



NORTHAMPTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Name of Committee

Council
Date 27 March 2006

Item No.

Report of Director of Customer and Service Delivery

Directorate: Customer and service Delivery

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Purpose of Report

To request that councillors nominate representatives to sit on the West Northants Development Corporation (WNDC) Planning Committee, in accordance with the resolution passed by the WNDC board.

Recommendations

That Councillors nominate a representative and a substitute from each of the three main political parties, to represent Northampton Borough Council on WNDC's planning committee.

To note that these representatives will be party to strategic planning decisions made by the WNDC with respect to the regeneration of Northampton and the growth agenda.

To authorise the Solicitor to the Council to undertake any amendments necessary to the council's constitution to implement these nominations and to report to full Council on any changes made.

Summary and Links to Corporate Plan

The WNDC urban development corporation came into being in 2004 to deliver strategic planning decisions in West Northamptonshire (Daventry, Towcester and Northampton). WNDC's planning powers come into effect on 6th April 2006 and from that date all major applications in Northampton and all minor applications in the town centre will be determined by the WNDC. The WNDC planning committee will include councillor's representing each of the district councils, in addition to the council being a consultee on applications that are made. This supports the council's vision and the corporate plan priority of creating and sustaining an attractive economic environment for forward investment and regeneration.

Background

The WNDC is the urban development corporation for West Northamptonshire and was created to help manage the government's growth agenda for the MKSM region. Its intention is to regenerate West Northamptonshire, to create managed, sustainable growth in the region.

Although it will be WNDC that will make the decisions on major planning applications, the local community, including councillors will be involved via consultation. Additionally the council is represented on the board. The WNDC's planning powers come into effect from 6th April and there will be planning committee's for each of the three district council areas. These committee's will make the decisions on planning applications and councillors from the districts are invited to make nominations for representation on them.

Councillors should be aware that if nominees are currently NBC Planning Committee members then in cases where NBC is a formal consultee on planning applications those nominated members may not be able to sit on particular items involving the WNDC, because of the potential of a conflict of interest.

Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications from this report

Social Impact

The nomination of councillors to the WNDP planning committee enables locally elected representatives of the community to contribute to the regeneration and growth within Northampton. It ensures that local needs are taken into account when strategic planning decisions are made. The delivery of improved infrastructure and regeneration will contribute to an improved economy and create opportunities for the citizens of Northampton to enjoy improved facilities and reduced deprivation.

Conclusions

The nomination of councillors to the WNDP planning committee is recommended as it enables locally elected representatives to play an effective part in the regeneration of Northampton.

Consultees (Internal and External)

Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer

Background Papers

A letter from the WNDP inviting regarding the work of the WNDP www.wndp.co.uk.



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to this report. Further detail can be found on their website