



Planning Policy Committee - 1 April 2019

Draft East Northamptonshire Local Plan Part 2 - Responses to representations and policy implications - Economic Prosperity, Introduction and Area Portrait

Purpose of report

This report considers the policy implications arising from the representations submitted on the draft Local Plan in respect of the opening chapters 1-2, which includes the Introduction/Context and Area Portrait, along with chapter 6, Economic Prosperity. It proposes whether or not additional changes will be required to the draft Plan and where additional evidence is required to address any issue arising.

Attachments:

Appendix 1: Recommended responses to the draft Local Plan representations. These are available through the following link -

https://www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/949/planning_policy_committee

1.0 Background

1.1 The council is currently progressing its Local Plan Part 2, which aims to provide more detailed local planning policy guidance, to support the strategic policy direction set out in the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy (adopted in July 2016 – with a plan period up to 2031) and to provide for the outstanding strategic allocations set out in that Plan. The draft East Northamptonshire Local Plan Part 2 was approved for public consultation from 2nd November 2018 to 17th December 2018, though an extension of time was subsequently agreed to allow additional representation to be submitted in respect of the Oundle site assessment evidence.

2.0 Draft East Northamptonshire Local Plan Part 2 Representations

2.1 A report to the Planning Policy Committee on 11th March 2019 provided the committee with the representations received from the natural and social capital chapters of the Plan, along with the town strategies chapter.

2.2 This report follows the same format, with the intention of providing officers with a clear steer in respect of policy direction for the pre submission plan, providing implications of the submitted representations including whether changes are required to the draft plan before it can be prepared for pre submission.

2.3 Officers have prepared responses to representations raised in respect of the following chapters of the draft Plan:

- Introduction, Area Portrait
- Economic Prosperity

2.4 As with the recent Local Plan reports brought to the Planning Policy Committee a hyperlink is provided, to enable access to a spreadsheet containing the proposed officer responses to the representations submitted in respect of the sections of the Plan identified above.

2.5 In summary, potential outcomes are considered in terms of three categories:

- No further changes required
- Proposed changes to text and/or policies
- Additional evidence required to determine whether amendments are required to address the representation.

3.0 Next Steps

3.1 This meeting provides the opportunity for Members of the Planning Policy Committee to agree where further changes are required to the text of the draft plan, to allow further work to be undertaken by officers in preparing the Plan for pre submission. Upcoming meetings of the Committee will consider the implications of the remaining sections of the Plan.

3.2 Agreement of the actions proposed will allow officers to revise the text/policies of the draft Local Plan, taking into account the completed set of evidence based documents. The revisions will be consolidated into a 'Pre-submission' version of the Local Plan Part 2 which, following approval by the Planning Policy Committee, will be subject to a statutory six week consultation period in advance of formal submission to the Planning Inspectorate for Examination.

4.0 Equality and Diversity Implications

4.1 The preparation of the Local Plan Part 2 document requires a full Equality Impact Assessment. This is particularly important in relation to the required consultation processes for the draft Local Plan. This will be reported to the Planning Policy Committee on 29th April 2019.

5.0 Privacy Impact Implications

5.1 No detailed issues arising at this time. All representations submitted by private individuals to the draft Local Plan Part 2 consultation process have been redacted for publication on the East Northamptonshire Council website to ensure that personal information is not published with the representations made.

6.0 Legal Implications

6.1 The publication of an agreed Local Development Scheme (the project management plan for preparing the district-wide Local Plan Part 2 document) is a legal requirement under the planning legislation (including the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, the Localism Act 2011 (as amended) and the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012). This is available on the East Northamptonshire Council website.

7.0 Risk Management

7.1 The main risks in preparing the district-wide Local Plan Part 2 are:

- Maintaining progress to ensure that key stages are met to enable the Local Plan to proceed as soon as possible to examination and adoption. This will be mitigated by weekly project management and reporting procedures.
- Ensuring the availability of sufficient resources to enable the Local Plan preparation process to proceed efficiently. Sufficient staff resources are available.
- Ensuring that the Local Plan satisfies the tests for examination, namely that it has been positively prepared, is justified, is effective, and is consistent with national policy.

7.2 The main risks of failing to prepare the district-wide Local Plan Part 2 in a timely manner are:

- The lack of an agreed local planning policy framework for determining development proposals and for demonstrating the council's five year housing land supply could lead to a risk of unwanted development.
- Development being allowed on appeal on sites that the council and communities have not agreed. This also brings the potential of costs being awarded against the council with regard to planning appeals and public inquiries.
- Poorer outcomes from future planning applications that fail to deliver local policy guidance and aspiration.
- A lack of up to date planning policy for the East Northamptonshire area in the transition to potential unitary local government for North Northamptonshire.

8.0 Resource and Financial Implications

8.1 In addition to existing staff costs, the main costs in the preparation of a district-wide Local Plan Part 2 relate to the completion of the evidence base and funding the independent examination process, which is undertaken by the Planning Inspectorate, supported by a programme officer.

8.2 The cost of producing the evidence base is covered by existing budgets. Provision of approximately £75,000-£100,000 will need to be made in 2019/20 for the cost of the Examination process. This has been factored into the MTFP as presented to Council on 4/3/19.

9.0 Constitutional Implications

9.1 None arising from this report.

10.0 Implications for our Customers

10.1 The adoption of a district-wide Local Plan Part 2 will ensure that the council, and its successor council, will have a clear and up-to-date statutory planning policy framework to inform decisions on planning applications which take into account the needs of local communities, particularly in respect of availability of housing, employment, jobs, and community infrastructure.

11.0 Corporate Outcomes

11.1 The preparation of a District-wide Local Plan Part 2 will, in particular, deliver the following Corporate Plan outcomes:

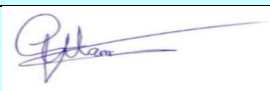
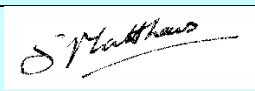
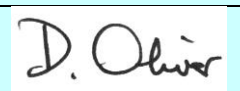
- Good Quality of Life: Maintenance or improvement of healthy and safe lifestyles through sustainable development via policies relating to landscape, green infrastructure, and design.
- Effective Partnership Working: District-wide Local Plan Part 2 preparation involves close partnership working with a wide variety of stakeholders to inform the evidence base.
- Effective Management: Fulfilling legal requirements and maximising the effectiveness of the planning service.

12.0 Recommendation

12.1 The Committee is recommended to:

- 1) Approve the actions recommended in respect of the following sections of the Plan – Introduction, Area Portrait, and Economic Prosperity, thereby allowing, where necessary, further work to be undertaken to ensure that the draft Local Plan is properly prepared to allow a pre-submission draft to be considered for public consultation.

(Reason – to provide a clear steer to Councillors on the issues that need to be addressed to ensure the preparation of a pre-submission plan that meets legislative requirements and provides clear policy guidance).

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| Legal | Power: Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012; Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004; Localism Act 2011(as amended). | | | | |
| | Other considerations: National Planning Policy Framework | | | | |
| Background Papers: None | | | | | |
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| Date: 19/03/2019 | | | | | |
| CFO 21/03/19 |  | MO 20/03/19 |  | CX 20/03/19 |  |