Item No: 6

Date: 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2011

# WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE JOINT STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

**Draft JPU Budget: Financial Year 2012-13** 

## REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE PROGRAMME BOARD AND HEAD OF THE JOINT PLANNING UNIT

### 1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to enable consideration to be given to a proposed budget for the West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit for the financial year 2012/13. This budget should be approved prior to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2011 to accord with requirements set out in paragraph 5 of the fifth schedule of the agreement between the partner Councils.

#### 2. Context

2.1 The total base budget for 2011/12, as considered by the Committee this time last year was £921,970. This included the implementation of an approximate 25% efficiency saving across the whole JPU budget from the original budget for 2011/12 of £1,229,000 agreed in-principal by the Committee at their meeting of 16<sup>th</sup> December 2008.

The full apportionment to individual partner councils at that time was:

|   | Total Revised Contributions for 2011/12 | £921,970 |
|---|---|----------|
| • | Northamptonshire County Council         | £153,660 |
| • | Northampton Borough Council             | £307,320 |
| • | South Northants Council                 | £230,495 |
| • | Daventry District Council               | £230,495 |

2.2 Following this, at budget setting stage, Northamptonshire County Council withdrew their funding for the Joint Planning Unit entirely resulting in a final base budget of £768,310. The full revised apportionment was then as follows:

| • | Daventry District Council       | £230,495 |
|---|---------------------------------|----------|
| • | South Northants Council         | £230,495 |
| • | Northampton Borough Council     | £307,320 |
| • | Northamptonshire County Council | -        |
|   | ·                               |          |

**Total Revised Contributions for 2011/12** 

£768,310

- 2.3 The result of the withdrawal of the contribution from Northamptonshire County Council was that a further 17% of the base budget of the Joint Planning Unit was absorbed by the Unit in 2011/12. It is the case again this year that no contribution to the work of the Unit will be available from the County Council; therefore, a similar percentage reduction in partner funding will be absorbed again by the Joint Planning Unit in 2012/13.
- 2.4 Turning to the base budget for 2012/13, additional savings are being sought across partner Councils. In the light of this there are 2 options detailed of either a 5% or 10% reduction to the draft JPU budget for 2012/13. This enables further savings to be made by each paying partner Council. The resulting base budget for the JPU for 2012/13 under option 1 would be £729,895 or £691,480 under option 2. The financial contribution of each partner Council under these proposals would be:

|                                 | Option1           | Option2             |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
|                                 | 2012-13 budget    | 2012-13 budget with |
| Partner Authority               | with 5% reduction | 10% reduction       |
| Daventry District Council       | 218,970           | 207,445             |
| South Northamptonshire Council  | 218,970           | 207,445             |
| Northampton Borough Council     | 291,955           | 276,590             |
| Northampton County Council      | -                 | -                   |
| Total Contributions for 2012-13 | 729,895           | 691,480             |

2.5 Applying either the further **5% or 10%** savings across the partnership will have the effect of delivering the following savings for each paying partner Council:

| Partner Authority                                | Option1<br>5% reduction in<br>contributions | Option2<br>10% reduction in<br>contributions |
|--|---|--|
| Daventry District Council                        | (11,525)                                    | (23,050)                                     |
| South Northamptonshire Council                   | (11,525)                                    | (23,050)                                     |
| Northampton Borough Council                      | (15, 365)                                   | (30,730)                                     |
| Northampton County Council                       |   |  |
| Total Savings across the paying partner Councils | (38,415)                                    | (76,830)                                     |

2.6 Additionally, a carry-forward of £412,000, is proposed, subject to partner agreement from the 2011/12 budget. This carry-forward primarily relates to the budget for Counsel and the fact that the Examination in Public relating to the Joint Core Strategy will not now take place in 2011/12 but, it is anticipated, will take place in 2012/13. This is due to work programme changes necessitated by recent emerging changes to Government policy, relating to which, clarity is currently awaited. A carry-forward also relates to ongoing work on the emerging Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and a small carry-forward relating to the preparation of lower order development planning policy documents (lower order to the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy: for example, the West Northamptonshire Gypsy's, Travellers and Travelling Show-people Development Plan Document).

#### 3. Recommendations

- 3.1 That the Joint Strategic Planning Committee decide on either:
  - Option 1 5% budget reduction and to approve the 2012/13 reduced base budget of £729,895 for the JPU; or

 Option 2 – 10% budget reduction and to approve the 2012/13 reduced base budget of £691,480

so that it may be forwarded onto partner Councils for their ratification.

3.2 That the Committee approves, in-principle, the carrying forward of some £412,000 from 2011/12 to 2012/13 financial years subject to further review at the end of the financial year.

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Date: September 2010

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