

Appendix 2

Northampton Borough Council – Statement of Community Involvement Inspector’s Report

Recommendations

(R1) Delete paragraphs 2.24 and 2.25 and under the heading “Pre-submission Involvement” insert the following before Paragraph 2.26:

“Early community engagement will involve consultation bodies in identifying and considering the issues and options that a DPD will need to address prior to its formal submission to the Secretary of State. Decisions on which of the consultation bodies listed at Appendix B of the SCI are to be consulted at this stage will depend on the extent to which the DPD subject matter affects them or is relevant to them. There are a variety of ways in which this consultation can take place including through the publication and circulation of a formal Issues and Options document containing questions, informal round-table workshops, and exhibitions. This will lead to the preparation of a preferred options document.”

(R2) That the diagrams in Appendix F and Appendix G of the SCI be deleted and replaced with those at Appendix D of this report.

(R3) Amend Paragraph 2.45 in accordance with the following:

- delete the heading of this paragraph and replace with “Cabinet”.
- delete the word “Executive” in Paragraph 2.45 and replace with “Cabinet”.
- insert the following text after Paragraph 2.45, “The Cabinet takes executive decisions and provides political leadership for the implementation of the Council’s corporate strategy, other policies and budget. The Cabinet consists of the Leader of the Council together with 5 other Councillors appointed to the Cabinet by the Council. Each member of the Cabinet, including the Leader, has a portfolio of responsibilities. One of these portfolios is Economy and Infrastructure, which includes planning policy. The Cabinet meets 6 times a year. Cabinet meeting papers are available on the Council’s website or at the Council’s offices.”

(R4) That the SCI be modified in accordance with the amendments set out in Appendix E to this Report.

The amendments set out in Appendix E are:

(A) Paragraph 2.44

Insert the following paragraph after the existing Paragraph 2.44: “In order to optimise scarce resources, reduce demands on consultation bodies and inform the wider agenda, opportunities will be taken to undertake joint consultation events with partners such as other Councils in West

Northamptonshire, Northamptonshire County Council and West Northamptonshire Development Corporation, and other departments of Northampton Borough Council for similar documents or issues.”

(B) Paragraph 2.46

Delete the existing Paragraph 2.46, including its heading, and replace with the following:

Insert the following heading: “Planning Advisory Panel”.

Insert the following paragraph: “The Borough Council has established a Planning Advisory Panel. The Panel has no decision-making powers, reporting directly to the Council’s Cabinet. The role of the Panel is to ensure dialogue between the West Northamptonshire Development Corporation, the Borough Council and Northamptonshire County Council in the light of the future transfer of development control responsibilities to the West Northamptonshire Development Corporation and to enable the three organisations to jointly assist in the development of local planning documents. The Panel will meet periodically as and when different stages of LDD preparation are reached. The Panel includes the Borough Council Portfolio Holder for Economy and Infrastructure, a representative of the Borough Council’s Overview and Scrutiny Committee, a representative of the Borough Council’s Planning Committee, a representative of the West Northamptonshire Development Corporation and a representative of Northamptonshire County Council.”

(C) Include the following new paragraph after Paragraph 2.46:

Insert the following heading: “Town Centre Commission and Town Centre Commission Steering Group”.

Insert the following paragraph: “The Borough Council has established the Town Centre Commission to oversee the production of the Central Area Action Plan Local Development Document. The Commission is time-limited. The Commission consists of up to 150 people drawn from a wide range of organisations and bodies as well as individuals. A Town Centre Commission Steering Group has also been established with responsibility for commissioning, planning and actioning research, and compiling the Action Plan on behalf of the Commission. The Steering Group has 15 members including representatives of the Borough Council, the West Northamptonshire Development Corporation, Northamptonshire County Council, Northampton Local Strategic Partnership and a range of other stakeholders.”

(D) Include the following new paragraph after the new paragraph set out above:

Insert the following heading: “West Northamptonshire Development Corporation’s Regeneration Framework”.

Insert the following paragraph: "West Northamptonshire Development Corporation is developing a Regeneration Framework that will set out how the regeneration of West Northamptonshire will be achieved. The Regeneration Framework is being developed in two stages. The first stage is a Prospectus which sets the scene for regeneration and growth activities over the next ten years and beyond. The second stage is the preparation of a Growth Delivery Plan. This will set out what needs to be done, who does it, how it will be done and how much it will cost. The nature of community involvement in the development of the Regeneration Framework is a matter for the West Northamptonshire Development Corporation but the Borough Council encourages the West Northamptonshire Development Corporation to follow the principles of community involvement set out in this Statement of Community Involvement. The Planning Advisory Panel provides a mechanism for discussing the content and preparation processes of both the Local Development Framework and the Regeneration Framework."

(R5) Add to Appendix B1 Defence Estates, Department for Work and Pensions, Office of Government Commerce, Department of Constitutional Affairs; and other consultees not referred to in PPS12, including the Theatres Trust and Northampton Primary Care Trust.

(R6) Amend Appendix B of the SCI to include "West Northamptonshire Development Corporation", and all Parish Councils that adjoin Northampton Borough Council.

(R7) Include a new sentence after the first sentence of Paragraph 3.7 to read: "Parish Councils outside of the area in which the application is located may also be notified if, in the opinion of the case officer, the development is likely to have a wider impact."

(R8) Include sentences at beginning of Paragraph 2.6 to read: "The Council has set up a number of Area Partnerships which are made up of ward councillors, plus other interested parties such as county or parish councillors, the Police etc. The Area Partnerships, which meet about 5 times a year, have a consultative role and provide an opportunity for local people to discuss issues and future plans for the area."

(R9) The following sentence should be inserted as the second sentence in Paragraph 2.41: "The draft SPD will be available for inspection at the Council's offices and other appropriate places as listed in Paragraph 2.9 of this SCI."

(R10) The following text should be inserted after "available" and before "and" in the second sentence of Paragraph 2.42: "i.e. the Council's office and other appropriate places,".

(R11) The third sentence of Paragraph 2.41 should be amended to read: "All those bodies referred to in Appendices B and B1 of the SCI which the Council considers will be affected by the SPD will be sent the SPD, the Consultation Statement, relevant supporting documents, the Notice of SPD matters, the Statement of main issues and a statement that the documents are available for inspection including the location and times."

(R12) The second sentence of Paragraph 2.26 should be amended to read: "The pre-submission proposals document, the proposals matters and a statement that the documents are available for inspection including the location and times will be placed on the Council's website and will be made available for inspection at the Council's offices and local libraries."

(R13) The last sentence of Paragraph 2.26 should be amended to read: "Copies of the draft DPD, the relevant supporting documents and a statement of locations and times for inspection will be sent to those bodies referred to in Appendices B and B1 of the SCI, which the local authority considers will be affected by the DPD."

(R14) For clarity the following sentence should be included in Paragraph 2.28: "Copies of the DPD, the Sustainability Appraisal, Pre-Submission Consultation Statement, relevant supporting documents, the Notice of DPD matters and a statement of locations and times for inspection will be sent to those bodies referred to in Appendices B and B1 of the SCI, which the local authority considers will be affected by the DPD."

(R15) For clarity an additional sentence should be added to the end of Paragraph 2.28 that states: "Notice will also be given to all persons who asked to be notified of the submission of the DPD to the Secretary of State."

(R16) For clarity a new second sentence should be included in Paragraph 2.29 that reads: "As soon as possible after the consultation period the following information will be published on the Council's website: the representation/s, the period within which representations on the site allocation representation/s must be made, address and person to whom written and electronic representations must be made, a statement of when and where the representation/s are available for inspection."

(R17) For clarity a new third sentence, after the new second sentence, should be included in Paragraph 2.29 to read: "As soon as possible after the consultation period the Council will send to the DPD bodies the following information: the address of the site to which the representation/s relate, the period within which representations on the site allocation representation/s must be made, address and person to whom written and electronic representations must be made, a statement of when and where the representation/s is available for inspection."

(R18) For clarity a new fourth sentence, after the new third sentence, should be included in Paragraph 2.29 to read: "As soon as possible after the consultation period the Council will advertise in the local press: the period within which representations on the site allocation representation/s must be made, address and person to whom written and electronic representations must be made, and a statement of when and where the representation is available for inspection."

(R19) The following additional bullet point should be added to Paragraph 2.32: "the adoption statement will be published on the Council's website."

(R20) Include new paragraph after 2.16 under heading 'Northamptonshire Compact' to read: "Developing relationships is fundamental to partnership working with the voluntary and community sector. Local compacts set out what the voluntary sector, local authorities and other local bodies can expect from each other. The Northamptonshire Compact, launched in December 2002, has been signed up to by the Borough Council. The Compact includes an undertaking for public bodies to provide mechanisms for the voluntary and community sectors to influence their objectives and the plans that emerge out of them."

(R21) Add Human Health to the table entitled 'Effects of the proposed development on the surrounding area' on page 26 in Appendix E of the SCI.