



## Planning Policy Committee – 23 April 2018

### Revision to the Local Development Scheme 2018-2021

#### Purpose of report

To agree a revision to the Local Development Scheme for East Northamptonshire District.

#### Attachment

Appendix 1 East Northamptonshire District LDS Revision Timetable 2018 – 2021

Appendix 2 East Northamptonshire District LDS Revision 2018 – 2021

#### 1.0 Background

- 1.1 Following the resolution of Council on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2016 to produce a single District-wide Local Plan, to provide plan coverage up to 2031, officers have reported progress and issues arising to Committee on a regular basis.
- 1.2 The setting out of key milestones for taking forward the Local Plan was agreed by Committee at its meeting of 20<sup>th</sup> February 2017. This essentially set out the purpose, scope and project plan for the District-Wide Local Plan in the form of a revised Local Development Scheme (LDS); this was subsequently published on the Council's website. A LDS is required under Section 15 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011).
- 1.3 Officers provided a comprehensive progress update on the Local Plan at the meeting of the Committee held on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2017. That report made clear that further revisions would be required to ensure that the LDS accurately reflected the timetable for its preparation. It also set out why the Local Plan timetable would require revision.

#### 2.0 Local Plan Position

- 2.1 Following on from the Regulation 18 consultation early in 2017 the key stages of work undertaken can be reported as follows:

##### Local Plan Workshops:

A series of workshops have been undertaken with ward councillors, town and parish councils to better inform the key topic areas of the Plan and to inform issues relating to the 6 town centres of Rushden, Higham Ferrers, Irthlingborough, Raunds, Thrapston and Oundle, as well as the rural parishes. Headline issues from these workshops were presented to the Planning Policy Committee on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2018.

##### Evidence Base:

Work has been commissioned to undertake an Employment Land Assessment to inform current employment provision.

Additional work to inform green infrastructure planning and flood risk assessment has also commenced. Plan viability will also need to be undertaken in due course.

##### Statutory Consultees:

Ongoing meetings are taking place with statutory consultees to inform plan requirements.

Resourcing:

The Planning Policy Officer post, which has been vacant since July 2017, has now been filled, the officer commenced in April and will provide key assistance in progressing the Plan to adoption.

2.2 In addition to the above, work is also ongoing in respect of assessing housing allocation delivery, to ensure that the Local Plan Part 2 delivers the requisite housing targets set out in the Part 1 Plan.

2.3 The Oundle Neighbourhood Plan is progressing alongside the Local Plan, and proposes to make strategic housing site requirements that meet the outstanding requirements for Oundle (calculated at just under 300 houses when current planning permissions and completions are taken into account; this includes an element of the outstanding housing allocations contained in the Rural North, Oundle and Thrapston Local Plan).

### 3.0 The Local Development Scheme

3.1 As indicated above, the current LDS was published in February 2017. The LDS must be made publically available on the Council's website and is required to be kept up to date to enable local communities and interested parties to keep track of progress.

3.2 Revisions are required to the LDS to ensure it provides an up to date timetable indicating the major milestones for taking the Local Plan through to adoption. The revisions to the Local Plan are set out in the detailed timetable set out in Appendix 1 to this report, together with additional narrative required to accompany the LDS (Appendix 2). A summary table is shown below:

Stage	Timescale
Formal Commencement/Consultation on the scope of the Part 2 Local Plan/Call For Sites, including Issues/Options Consultation (Regulation 18)	Undertaken January- March 2017
Pre-submission consultation	April/May 2019
Submission of Plan to Secretary of State	June 2019
Examination of Plan	November 2019
Modifications to the Plan	January/February 2020
Receipt of Inspectors Report	April 2020
Adoption of Plan	June 2020

3.3 In summary, the key changes relate to the Plan's submission, examination and adoption dates. Pre-submission consultation on the draft plan would take place in 2019, which would ensure that the Plan provides a sound strategy for delivering future allocation requirements, including ensuring housing requirements for Oundle are met.

3.4 At present local elections are scheduled to take place in May 2019, for that reason the pre-submission consultation is indicated as taking place straight after any potential elections in May, with the examination taking place in November 2019.

3.5 This LDS therefore sets out the timetable for the production of documents that will form the District Wide Local Plan over the next three year period (April 2018 to March 2021) and supersedes the Council's previous LDS published in February 2017. It will be subject to review, linked to the Joint Authority Annual Monitoring Report.

3.6 It is intended that the Local Plan will be supported by a number of Supplementary Planning Documents, whilst these documents are not Local Plan documents and for which inclusion within the LDS is not required, these documents give context to their relationship with the Local Plan, and are therefore included within the revised LDS.

#### **4.0 Equality and Diversity Implications**

4.1 The production of a Local Plan document requires a comprehensive analysis of its policies to assess any impact on issues of equality

#### **5.0 Legal Implications**

5.1 The LDS is subject to legislative requirements set out in the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and The Localism Act 2011(as amended).

#### **6.0 Risk Management**

6.1 The main risk is in providing a Plan that is appropriately resourced and satisfies the tests for examination, namely that it has been positively prepared, is justified, effective and consistent with national policy.

6.2 However, there are no immediate risks arising from the proposed recommendations in this report. Risk Management is built into the project plan for the Local Plan and progress against the LDS will be monitored on an annual basis through the Joint Annual Monitoring Review.

#### **7.0 Resource and Financial Implications**

7.1 Local Plan Documents are resource intensive and take around 2-3 years to reach adoption. The main costs associated with preparation are the evidence base and the examination process, in particular to ensure the tests for examination outlined in paragraph 6.1 are met to ensure a sound plan.

7.2 Sufficient resourcing will be required to ensure these elements of the plan are properly resourced. In particular, resourcing of the examination costs will need to be met in the financial year 2019/20 if the report is agreed as recommended.

7.3 Resourcing of the evidence base will largely be provided through existing revenue budgets. However, resourcing of the Plan after submission, particularly meeting the costs of contracting the Planning Inspectorate to undertake an examination are not currently identified through the medium term financial strategy.

#### **8.0 Constitutional Implications**

8.1 None arising from this report.

#### **9.0 Customer Service Implications**

9.1 The adoption of a Local Plan would ensure a clear policy steer for assessing future planning applications that impact on communities. It would provide up to date and robust planning policy guidance for all of the District's communities and considerably reduce the risk of uncertainty and future costs borne through planning appeals based on out-of-date policy.

#### **10.0 Corporate Outcomes**

10.1 The preparation of a Local Plan is a comprehensive project, and is anticipated to have an impact on most of the Corporate Plan outcomes, but in particular as follows:

- Good Quality of Life – for example through policies relating to design
- Effective Partnership Working – Local plan preparation involves close partnership working with a wide variety of stakeholders to inform the evidence base.
- Effective Management – Fulfilling legal requirements and maximising the effectiveness of the planning service.

## 11.0 Recommendation

- 11.1 The Committee is recommended to agree the revised timetable to the preparation of the District Wide Local Plan as set out in detail as Appendix 1 to this report.

*(Reason – To inform the legislative requirements, which are to be included in the revised Local Development Scheme)*

<b>Legal</b>	Power: Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012				
	Other considerations: National Planning Policy Framework				
<b>Background Papers:</b> None					
<b>Person Originating Report:</b> Richard Palmer Planning Policy and Conservation Manager ☎ 01832 742142 ✉ rpalmer@east-northamptonshire.gov.uk					
<b>Date:</b> 5/4/2018					
<b>CFO</b>		<b>MO</b>		<b>CX</b>	



## **Appendix 2:**

# **East Northamptonshire District Local Development Scheme February 2018- 2021**

### **1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 A Local Development Scheme (LDS) is required under Section 15 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (as amended by the Localism Act 2011). The LDS provides a project plan which identifies those development plan documents which, when prepared, will make up the Local Plan for the area. It must be made publically available and regularly reviewed (which is undertaken through the Joint Annual Monitoring Report). It will enable the public and stakeholders to find out about planning policies in their area, the status of policies and the details of and timescales for producing the relevant documents.
- 1.2 The LDS covers a 3 year period from April 2018 to April 2021, which will be subject to annual review, as indicated above.
- 1.3 This LDS specifies:
- Those documents to be prepared over the 3 year period from the date it comes into effect and which of those documents will form part of the development plan
  - The subject matter and geographical area to which each development plan document relates
  - The timetable for the preparation and revision of the development plan documents
  - Resource and management arrangements
  - How monitoring and review of the LDS will occur
- 1.4 Development Plan Documents must be prepared in accordance with the LDS.

### **2.0 Statutory planning context and additional documents**

- 2.1 A number of planning documents are already in place which provide policy guidance for the Council in determining planning applications. These form the existing adopted development plan for East Northamptonshire. As they are already adopted they do not form part of the formal schedule set out in this LDS. However, they are included below in order to provide a comprehensive

position of the planning policy documents which apply in East Northamptonshire District.

#### North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy (JCS) (2011-2031)

- 2.2 The JCS was adopted in July 2016. It was prepared by the North Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit on behalf of, and with input from, East Northamptonshire Council, together with Corby Borough, Kettering Borough and Wellingborough Councils, representing the administrative areas that the document provides strategic policy direction for. The JCS will inform the content for the Local Development Plan documents for East Northamptonshire District.

#### East Northamptonshire District Local Plan (1996) – Saved Policies

- 2.3 This Plan was originally adopted in 1996 to cover the period up to 2006. However, a number of its policies were saved by Direction of the Secretary of State in 2007, with the adoption of the RNOT plan (see below) and JCS only a small number of policies are extant, all of which will be superseded following the adoption of the District Wide Local Plan Part 2, which is subject to this LDS.

#### Rural North, Oundle and Thrapston Local Plan (RNOT) (2011)

- 2.4 The RNOT Plan was adopted in July 2011, providing policy direction at a local level for the northern part of the District. Whilst a number of its policies remain in force, the progression of the District Wide Local Plan Part 2 will eventually replace any remaining policies in the RNOT Plan upon its adoption.

#### Higham Ferrers Neighbourhood Plan (2016)

- 2.5 The Higham Ferrers Neighbourhood Plan was made in April 2016, and now forms part of the statutory development plan for the parish of Higham Ferrers.

#### Supplementary Planning Documents

- 2.6 There is a range of emerging and adopted supplementary planning documents that amplify adopted plan policy. Those that are currently intended to be taken forward as part of the Local Plan programme as set out in section 4 of this LDS.

#### Neighbourhood Plans

- 2.7 The Council supports the development of Neighbourhood Plans, which upon “being made” form part of the development plan for the District. As at December 2016 the following milestones have been achieved:

## Made Plans

- *Higham Ferrers*
- *Chelveston cum Caldecott*
- *Stanwick*
- *Raunds*

## Submitted Plans

- *Glaphorn*
- *Brigstock*
- *Rushden*

## Area Designated

- *Barnwell*
- *Barrowden and Wakerley*
- *Collyweston*
- *Duddington with Fineshade*
- *Irthlingborough*
- *King's Cliffe*
- *Oundle*
- *Ringstead*
- *Warmington*

- 2.8 The progress of Neighbourhood Plans is updated regularly on the Council's website:  
[www.eastnorthamptonshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/9755/table\\_of\\_neighbourhood\\_plans\\_progress](http://www.eastnorthamptonshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/9755/table_of_neighbourhood_plans_progress)

## Statement of Community Involvement

- 2.9 The North Northamptonshire planning authorities prepared a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) to help set out how interested parties can get involved and will be consulted in the preparation of plans and planning applications.
- 2.10 The North Northamptonshire Joint Planning Committee adopted the Statement of Community Involvement in relation to jointly prepared documents on the 14<sup>th</sup> November 2013; this Council adopted the SCI on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2013, with some minor amendments. The SCI is currently being reviewed and will be subject to consultation later in 2018.

### Authorities Monitoring Report

- 2.11 To ensure that plans and policies are effective, an annual authorities monitoring report is produced to record progress on implementing the development plan policies and objectives. A joint authorities monitoring report is published by the Joint Planning Unit on behalf of each of the constituent planning authorities of North Northamptonshire.

### Strategic Environmental Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal

- 2.12 All development plan documents are subject to the requirements of undertaking a Sustainability Appraisal, this is a mandatory requirement imposed by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. It is also necessary to conduct an environmental assessment in accordance with the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (European Directive 2001/42/EC). The requirements to carry out SA and SEA are distinct, although it is possible to satisfy both using a single appraisal process. The aim of the process is to appraise the social, environmental and economic effects of the plan strategies and policies and to ensure that they accord with the objectives of sustainable development
- 2.13 The SA, incorporating the SEA, will be undertaken as an integral part of preparing local plans and will help arrangements for monitoring and implementation.

### Adopted Policies Map

- 2.14 A map of East Northamptonshire District which illustrates geographically the application of the policies in the adopted Development Plan.

## **3.0 The Local Development Scheme: Programme Plan**

- 3.1 East Northamptonshire District Council proposes to adopt the following key document within the period covered by this LDS:
- East Northamptonshire District Wide Local Plan Part 2
- 3.2 The programme for preparing the East Northamptonshire District Wide Local Plan Part 2 is set out in the schedule below, whilst an overview of the timetable for preparing the Development Plan Document is provided through the LDS timeline in Table 1.

- 3.3 The Council is expected to progress the preparation of the Development Plan Document in accordance with the schedule. Progress on meeting the programme will be reported annually to through the Joint Annual Monitoring Report. If significant changes occur the LDS will be reviewed.
- 3.4 Following the adoption of the East Northamptonshire District Wide Local Plan Part 2, the Development Plan for East Northamptonshire District will comprise of the following documents:
- North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy Local Plan Part 1 – adopted July 2016
  - Any Neighbourhood Plans that have been “made”.
  - Northamptonshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan – adopted October 2014

#### **4.0 Supplementary Planning Documents**

- 4.1 The following supplementary planning documents (SPDs) will supplement the development plan document listed in paragraph 3.1:
- Housing Mix
  - Developer Contributions
  - Sustainable Design
  - Ecosystems Services
- 4.2 The Housing Mix and Developer Contributions SPDs will be produced by the District Council. Whilst work on producing the remaining two SPDs will be coordinated by the Joint Planning Unit and provide coverage across the whole of the North Northamptonshire area.
- 4.3 In addition to the above further SPDs may be required and this position will be kept under review. Currently adopted SPDs which are already used in decision making are listed separately on the Council’s website:
- [www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk/spd](http://www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk/spd)

<b>Schedule 1 – East Northamptonshire District Wide Local Plan Part 2</b>	
Purpose and Subject Matter	To set out site specific allocations for the District, including residential and employment uses. To set out clear local policy direction, standards and criteria against which to assess proposals for future development As an example of policy content it will include boundaries of town centres, historic conservation, design and nature conservation
Geographical Area	East Northamptonshire District
Status	Development Plan Document
Chain of Conformity	It must be in conformity with the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy and the National Planning Policy Framework
Duty to Cooperate implications	Will require cooperation with all adjoining Local Authorities and other key stakeholders listed in the Town and Country planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012
Time Period	Up to 2031
Review Timescale	Annually as part of the Joint Monitoring Report
Management Arrangements	Planning Policy and Conservation Manager overseen by Head of Planning Services
Reporting Arrangements	Head of Planning Services in consultation with the Chair (and/or Vice Chair) of the Planning Policy Committee, together with reports taken to the Planning Policy Committee
Resources Required	Planning Policy team, input from other Council services, neighbouring authorities, consultees, Programme Officer and Planning Inspectorate
<b>Timetable for Production and Conformity with Regulations</b>	
Commencement of Preparation/ Consultation on the scope of the Local Plan Part 2 / Call for Sites (Regulation 18)	January – March 2017
Publication of Draft Plan and Consultation (Regulation 19)	May – June 2019
Submission (Regulation 22)	June 2019
Examination (Regulation 24)	November 2019
Possible modifications to the Plan	January/February 2020
Receipt of Inspector's Report	April 2020
Adoption (Regulation 26)	May 2020