

**PORTFOLIO HOLDER'S PRESENTATION TO FULL COUNCIL
ON MONDAY, 26 MARCH 2007**

ECONOMY AND INFRASTRUCTURE PORTFOLIO

1. Local Development Framework

The Local Development Scheme, which lists the timing for the Local Development Documents the Council intends to produce to replace the Local Plan and create a new Local Development Framework, has been revised and was approved by a Special meeting of Cabinet on March 15th. The revised LDS has been produced in partnership with South Northamptonshire and Daventry Councils and now includes several new documents produced jointly – notably a Joint Core Strategy covering the three Districts which is fundamental to planning for the future development of Northampton. A Joint Planning team has been set up by the three Districts to work on the joint planning documents.

We are very pleased that the Government Office confirmed in writing on 16 March that the LDS is acceptable and it will be brought into effect at the end of March.

The Council can now move rapidly towards preparing the Joint Core Strategy and the Central Area Action Plan which are the initial priorities for 2007 in the LDS.

2. Housing Strategy

Housing Strategy policy was done cross party with the Consultant John Watson and partners, and this has now been submitted to Government Office for its approval.

3. Footmeadows Regeneration

The first stage of work on Footmeadow, Victoria Park and Millers Meadow is approaching completion. New pathways, entrances and play areas have been introduced in all three areas. Substantial tree works have been carried out and plans for further works are underway.

4. Economic & Regeneration Strategy

A draft Economic and Regeneration Strategy has been produced along with an Executive Summary. This will go to internal consultation to political leaders and internal staff and then to external consultation

5. Town Centre Operations

The St. John's and St. Michael's multi-storey car parks are changing from pay-and-display to pay-on-foot, as has already happened with Mayorhold. These arrangements are more popular with customers and reduce defaults on payments.

The Guildhall hosted an event on 12 March to promote the re-launched Town Centre Partnership to local businesses and other stakeholders. The Partnership aims to increase visitors to the town centre and hence its prosperity, and to co-ordinate service delivery among the public and private sector agencies operating there. Membership is increasing, which will give the Partnership greater influence in improving the quality of the centre of Northampton.

Cllr J Caswell

21-03-07