
JOINT DELIVERY COMMITTEE FOR NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Meeting held: 12th July 2018
at Corby Borough Council

Present: Councillor Martin Griffiths (Wellingborough) (Chair)
Councillor Jean Addison (Corby); Councillors Steven North and
David Jenney (East Northamptonshire); Councillors Lesley
Thurland and Mick Scrimshaw (Kettering).

Also Present: Ciaran Gunne-Jones and Lucie Bailey (Lichfields)
Martin Hammond (Executive Director, Kettering Borough Council)
Andrew Longley (Joint Planning and Delivery Unit)
Jennifer Bell (Joint Planning and Delivery Unit)
Simon James (Joint Planning and Delivery Unit)
Julie Thomas (Wellingborough)
Iain Smith (Corby)
Anne Ireson (Committee Administrator)

Action

18.JDC.01 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Tom Partridge-Underwood and Brian Emerson (Wellingborough), Councillors Tom Beattie and Elise Elliston (Corby), Councillors Russell Roberts and Lloyd Bunday (Kettering), Liz Elliott (Wellingborough), Richard Palmer (East Northants), Kingsley Cook (Kier WSP), Corrie Harris (Tresham), Hilary Chipping (SEMLEP), Chris Wragg (Northamptonshire County Council) and Simon Weldon (Kettering General Hospital).

It was noted that Councillor Lesley Thurland was acting as a substitute for Councillor Russell Roberts (Kettering) and Councillor Jean Addison was acting as a substitute for Councillor Tom Beattie (Corby).

18.JDC.02 ELECTION OF CHAIR AND APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY CHAIR

RESOLVED that Councillor Tom Beattie be elected Chair and Councillor Jon-Paul Carr be appointed Deputy Chair of the Joint Delivery Committee.

(Voting: Unanimous)

18.JDC.03 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 15th March 2018 be approved and signed by the Chair.

18.JDC.04 NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE GROWTH DEAL AND INVESTMENT FRAMEWORK

A report was submitted which reported progress since the meeting of the Joint Delivery Committee (JDC) on 15th March 2018 and sought endorsement for the approach being taken, in particular:-

- (a) support for the principle of the JDC becoming a North Northamptonshire Growth Board to oversee the implementation of any Growth Deal;
- (b) agreement that a draft growth deal proposal, including potential housing numbers and key 'asks' should be prepared based on content of the report; and
- (c) information be provided and feedback be sought on the proposed approach to the North Northamptonshire Investment Framework.

Members of the Committee noted that it had been the intention to take the work forward over the summer period with a sign-off at the next meeting of the JDC on 20th September. However, in order to allow a broader discussion around unitary issues, it was now proposed to hold a workshop on 20th September instead.

Key points were summarised that had arisen from a meeting with officers from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). A diagram was circulated which showed housing completions over the past few years, which had peaked in 2007 and had now risen back up to a similar level, with an average of 1,525 units per year.

It was noted that the government was now looking for significantly more homes across North Northamptonshire than set out in the Joint Core Strategy. It was considered that 20% uplift above Local Housing Need was a positive and ambitious target and was achievable, as this level of completions had been demonstrated in the past year.

Initial thoughts from the Project Group and Steering Group were that there were key components of a North Northamptonshire (NN) Growth deal, namely:-

- Measures to increase economic prosperity/GVA in NN including addressing skills gaps and capitalising on sectoral priorities/opportunities to meet local needs and the needs of the wider corridor;
- A Strategic Infrastructure Fund to unlock sites, improve viability, support the market through enhanced place-quality and connectivity, and to deliver priority projects (e.g. related to construction skills and the health agenda);
- A Land Fund to acquire and de-risk sites, making them available to a diverse range of providers. This could include early intervention in strategic developments and acquiring smaller sites such as those on brownfield registers and within town centres to facilitate wider regeneration as a complementary offer to the SUEs;
- Affordable Housing Fund and freedoms (including raising HRA borrowing cap) to allow councils and RPs to accelerate delivery of a range of housing products in addition to those supported by existing funding programmes;
- Capacity Funding to include the joint strategic plan to 2050, implementation of innovative delivery arrangements and exploring a strategic tariff/ CIL;
- Flexibility on housing land supply and delivery tests, including the existing JCS approach that assesses supply

against distributed LHN rather than the strategic opportunity to go higher.

At this point a debate was held on the Oxfordshire growth deal. It was felt that the funding did not seem to be enough to support a significant commitment to growth and the required infrastructure. In North Northamptonshire, it was felt there was a need to strike a careful balance between supporting residents living in existing communities which will be taking on more housing and providing the necessary infrastructure, such as roads and social infrastructure, in advance of development.

It was noted that officers had made such views clear, but it was very important to develop an infrastructure delivery plan to support the Joint Core Strategy which included elements of prioritisation. Currently there was a big gap in relation to health provision.

At this point a presentation was given by Lichfields, which gave an overview of the early stages in terms of an important piece of the evidence base to inform the growth deal and ensure the information was up-to-date. The presentation also outlined the approach, methodology and key elements of the proposed NN Investment Framework.

Following the presentation, further debate was held and it was noted that at the recent LGA conference, there were numerous references to problems of housing delivery across the country, and this had been flagged up as an issue that should be acted upon.

Concern was expressed regarding baseline data projections and the evidence base, particularly in relation to the housing and employment trajectories. It was felt that a better and different skills base was needed and factors needed to be put into place to enable jobs growth from one sector to another.

Members of the Committee noted that the first four dates for C-MK-0 meetings had now been set.

The Committee was advised that it was proposed to hold a workshop on 20th September 2018 at Kettering Borough Council to give members of both the Joint Delivery Committee and the Joint Planning Committee the opportunity to flesh out the detail of a growth deal proposal and put forward key points to emphasise.

RESOLVED that the content of the report and associated presentation be noted and

- (i) the principle of the Joint Delivery Committee becoming a North Northamptonshire Growth Board to oversee any Growth Deal be supported, and officers be instructed to report back on matters for consideration before a proposal can be put to the partner councils;
- (ii) a draft growth deal proposal, including potential housing numbers and key 'asks' be prepared based on the bullet points set out in paragraphs 4.2 and 4.3 of the report. This will form the basis of a workshop for members of the Joint Planning Committee and the Joint Delivery Committee to be held on 20th September 2018 before a final draft is considered by individual Councils.

18.JDC.05 JOINT DELIVERY UNIT WORK PROGRAMME

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

A progress report on each Garden Community (sustainable urban extension) was given verbally at the meeting.

During discussion the point was made that several highways schemes were being held up across the area, and it was important that everything possible continues to be done to improve the current situation. The Committee had previously flagged up this issue as being problematic, and a further meeting with Kier WSP was planned to take place in August.

RESOLVED that the contents of the report be noted.

18.JDC.06 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be in a workshop format and would take place on 20th September 2018 at Kettering Borough Council.

Signed

Chair

(The meeting started at 7.00 pm and ended at 8.03 pm)

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