Report:	Michael Burton, Senior Planning Policy Officer ☎ 01832 742221 ✉ mburton@east-northamptonshire.gov.uk				
Date: 13 July 2015					
CFO		MO		CX	

Agenda Item 8, 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		July 2015	Workshop held in Nov 2014 4TPWP Jan 2015 considered workshop notes and draft text for Vision and Objectives March 2015 confirm final draft vision/objectives July 2015 – Draft Plan area portrait/ V&O text to be incorporated into FTP template
	Context for Neighbourhood Planning	August 2015	Preparation ongoing throughout the plan preparation – to be finalised towards end of process August 2015 – Draft text to be incorporated into FTP template
	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	July 2015	4TPWP agreed draft settlement hierarchy January 2015 Draft text brought back to 4TPWP, March 2015 July 2015 – Draft spatial strategy text to be incorporated into FTP template
	Settlement boundaries & criteria	June/ July 2015	4TPWP agreed settlement hierarchy and criteria approach January 2015 Work in preparation – verbal update given at February 2015 Bring back draft boundaries (towns and larger villages) to March 2015 for discussion

Proposed sections			
Sections	Sub-sections	Anticipated for consideration when? <i>(dates relate to 4TPWP)</i>	Notes
			<p>April 2015 – 4TPWP agreed approach for smaller villages (Chelveston, Hargrave, Newton Bromswold)</p> <p>June 2015 – Draft settlement boundaries for Hargrave/ Newton Bromswold TBD</p> <p>July 2015 – Draft policies/ text re settlement boundaries to be incorporated into FTP template</p>
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; i.e. are site specific policies required for specific town centre sites?
	Conversion of Rural Buildings	July 2015	<p>Discussed February 2015. Amended to take on board 4TPWP comments</p> <p>July 2015 – Draft policy/ text to be incorporated into FTP template</p>
	Replacement dwellings in the open countryside	July 2015	<p>Discussed February 2015. Amended to take on board 4TPWP comments</p> <p>July 2015 – Draft policy/ text to be incorporated into FTP template</p>
	Local List of Heritage Assets	August 2015	<p>April 2015 – Draft policy text agreed by 4TPWP</p> <p>August 2015 – Draft policy/ text to be incorporated into FTP template</p>
Environment (green infrastructure – specific proposals)	Designate new category – Local Green Space	September/ October 2015	<p>Discussed February 2015. Members approved officer's suggested approach – to ask Town/Parish Councils to put forward sites for consideration</p> <p>March 2015 – 12 week consultation, inviting Town/ Parish Councils/ Meetings to nominate "Local Green Spaces" (closing date 19 June 2015)</p> <p>September/ October 2015 – Details of Local Green Spaces presented to 4TPWP for</p>

Proposed sections			
Sections	Sub-sections	Anticipated for consideration when? <i>(dates relate to 4TPWP)</i>	Notes
			consideration
	Protection of existing open space, sports and recreational open spaces	September 2015	Update given to Members Feb 2015 Tender has been sent out to prospective consultants with appointment expected mid April 2015 Findings of first part of consultants report to be considered by 4TPWP in Sept 2015
	Implementation of Green Infrastructure Delivery Plan (GIDP)/ promote key green space designations e.g. new Local Nature Reserves etc)	August 2015	Updated Members Feb 2015. Bring initial draft Environment Chapter text to 4TPWP August 2015 (as far as work has got by then)
Sustainable (Strategic) Urban Extensions (SUEs)	Rushden East	August/ September 2015	Not started (note: current consultants' work may influence this timescale)
Social issues – housing	Housing requirements	June 2015	June 2015 – 4TPWP to consider outstanding housing requirements for the urban and rural areas, and whether further site allocations are needed
	Gypsy and traveller provision	September 2015	Not started – consider whether site allocations are needed, within the context of the emerging JCS Examination
Town centres and retail	Town centre boundaries (defined town centres boundaries, primary shopping areas and primary and secondary shopping frontages)	August/ September 2015	Discussed February 2015 Site visits currently taking place, background paper to be written after evidence collected. Awaiting finalised monitoring data/ mapping – to be reported back August/ September 2015
	Town centre car parking	January 2015	Agreed at Jan 2015 4TPWP that this issue should be taken forward by Neighbourhood Plans, unless a very strategic need came

Proposed sections			
Sections	Sub-sections	Anticipated for consideration when? <i>(dates relate to 4TPWP)</i>	Notes
			forward during the plan making process, as this is a more local issue
	Local centres (Rushden, Ringstead, Stanwick)	September 2015	In preparation, to be brought to 4TPWP, September 2015 (dependent upon outcome of town centre boundaries work)
Economic development	Tourism	June/ July 2015	Draft policy text considered by 4TPWP, March 2015 June 2015 – Revised policy text to be considered by 4TPWP July 2015 – Draft policies/ text to be incorporated into FTP template
	Existing Employment Areas	August/ September 2015	In preparation – this will also link to the work to be undertaken by consultants for Rushden East, so will be brought back as that progresses further – consultants to be appointed early March 2015
	Potential Employment Areas	Keep under review	Consider whether further site allocations are needed within the context of Rushden East and the outstanding housing/ employment requirements. NB – Bedford Borough Council has raised concerns about over-provision of employment land through Pre-Submission Draft JCS consultation – issue for future potential employment land allocations?
TECHNICAL WORK		Dates T.B.C in line with work above	Work below to be programmed in, as and when required
Viability testing		T.B.C	Prepared towards end of process, once most of the bulk of the draft text/ policies is in place
Soundness tests		T.B.C	Prepared towards end of process, once most of the bulk of the draft text/ policies is in place
Legal Compliance		T.B.C	Checklist, prepared at end of process prior to submission of 4TP
Sustainability Appraisal (SA)		T.B.C	Prepared towards end of process, once most of the bulk of the draft text/ policies is in place

Proposed sections			
Sections	Sub-sections	Anticipated for consideration when? <i>(dates relate to 4TPWP)</i>	Notes
Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA)/ Appropriate Assessment		T.B.C	Prepared towards end of process, once most of the bulk of the draft text/ policies is in place
Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA)		T.B.C	Prepared towards end of process, once most of the bulk of the draft text/ policies is in place

Agenda Item 8, Appendix 2 - Neighbourhood Plans and Village Design Statements Project Management

Comments (as at June 2015)	Jan-15	Feb-15	Mar-15	Apr-15	May-15	Jun-15	Jul-15	Aug-15	Sep-15	Oct-15	Nov-15	Dec-15
NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS												
Barnwell Neighbourhood Plan												
Neighbourhood Area application and designation												
Consultation on the plan							21/07/2015					
Examination												
Referendum												
Barrowden and Wakerley Neighbourhood Plan												
Neighbourhood Area application and designation	25/01/2015				27/04/2015							
Consultation on the plan												
Examination												
Referendum												
Brigstock Neighbourhood Plan												
Neighbourhood Area application and designation		24/02/2015	03/05/2015		11/05/2015							
Consultation on the plan												
Examination												
Referendum												
Chelveston cum Caldecott Neighbourhood Plan												
Neighbourhood Area application and designation					08/04/2015							
Consultation on the plan	23/01/2015		09/03/2015									
Examination												
Referendum												
Deene and Deenethorpe Neighbourhood Plan												
Neighbourhood Area application and designation			23/03/2015		18/05/2015							
Consultation on the plan												
Examination												
Referendum												
Higham Ferrers Neighbourhood Plan												
Neighbourhood Area application and designation			23/03/2015		18/05/2015							
Consultation on the plan												
Examination												
Referendum												
Irthlingborough Neighbourhood Plan												
Neighbourhood Area application and designation												
Consultation on the plan												
Examination												
Referendum												
King's Cliffe Neighbourhood Plan												
Neighbourhood Area application and designation		12/02/2015		15/04/2015		19/06/2015						
Consultation on the plan												
Examination												
Referendum												
Oundle Neighbourhood Plan												
Neighbourhood Area application and designation												
Consultation on the plan												
Examination												
Referendum												
Raunds Neighbourhood Plan												
Neighbourhood Area application and designation												
Consultation on the plan												
Examination												
Referendum												
Rushden Neighbourhood Plan												
Neighbourhood Area application and designation												
Consultation on the plan												
Examination												
Referendum												
Stanwick Neighbourhood Plan												
Neighbourhood Area application and designation												
Consultation on the plan												
Examination												
Referendum												
Other possible Neighbourhood Plans												
Denford												
Glapthorn												
VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENTS												
Oundle Town Design Statement												
TDS drafting in progress, in parallel with Neighbourhood Planning												
Pilton, Stoke Doyle and Wadenhoe Potential Village Design Statement												
Initial advice and information on VDS												
Consultation on draft VDS												
Adoption of VDS as supplementary planning document												
Tansor												
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)