

Spatial context

Kettering Borough is situated in the heart of England and has good road and rail links with the rest of the Country. The Borough covers an area of approximately 23,000 hectares with an approximate population of 93,475 (Census, 2011). Kettering Borough is located in Northamptonshire and shares a close functional relationship with Corby, Wellingborough and East Northamptonshire. These four local authority areas are collectively known as North Northamptonshire and the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy sets out the strategic plan for this area.

Kettering Borough is characterised by market towns, attractive villages and countryside. Kettering is the main town and has a population of approximately 67,635 (Census 2011). There are three other towns, Burton Latimer, Desborough and Rothwell lying along the route of the former A6; and 27 villages of varying scale and character.

The Borough is expected to accommodate significant growth in the period to 2031. The majority of development will be focused at Kettering, which is identified in the Joint Core Strategy as the principle growth town. Smaller scale development will also take place at the towns of Burton Latimer, Desborough and Rothwell. Housing and employment development will be accompanied by extensive development in Kettering Town Centre and by other infrastructure to support the growth.

A significant proportion of the growth in Kettering Borough will take place through the East Kettering Sustainable Urban Extension which is planned to deliver 5,500 dwellings and associated development. In addition to this the Kettering Town Centre Area Action Plan makes provision for significant levels of retail, employment and residential development.

The countryside of the Borough is an attractive mix of landscapes, each with its own distinctive visual, historic and ecological character. The North of the Borough is characterised by the prominent and steeply sloping valley sides in the Welland Valley and the elevated landscape of hills and valleys in the West Northamptonshire Uplands. The south and central area of the Borough is characterised by areas of high plateau farmlands separated by undulating valleys of the Central Northamptonshire Plateaux and Valleys. The Ise Valley runs through the Borough and is an important landscape characteristic.

Kettering's leisure facilities and community and cultural activities incorporate facilities that serve wider catchments including a Cinema, famous Theme Park (Wicksteed Park), Leisure Village and the Lighthouse Theatre. In Kettering town centre there are various cultural facilities including the Alfred East Art Gallery and Kettering Manor House Museum and the Market Place, which provides an amphitheatre based public space for civic and community events and activities, including 'Kettering by the Sea', musical performances, festive fun and speciality markets.

Kettering Borough is extremely well placed in terms of transport infrastructure and benefits from having an East Midland rail station with fast and regular train services to London St Pancras International and Nottingham (both less than an hour away), Leicester (20 minutes) and Leeds (under 3 hours). The Midland Mainline will see

electrification to London by 2019, and north to Sheffield by 2023, bringing with it shorter journey times, the potential of more frequent trains and an increased capacity service. The proximity of the A14 and the A43 (and beyond to the M1, M6 and A1) means that access by road is equally easy. Peterborough, Cambridge, Milton Keynes, and Birmingham can be reached in under an hour, Oxford in under an hour and a half, and Norwich and the Norfolk coast in 2 hours. For international travel, Birmingham, Coventry, Luton, Stansted and the East Midlands Airports can be reached by car in 60-75 minutes, and Luton Airport can be reached by rail in 40 minutes.

Kettering Borough Council is progressive in its approach to sustainable and low carbon energy development and is committed to helping meet targets for renewable energy provision. The Council also acknowledges the importance of providing energy security and maintaining continuity of supply in order to support and attract new businesses to the area. The Borough Council sees an opportunity to embrace and prosper from the new low carbon economy.

Land at Burton Wold is identified in the Joint Core Strategy for an Energy Park to add to the range of renewable energy technologies already present. Burton Wold currently provides a focus for the Borough's renewable energy production. The existing wind farm comprises 19 turbines, with a further 3 turbines planned to be delivered by March 2017. The Burton Wold site is well located and provides an opportunity for an intensification of renewable technologies and the provision of strategic facilities that could provide energy to support the existing and growing needs of the community.

Vision

The Site Specific Part 2 Local Plan (SSP2) will identify sites and set out policies to support the vision and objectives of the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy (JCS).

Joint Core Strategy Vision

By 2031, North Northamptonshire will be a showpiece for modern green living and well managed sustainable development: a resilient area where local choices have increased the ability to adapt to the impacts of climate change and to global economic changes. The special mixed urban-rural character of North Northamptonshire will have been maintained through urban-focused growth supporting a strong network of vibrant and regenerated settlements, which each maintain their separate and distinct character within an enhanced green framework of living, working countryside.

North Northamptonshire will be outward looking, taking advantage of its excellent strategic transport connectivity to be a nationally important growth area and focus for inward investment. Plan led change will have made North Northamptonshire, its northern and southern sub-areas and individual settlements more self-reliant, with more choices available locally. Investment in infrastructure, services and facilities and growth in high quality jobs will have led to less need to travel and will have shaped places in a way that meets the needs and aspirations of local people. A

strong focus on growing investment in tourism, leisure and green infrastructure will be balanced with the protection and enhancement of the area's landscape character and its valuable built and natural environment.

North Northamptonshire will be an exemplar for construction based innovation and the delivery of low carbon growth. Its high quality environment and prosperous economy will ensure it has a stronger profile within the UK and Europe; widely recognised as a safe, healthy, affordable and attractive area for residents and visitors, and an excellent place for business to invest in.

Ecosystems will be protected and enhanced and provision of ecosystem services increased where demand exists. The Rockingham Forest will be re-invigorated through major new tree planting, providing carbon storage and a focus for tourism, recreation and sustainable wood fuel production. Restored and newly created habitats in the Nene Valley Nature Improvement Area, will have delivered improvements for both wildlife and people and a step change in nature conservation whilst recognising its tourism potential.

Contributing To This Overall Vision

- *Kettering will be the largest retail centre and its vibrant town centre, regarded for being characterful, distinctive and fun, will provide a focus for its surrounding market towns and villages. The town will be the focus for healthcare and will lead the way in renewable energy investment to strengthen the green economy. Its business community will capitalise on its excellent connectivity, including its position on the Trans-European (E24 route) A14 and on the electrified Midland Mainline rail route.*

There is an opportunity in the Site Specific Part 2 Local Plan to refine this vision to provide a more locally specific vision for Kettering Borough. This vision would be developed further as the document emerges, and will sit alongside the vision in the Kettering Town Centre Area Action Plan (AAP).

The vision for Kettering Town Centre is 'To create a vibrant heart for Kettering; a place that is characterful, distinctive and fun. The town centre will become a focal point for North Northamptonshire'

Draft vision for Kettering Borough

Kettering Borough will have a strong growing economy built upon skilled jobs and opportunities for businesses to grow. A place where high quality new homes are well designed, reflect the characteristics of the local area and provide good access to services and facilities.

Kettering town centre will be complemented by thriving market towns supporting every day shopping and service needs.

Rothwell town centre will be an attractive thriving historic town. The focus will be on protecting and preserving the historic core and enhancing the viability of the town centre. Desborough town centre will be regenerated to create a focus for shops and

facilities within an enhanced environment. Burton Latimer town centre will have an improved offer of shops and facilities with an enhanced environment.

Within Kettering's villages appropriate small-scale development will be allowed to meet local needs, there will be a focus on ensuring development reflects the character of villages and maintains the important features and characteristics of these villages. In villages which are particularly sensitive development will be resisted.

Kettering Borough will be a place where people can enjoy a healthy lifestyle with good access to green infrastructure and open space and where characteristics which make the area special are protected.

The Ise and Slade Valleys will be enhanced with improved public access and district GI corridors will improve access to GI across the Borough.

Outcomes

JCS Outcome 1. Empowered and proactive communities

The Plan sets out a framework for place shaping, focusing on the issues that matter to local communities and providing a context within which community led planning initiatives can flourish and prosper. It seeks to create successful, safe, strong, cohesive and sustainable communities where residents are actively involved in shaping the places where they live.

Locally this will mean providing locally specific policies which focus on issues which are important to local communities.

This Plan will contribute to outcome 1 by:

- Meeting local needs identified through Neighbourhood Planning initiatives and Rural Masterplanning work
- Providing detailed guidance on design in the rural area to ensure character of villages is protected
- Enhancing the environment and offer in the smaller towns
- Identifying open space to be protected
- Identifying locations and projects where delivery and implementation of new Green Infrastructure (GI) or GI enhancements should be focused and identifying District GI assets to supplement GI corridors identified in the JCS.
- Identifying Local Green Space (Historically and Visually Important Open Space) which is protected from development
- Supporting the preparation of Neighbourhood Plans

Policies to help achieve this outcome are:

- The rural strategy policies and policies for individual villages will contribute to achieving this outcome (Policies RS01, RS02, RS03, RS04, ASH01, BRA01, BRA02, BRT01, CRA01, GED01, GED02, GED04, GRA01, GRC01, GRC02,

HAR01, LOA01, LOD01, MAW01, MAW02, NEW01, PYT01, PYT02, RUS01, STO01, SUT01, THM01, WAR01, WEK01, WES01, WES02, WIL01)

- TBC

JCS Outcome 2. Adaptability to Future Climate Change

The Plan will create more sustainable places that are naturally resilient to future climate change. Carbon footprints will be minimised and sustainable transport choice will be improved. Low carbon growth will be delivered through policies that seek the highest viable standards for energy efficiency, renewable energy and sustainable construction.

Locally this will mean ensuring development sites are located in locations with good access to services and facilities and sustainable modes of transport.

This Plan will contribute to outcome 2 by:

- Allocation of strategic flood water reservoir up stream of Kettering on the Slade Brooke to alleviate flood risk in Kettering town centre and further down stream
- Identifying locations and projects where delivery and implementation of new Green Infrastructure (GI) or GI enhancements should be focused and identifying District GI assets to supplement GI corridors identified in the JCS.
- Identifying Local Green Space which is protected from development
- Locating development to minimise the need to travel and ensuring good access to services and facilities

Policies to help achieve this outcome are:

- TBC

JCS Outcome 3. Distinctive Environments that Enhance and Respect Local Character and Enhance Biodiversity

The Plan sets out a framework for retaining the area's distinctiveness, by maintaining and enhancing landscape and townscape character. It promotes an integrated approach to biodiversity management and a net gain in Green Infrastructure, strengthening links between the countryside and the towns.

Locally this will mean protecting and enhancing the characteristics of the different settlements which make them special and building on opportunities to protect and enhance the environment in the market towns. It will also mean developing the GI network and identifying specific opportunities to enhance this network.

This Plan will contribute to outcome 3 by:

- Providing detailed guidance on design in the rural area to ensure character of villages is protected.
- Enhancing the environmental offer in the smaller town centres

- Identifying locations and projects where delivery and implementation of new Green Infrastructure (GI) or GI enhancements should be focused and identifying District GI assets to supplement GI corridors identified in the JCS.
- Identifying Local Green Space (Historically and Visually Important Open Space) which is protected from development
- Including development principles for sites which ensure the townscape and landscape of towns and villages are protected
- Identifying protected housing areas where the areas have a particularly strong character, for example large dwellings in large grounds.
- Including development principles which protect and enhance biodiversity in allocated sites

Policies to help achieve this outcome are:

- The rural strategy policies and policies for individual villages will contribute to achieving this outcome. (Policies RS01, RS02, RS03, RS04, ASH01, BRA01, BRA02, BRT01, CRA01, GED01, GED02, GED04, GRA01, GRC01, GRC02, HAR01, LOA01, LOD01, MAW01, MAW02, NEW01, PYT01, PYT02, RUS01, STO01, SUT01, THM01, WAR01, WEK01, WES01, WES02, WIL01)
- TBC

JCS Outcome 4. Excellent Services and Facilities Easily Accessed by Local Communities and Businesses

The Plan establishes the priorities for future public and private investment and collaboration. It will help to secure provision of the infrastructure, services and facilities needed to sustain and enhance communities and support new development.

Locally this will mean protecting and enhancing the role of Burton Latimer, Desborough and Rothwell in providing local services and facilities. It will also mean protecting Neighbourhood Areas within Kettering which provide an important function in ensuring good access to local convenience facilities and services.

This Plan will contribute to outcome 4 by:

- Including policies and allocations to enhance Burton Latimer, Desborough and Rothwell town centres
- Identifying Neighbourhood Centres where services and facilities will be protected?
- Focusing development in sustainable locations in accordance with the strategy set out in the JCS.

Policies to help achieve this outcome are:

- TBC

JCS Outcome 5. A Sustainable Balance Between Local Jobs and Workers and a More Diverse Economy

The Plan provides for the workplaces, jobs, skills and sites to help build a more diverse, dynamic and self-reliant economy; one which is not overly dependent on in or out commuting. Higher skilled jobs will be facilitated through improved further education provision and enterprise and innovation will be enabled through next generation digital connectivity. Provision will be made to capitalise upon existing sectoral strengths in creating a stronger, greener economy.

Locally this will involve ensuring opportunities for small scale employment development are identified to complement existing employment and strategic sites identified in the JCS.

This Plan will contribute to outcome 5 by:

- Providing smaller scale employment sites to complement the strategic employment sites identified in the JCS.
- Protecting existing employment areas.

Policies to help achieve this outcome are:

- Policies allocating employment sites in the rural area will contribute to achieving this outcome.
- TBC

JCS Outcome 6 - Transformed Connectivity

The Plan seeks transformed connectivity at all levels. It sets out measures to enhance Neighbourhood Connectivity, establishes the requirement for inter urban transport links and for improvements to the strategic road network and main-line rail connections. It identifies the growth locations that will provide connections to and support the longer-term opportunity for the Northamptonshire Arc Rapid Transit network.

Locally this will mean ensuring new developments are well connected to settlements and that opportunities to improve pedestrian, cycling and motor transport connectivity are identified.

This Plan will contribute to outcome 6 by:

- Identifying adequate land for housing, employment and other development in sustainable locations.
- Including development principles for proposed allocations which identify opportunities to improve pedestrian, cycling and motor transport connectivity (Policies RS04, ASH01, BRA01, BRT01, GRA01, GED01, GED04, LOD01, MAW01, MAW02, NEW01, PYT01, RUS01, STA01, SUT01, THM01, WES01, WIL01)

Policies to help achieve this outcome are:

- TBC

JCS Outcome 7 - More Walkable Places and an Excellent Choice of Ways to Travel

The Plan identifies the actions needed in order to make walking the first choice of transport to local services and jobs including increasing connectivity to and from new development and the countryside and centres and ensuring that developments allow movement through them. It makes the links to the Local Transport Plan for the county, which identifies improvements to public transport, cycling networks and travel information that will encourage a shift away from car use in the towns and increase transport choice in the rural area.

Locally this will mean identifying development sites in locations which are accessible by a range of sustainable transport modes and ensuring that opportunities to enhance links as a result of development are identified.

This Plan will contribute to outcome 7 by:

- Identifying adequate land for housing and employment development in sustainable locations.
- Identifying Neighbourhood Centres where services and facilities will be protected?
- Enhancing the environment and offer in the smaller town centre.
- Identifying locations and projects where delivery and implementation of new Green Infrastructure (GI) or GI enhancements should be focused and identifying District GI assets to supplement GI corridors identified in the JCS.
- Including development principles for proposed allocations which identify opportunities to improve pedestrian, cycling and motor transport connectivity (Policies RS04, ASH01, BRA01, BRT01, GRA01, GED01, GED04, LOD01, MAW01, MAW02, NEW01, PYT01, RUS01, STA01, SUT01, THM01, WES01, WIL01).
-

Policies to help achieve this outcome are:

- TBC

JCS Outcome 8 - Vibrant, Well Connected Towns and a Productive Countryside

The Plan proposes sustainable urban-focused development and a proactive approach to meeting rural needs, supporting greater self-reliance for the area as a whole. The network of settlements will be strengthened through transformed public transport services within the north-south urban spine and out to the market towns in the east, with demand responsive services in the rural areas. Superfast broadband will support rural businesses, enable more working from home and assist the development of local food and fuel supply chains.

This Plan will contribute to outcome 8 by:

- Enhancing the environment and facilities in the smaller town centres.

- Focusing development in sustainable locations in accordance with the strategy set out in the JCS.
- Identifying housing, employment and other allocations to meet local needs in the rural area.
- Supporting the delivery of broadband through site allocations.

Policies to help achieve this outcome are:

- The rural strategy policies and policies for individual villages will contribute to achieving this outcome. (Policies RS01, RS02, RS03, RS04, ASH01, BRA01, BRA02, BRT01, CRA01, GED01, GED02, GED04, GRA01, GRC01, GRC02, HAR01, LOA01, LOD01, MAW01, MAW02, NEW01, PYT01, PYT02, RUS01, STO01, SUT01, THM01, WAR01, WEK01, WES01, WES02, WIL01)
- TBC

JCS Outcome 9 - Stronger, More Self-Reliant Towns with Thriving Centres

The Plan proposes the regeneration of town centres and of older parts of towns will help to maximise the use of brownfield land for new development and inspire community confidence in the need for positive change. The Plan identifies the town centres at Kettering and Corby as areas of focus for leisure, retail and cultural facilities for the northern area, making them into real hearts for their communities. Implementation of the consented Rushden Lakes development will provide an additional retail and leisure focus serving the southern area, complementing Rushden and Wellingborough town centre, which will diversify and strengthen their convenience retail provision and cultural offers.

This Plan will contribute to outcome 9 by:

- Including policies and allocations to enhance Burton Latimer, Desborough and Rothwell town centres
- Providing adequate housing and employment allocations in sustainable locations.
- Complementing policies in the Kettering Town Centre AAP
- Including policies on local thresholds for sequential assessments and impact assessments.

Policies to help achieve this outcome are:

- TBC

JCS Outcome 10 - Enhanced Quality of Life for All Residents

The Plan identifies the quality and mix of housing needed to meet the full, objectively assessed needs of the housing market area, ensuring that a sufficient proportion is affordable and accessible to all. It supports initiatives that build stable, safe, healthy and strong communities, which means respecting cultural diversity and distinctiveness; planning new development to help reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime; promoting well-being and health; ensuring that development is of local character; and supporting area based renewal.

This Plan will contribute to outcome 10 by:

- Protection open space
- Provision on open space in new developments
- Ensuring infrastructure is provided through development principles for site allocations.
- Identifying Local Green Space which is protected from development
- Providing detailed guidance on design in the rural area to ensure character of villages is protected
- Enhancing the environment and offer in the smaller town centres.
- Allocation of sites which provide for a mix, type and tenure required to meet local needs
- Including development principles which ensure good design, for example designing out crime
- Identifying locations and projects where delivery and implementation of new Green Infrastructure (GI) or GI enhancements should be focused and identifying District GI assets to supplement GI corridors identified in the JCS.

Policies to help achieve this outcome are:

- The rural strategy policies and policies for individual villages will contribute to achieving this outcome. (Policies RS01, RS02, RS03, RS04, ASH01, BRA01, BRA02, BRT01, CRA01, GED01, GED02, GED04, GRA01, GRC01, GRC02, HAR01, LOA01, LOD01, MAW01, MAW02, NEW01, PYT01, PYT02, RUS01, STO01, SUT01, THM01, WAR01, WEK01, WES01, WES02, WIL01)
- TBC