



Planning Policy Committee 29 April 2019

Neighbourhood Planning – Update report

Purpose of report

To inform Members of the latest position with various Neighbourhood Plans for the District.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 Since the 2011 Localism Act and Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) were implemented a significant number of Town/ Parish Councils across the District have taken up the opportunity of Neighbourhood Planning. To date, 17 Neighbourhood Areas have been designated across the District.
- 1.2 Of these, seven Neighbourhood Plans (Chelveston cum Caldecott, Higham Ferrers, Raunds, Stanwick, Rushden, Glapthorn and Brigstock) have now been “made” (adopted) and form part of the statutory development plan for the District.
- 1.3 Further Neighbourhood Plans are currently progressing for King’s Cliffe, Warmington, Wakerley (a joint Plan with Barrowden, in Rutland) and Oundle. The latest situation with each of these is discussed below.

2.0 Regulation 16 consultation – King’s Cliffe Neighbourhood Plan submission version

- 2.1 On 19th March 2019, King’s Cliffe Parish Council formally submitted the draft King’s Cliffe Neighbourhood Development Plan to East Northamptonshire Council for Examination. The Neighbourhood Plan was initially published for consultation by the Parish Council in July 2017, but there was significant further work needed in order to ensure that the Plan was robust and defensible prior to submission.
- 2.2 Alongside the draft Neighbourhood Plan, the Parish Council also submitted a suite of other documents, in accordance with Regulation 15 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended). These include the Basic Conditions Statement and Consultation Statement, Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA), Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) screening opinions.
- 2.3 On 27th March 2019, East Northamptonshire Council wrote to the Parish Council to confirm that the submission documents fulfil the relevant statutory requirements.
- 2.4 Submission of the draft Neighbourhood Plan requires us to carry out a 6-week consultation under Regulation 16, on behalf of King’s Cliffe Parish Council. This consultation is currently under way, running from 18th April to 3rd June 2019, inclusive.
- 2.5 The next stage will be for the Council to appoint an independent Examiner, to assess the draft Neighbourhood Plan against the five “basic conditions”; the tests that a Plan needs to fulfil.

3.0 Oundle Neighbourhood Plan

- 3.1 The anticipated timetable for preparing the Oundle Neighbourhood Plan is likely to be closely aligned to that for the Local Plan Part 2, approved by the Planning Policy Committee on 1st April 2019 (Item 5). Preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan

commenced in 2012, but the process has been subject to a number of delays and challenges over time.

- 3.2 The 1st draft (Regulation 14) version of the Oundle Neighbourhood Plan was published for consultation between 9th April and 21st May 2018, inclusive.
- 3.3 This Council responded to that consultation advising there were significant concerns about the overall spatial direction of the Plan and some of the detailed policy content. Basic requirements for a Neighbourhood Plan are that it must be evidenced and that it does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with, EU Regulations. To meet these conditions with regard to a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), a Neighbourhood Planning group needs to prepare a screening opinion, to demonstrate why an SEA is not required. In this case, no screening assessment was published to support the Oundle Neighbourhood Plan and the Plan (at Regulation 14 consultation stage) therefore failed to meet this requirement.
- 3.4 Officers have previously advised that the Regulation 14 consultation should be re-run in light of the SEA requirements. Recent meetings with the Neighbourhood Plan steering group indicate that outstanding work is progressing and that a revised Neighbourhood Plan is anticipated to be submitted in the coming weeks.

4.0 Other emerging Neighbourhood Plans

- 4.1 The first (Regulation 14) draft of the **Warmington Neighbourhood Plan** was subject to consultation from 25th January to 8th March 2019 inclusive. This Council responded by advising, in general terms, that the Plan provided a good range of local policies to manage development at the local (Parish) level, giving a clear and consistent local voice. In addition, detailed specific comments for the Parish Council and Neighbourhood Planning group were raised to be taken on board in progressing to the next stage in the process. This included the need to make policies more positively worded and the need for a reassessment of the current Local Plan (Rural North, Oundle and Thrapston Plan) settlement boundary, if the Plan is to retain a linear boundary.
- 4.2 The submission draft of the **Barrowden and Wakerley Neighbourhood Plan** was subject to Regulation 16 consultation by Rutland County Council between 14th January and 25th February 2019. It is now progressing to examination. This Council has given advice throughout the process to date and this has been taken into account.
- 4.3 Further details about progress with other Neighbourhood Plans may be obtained from the Council's Neighbourhood Planning web page (<https://www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk/neighbourhoodplanning>) and/ or individual Town/ Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan pages.

5.0 Equality and Diversity Implications

- 5.1 There are no equality and diversity implications arising from this report. Neighbourhood Plans must be supported by Equalities Impact Assessments, which should ensure compliance with the relevant equalities and Human Rights legislation.

6.0 Privacy Impact Implications

- 6.1 There are no privacy impact implications arising from this report.

7.0 Legal Implications

- 7.1 Each Neighbourhood Plan has been/ is being prepared in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, as amended.

8.0 Risk Management

8.1 There are no significant risks arising from this report.

9.0 Resource and Financial Implications

9.1 The Government (Housing, Communities and Local Government) provides £20,000 to the local planning authority for each Neighbourhood Plan to cover the cost of each referendum, upon successful completion of the neighbourhood planning examination. Payments of £20,000 are due from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to cover the costs of each referendum.

9.2 The Council pays for a “Smart Survey” licence, through Resources and Organisational Development. There are no further costs associated with the using Smart Survey under the current terms. However, if a more advanced Smart Survey package is deemed necessary then this could entail an additional annual fee to cover the enhanced licence.

10.0 Constitutional Implications

10.1 Day to day matters of Planning Policy, including providing proactive guidance and/ or comments by East Northamptonshire Council regarding emerging Neighbourhood Plans, have already been delegated to the Planning Policy Committee. As such, there are no constitutional implications arising from the proposals.

11.0 Customer Service Implications

11.1 There are no customer service implications arising from this report.

12.0 Corporate Outcomes

12.1 The relevant Corporate Outcomes are:


- Good Quality of Life – delivery of delivery of regeneration, economic development, sustainable development and strong communities
- Effective Partnership Working – effective joint working with Neighbourhood Planning bodies
- Effective Management – providing the necessary support to ensure that Neighbourhood Plans are legally compliant

13.0 Recommendation

13.1 This report is presented to Members for information. The Committee is therefore recommended to:

- i) Note the current progress and stages in preparation of the various Neighbourhood Plans referred to in the report.

(Reason – to inform the Committee of the current state of progress for those Neighbourhood Plans in preparation across the District).

Legal	Power: Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (Amended by the Localism Act 2011) Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) Neighbourhood Planning (Prescribed Dates) Regulations 2012 Neighbourhood Planning (Referendums) Regulations 2012 (as amended) Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010				
	Other considerations: None				
Background Papers: King's Cliffe and Wakerley and Barrowden Neighbourhood Plan submission documents plus the draft Warmington and Oundle Neighbourhood Plans.					
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