

Council
8 September 2009

Item 7; Council Response to the Consultation on the Emergent Joint Core Strategy

Councillor Woods to move and Councillor Palethorpe to second:

“This Council notes that:

1. The Government identified Northampton as a major growth area within the Milton Keynes South Midlands sub-region.
2. The East Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy agreed to an extra 43,000 homes in Northampton by 2026.
3. The Northampton Local Plan produced in 1997 is out of date, with limited reserve policies.

This Council believes that:

1. Northampton needs a sound spatial plan to deliver the housing, quality jobs and infrastructure for the future and to protect the town from developer-led growth.
2. Priority should be given to the regeneration of the town centre to become a destination of choice for working, shopping and relaxing.
3. Previous expansions of Northampton have failed to enhance its character and reflect its unique and longstanding heritage.
4. Given the number of homes built in Northampton between 2001 and 2009, the current and foreseeable economic difficulties and the uncertainties of future public funding for infrastructure the government’s growth targets are unlikely to be met within the plan period.

This Council resolves to:

1. Challenge and seek a reduction in the government’s annual growth targets through a fresh regional approach that is infrastructure-led, rather than allocating land for development, without any certainty of new public services.
2. Seek public exhibition space to inform residents of these and other growth plans in a clear, jargon-free way.
3. Provide more opportunities for the public to debate and contribute to future growth plans for our town.

4. Establish a sound spatial plan to secure Northampton's regeneration and deliver the jobs, homes and public services needed for the next 20 years and beyond."