
JOINT DELIVERY COMMITTEE FOR NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Meeting held: 31st January 2017 at Kettering Borough Council

Present: Councillor Russell Roberts (Kettering) (Chair)
Councillors Jean Addison, Elise Elliston and Bob Eyles (Corby); Cllr David Jenney (East Northamptonshire); Cllr Lloyd Bunday (Kettering); Cllr Bill Parker (Northamptonshire County Council)

Also Present: Martin Hammond (Deputy Chief Executive, Kettering Borough Council)
Andrew Longley (Joint Planning Unit)
Jennifer Bell (Joint Planning/Joint Delivery Unit)
Rob Harbour (Kettering Borough Council)
Iain Smith (Corby Borough Council)
Paul Bland (East Northamptonshire Council)
Louise Jelley (East Northamptonshire Council)
Julie Thomas (Wellingborough Borough Council)
Chris Wragg (Northamptonshire County Council)
Chris Bond (Northamptonshire County Council)
David Higham (Tresham College)
Nicci Marzec (Northamptonshire Police)
Anne Ireson (Committee Administrator)

Action

16.JDC.08 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr David Brackenbury (East Northamptonshire); Cllr Steven North (East Northamptonshire); Cllr Tom Beattie (Corby); Cllr Brian Emerson (Wellingborough); Cllr Tom Partridge-Underwood (Wellingborough); Cllr Martin Griffiths (Wellingborough); Cllr Andre Gonzales de Savage (Northamptonshire CC); Carole Dehgani (Corby CCG); Hilary Chipping (SEMLEP); Norman Stronach (Corby); Ioan Morgan (Tresham College); Kingsley Cook (Northamptonshire Highways) and Charles Amies (Homes and Communities Agency).

16.JDC.09 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 9th August 2016 be approved and signed by the Chair.

16.JDC.10 EARLY INTERVENTION AND POLICING IN SUEs

Nicci Marzec of Northamptonshire Police addressed the meeting on the subject of Early Intervention and Policing in SUEs.

An explanation was given of how the key themes of Early Intervention fitted into the Northamptonshire Police and Crime Plan, and the sustainable approach that had been adopted across all areas.

Early intervention roles were multi-faceted and broad, embracing short term priorities in existing communities and, in the medium to long term, addressing aspirations and joint working across all agencies to deliver a more systemic solution which delivered safer and stronger communities, both in existing areas and through designing out crime at the planning stage.

A primary focus of the work of the team was aimed at improving the life chances of young people, and the following points were made:-

- It was acknowledged that there were issues in the county around gang activities and drug problems
- Much crime was incoming, ie not committed by local offenders, and the Midland Mainline provided easy routes into North Northants for criminals
- There was a need to work with partners outside the county to address long-term issues
- In the short-term, work was focused on enforcement and disruption tactics
- In the medium-term there was a need to do more work with children and young people in order to educate them about how certain activities can quickly escalate into crime
- The need to address the financial drivers for people to commit crime

Nicci Marzec urged the Committee to think about the broader context of early intervention and identify ways of drawing young people away from crime by offering an attractive alternative for children and young people in terms of activities and facilities.

During the ensuing debate, it was felt that the Committee could focus on designing out crime in the SUEs through the 'secured by design' initiatives in partnership with developers. However, it was felt that there was less surety that the Committee could address the problems associated with the design of older estates in parts of North Northamptonshire.

Members agreed that there was a need to balance the needs of communities as well as look at skills training and raise the profile of early intervention to prevent crime and anti-social behaviour in new developments.

It was noted that Corby had a good track record on intervention and a low crime level in the town through the employment of Neighbourhood Wardens and establishment of JAM teams. It was felt that the Police and Crime Commissioner should invest more money into these types of interventions across North Northamptonshire.

The Chair, in summing up the debate, agreed that the Committee would accept the challenges through ensuring that sufficient jobs and apprenticeships were provided as part of the growth agenda.

Nicci Marzec was thanked for her attendance.

16.JDC.11 THE FUTURE CONFIGURATION OF TRESHAM COLLEGE

David Higham (Deputy Principal) addressed the meeting on the future configuration of Tresham College.

The Committee noted that a review of all post-16 education providers in the SEMLEP area was currently underway with the aim of ensuring that the right provision was available in the right areas to meet growth. This was being assessed through five Steering Groups.

David Higham reported on the OFSTED inspection of Tresham College in June 2016, which had not been

favourable. However, the college was now working with OFSTED, which was due to revisit the College during February 2017. The Further Education Commissioner had also visited, which had resulted in significant restructuring of management.

Members of the Committee expressed concern about the future of the Wellingborough Campus.

It was noted that a press release on the future of Tresham College was due to be released on 3rd February 2017.

David Higham was thanked for his attendance.

16.JDC.12 RUSHDEN EAST

Louise Jelley of East Northamptonshire Council delivered a presentation on Rushden East, which covered:-

- Location
- Aim
- Developer consortium
- Components of the project
- Issues/challenges
- Governance
- Timescales for delivery

During discussion, the question of the provision of bungalows was raised. It was noted that, although developers were concerned to build the best properties to maximise their investments, a request had been made for them to consider the provision of bungalows and there were also self-build opportunities within the plans for the development.

Further debate was held on provision of accommodation for an ageing population, and it was felt that it would be useful to have a discussion with Northamptonshire County Council, potentially through the Rushden East Project Board, and an update on the provision of adult social care within the development should be given at the next meeting.

Louise
Jelley to
liaise with
NCC and
Cllr Bill
Parker

RESOLVED that the potential for the provision of a Care Home at Rushden East be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

16.JDC.13 GARDEN VILLAGE AT DEENETHORPE

Andrew Longley of the Joint Planning Unit delivered a presentation on the proposed Garden Village at Deenethorpe.

The presentation covered the following:-

- Location of development (Deenethorpe Airfield)
- Emerging Garden Village concept
- Background to JCS Policy 14 and Government Funding
- Delivery Issues
- Progress and Timescales

It was noted that although the Garden Village did not fall within the remit of the work of the Joint Delivery Committee, it did have implications for the remainder of new developments in North Northamptonshire.

The view was expressed that the new village should be developed as a modern Northamptonshire village rather than a housing estate. It was noted that the aim was to create a village that was recognisably of a Northamptonshire character.

It was felt that the Joint Planning Unit should consult with Corby Borough Council as soon as practicable, as there would be implications and pressures on infrastructure such as schools and roads once the development commenced.

16.JDC.14 PRIORS HALL, CORBY

Iain Smith of Corby Borough Council gave a short update on the current position with the Priors Hall SUE.

Corby Developments Ltd (comprising of two companies) had gone into administration on 26th October 2016, with Deloitte being appointed as the Administrators. However, work was continuing as usual, with commitments being given to delivery of the S106 obligations. The Primary School and Business Centre had already been delivered.

Work on a revised Masterplan had been put on hold, but a

meeting with Deloittes to advise on the revised Masterplan was imminent. Further discussions were also due to be held with Northamptonshire County Council about education provision and a Section 33 application was also due to come forward.

It was noted that Corby Borough Council was to hold a special meeting of its Development Control Committee to discuss Priors Hall on 28th March 2017.

16.JDC.15 WORK PROGRAMME

A report was submitted which updated Members of the Committee on progress of the North Northamptonshire Garden Communities Delivery Plan.

The report was updated at the meeting in respect of the Highways study and Members noted that a further meeting was due to be held with the Consultants shortly. A meeting was also due to be held with NHS Property Services and it was hoped that a timetable would be completed in time for the next meeting of the Committee.

Updates were also given on Stanton Cross, where the bridge was due to be constructed during the last weekend in February, and Wellingborough North, where site clearance work was due to begin imminently. It was noted that developers were now coming forward for pre-application discussions.

16.JDC.16 ENGAGEMENT WITH GOVERNMENT – OVERCOMING BARRIERS TO HOUSING DELIVERY

A report was submitted which outlined the engagement that had taken place in the last couple of months with government at ministerial and civil service levels, on issues about blockages to housing delivery and which discussed how best to take these messages forward.

It was noted that a Housing White Paper was awaited and the principal messages already given to the government through the discussions were outlined. The Committee was asked to endorse these messages. It was also noted that

there was a need to create a more diverse market with small and medium sized builders.

RESOLVED that the overall approach to lobbying government as outlined in the report be endorsed by the Joint Delivery Committee.

16.JDC.17 JOINT DELIVERY UNIT BUDGET AND CAPACITY FUNDING AND FUTURE JOINT DELIVERY ARRANGEMENTS

Two reports were submitted as follows which:-

- (1) outlined the current budgetary position and reported on the progress in securing various capacity funding streams; and
- (2) considered and sought agreement for arrangements for the future of the Joint Delivery Unit.

Following the resignation of the Joint Delivery Unit Manager, the Officer Steering Group had looked at broad principles for the future arrangements for the Unit.

The budget for the period April 2016 to June 2017 (15 months) was outlined, although there was no indication at the present time that funding would continue. A decision on funding from the Homes and Communities Agency was still awaited.

Andrew Longley of the Joint Planning Unit explained that Garden Villages across the country had all been allocated a similar amount of money at this point, but it was anticipated there would be a further opportunity to put in a bid to draw down further funding in the future.

It was noted that the Officer Steering Group had indicated that it would be difficult to attract suitable candidates to fill vacant posts in the Joint Delivery Unit due to the uncertainty over funding. The Group had felt that the most resilient way forward would be to merge the Joint Delivery Unit with the Joint Planning Unit for the foreseeable future and then reconsider the decision once more information about the Homes and Communities Agency funding was known. Taking this course of action would ensure there was still capacity

and flexibility to deal with workloads.

RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the position regarding the Joint Delivery Unit budget and capacity funding be noted;
- (ii) rather than reappointing to vacant posts in the Joint Delivery Unit, it be agreed that the Joint Delivery Unit be combined with the Joint Planning Unit to create a single Joint Planning and Delivery Unit; and
- (iii) the detailed arrangements be considered by the Steering Group once the extent of various capacity funds are known and formalised through a new Memorandum of Intent between the Local Planning Authorities.

16.JDC.18 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

16.JDC.19 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The next meeting would take place on Thursday, 13th April 2017. The venue for the next meeting would be notified to Members once agreed by officers.

Anne Ireson

The meeting started at 7.00 pm and ended at 8.30 pm

Signed
Chair

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