

**WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE JOINT LOCAL DEVELOPMENT  
DOCUMENT/LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN STEERING GROUP**

**WEDNESDAY 20 SEPTEMBER 2006 AT 6.00PM  
JEFFERY ROOM, NBC, THE GUILDHALL**

**AGENDA**

1. APOLOGIES
2. NOTES OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19  
JULY 2006  
(Copy Attached)
3. MATTERS ARISING
4. PROGRAMME DIRECTOR'S PROGRESS REPORT  
(To be tabled at the meeting) Clive  
Thomas
5. PROGRAMME FOR THE PRODUCTION OF THE CORE  
STRATEGY Clive  
Thomas  
(To be tabled at the meeting)
6. EDAW - LAND VALUE CAPTURE STUDY Roy  
Boulton  
(Verbal Report)
7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS
8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING - 17 OCTOBER 2006

## WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE JOINT LOCAL DEVELOPMENT DOCUMENT/LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN STEERING GROUP

Wednesday, 19 July 2006

<b>PRESENT:</b>	Councillor Hadland	NBC (Chair)
	C Berry	NBC
	R Boulton	NCC
	S Bovey	DDC
	Councillor Caswell	NBC
	C Cavanagh	NBC
	M Chant	NCC
	Councillor Clarke	SNC
	R Fox	SNC
	M Hayes	WNDC
	Councillor Millar	DDC
	S Pointer	NBC
	R Pulling	BCW
	Councillor Smith	NCC
	R Strugnell	SNC
	C Thomas	NBC
	Councillor Townsend	SNC
	R Wood	DDC

### 1 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Harker, Councillor Barnes, Councillor Amos, G Hughes, M Aiker, C Sarris, D Brennan and Sue Flack.

An apology for lateness was also received from J Morgan.

### 2 NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 5 JUNE 2006

The notes of the meeting held on 5 June 2006 were agreed as a true record.

### 3 MATTER ARISING

EDAW

It had been intended that there would be a presentation at the meeting in relation to EDAW's land value capture report, however it was now anticipated that the presentation would take place at the next meeting.

The Chair then advised that a discussion had taken place in relation to the date of the next meeting and it was suggested that the meeting on 15 August 2006 be cancelled and therefore that the next meeting be held on 20 September 2006.

**AGREED: That the meeting of the Joint Steering Group on 15 August 2006 be cancelled and therefore that the next meeting be held on 20 September 2006.**

#### **4 PROGRAMME DIRECTOR'S PROGRESS REPORT**

A report was circulated for the information of the Joint Steering Group and it was noted that a half day Risk Workshop had been arranged for 26 July 2006. This would begin the process of creating a Risk Register which would then be updated as necessary.

The report also referred to the options for the Core Strategy and stressed the need to consider whether both options 1 and 6 were legal and "wednesbury reasonable". This would be discussed in detail at item 5 on the agenda.

**AGREED : That the report be noted.**

#### **5 PROGRAMME FOR THE PRODUCTION OF THE CORE STRATEGY**

The Chair referred to the decision at the previous meeting that option 6 be pursued subject to Counsel opinion that it was legal and offered a robust process and confirmation from GOEM that they would not object if option 6 was agreed. If both of these conditions could not be satisfied it had been agreed that option 1 be pursued.

Since the last meeting advice had been received that both option 1 and option 6 were legally permissible but it had been unclear whether GOEM would object to option 6. Both C Sarris and M Alker had been invited to attend the meeting but were not able to do so. However a letter from GOEM had been received that morning and had been e-mailed to all the members of the Joint Steering Group.

The Joint Steering Group discussed the letter received from GOEM which reiterated their support of option 1 and stated that they would not support the production of separate Core Strategies. One of the reasons for this, as detailed in the letter, was that in their view separate Core Strategies were less likely to provide a clear and comprehensive framework for Planning and future growth of the area. Concern was expressed that a representative from GOEM was not present at the meeting as it was felt that guidance and advice was needed as to how they envisaged the joint working arrangements operating in practice if option 1 were pursued and what the implications were likely to be for South Northamptonshire and Daventry District Councils.

It was noted that both Daventry District and South Northamptonshire Councils had deferred the decision in relation to agreeing an option pending the outcome of this meeting and in the knowledge that Northampton Borough Council would not be making a decision until 11 September 2006. It was now anticipated that they would reach a decision at their September meetings.

The Chair referred to the importance of all three Local Authorities being clear how

the joint working arrangements would happen in practice and for a solution to be reached that, although not ideal, was considered by all parties as an acceptable compromise. He stressed that if a consensus could not be reached an arrangement may be imposed and it was important that the Councillors on the Steering Group made this clear to the other Councillors within their respective Local Authorities.

The Steering Group discussed further the role GOEM could play in clarifying how joint working arrangements would operate in practice and how such arrangements worked in other areas such as North Northamptonshire. It was also suggested that further information be sought in relation to the risks for Daventry District and South Northamptonshire Councils associated with pursuing option 1.

Reference was then made to the potential "policy vacuum" that may be created however M Hayes suggested that this risk would be the same whichever option was pursued. He referred to a letter dated 13 June 2006 from Rowena Limb at GOEM which advised that there was considerable protection for rural areas until the Core Strategy was produced which suggested that this might not be as significant an issue as was being anticipated.

- AGREED:**
- (1) That the Joint Planning Team consider in more detail :-**
    - **how the joint working arrangements would operate in practice if option 1 was pursued.**
    - **what the final Core Strategy document would look like based on Option 1.**
    - **The risks, particularly for Daventry District and South Northamptonshire Councils, if option 1 was agreed.**
  - (2) That a final decision in relation to the Core Strategy be made at the meeting of the Steering Group on 20 September 2006.**

## **6 NORTHAMPTON LONGER TERM GROWTH OPTIONS STUDY - UPDATE**

C Berry advised that the interviews with the preferred Consultant had taken place and discussions in relation to some contractual issues were coming to a conclusion. Northampton Borough Council and South Northamptonshire Council had confirmed the appointment and confirmation was still awaited from Daventry District Council. Once this was received the consultant would be appointed.

R Boulton referred to the NIA figure consultation exercise discussed at the previous meeting and advised that 5 consultants had been short listed and interviews would be taking place the following week. It was expected that the project would be completed by the end of November 2006.

C Berry confirmed that it was anticipated that the Longer Term Growth Options Study would be completed by the end of December 2006 and it would then be up to all the individual Councils to consider how the results could be reflected in the Issues and Options document.

**AGREED: That the position in relation to the Longer Term Growth Options Study be noted.**

## **7 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### **RESOURCE STATEMENT**

M Hayes referred to a discussion at the last meeting in relation to the resource statement and asked how this work was progressing. C Thomas confirmed that all efforts were currently focussing on resolving the issues relating to the Core Strategy. Also it was important that the Consultant that was appointed would have an understanding of the context in which they would be working.

## **8 DATE OF NEXT MEETING - 15 AUGUST 2006**

As previously agreed it was noted that the date of the next meeting would be 20 September 2006.

# Agenda Item 4

<b>West Northamptonshire Joint Local Development Document/ Local Transport Plan Steering Group</b>	
<b>Meeting Date</b>	<b>20 September 2006</b>
<b>Title</b>	<b>Programme Director's Progress Report</b>

## 1. Recommendations

The Steering Group agree:-

- a) the recruitment of an experienced Project Manager to lead the Joint Planning Team, together with proposals for defined secondments, neutral location, involvement of WNDC, County Council and line management;
- b) the review of Governance arrangements for both the Steering Group and Programme Board in order to build on and strengthen the existing arrangements.

## 2. Purpose of Report

To summarise progress, activity and key issues not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

## 3. Report Background

### a) Joint Planning Team

Having agreed to pursue Option 1 to develop the Joint Core Strategy, it is crucial that all Councils, Stakeholders and Government have confidence that a credible method of delivery exists.

This matter was discussed at last week's Programme Board, the following are recommended as a way of ensuring a joint team is established to deliver against an agreed plan.

- An experienced Project Manager be appointed to lead the team, drive forward activities to ensure timely achievement of key milestones. The individual to have a good understanding of the development process and working in a political environment at a senior level.
- The Project Manager to be accountable to the Programme Board and, in turn, the Steering Group.
- A Joint Core Team to be established with defined secondments from each of the Plan Making Councils.

- The Joint Team to establish its own identity and, preferably, located in a “neutral” location whilst being conveniently located to the constituent authorities and stakeholders.
- WNDC and Northamptonshire County Council are invited to second resources into the Joint Core Team.
- The Project Manager to be “line managed” by Northampton Borough Council’s Corporate Director.
- Any resource implications of the above to be shared proportionally between the participating organisations.

b) Governance

In addition to developing a robust Project Plan and Project Management arrangements, it is essential to have effective Governance arrangements. The foundations are in place through the operation of the Programme Board and Steering Group. However, given the imperative to maintain good progress against plan and ongoing need to ensure it is fit for purpose within a wider policy context, it is proposed to revisit the arrangements for both the Steering Group and Programme Board.

In particular, the following are suggested as means of strengthening the current arrangements:-

- Nominated members from each of the Plan Making Authorities have specific delegated authorities from their Council to agree all matters not reserved for Cabinet or Council decisions.
- Attendees at Programme Board have leadership and managerial authority within their organisations to resolve issues identified at the Programme Board.

c) Communications and Resource Plans

As the Project moves forward, effective and timely communications, both within constituent organisations and with the wider communities is crucial.

The Programme Board has already agreed the need for a Communication Plan for the project. Work has already begun in drafting a Plan. The completion of this draft will be a priority as soon as there is an agreed and detailed Project Plan for the Project with key milestones identified. Similarly, the Resource Plan cannot be completed until the Project Plan has been agreed.

# Agenda Item 5

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