



NORTHAMPTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

21 January 2008

URGENT

Agenda Status: Public

Directorate: Solicitor to the Council

Report Title	Establishment of a Joint Strategic Planning Committee
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1. Summary

To refer to Council recommendations from Cabinet to establish a Joint Strategic Planning Committee responsible for joint planning policy formulation and adoption.

2. Recommendations

Council is recommended to:

- 2.1.1 approve the establishment of the Joint Strategic Planning Committee to be known as the West Northamptonshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee;
- 2.2 request the Secretary of State to constitute, by Statutory Instrument, the Joint Strategic Planning Committee as the planning authority for the purposes of planning policy formulation and adoption, under Section 2 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004;
- 2.3 delegate to the Solicitor to the Council powers to amend the Constitution to implement the necessary and consequential changes to implement Council's decision;
- 2.4 confirm the NBC representation on the Joint Strategic Planning Committee as four members;
- 2.5 delegate to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, any changes to the Memorandum of Intent following the completion of negotiations between the local authorities concerned;
- 2.6 delegate to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, appointments to the Committee in relation to NBC's representation as soon as practicable.

3. Report Background

- 3.1 Cabinet considered a report from the Director of People Planning and Regeneration, on 18 October 2007, with regard to the establishment of a Joint Strategic Planning Committee, responsible for joint planning policy formulation and adoption, for the purposes of Part 2 (Local Development) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. Cabinet also considered the terms upon which the Committee will operate, in relation to the other partner Councils. A copy of the Report Cabinet considered and approved is attached at Appendix 1. A copy of the Memorandum of Intent, outlining the basis of agreement is attached to Cabinet's Report.
- 3.2 Members will see from the Memorandum of Intent, that the Joint Strategic Planning Committee would only have powers in relation to the formulation and adoption of planning policy, for the purposes of Part 2 (Local Development) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. Planning policy functions rest with the Executive (Cabinet) so the Executive will, in essence, be delegating its powers in this respect to the Joint Strategic Planning Committee. The Council's current Planning Committee will continue as the planning authority for development control purposes.
- 3.3 At present, the format of the Joint Strategic Planning Committee is being actively discussed with the other partner Councils which are Daventry District Council; South Northamptonshire Council and Northamptonshire County Council. The current position of the Memorandum of Intent has changed slightly from the one appended to this report: as follows:
- It is proposed that the membership shall be as follows:
 - Northampton Borough Council – four seats;
 - Daventry District Council – three seats;
 - South Northamptonshire District Council – three seats;
 - Northamptonshire County Council – two seats (increased by one).
 - Observers will be appointed by the Joint Strategic Planning Committee as appropriate. These will include an observer from the WNDC and the provision to appoint an observer from any major political party not represented on the Joint Strategic Planning Committee`;
 - NBC will initially Chair the Joint Strategic Planning Committee thereafter the Chair will be selected by the Committee with the presumption that it would rotate between members.
- 3.3 Whilst agreement is very close, there are minor elements that still require discussion and which may need amendment to the Memorandum of Understanding. It is therefore suggested that powers be delegated to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leaders, for changes to the Memorandum of Understanding to be incorporated once these are fully agreed.

4. Implications (including financial implications)

4.1 Resources and Risk

These remain the same as those outlined in the resources and risk section of the appended Cabinet Report, at 4.2 of Appendix 1.

4.2 Legal

If agreed by Council, the Joint Strategic Planning Committee will be established by Statutory Instrument. In effect all executive powers in relation to planning policy will then formally pass to the joint committee.

4.3 Other Implications

None specifically.

5. Background Papers

FJF file: Joint Strategic Planning Unit

Report Author and Title: FRANCIS FERNANDES
SOLICITOR TO THE COUNCIL

Telephone and Email: 01604 837334 ffernandes@northampton.gov.uk