

JOINT DELIVERY COMMITTEE FOR NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Meeting held: 6th June 2019
at Corby Borough Council

Present: Councillor Tom Beattie (Corby) (Chair)
Councillor Bob Eyles (Corby); Councillors David Brackenbury,
David Jenney and Steven North (East Northamptonshire);
Councillors Lloyd Bunday, Russell Roberts and Mick Scrimshaw
(Kettering); Councillors Brian Emerson, Martin Griffiths and Jon-
Paul Carr (Wellingborough).

Also Present: Toby Sanders (Joint Chief Executive for NHS Corby and NHS Nene
Clinical Commissioning Groups)
Martin Hammond (Executive Director - Kettering Borough Council)
Andrew Longley (Joint Planning and Delivery Unit)
Jennifer Bell (Joint Planning and Delivery Unit)
Andra Stopforth (Joint Planning and Delivery Unit)
Iain Smith (Corby Borough Council)
Simon Richardson (Kettering Borough Council)
Councillor Lesley Thurland (Kettering Borough Council)
Anne Ireson (Committee Administrator)

ACTION

19.JDC.01 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY LANDINGS

A minute's silence was held in memory of those who lost their lives in
the D-Day Landings.

19.JDC.02 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Elise Elliston
(Corby Borough Council); Julie Thomas (Borough Council of
Wellingborough) and Paul Bland (East Northamptonshire Council)

19.JDC.03 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on
12th July 2018 be approved as a correct record and signed
by the Chair subject to the addition of Councillor Jon Paul
Carr to the list of those present.

19.JDC.04 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

19.JDC.05 THE NORTHAMPTONSHIRE CCGs TRANSITION PROGRAMME

The Chair introduced Toby Sanders, the Joint Chief Executive for NHS Corby and NHS Nene Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs), and informed the meeting that he had agreed to the inclusion of a presentation as a late agenda item.

Toby Sanders delivered a presentation on the CCGs Transition Programme to disestablish the two existing CCGs in Northamptonshire and create a new single county-wide CCG for the county. The presentation included information on the reasons for change; priorities; the process and the potential new structure.

During discussion, members of the Committee welcomed the change as it was felt that localism was important at both neighbourhood, community and overall North Northamptonshire level, with funding being devolved down into local areas.

Particular reference was made to the move to a unified structure of local government in North Northamptonshire and assurances were sought that existing partnership arrangements with other county CCGs and NHS organisations outside the county would continue. It was confirmed that such arrangements would not be affected by the proposed change.

Following a question regarding health inequalities in Northamptonshire, with particular reference to historic inequalities in Corby, it was noted that the proposals would devolve more funding and local service provision to new primary care networks at a local level which would strengthen services. The five GP practices in Corby had all welcomed the proposal.

The Committee commented on the creation of two unitary authorities in Northamptonshire from April 2021, and it was noted that there were a number of strategic areas, for example safeguarding and children's services, where partners could work together successfully and strengthen joint arrangements, including statutory responsibilities.

The Head of North Northamptonshire Joint Planning and Delivery Unit informed the Committee that a jointly-funded Health and Planning Co-ordination Programme had recently been put in place to forge links between the health and planning sectors. It had been announced that the NHS were looking to roll out a healthy new towns programme and it was hoped to bid to be part of this as one of six areas to be selected.

The Chair of the Committee thanked Toby Sanders for his presentation.

19.JDC.06 NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE INVESTMENT FRAMEWORK

A report was submitted which sought agreement of the final North Northamptonshire Investment Framework (NNIF). The report also sought agreement that the Joint Planning and Delivery Unit (JPDU) should work with relevant stakeholders to identify how priority projects would be delivered.

It was noted that consultation on the draft document had been undertaken with the officer working and steering group as well as with wider infrastructure stakeholders. The next stage of the consultant's work would be to undertake further work on an economic narrative through a Steering Group.

Members noted that the NNIF was a live, updateable document containing short term projects to be delivered by 2024/25 and medium term projects to be delivered by 2031. Priority projects include the Isham Bypass and Isham to Wellingborough Improvements. Attendees at the recent study tour with Homes England and MHCLG had stated that they were impressed with the document.

During discussion, both the document and infrastructure priorities were welcomed as a framework on which to move forward. However, it was felt that it was clear that the government agenda was to provide housing and there was some concern that North Northamptonshire still suffered from an infrastructure deficit.

In relation to projects, members queried the rationale for identifying projects in one area over another where it could be perceived there was a greater need. It was noted that each project had a pro-forma as a basis of information to rationalise and question. Further iterations would require projects to pass various tests.

Members then discussed the need for sensible growth in villages on exception sites. It was felt to be important that villages maintained the opportunity to identify exception sites to maintain growth. Additionally, smaller sites tended to be delivered more quickly and would add to the required housing numbers.

It was noted that the document contained reference to utilities and Western Power investment strategies included a section on electric car recharging.

Members expressed concern that housing delivery was being held back by Northants Highways. In response, it was noted that staff worked

closely with the Highways Authority and an additional officer had been seconded to the team, which did currently have major capacity issues. However, work was being done to try to address these issues going forward and look at how additional resources could be made available.

Members felt that it would be important to make a case for more inward investment as priorities changed and growth in North Northamptonshire moved forward. This had also been flagged up by the workshops that had been held last year.

In conclusion to the debate, it was stressed that it would be important to maintain collective effort into the plan, keep the profile raised and make sure the County Council were aware of it.

It was **Agreed** that:

- (i) Dominic Donnini be invited to a meeting in order to build bridges and a future relationship with NCC Highways; and AL/
AI
- (ii) members ensure the NNIF document was discussed at SEMLEP and at corridor level. MH/
AL

RESOLVED that, subject to minor amendments to the document being made by the Head of North Northamptonshire Joint Planning and Delivery Unit, the North Northamptonshire Investment Framework be agreed and the Joint Planning and Delivery Unit work with relevant stakeholders to identify how priority projects would be delivered.

19.JDC.07 OXFORD-CAMBRIDGE ARC UPDATE

A report was submitted which updated the Joint Delivery Committee on the Oxford-Cambridge Arc and the implications for North Northamptonshire. The report also gave an update on progress with a Growth Deal.

It was noted that senior officials from the DHCLG and Homes England had given excellent and powerful feedback during the recent study tour.

However, the government now seemed to be looking for a more co-ordinated Arc-wide approach to securing funding and prioritising investments. Clarification was being sought from the government on how to secure a tailored package to provide the infrastructure to support growth in North Northamptonshire. If government support was not forthcoming, it was clear that urgency in revising the Joint Core Strategy would diminish, as would the potential to accelerate growth. In this respect it was intended to submit a report to the next meeting of the Joint Planning Committee as to how limited progress on the vision

impacted on the Joint Core Strategy review. It was acknowledged that this would be a challenge, but it also represented an opportunity for North Northamptonshire to set out its stall with a strong evidence base.

It was also planned to arrange a further study tour during late summer/early autumn 2019.

Councillor Steven North informed the Committee that he had recently attended a central corridor meeting, at which the MHCLG had been present. The changed government approach had been evident at the meeting. As Oxford had already secured a deal, this should give an amount of security for certain elements in the central corridor.

In discussion, members felt encouraged by the comments made in relation to the study tour in April and welcomed the proposal for a further tour for members of the JPC and JDC later in the year. It was felt to be important to stress to the government that the North Northamptonshire growth agenda was impressive, and that local authorities were keen to link-in growth and an uplift in services with the new unitary authority. There should also be no vagueness about North Northamptonshire as part of the geography of the area. In this respect it was noted there was now a clear map showing the whole of North Northamptonshire within the Arc.

RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the update on the Oxford-Cambridge Arc and the implications for North Northamptonshire be noted; and
- (ii) a study tour of North Northamptonshire developments be arranged for members of the Joint Planning Committee and Joint Delivery Committee.

AL

19.JDC.07 HOUSING DELIVERY

A report was submitted which provided an overview of the Letwin Review on Housing Delivery, the Government's response and the current position in North Northamptonshire.

It was noted that the MHCLG was due to publish additional guidance on diversifying housing supply, which would be brought back to the committee in due course.

Following discussion with Homes England, it was recommended that the North Northamptonshire Stakeholder Group be reconvened as a Delivery Group to oversee progress on the Garden Communities. The Group would then meet quarterly, reporting to the Joint Delivery Committee.

During debate, members expressed concern about the 10x existing use multiplier contained within the Letwin report in relation to the value of land, which it was felt would work in central London but not in places such as Northamptonshire.

It was noted that, in response to the increased pressures created by homelessness and growing waiting lists for housing, approximately 50 local authorities had created housing companies to increase levels of housing in local areas with a mix of properties. It was suggested that the creation of a housing company in North Northamptonshire could form part of the strategy to increase housing supply and complement other government activities.

Members were informed that Kettering Borough Council had employed consultants, using LGA funding, to look at the benefits of a Housing Company. The consultants had concluded that such a company would not be beneficial in this instance and the idea had therefore been set aside.

Any political decision on how to drive forward and maintain the momentum of house building in Northamptonshire would form part of ongoing unitary discussions, and it was anticipated that a report would be brought back to the Joint Delivery Committee when the government produced more guidance in this respect.

The Committee agreed that public sector housing delivery was a big ticket issue for North Northamptonshire which could only be looked at by the unitary authority. However, in the meantime, there was much that could be achieved by sharing good practice across local authorities, especially in relation to homelessness, which was of immediate and worrying concern.

RESOLVED that the content of the report be noted and the Joint Delivery Committee support the creation of the North Northamptonshire Delivery Group.

19.JDC.08 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Tresham Garden Village

It was reported that the Tresham Garden Village had been highly commended in the national planning awards for the Natural Environment. The NNJDPU were looking at the application of the concept across other developments.

Future Place Initiative

The Royal Institute of British Architects were leading on an initiative to unlock placemaking potential at a local level and make a difference through design processes. North Northamptonshire had been successful in being chosen as one of five areas out of 43 put forward. As part of the initiative £10,000 of funding has been made available for each Future Place area. In North Northamptonshire this is to be used to look at improving links between town centres and the urban extensions. A call has been made via the RIBA to architects to undertake a pilot project looking at Midland Road in Wellingborough. The Committee extended its thanks and congratulations to all involved in the above two good news stories.

19.JDC.09 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Joint Delivery Committee would be held on 26th September 2019 at Kettering Borough Council.

AI

(The meeting started at 7.00 pm and finished at 9.21 pm)

Signed
Chair

AI