
JOINT DELIVERY COMMITTEE FOR NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

**Meeting held: 13th April 2017
at East Northamptonshire Council**

Present: Councillor Russell Roberts (Kettering) (Chair)
Councillors Jean Addison and Bob Eyles (Corby); Councillors
Steven North, David Brackenbury and David Jenney (East
Northamptonshire); Councillors Lloyd Bunday and Mick Scrimshaw
(Kettering) and Councillor Martin Griffiths (Wellingborough)

Also Present: Councillors Ian Jelley and Lesley Thurland (Kettering)
Martin Hammond (Deputy Chief Executive, Kettering Borough
Council)
Andrew Longley (Joint Planning Unit)
Jennifer Bell (Joint Planning/Joint Delivery Unit)
Stephen Catchpole (SEMLEP)
Kathleen Dunmore (Three Dragons)
Paul McKim (Corby Borough Council)
Carl Fitzgerald (Corby Borough Council)
Julie Thomas (Wellingborough Borough Council)
Rob Harbour (Kettering Borough Council)
Anne Ireson (Committee Administrator)

Action

16.JDC.20 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Tom Beattie and
Elise Elliston (Corby); Councillors Brian Emerson and Tom
Partridge-Underwood (Wellingborough); Councillor Andrew
Gonzalez DeSavage (NCC); Kingsley Cook (Northants
Highways); Chris Wragg (NCC); Graham Foster (Kettering
General Hospital); Dr Joanne Watt and Carole Deghani
(Corby CCG).

16.JDC.21 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the
Committee held on 31st January 2017 be

approved and signed by the Chair subject to the addition of Councillors Ian Jelley and Lesley Thurland (Kettering) to the list of those present.

16.JDC.22 STUDY OF OLDER PERSON'S HOUSING AND SUPPORT NEEDS ACROSS NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

A presentation was given by Kathleen Dunmore of Three Dragons. It was noted that the study had been jointly commissioned by the County Council, Joint Planning Units and CCGs.

Following the presentation, discussion was held on the provision of older person's housing and support needs in North Northamptonshire. It was felt that more suitable housing for older people was needed, and developments such as those offered by McCarthy and Stone could incur costs of over £200 per week, which was not affordable by many older people. Kathleen Dunmore agreed to look into such costs and provide accurate figures that were applicable in North Northamptonshire.

Kathleen
Dunmore

It was noted that 54 bungalows had been built in Corby for owner-occupiers and a facility in Thrapston provided substantial apartments in the town centre for the care of older people. However, the view was expressed that across North Northamptonshire more units of social accommodation were needed due to the increase in the numbers of older people. Accessibility to urban centres was also felt to be an important consideration, and improvements in bus services and routes were also necessary.

Kathleen Dunmore was thanked for her presentation.

16.JDC.23 JOINT DELIVERY UNIT BUDGET AND CAPACITY FUNDING

A report was submitted which outlined the current budgetary position and reported on the progress in securing various capacity funding streams.

It was noted that, since the last meeting, a revised bid at

short notice had been submitted and £200k had been awarded as a down payment on 2017/18 funding, with potentially more to bid for. The Joint Delivery Unit budget was therefore now in a good position.

East Northamptonshire Council had received the first year funding for the Garden Village, with potentially more funding available to bid for.

In respect of large sites capacity funding, £1.1m had been awarded against a bid of £1.3m.

RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the Government's support for the delivery of growth in North Northamptonshire through the Large Sites capacity fund be welcomed; and
- (ii) it be agreed that the Joint Planning and Delivery Unit should continue to pursue funding opportunities to give greater certainty/longevity to delivery arrangements in North Northamptonshire.

16.JDC.24 JOINT PLANNING AND DELIVERY UNIT (JPDU) ARRANGEMENTS

A report was submitted which sought agreement for arrangements for the Joint Planning and Delivery Unit.

Members noted that the Steering Group had looked at the arrangements and had formed the view that the post of Delivery Manager should be filled but that the Project Officer should not be filled in the first instance pending an assessment of workloads. Through combining and changing roles, the overall cost of the staff establishment would be approximately £30k less than the budgeted costs for the separate JDU and JPU.

RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the structure for the JPDU be agreed as set out in the report;
- (ii) detailed working arrangements be agreed by

the CPO Steering Group and formalised through a new Memorandum of Intent between the local planning authorities; and

- (iii) a work programme for the JPDU be presented to the next meeting of the Joint Delivery Committee.

16.JDC.25 JOINT DELIVERY UNIT WORK PROGRAMME

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

The report was updated at the meeting in respect of the Health Study. The draft report had now been received and officers were now reviewing the report, with a meeting planned for late April/early May. It was hoped that the final report would be brought to the next meeting of the Committee.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

16.JDC.26 HOUSING WHITE PAPER – “FIXING OUR BROKEN HOUSING MARKET”

A report was submitted which informed the Joint Delivery Committee of the Housing White Paper and the proposed changes to national planning policy, and which sought to agree a response to the consultation which closed on 2nd May 2017.

It was noted that planning officers were now considering the document and it was hope to put together a joint response to be considered by the Joint Planning Committee at its next meeting.

Members considered the contents of the white paper, together with comments and a proposed response to key points which had been endorsed by the Committee at its last meeting.

Members then made the following points:-

- There should be cross boundary co-operation in North Northants and the white paper was not clear regarding delivery numbers across boundaries
- There should be clarity about the potential impact should other areas outside the North Northamptonshire Delivery area fail to deliver
- Local authorities should keep all receipts from right to buy sales as there were limits on the amount that could be borrowed to build new council houses
- The housing white paper was just one part of a bigger picture and did not seem to be aligned with other documents and plans (for example Economic and Transport Plans). All such documents should be aligned with each other
- The white paper is designed to apply to the country as a whole and implies that both the planning system and planning policy is broken – this is not the case in North Northamptonshire where all four authorities work together and deliver with an excess of 5-year land supply and SUEs coming forward
- Planning fees had been increased by 20%, ring-fenced on improving services, which could be viewed as being somewhat insulting. Increases in planning fees should be tiered to encourage the small housebuilder

RESOLVED that the response to the Housing White Paper as set out in the report be endorsed and combined with the response of the Joint Planning Committee to provide North Northamptonshire's joint response.

16.JDC.27 NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE REPORT ON THE FUTURE OF THE OXFORD-CAMBRIDGE CORRIDOR

A report was submitted which outlined the conclusions of the National Infrastructure Commission's (NIC's) report and which sought approval for a joint response to the current

consultation.

Members of the Committee noted the conclusions contained in Section 4 of the report and made the following observations:-

- It would be beneficial for North Northamptonshire to be included
- Any response should align with the SEMLEP response
- Any new governance arrangements should include democratically-elected representatives
- The growth corridor involved more than just transport issues
- There should be democratically-elected responsibility for any funding decisions

It was felt that different areas had different identities and priorities. North Northamptonshire had a good track record in partnership working and joint delivery, which might not be replicated elsewhere. This could mean that funding might be directed away from North Northants if it was not included within the corridor.

RESOLVED that

- (i) the Joint Delivery Committee endorse the inclusion of North Northamptonshire in the Oxford-Cambridge corridor; and
- (ii) a joint response to the Commission's second stage discussion paper be developed and the observations outlined above be taken into account to inform the response.

16.JDC.28 MERGER OF TRESHAM AND BEDFORD FE COLLEGES

A report was submitted which asked the Joint Delivery Committee if it wished to respond to a consultation on the merger of Tresham and Bedford FE Colleges.

The consultation document, attached as an appendix to the report, set out the case for the merger and posed a series of questions which were outlined at the meeting and discussed.

It was noted that the consultation ended on 5th May 2017.

It was felt that Wellingborough was well-supported in the report, which was welcomed as there was a need to reflect a continued further education presence in the town. Members stressed there was an established need in North Northamptonshire for maintaining a further education provision for technical skills.

RESOLVED that the comments contained within the report be endorsed and the Joint Delivery Committee give its overall support for the merger of Bedford and Tresham Colleges.

16.JDC.29 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would take place on Thursday, 10th August 2017 at Kettering Borough Council

The meeting started at 7.00 pm and ended at 8.30 pm

Signed
Chair

AI