

NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE JOINT DELIVERY COMMITTEE		Item 5	Page 1 of 5
Date	6 th June 2019		
Report Originator	Head of North Northamptonshire Joint Planning and Delivery Unit		
Report Title	North Northamptonshire Investment Framework		

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

For the Joint Delivery Committee to agree the final North Northamptonshire Investment Framework and that the JPDU should work with relevant stakeholders to identify how priority projects will be delivered.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At its meeting on 15th March 2018 the Joint Delivery Committee agreed that the JPDU should commission work on an Investment Framework to provide detailed information on the infrastructure required to support delivery of development in North Northamptonshire.
- 2.2 Planning and development consultants Lichfield's were commissioned to undertake this piece of work, the North Northamptonshire Investment Framework (NNIF). Two workshops were held with members and senior officers in September 2018 and January 2019 to discuss the infrastructure requirements across the area and to agree on the prioritisation methodology.

3. North Northamptonshire Investment Framework

- 3.1 The draft document has been consulted on with the officer working and steering group as well as with wider infrastructure stakeholders. This has resulted in some minor changes to pick up factual issues. The document has now been finalised and is provided at Appendix 1 to this report.
- 3.2 The document provides background to growth within North Northamptonshire and uses various local and regional documents and references to the Oxford – Cambridge Arc to understand the drivers and factors affecting the area. The NNIF addresses the delivery of growth proposals set out in the adopted Joint Core Strategy (JCS). It highlights the potential to accelerate the pace of delivery, consistent with the Joint Committees' position on a potential growth deal. An assessment of historic delivery alongside housing and commercial markets provides an overview of various factors affecting delivery. The infrastructure element is then explored in more detail with the various themes and identification of potential projects that are required to support delivery.
- 3.3 There are syntheses of the various aspects throughout the document, these bring together and provide a clear analysis of the sections.
- 3.4 A key issue identified throughout the NNIF and emphasised within the conclusion of the document is that North Northamptonshire is currently lacking a coherent and compelling economic narrative and strategy. It is suggested that a document is needed to articulate the existing economic strengths and unique features and

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to focus attention and resources on areas that will maximise the areas growth potential.

- 3.5 A SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) analysis is also provided within the document, page 50 of Appendix 1. The Opportunities that are stated here need to be explored with partners, and the weaknesses need to be understood so that they can be addressed through future work.
- 3.6 The next stage of Lichfields' work is to undertake the further work on an economic narrative referred to above. The proposed content of this is outlined in Appendix 2. The Joint Delivery Committee will be updated on progress.

4. Priority Projects and Action Plans

- 4.1 The prioritisation framework uses various components to assess their relative need against a range of criteria, including the strategic fit against national, regional and local strategy. It considers the scope of the infrastructure in its ability to unlock housing or employment development. The deliverability of the project is set out using the project status and the timescales for delivery alongside how the project is to be funded and the speed of delivery. Weight is given to those projects that will unlock more than one site and provide cross-over with other desired outcomes. This is a live document and can be updated as new information becomes available or funding streams released. The appraisal criteria can also be changed should the funding priority be different.
- 4.2 It is recommended that the Joint Delivery Committee agree that the JPDU works with the relevant stakeholders to identify how the priority projects can be delivered. This may take the form of action plans that can be used to bid for resources.

5. Conclusion

- 5.1 It is considered that the NNIF is a robust document that provides the evidence to support future funding bids from the JPDU and partner Councils. The positive feedback to it from attendees at the Homes England/MHCLG Study tour in April, and wider stakeholders is welcomed, and should further support the implementation and wider use of the document and the projects within it. The commissioning of further work on economic strategy and narrative should further strengthen the evidence base to ensure that attention and resources are focused on areas that maximise North Northamptonshire's growth potential.
- 5.2 Endorsement of the NNIF and the projects within it by the Joint Delivery Committee further strengthens the document, allowing the JPDU and partner Councils to focus on implementation of projects including the preparation of action plans for priority projects.

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6. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the North Northamptonshire Investment Framework is agreed and that the JPDU should work with relevant stakeholders to identify how priority projects will be delivered.

Background Papers: None
Title
Date
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Appendix 1: North Northamptonshire Investment Framework

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Appendix 2: Proposed content for Economic Narrative and Prospectus for North Northamptonshire