

Item No: 7
Date: 20 December 2012

**WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
JOINT STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE**

A Progress Review of Local Plans across West Northamptonshire
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REPORT OF THE HEAD OF THE JOINT PLANNING UNIT

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the progress being made on the preparation of Local Plans across West Northamptonshire.
- 1.2 The Joint Strategic Planning Committee approved a revised Local Development Scheme (LDS) for West Northamptonshire on 12 June 2012. This LDS sets out a programme for the preparation of Local Plans in West Northamptonshire over a three year period. In addition to the preparation of the Joint Core Strategy this LDS sets out the programme for the preparation of the following locality based Local Plans:
1. Daventry District Settlements and Countryside Local Plan (led by Daventry District Council);
 2. South Northamptonshire Settlements and Development Management Local Plan (led by South Northamptonshire Council);
 3. Northampton Related Development Area Allocations and Development Management Policies Local Plan (led by the West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit together with Northampton Borough Council); and
 4. Northampton Central Area Action Plan (led by Northampton Borough Council).
- 1.3 This report provides a progress update in respect of the Local Plans listed above, together with the Northamptonshire Minerals and Waste Development Framework Local Plan for which Northamptonshire County Council is the responsible planning authority. The governance of this Local Plan is set out under the Northamptonshire Minerals and Waste Development Scheme (May 2012).

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Committee notes the progress on the preparation of the locality based Local Plans for which the governance arrangements are set out in the approved West Northamptonshire Local Development Scheme, June 2012.

- 2.2 That the Committee notes and welcomes the advanced stage in preparation that the Northampton Central Area Action Plan has reached and its likely imminent adoption.
- 2.3 That the West Northamptonshire Local Development Scheme, June 2012 (LDS), be reviewed, as necessary, ahead of submission of the Local Plans it includes for their public examination in order to ensure that the LDS reflects the up to date key milestone dates for the preparation of all Local Plans contained within it.
- 2.4 That the Committee notes that the governance of the Minerals and Waste Development Framework Local Plan is set out in the Northamptonshire Minerals and Waste Development Scheme and that the Committee also notes the progress on the partial review of the Minerals and Waste Development Framework Local Plan as described in this report.

3. Context - Daventry District Settlements and Countryside Local Plan

- 3.1 This Local Plan will build on the Joint Core Strategy Local Plan and will include a detailed and wide variety of policies to guide the decision making process for future Planning Applications across Daventry District (excluding those parts within the Northampton Related Development Area). It will provide policies for Daventry town and will establish a Rural Settlement Hierarchy for settlements within the District. It will set out how important areas, including green and open space, will be protected within those settlements as well as addressing development needs in those settlements. The Local Plan will include site-specific allocations and accompanying policies. Allocations will be included covering land uses, together with specific policies for the development, management and use of land and buildings and in the delivery of regeneration, growth, design, built and natural heritage objectives, together with the protection of important landscapes.

Proposed Timetable¹

Key Stages/ Action	Timescale
Formal commencement of preparation, consulting statutory bodies on the scope of sustainability appraisal	July 2012
Issues and Options Paper	October 2012
Publication of Proposed Pre-Submission Draft and period for representations	March 2013
Publication of Proposed changes to Pre-Submission version (if required)	October 2013
Submission of Local Plan and Sustainability Appraisal to Secretary of State	April 2014
Examination in Public	July 2014
Receipt of Inspector's Report	November 2014
Adoption	February 2015

- 3.2 Daventry District Council's Strategy Group considered a report on 5th July 2012, which set out and agreed the above timetable for the production of the Local

¹ From Daventry District Strategy Group Report 5th July 2012 – Settlements and Countryside Local Plan

Plan, more information on the scope of the document and a proposal for a Member Steering Group. The Steering Group has now been set up and has met. The Group is chaired by Kay Driver, Portfolio holder for Strategic Planning and Strategic Health. Other representatives include the Chairman of Planning Committee and the Deputy Leader.

3.3 An Issues Paper was presented to the Strategy Group at its meeting on 5th September. Members agreed the document for consultation. Consultation is now underway for an eight week period ending on 14th December. During this period a series of meetings with Parish Councils have been held as part of the process of consultation.

4. Context - South Northamptonshire Settlements and Development Management Local Plan

4.1 This Local Plan will build on the Joint Core Strategy Local Plan and will include a detailed and wide variety of policies to guide the decision making process for future Planning Applications across South Northamptonshire (excluding those parts within the Northampton Related Development Area). It will establish a Rural Settlement Hierarchy for settlements within the District and consider amendments to the existing town and village confines and the identification of areas of important green space within those settlements as well as addressing development needs in those settlements. The Local Plan will include site-specific allocations and accompanying policies. Allocations will be included covering land uses, together with specific policies for the development, management and use of land and buildings and in the delivery of regeneration, growth, design, built and natural environment and heritage objectives, together with the protection of important landscapes.

Proposed Timetable²

Key Stages/ Actions	Timescale
Commencement of preparation/ Consultation on scope of Local Plan including scope of plan	May 2012 – December 2012
Publication of Issues and Options Paper	January 2013
Publication of Proposed Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan and period for representations	May 2013
Submission of Local Plan and Sustainability Appraisal to Sec of State	February 2014
Examination in Public	June 2014
Receipt of Inspector's report	November 2014
Adoption	Dec 2014/ Jan 2015

² From South Northamptonshire Cabinet Report 10th April 2012 – SN Settlements and Development Management DPD

4.2 The Council has held two workshops for elected members and Parish Councils in October 2012. This will be followed by the preparation and publication of an 'issues' paper in early 2013.

4.3 A Landscape Sensitivity Study and Employment Land Study are shortly to be commissioned that will provide evidence to inform the preparation of the Plan.

5. Context - Northampton Related Development Area Allocations and Development Management Policies Local Plan

5.1 This Local Plan will build on the Joint Core Strategy Local Plan and will include a detailed and wide variety of policies to guide the decision making process for future Planning Applications across Northampton Borough (with the exception of Northampton Central Area) and Daventry District and South Northamptonshire Councils identified as being within the Northampton Related Development Area. It will provide policies for the Northampton Related Development Area. It will also define areas such as district, local and neighbourhood centres, employment areas and green infrastructure and open space as well as addressing development needs through site-specific allocations and accompanying policies. Allocations will be included covering land uses, together with specific policies for the development, management and use of land and buildings and in the delivery of regeneration, growth, design, built and natural environment and heritage objectives, together with the protection of important landscapes.

Proposed Timetable

Key Stages/ Action	Timescale
Formal commencement of preparation, consulting statutory bodies on the scope of sustainability appraisal	October 2012
Issues and Options Paper	March 2013
Publication of Proposed Pre-Submission Draft and period for representations	October 2013
Submission of Local Plan and Sustainability Appraisal to Secretary of State	June 2014
Examination in Public	July 2014
Receipt of Inspector's Report	November 2014
Adoption	February 2015

5.2 Initial work has commenced in identifying issues to be considered in preparing a draft for Issues and Options consultation. Work is progressing on both a Facilities Audit and a Faith Audit to support this Local Plan, alongside an assessment of the current evidence base to determine gaps in information. The detailed governance arrangements for the preparation of the Plan are currently under consideration.

6. Context – Northampton Central Area Action Plan

6.1 This document provides policy direction for allocations and investment in the centre of Northampton, emphasising its key role in the sub region. It is being led by Northampton Borough Council and is at an advanced stage of preparation.

Proposed Timetable

Key Stages/ Actions	Timescale
Commencement of Preparation	November 2006
Preparation of Scoping Report for the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Report	Dec 2006 - March 2007
Consultation on Options	June 2007- September 2009
Publication of DPD	November 2010
Submission of Local Plan and Sustainability Appraisal to the Secretary of State	May 2012
Adoption of Local Plan	January 2013

6.2 The Planning Inspectorate issued a report on the Examination of the Northampton Central Area Action Plan in November, recommending main modifications to the Plan to make it sound and capable of adoption.

6.3 The Council published modifications to the Plan, also in November, which met the requirements of the Inspectorate in determining soundness of the Plan. A report will be submitted to the Council's Cabinet in January 2013 proposing the adoption of the Plan.

7. Context – Northamptonshire Minerals and Waste Development Framework / Local Plan

7.1 The documents comprising the Northamptonshire Minerals and Waste Development Framework (MWDF) were adopted in 2010 and 2011. This framework is made up of a suite of component documents comprising: Core Strategy, Waste site-specific, Minerals site-specific and Development Control policies documents. To maintain an up to date plan the MWDF is now the subject of a Partial Review.

7.2 The Partial Review will merge the four MWDF component documents into one combined local plan and extend the plan period to 2031. It concentrates on amending provision for aggregates and for new waste capacity. Allocated sites are not planned to be reviewed.

Proposed Timetable (as set out in the Northamptonshire Minerals and Waste Development Scheme May 2012)

Key Stages/ Action	Timescale
Consultation on scope of MWDF Partial Review	June 2012
Consultation on Draft Minerals and Waste Local Plan	January 2013
Publication of Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan and period for representations	September 2013
Submission of Local Plan and Sustainability Appraisal to Secretary of State	November 2013
Examination in Public	March 2014
Receipt of Inspector's Report	June 2014
Adoption	September 2014

- 7.3 During June to August 2012 there was a consultation on the scope of the partial review. As well as the main consultation document; 'MWDF Partial Review: Consultation on the Way Forward', comments were also invited on a Local Aggregates Assessment and a Local Assessment of Waste Management Needs, as well as on a new Statement of Community Involvement.
- 7.4 A Draft Local Plan was approved by Cabinet on 13 November 2012 and consultation on this document will take place in January to March 2013. This Draft Local Plan is the equivalent of the preferred option stage.

8. Conclusions

- 8.1 Good progress is being made on all of the Local Plans referred to in this report and the imminent adoption of the Northampton Central Area Action Plan is particularly welcome. It should be noted that the preparation of all the Local Plans covered by the approved West Northamptonshire Local Development Scheme (LDS), June 2012, has commenced in accordance with the milestones set out in that LDS. There are however some minor variations in the anticipated dates for future stages of plan preparation compared to the dates specified in that LDS. For example, the publication and submission dates for the South Northamptonshire Local Plan are now slightly later than those specified in the LDS. Conversely the publication dates for the Daventry District Local Plan and the Northampton Related Development Area Local Plan are both expected to be earlier than the dates specified in the LDS.
- 8.2 It will be necessary to resolve any variations in the timetables through a further review of the West Northamptonshire LDS, June 2012, prior to the submission and examination stages being reached. It is anticipated that this will be brought forward as part of the Annual Monitoring Report process.
- 8.3 The partial review of the Northamptonshire Minerals and Waste Development Framework Local Plan is also underway in accordance with the milestones set out in the Northamptonshire Minerals and Waste Development Scheme, (May 2012).

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