

## North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy Review Briefing Note: September 2014

### Introduction

This note provides an update on the review of the Joint Core Strategy (JCS). The JCS sets out the strategic ('Part 1') element of the Local Plans in North Northamptonshire, including housing and employment requirements, infrastructure priorities and proposals for improving the environment. It provides the context for the Part 2 plans prepared by the partner councils and also for neighbourhood plans.

The [June Briefing Note](#) provided details of the arrangements for preparing the JCS, including the structure of the new plan.

Work on the JCS was held up during the consideration of the Rushden Lakes retail and leisure proposal. The Secretary of State permitted this development in June 2014 and the Joint Planning Committee (JPC) is now working to complete the JCS as quickly as possible. This is drawing on previous work and consultation including the 'Emerging JCS' (consultation August to October 2012) and the Interim Housing Statement, Urban Structure Study and Strategic Housing and Employment Sites (consultation August to October 2013).

### Completing the plan

Over the last few months various draft sections of the plan have been considered by the JPC as outlined below (with links to the committee papers). Further refinements are being made in the light of the JPC's views and additional input from environmental agencies and other partners.

#### [JPC – 1<sup>st</sup> May](#)

This committee considered policies relating to 'Protecting and Enhancing Assets' and 'Ensuring High Quality Development'. Policy 1 is an overarching policy on the presumption in favour of sustainable development and what this means in North Northamptonshire. The subsequent policies provide many of the decision making policies on environmental and cultural assets alongside 'place-making' design principles for North Northamptonshire. Infrastructure provision is also included in this section.

#### [JPC – 24<sup>th</sup> July](#)

This committee considered the Connectivity policies and the Green and Blue Infrastructure framework. The connectivity policies consider the connections within and beyond North Northamptonshire and the issue of HGV parking. Key items of transport infrastructure are identified.

The Green Infrastructure (GI) policies set out the GI network and how this will be safeguarded and enhanced. This is followed by two special policy areas on the Nene and Ise Valleys and The Rockingham Forest.

### JPC – 4<sup>th</sup> September

This committee considered the Vision and Outcomes, the Network of Urban and Rural Areas and the Delivering Homes section.

Changes had been made to the Vision and Outcomes of the plan to reflect the Rushden Lakes decision. The Network of Urban and Rural Areas considers the role and function of settlements in North Northamptonshire, splitting the settlements into Growth Towns, Market Towns, Villages and Open Countryside. This policy sets out how development will be distributed across the urban areas and how development in the rural areas will be limited to meet locally arising need.

The Delivering Homes section sets out the overall housing requirements for each local authority, the strategic sites that will deliver these numbers, the housing targets in named settlements and how the five year housing supply will be maintained.

### **Next Steps**

The remaining policies to be presented to committee include those on Delivering Economic Prosperity (including renewable energy), Sustainable Buildings and Allowable Solutions, Town Centres, Rural exceptions, Deenethorpe Airfield, Housing Mix and Tenure, Infrastructure Delivery and the Strategic Site Development Principles.

Once the whole plan is available, various sustainability, environmental and viability assessments need to be carried out to meet regulations and ensure that the plan will be found 'sound' at examination. These assessments will take place over the next few months and policies may be further amended to take account of the findings.

The timetable for the completion of the JCS is as follows:

<b>2<sup>nd</sup> October 2014</b>	JPC to endorse final sections of JCS and supporting evidence base
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> November 2014</b>	JPC to consider final draft JCS and Background Papers
<b>18<sup>th</sup> December 2014</b>	JPC to consider implications of Sustainability and Viability Appraisals and to agree the Pre-Submission JCS
<b>January - February 2015</b>	Consultation on Pre Submission JCS for 6 weeks
<b>March 2015</b>	JCS submitted to Planning Inspectorate for an independent Examination
<b>April-November 2015</b>	Examination period (Hearing sessions June 2015) and consultation on Main Modifications
<b>December 2015</b>	JPC to consider Inspector's Report and to adopt JCS

## Opportunities to input into the JCS

The Joint Committee consults widely at all formal stages in preparing the JCS and additional input is sought from the partner councils to help with key strategic decisions such as housing and employment requirements and important local issues such as strategic sites. Elected members are welcome to feed in views on any matters being discussed by the Joint Committee. This can be done through the council's representatives on the Joint Planning Committee (see below), through the Council's Chief Planners and Policy Managers, or directly to the JPU. Please contact the JPU at [info@nnjpu.org.uk](mailto:info@nnjpu.org.uk) if you would like any further information on the JCS or to be notified when agenda papers for the Joint Committee are available.

Please contact Andrew Longley or Simon James at the JPU if you have queries on this briefing note or would like to discuss any aspect of the Joint Core Strategy.

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## Membership of the North Northamptonshire Joint Committee

