

PLANNING POLICY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 1st September 2020 at 6.00 pm
www.kettering.gov.uk/youtube

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A G E N D A

This is a virtual meeting of the Planning Policy Committee to be held using Zoom and live-streamed via YouTube.

Committee Members, officers and previously-notified speakers will be sent Zoom meeting joining instructions separately

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Working with and on behalf of local people



1.	Apologies	
2.	<p>Declarations of Interest</p> <p><i>(Members are asked to make any declarations of financial or other interests they may have in relation to items on this agenda. Members are reminded to make a declaration at any stage throughout the meeting if it becomes apparent that this may be required when a particular item or issue is considered.)</i></p> <p>(a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests</p> <p>(b) Personal Interests</p>	
3.	Minutes of the meeting held on 21 st May 2020 to be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair	
4.	Any items of business the Chair considers to be urgent	
5.	The Chair to ask members of the public present if they want to speak on any public items on the agenda	
6.	Local Development Scheme	
7.	Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocation Policy Update	
8.	Planning the Future of Open Space, Playing Pitch Provision and Sports Facilities for Kettering Borough	
9.	England's Economic Heartland Draft Transport Strategy	
10.	Planning for the Future – White Paper Consultation	
	<p><i>Members of the Planning Policy Committee:-</i> Cllr Mike Tebbutt (Chair), Cllr Ian Jelley (Deputy Chair), Cllrs Linda Adams, Cedwien Brown, John Currall, Ash Davies, June Derbyshire, Ruth Groome and Jan O'Hara</p> <p><i>Substitute Members:- Cllrs Michael Brown, David Howes, Clark Mitchell, Cliff Moreton, Mark Rowley, Margaret Talbot, and Greg Titcombe</i></p>	

Private and Confidential Items

The press and members of the public can be excluded from business of the meeting on the grounds that it involves items of business which include the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined by Paragraphs 1-7 of the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006 in respect of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972. The reason for discussing the issue in private is indicated on the Order of Business and was advertised by way of a Public Notice in accordance with the provisions of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.

BOROUGH OF KETTERING

PLANNING POLICY COMMITTEE

21st May 2020

(Meeting held virtually)

Present:-

Councillor Michael Tebbutt (Chair)
Councillors Adams, C Brown, Currall, Davies, Groome,
Jelley, Rowley and O'Hara

20.PP.01 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor June Derbyshire. It was noted that Councillor Mark Rowley was acting as a substitute.

20.PP.02 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Ruth Groome declared an interest in Item 7 as a member of Burton Latimer Town Council and an employee of Northamptonshire County Council Libraries Service.

Councillors Ian Jelley and Cedwien Brown declared an interest in item 7 as members of Rothwell Town Council.

Councillor John Currall declared an interest in item 7 as a member of Rothwell Town Council.

Councillor Mark Rowley declared an interest in item 7 as a member of Geddington, Newton and Little Oakley Parish Council.

Councillor James Hakewill declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in Item 7 on the agenda as a landowner in Braybrooke and indicated that he would leave the meeting room during any discussion on issues relating to Braybrooke.

20.PP.03 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Planning Policy Committee held on 20th November 2019 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

20.PP.04 URGENT BUSINESS

None.

20.PP.05 PROTOCOLS FOR PLANNING POLICY COMMITTEES

A report was submitted which sought adoption of temporary protocols to enable the committee to be held remotely, so that meetings could take place and properly function during the Covid-19 lockdown and any subsequent restrictions on meetings or gatherings.

Members noted that each Committee was required to adopt the protocol following secondary legislation which had come into effect on 4th April 2020 in respect of the Coronavirus Pandemic. The legislation allowed for and set out the requirements for holding remote meetings. The Regulations remained effective until 7th May 2021.

Reports on the agenda had been produced and consulted upon prior to lockdown and it was confirmed that the consultation process had not been affected. Those who had made representations on the Publication Plan had been notified of the new committee date by email or letter and had also been informed of the mechanisms by which they could participate in the meeting.

Councillor Jim Hakewill addressed the meeting, stating that he was concerned the new protocol had not been subject to scrutiny by wider members of the Council and the community. He added that some members of the public may have problems in accessing the IT required to participate, which would put them at a disadvantage. He suggested that physical meetings should resume as soon as possible.

RESOLVED that:-

- (i) It be noted that a notice providing details of proposed revised protocols and procedures for Members and the public to access remote meetings had been posted on the Council's website for 5 days prior to the meeting;
- (ii) the procedures and protocols set out in Appendices 1, 2 and 3 of the report, and the use of video-conferencing software be approved to enable Council Committees to be held remotely for the duration of the period set out in the Coronavirus Act 2020; and
- (iii) the temporary amendments to meeting procedures, as set out in Appendix 2 of the report, be approved to enable the provision of remote meetings.

A report was submitted which:

- Informed Members of the responses to the Site Specific Part 2 Local Plan – Publication Plan
- Asked Members to endorse officer responses set out in the comments schedule
- Asked Members to agree the proposed Main Modifications and Additional Modifications to be submitted to the Secretary of State as part of the Submission Plan
- Asked Members to agree that the Site Specific Part 2 Local Plan be submitted to the Secretary of State
- Asked Members to agree that officers write to the Inspector to request that the Inspector recommends Main Modifications if these are necessary
- Asked Members to note the Sustainability Appraisal, Habitat Regulations Assessment and Whole Plan Viability Assessment

It was noted that the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy was the Part 1 Local Plan. The Part 2 Local Plan would form part of the statutory North Northamptonshire Development Plan as it related to Kettering, setting out the policies for delivering the Strategy.

Consultation had been carried out between 18th December 2019 and 12th February 2020. 260 responses had been received from 123 consultees. All comments had been reviewed by officers and responses provided. Officers had subsequently recommended main modifications to the Plan to address some of the comments received.

Members were advised that it was intended to submit the Plan to the Secretary of State on or before 29th May 2020.

Thirteen people had previously indicated they wished to address the Committee under the Council's Right to Speak policy, two of which were unable to attend and had submitted written statements which were read out at the meeting. One person had registered to speak but was not in attendance. The Chair indicated that all speakers had received a note in relation to the nature of the debate on this item.

Speakers were heard as follows:

Councillor Jim Hakewill.
Councillor Anne Lee
John Padwick
Andy Parker
Miss Frankie O'Dowd
Katrine Brosnan

Dez Dell
Adam Goodge
Jenny Weightman
Tessa Weightman
Dylan Lewis Creser
Siobhan Curry

Comments made by the speakers related to the following issues:-

- Some of the contents of the Plan were no longer relevant as work on the new Local Plan had started twenty years ago
- The impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic had not been taken into account and therefore submission of the plan to the Secretary of State should be deferred
- The Gypsy and Traveller Policy was vulnerable in relation to unauthorised sites
- The loss of meadow land to the north of Kettering at Weekley Hall Wood
- The document was incomplete in respect of climate change; sustainability; the impact of the Covid-19 virus on businesses; environmental issues; health and wellbeing;
- The document represented the last chance to secure a fundamental document for the future of Kettering before the Council was abolished
- Reference was made to previous reports to the Council on the climate change emergency and subsequent recommendations
- The Green Infrastructure Plan had not been updated since 2018 and green spaces needed to be protected

Speakers were thanked for their contributions.

The Committee noted that Local Plans inevitably took account of an evidence base that was produced some time before adoption and public inquiry, which could not accommodate the impact of Covid-19 as the effects of the pandemic were not yet fully appreciated. The Council had been evaluating the Plan in respect of climate change for a number of years and the planning system was working towards mitigating the effects of climate change. The Joint Core Strategy had been adopted in 2016 and the Part 2 Local Plan was required to link in with the current strategic framework. However, it did reflect many environmental issues, about which the speakers had expressed concern, but these would need to be addressed through the review of the Joint Core Strategy.

Kettering Borough Council's commitment covered the period up until May 2021. The Council would cease to exist from April 2021. However, aspirations could be taken forward to the new Unitary authority to maintain impetus. The targets set by the Plan would be monitored through the Joint Core Strategy, as the process of developing a climate change strategy could take at least a year. Further evidence gathering

would take place this year, and then policies would be developed by the new Unitary authority in relation to the issues that had been identified by speakers.

Members' attention was drawn to paragraph 2.9 in the report in relation to the online availability of the Sustainability Appraisal, the Habitat Regulations Assessment and the Whole Plan Viability Assessment.

During debate, members made the following comments:-

- There were concerns that people's lives had changed forever by the Covid-19 pandemic, especially in relation to the way people worked and attended meetings, which would affect climate change and the environment
- Green space retention should be a priority and developers should make provision for retaining green spaces
- Eco and building standards for homes needed to be reviewed
- The review of the Joint Core Strategy should address the challenges brought to the forefront by Covid-19, with work already done on climate change and the environment consolidated
- Green issues and climate change were addressed throughout the document
- The availability of building land in Geddington was affected by a flood plain and also the reluctance of landowners to release land. Without a Part 2 Local Plan Geddington would be vulnerable
- Issues such as tree planting, meadows and ponds, bees, LED lighting, clearing watercourses, reviewing air quality at road junctions, the inclusion of green space in developments and green energy could be taken forward to the new Unitary authority.
- It was vital to submit the Plan at this time and submission should not be delayed
- All homes should have garden or community space that took into account the future needs of the community
- More consideration needed to be given to walking and cycling, especially in relation to a comment made by a speaker regarding changes to the way people worked, lived and attended meetings as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. This could result in less use of cars
- If submission of the Plan was delayed the Council would run the risk of a shortfall on targets.

Members noted that if the Part 2 Local Plan was paused, the Council would run the risk of being vulnerable in other Planning Policy areas, some of which had green credentials. In addition, Covid-19 issues would be better understood in time. An announcement had been made that there was likely to be significant funding benefits to improve public access to cycling and walking in future. Without the Part 2 Local Plan

policies, funding would not be available and local communities would miss out.

(Members voted unanimously in favour of the meeting continuing past 8.00 pm)

RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the responses received to the Site Specific Part 2 Local Plan – Publication Plan be noted;
- (ii) officer responses set out in the comments schedule be endorsed;
- (iii) the proposed Main Modifications and Additional Modifications be submitted to the Secretary of State as part of the Submission Plan;
- (iv) the Site Specific Part 2 Local Plan be submitted to the Secretary of State;
- (v) the Inspector be requested to recommend Main Modifications if these are necessary to make the plan sound; and
- (vi) the Sustainability Appraisal, Habitat Regulations Assessment and Whole Plan Viability Assessment be noted.

20.PP.07 KETTERING TOWN CENTRE AREA ACTION PLAN – MONITORING UPDATE

A report was submitted which informed Members of the results of the eighth Monitoring Report of the Kettering Town Centre Area Action Plan (AAP)

It was noted that the AAP had first been adopted in July 2011, and a review was due to begin as soon as possible after adoption of the SSP2 Local Plan. A small increase in footfall had been recorded in December 2019, when compared to the previous year.

During debate, members expressed concern about the effect of the Covid-19 Pandemic on Kettering town centre, including the possibility of many traders being unable to reopen or survive the crisis. Comments were made on signage being out of date in some locations (for example Meadow Road Park) and a few areas that spoil the town centre (for example the area at the corner of Queen Street and Horsemarket.

Reference was made to the Kettering Town Centre Conference, and a perceived lack of opportunity for people to have their say. It was suggested that the format of the conference should be looked at in future, which could include workshops where ideas could be captured.

Many successful initiatives had been captured through the Town Centre Task and Finish Group which had met during 2019, with recent improvements including the Station Quarter, Meadow Road Park, the Heritage Action Zone, Purple Flag and inward investment into the town centre. Innovative suggestions to generate footfall and empower businesses in the vicinity of the Market Place had been made recently. These suggestions had been welcomed and were now being looked at.

RESOLVED that members note the contents of the report, including key indicators in relation to:

- Kettering Town Centre retaining its Purple Flag status.
- Overall the night-time economy was growing significantly in strength.
- Events including the Christmas Market, and Kettering by the Sea continued to promote Kettering Town Centre as an attractive and vibrant destination.
- The Kettfest festival proved to be popular, incorporating arts, culture and music for the fourth consecutive year at various venues.
- Overall vacancy rates had increased to 14.32%; this was less positive than the national average of 10.3%.
- An increase of footfall on a non-market and a significant decrease on a market day in September, as well as a decrease on a non-market day and a significant increase on a market day in December, compared to last year. Resulting in an overall decrease when taking into account for both surveys.
- A total of 358 dwellings had been delivered in the town centre since the plan was adopted.
- The Council was working with the town centre stakeholders to deliver projects set out in the Town Centre Delivery Plan which provided improvements to Kettering town centre.
- Work was ongoing to progress the Heritage Action Zone programme in identifying areas that could be

enhanced and improved in the town centre through the funding that had been obtained.

(The meeting started at 6.00 pm and ended at 8.24 pm)

Signed

Chair

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Report Originator	Interim Head of Development Services	Fwd Plan Ref No:	
Wards Affected	All	1 September 2020	
Title	LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME		

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To agree an update to the Council’s Local Development Scheme; and to recommend that the Scheme is submitted to Full Council for adoption.

2. INFORMATION

2.1 A Local Development Scheme (LDS) is a project plan setting out the timetable for the preparation of documents that make up the Council’s contribution towards the North Northamptonshire Development Plan. The Development Plan for Kettering Borough is made up of the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy (adopted July 2016); saved policies from the Local Plan for Kettering Borough (adopted January 1995); the Kettering Town Centre Area Action Plan (adopted July 2011); the Northamptonshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan Update (adopted July 2017); the Broughton Neighbourhood Plan; and once adopted, will include the emerging Site Specific Part 2 Local Plan, and the Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocation Policy. Further Neighbourhood Plans, prepared by local Neighbourhood Groups, will also be included within the Development Plan when made (adopted).

2.2 Members will be familiar that the Joint Core Strategy is the strategic Part 1 Local Plan for North Northamptonshire, providing the big picture for development across the wider area. The Part 2 Local Plan is being prepared by Kettering Borough Council and will provide locally specific policies and make further land allocations to complement those agreed through the Joint Core Strategy.

2.3 Section 15(1) of the 2004 Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act requires that the “*local planning authority must prepare and maintain a scheme to be known as their local development scheme*”. Legislation simply requires that the LDS is brought into effect and published by the Local Planning Authority. To achieve this, two actions need to be carried out:

- i. the Council should resolve that the LDS is to have effect; and
- ii. it should specify the date from which the LDS is to have effect.

2.4 The Council’s constitution requires that the Planning Policy Committee considers and recommends to Full Council for approval the Plans and alterations which

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together comprise the Development Plan. It is the responsibility of Full Council to approve the Plans and alterations which together comprise the Local Development Framework (now the Local Plan). This report will set out a review to Kettering Borough Council's draft LDS, with a recommendation that it be agreed and presented to Full Council for adoption. In the meantime, the Council continue to publish on its website any updates to the programme of Plans it is taking forward.

- 2.5 With a number of the Plans identified, the programme for preparing them will run beyond 31st March 2021, the date when Kettering Borough Council will no longer be in existence, and it will become a part of the new North Northamptonshire Unitary Council. Officers are already in discussions with colleagues from the other North Northamptonshire authorities sharing plan-making priorities and programmes ahead of proposing a combined LDS, to be presented for adoption by the new administration when in place.

Local Development Scheme

- 2.6 The purpose of the LDS is to provide a timetable against which the documents making up the Council's Development Plan can be viewed, allowing any parties interested in taking part in the preparation of the Plan to be notified of the programme and to be involved in its development.
- 2.7 The LDS was last adopted on 25th September 2019. It is considered important to ensure the Council is complying with the necessary tests, by agreeing and publishing a revised LDS for public consumption.
- 2.8 The next meeting of Full Council is scheduled for 23rd September 2020, at which it is proposed the Council is asked to adopt the LDS. The revised LDS has been updated to reflect progress made and slippage to the previous LDS programme. It will also explain a request to revoke the Rothwell and Desborough Urban Extension Area Action Plan. More on the documents are provided below.

Site Specific Part 2 Local Plan (SSP2)

- 2.9 The LDS will be adopted ahead of the commencement of Examination hearings on the Publication Plan (Pre-submission Plan), which was submitted for Examination on 28th May 2020, with hearings expected to be held in early October. The remaining programme for producing this document is as follows:
- Examination – October 2020
 - Proposed Modification consultation – November/December 2020
 - Receipt of Inspector's Report – January 2021
 - Adoption – March 2021

Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocation Policy

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2.10 The Council published a revised Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) in March 2019, and is working towards a series of initiatives to deliver against the identified need. One of the options will include the identification and allocation of sites through a standalone local plan document. Gypsy and traveller housing provision sits alongside the Council's responsibility to meet the housing requirements of the settled community. Progressing a policy to identify and allocate sufficient land or provide other solutions to meet identified need in a timely manner will be important in meeting this requirement, and is expected will form a part of the Inspector's considerations through the Examination into the SSP2, scheduled to commence in early October 2020.

Rothwell and Desborough Urban Extension Area Action Plan (AAP)

2.11 The Council provided no clear timetable for the progression of this historic policy document in the previous LDS, its Submission to the Secretary of State having been put on hold. Since then clear progress has been made with applications at Desborough and Rothwell, both having been granted outline planning permission. In both cases the sites have made progress towards delivery, and in the case of Rothwell, developers are now on-site installing infrastructure and constructing the first properties. The commitment through the previous LDS was to retain this AAP and review the necessity for it with commencement of the urban extensions or with Submission of the SSP2. It is proposed to revoke this AAP given the advanced position of both schemes and the SSP2.

Kettering Town Centre Area Action Plan (AAP)

2.12 With changes in shopping patterns, the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, and pressures brought on Kettering town centre by the Rushden Lakes out of town shopping facility, the Council intends to review the planning policies contained within the Kettering Town Centre AAP. The LDS also includes additional plan-making documents, such as the Policies Map.

2.13 Once the Site Specific Part 2 Local Plan Examination is complete, it is proposed to accelerate work on the Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocation Policy, and shortly after commence a review of the Kettering Town Centre Area Action Plan. This should mean that more resources can be directed towards preparing both Development Plan Documents as a matter of urgency.

2.14 A draft copy of the LDS is provided at Appendix 1. Following any comments and subsequent amendments agreed by this committee, the document will be amended and forwarded to Full Council for adoption, with the recommendation that Full Council resolve that the Local Development Scheme is to have effect from 23rd September 2020.

3. CONSULTATION AND CUSTOMER IMPACT

3.1 No consultation is necessary in agreeing an LDS.

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4. POLICY AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The LDS is required under Section 15(1) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. Formulating the timetables within the LDS, keeping them up-to-date, and making it publically available on the Council's website will ensure that the Council complies with the necessary tests in preparing a Local Plan for Examination.
- 4.2 There are no resource implications as a result of this report.

5. LEGAL AND EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The LDS, once adopted, will ensure the Council meets the requirements of Section 15(1) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 to prepare and maintain a Local Development Scheme. The LDS supports equality standards setting out the timetables for the preparation of Local Plan Documents for all interested parties to view.

6. CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The planning documents referenced within the LDS will be subject to sustainability appraisal throughout their evolution, inclusive of reviewing climate change implications.

7. RECOMMENDATION

That Members agree the draft LDS as discussed at paragraph 2.6 to 2.14; and recommend to Full Council that the revised LDS be adopted.

Previous Reports/Minutes:

Ref: Local Development Scheme (19.PP.13)
Date: 10th September 2019

Ref: Adoption of Local Development Scheme (19.C.48)
Date: 25th September 2019

Contact Officer: Simon Richardson – Development Manager

Kettering Borough Council

Draft Local Development Scheme (LDS) 2020 - 2023

*Draft Version – recommended to the Planning
Policy Committee, for adoption by Full
Council
23 September 2020*

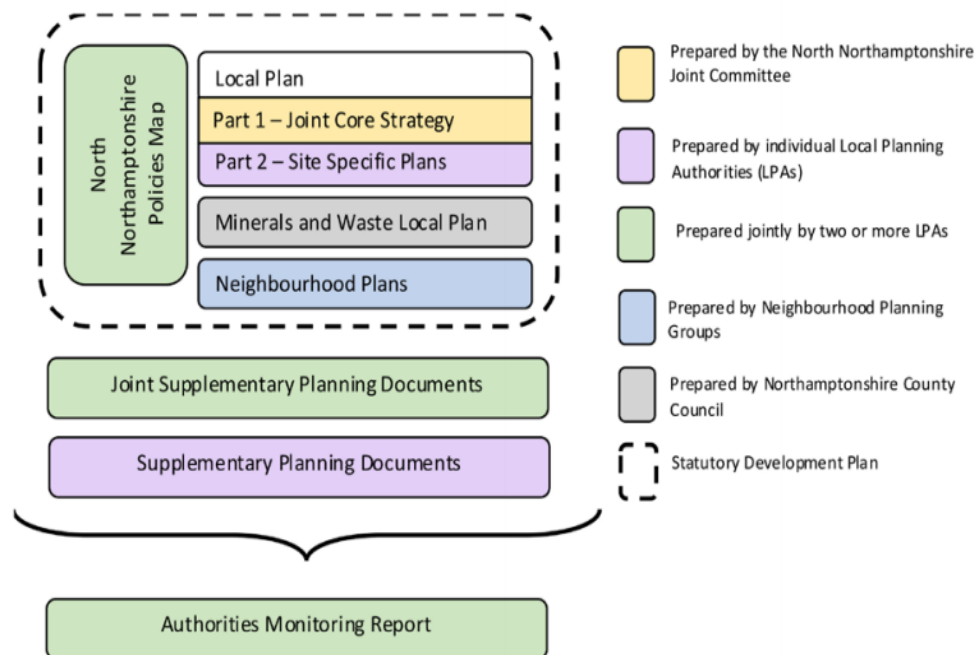
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Borough Council

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1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011) requires local planning authorities to prepare, maintain and publish a Local Development Scheme (LDS). The purpose of the LDS is to enable the local community to identify the timetable for the preparation of planning documents prepared in their area. This updates any previous LDS and reflects changes in guidance and adoption of the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy (JCS).
- 1.2 Kettering Borough is an administrative area within North Northamptonshire. The four North Northamptonshire district/borough authorities created a Joint Planning Unit in 2004 and established a Joint Planning Committee under Section 29 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. This consists of elected Members from each of the four district/borough councils and Northamptonshire County Council. The diagram below shows the relationship between the authorities in terms of plan making in North Northamptonshire. This will change when the new North Northamptonshire Unitary Council comes into effect on 1st April 2021. A revised LDS is expected to be prepared for consideration under the new administration. Until such time, it is proposed that this LDS form the basis for development of the new authority's LDS.



- 1.3 This LDS covers a three-year period and sets out details of the Development Plan Documents (DPDs) that Kettering Borough Council intends to produce, and the timetable for their production. It also includes an assessment of the roles and responsibilities of those involved in their production; a reflection on the relationship with Neighbourhood Plans and other documents; and an assessment of risks and contingencies as part of the programme to adoption.

- 1.4 The LDS will be kept up-to-date on the Council's website to allow local communities and other interested parties to keep track of the Council's progress, aware of critical phases of plan preparation, and alert to when the key stages will occur.

2 Kettering Borough Development Framework – Current Position

- 2.1 The Kettering Borough Development Framework currently comprises the following:

Development Plan Documents

- North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy (JCS) (Part 1 Local Plan) - adopted July 2016
- Kettering Town Centre Area Action Plan - adopted July 2011
- Saved policies from the Local Plan for Kettering Borough - adopted January 1995
- Northamptonshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan Update – adopted July 2017

Other Development Framework Documents

- Statement of Community Involvement – adopted 25th September 2019
- North Northamptonshire Authorities Monitoring Report – published annually
- Kettering Town Centre Area Action Plan Monitoring Update Report – published annually
- Local Development Scheme (this document)

- 2.2 Kettering Borough benefits from a North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy, adopted July 2016, and the Kettering Town Centre Area Action Plan (AAP), which was adopted in July 2011. There also remain a small number of saved policies from the Local Plan for Kettering Borough (adopted 1995).

- 2.3 The preparation of new documents will bring with it the need to review and update the content of this Local Development Scheme (LDS) however, changes to the content of documents or minor alterations to supporting mechanisms will not necessarily demand a review of the LDS.

Related Strategies

- 2.4 Working with the Local Strategic Partnership (the Kettering Partnership) will be at the heart of preparing the Development Framework documents. The Kettering Partnership consists of numerous groups and panels and is responsible for driving and developing partnership, promoting joint working, and leading on the implementation, monitoring and review of the Community Plan. The Community Plan and Town Centre Strategy for Kettering, plus other

work streams will be influential in guiding the preparation of the Development Plan Documents.

3 Development Plan Documents – Future Position

North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy

- 3.1 The North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy (JCS) was adopted in July 2016, and will cover the period 2011-2031. It was prepared by the North Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit, and adopted by the North Northamptonshire Joint Planning Committee. The JCS is the strategic Part 1 Local Plan for the area, providing strategic planning policy and outlining the big picture for the wider North Northamptonshire area.

Kettering Borough Site Specific Part 2 Local Plan

- 3.2 The Site Specific Part 2 Local Plan (SSP2) will be prepared by Kettering Borough Council. It will provide local planning policies and more detail, where necessary, to those policies contained within the Part 1 Local Plan. The Part 2 and Part 1 plans should be intrinsically linked, to read as one Local Plan.
- 3.3 The emerging SSP2 will allocate non-strategic housing and employment sites throughout the Borough, and provide town centre policies for the three Market Towns, at Burton Latimer, Desborough and Rothwell. The Plan will also provide open space, Local Green Space, and Green Infrastructure policies to protect and provide for formal and informal leisure provision throughout the Borough.

Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocation Policy

- 3.4 This standalone policy document will be prepared by Kettering Borough Council. It will explore projected need for gypsy and traveller accommodation throughout Kettering Borough, and will seek to allocate land or provide other solutions to meet the identified need of the Borough. The North Northamptonshire Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) was published in March 2019 and identifies need for each of the four authority areas.

Rothwell and Desborough Urban Extension Area Action Plan (AAP)

- 3.5 Progress with the Rothwell and Desborough Urban Extension AAP was put on hold several years ago. The AAP for the urban extensions had been agreed by the Council's Planning Policy Committee for Submission to the Secretary of State. However, following the submission of planning applications for both preferred sites, and that the applications broadly reflected the emerging AAP, it was decided to delay submitting the Plan. Both applications have since been

approved, with further permissions and progress towards delivery on site from developers. The development of Rothwell North Sustainable Urban Extension has since commenced.

- 3.6 The commitment through the previous LDS was to retain this AAP and review the necessity for it with commencement of the urban extensions or with Submission of the SSP2. Given the consents and the advanced position of the SSP2, this AAP will be revoked.

Kettering Town Centre Area Action Plan (AAP)

- 3.7 Kettering Town Centre benefits from policies adopted through the Kettering Town Centre AAP. The AAP was adopted in July 2011. The major out-of-town shopping proposal at Rushden Lakes in East Northamptonshire opened in July 2017 and has since expanded significantly. It is clear this has provided a challenge to the offer and vitality and viability of Kettering town centre, along with changes in shopping habits in general and the implications for businesses as a result of the lockdown measures and restrictions brought about by the Covid-19 coronavirus pandemic. As such, once the Site Specific Part 2 Local Plan (SSP2) has been adopted, resources can be directed towards undertaking a comprehensive review of the Kettering Town Centre AAP. In the meantime, work is progressing in implementing the Council's Kettering Town Centre Delivery Plan, this is providing a focus for the delivery of a series of projects to support the town centre.

Neighbourhood Plans

- 3.8 The Localism Act 2011 introduced new rights and powers to enable communities to get directly involved in planning for their area. Neighbourhood planning allows communities to come together through a parish council or formal neighbourhood forum and produce a neighbourhood plan. Neighbourhoods can decide what they want to cover in their neighbourhood plans. They may allocate land for development or influence the type and design of development that comes forward. Neighbourhood plans must however be in general conformity with National Policy and the strategic planning policies already adopted by the Borough Council. They should not promote less development than set out in the Local Plan or undermine its strategic policies. They are also subject to an independent Examination and need to be approved by a majority vote in a local Referendum, before they can be Made (adopted).
- 3.9 To date, Kettering Borough Council has formally designated 10 neighbourhood areas, all bar one being prepared by a Town or Parish Council covering the whole of the parished area. A list of the Neighbourhood Plans and their current status is provided below. The first of the Neighbourhood Plans to be "made" was for Broughton, the Neighbourhood Plan group also "made" a Neighbourhood Development Order at the same time. Further information can be found at the following link:

https://www.kettering.gov.uk/info/20058/planning_strategies_and_policies/29/neighbourhood_planning

Neighbourhood Plan Group	Date Area Designated	Status
Rothwell	10 th April 2013	Work in progress
Desborough	16 th October 2013	Work in progress
Broughton	15 th January 2014	Made 17 th October 2018
Mawsley	15 th April 2015	Work in progress
Great Cransley	27 th May 2015	Work in progress
South West Kettering (Headlands Community)	14 th October 2015	Work in progress
Pytchley	7 th December 2015	Work in progress
Grafton Underwood	3 rd June 2019	Work in progress
Harrington	9 th September 2019	Work in progress
Braybrooke	14 th April 2020	Work in progress

3.10 Any further “made” Neighbourhood Plans will also form a part of the Development Plan and will be used to assess and determine planning applications within the Plan’s designated area.

4. Other Documents

Statement of Community Involvement

- 4.1 The North Northamptonshire Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) was last adopted by this Council on 25th September 2019. The SCI sets out the programme of community engagement in the preparation of local planning documents and in considering planning applications for the area. It sets out how the community can become involved in influencing Local Plans and planning applications ranging from minor development proposals such as house extensions, to major housing, employment and retail schemes.

Community Infrastructure Levy and Planning Obligations

- 4.2 The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a standard pre-set charge which local planning authorities are empowered, but not required, to charge on all new developments over a minimum size. However, planning obligations through S106 Agreements remain a key means for ensuring that developments pay for infrastructure to make a development proposal acceptable in planning terms. At a meeting of the Council's Planning Policy Committee on 28th January 2015, Members resolved to put preparing a CIL levy for the Borough on hold and review the implications of this decision in light of further changes in regulations; the results of any case law on pooling; or following adoption of the Joint Core Strategy. The other North Northamptonshire authorities decided to also put preparation of their CIL on hold. Earlier this year the Government resolved to remove pooling restrictions previously imposed limiting 5 planning obligations towards a single piece of infrastructure. Further guidance on these topic areas was published by the Government on 2nd September 2019, and further reforms to CIL are currently being consulted upon by Central Government.

Supplementary Planning Documents

- 4.3 Supplementary Planning Documents are not required to be identified in the Local Development Scheme. It is however worth noting that Supplementary Planning Documents have already been adopted for the following:
- Open Space SPD
 - Sustainable Design SPD
 - East Kettering Strategic Design SPD
 - Kettering Town Centre Urban Codes SPD
 - Kettering Public Realm SPD
 - Kettering Borough Shopfront Design Guidance SPD
 - Biodiversity SPD

An SPD is in preparation to cover design, entitled the North Northamptonshire Place-Shaping SPD. With the Government's National Design Guide, and other design documents, now in place, the provision of further guidance is under review. A suite of SPDs is also being considered in relation to Open Space, Playing Pitches and Sports Facilities; and a Self-build/ Housing SPD. Further

information on the Councils SPDs can be viewed by selecting the following link:

https://www.kettering.gov.uk/downloads/download/64/supplementary_planning_documents

North Northamptonshire Authorities Monitoring Report

- 4.4 The North Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit compiles an Authorities Monitoring Report to measure progress made in delivering the policies contained within the Joint Core Strategy. Kettering Borough Council publishes an Annual Monitoring Report on its Kettering Town Centre Area Action Plan. It measures the effectiveness of the adopted policies within that Development Plan Document.

Strategic Environmental Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal

- 4.5 Achieving sustainable development is at the heart of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and planning system in general. Development Plans must be in general conformity with the NPPF. Therefore, the proposed Development Plan Documents will have to be subject to a Sustainability Appraisal (incorporating a Strategic Environmental Assessment). This will ensure that the social, economic and environmental effects of policies and allocations are understood, and fully taken into consideration. This is particularly important in the appraisal of reasonable options.
- 4.6 Development Plan Documents must also comply with the requirements of the European Community's Habitats Regulations on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (Directive 92/43/EEC, May 1992). An Appropriate Assessment will be prepared for each Development Plan Document, and along with the Sustainability Appraisal, will be subject to testing at the Examination into the Plans.

5 Delivery and Implementation

Joint Working

- 5.1 A Joint Planning Unit (JPU) was set up to co-ordinate the production of strategic plan making, in the form of the Joint Core Strategy, through staff secondment and pooling of resources. The JPU is also responsible for producing the Statement of Community Involvement, and Annual Authorities Monitoring Reports. It may also be involved in coordinating other joint work and supporting the preparation of Part 2 Local Plans by each of the partner authorities.

Resources

- 5.2 In preparing the Development Plan Documents, the Council's Planning Policy Team will lead in the production of each of the Development Plan Documents. It also recognises the need to use consultant expertise to assist in producing various elements of the technical background work. The Council has budgeted for the work necessary to prepare the Development Plan Documents and has incorporated a reserve within the budgets to account for the higher costs necessary to progress Plans through Examination.

Risk Assessment

- 5.3 Production of the Development Plan Documents requires consideration of the potential risks involved in their preparation. In preparing this LDS, it was found that the main areas of risk relate to the following aspects:
- **Staff turnover and retention** – The Council officers will continue to work flexibly within the teams to ensure that resources are directed to areas where the greatest priorities require them. Plan preparation is a priority within the work programme. This will help to ensure that any loss of staff whilst positions are filled do not have a significant impact on timetables.
 - **Joint working** – The Council will continue to work positively with its North Northamptonshire partner authorities, and the Joint Planning Unit. It will also continue to engage with other authorities and organisations to ensure it satisfies the Duty to Cooperate and prepares a Statement of Common Ground.
 - **Public Service Reform** – Kettering Borough Council will cease to exist on 1st April 2021, and as an area will become a part of a new unitary authority. Elections to appoint Members will be held soon after the new council is formed. Efforts will be made to ensure that these new Members are informed of the Plans in preparation, and that the transition of existing and emerging Plans between Kettering Borough Council to a new unitary authority is as smooth as possible.

- **Budget pressures** – The budget is regularly monitored to plan and project for any extra costs potentially incurred in producing the Development Plan Documents.
- **Capacity of the Planning Inspectorate (PINS)** – Advanced notification of timetables are being provided to the Planning Inspectorate to assist them in ensuring a suitable Inspector is available, and that any Examinations can be held virtually if they need to be.
- **Agreeing the Plans through Committees** – Officers work closely with all Members, but in particular the Chair, Portfolio Holder and Members of the Planning Policy Committee, to inform them of progress in preparing the Development Plan Documents, and Background Documents, to develop understanding and foster a spirit of ownership of the content of each Plan.
- **Soundness of the Plans** – The Council will seek to minimise any risk to the assessment of “soundness” by informing PINS of the on-going process and working alongside the Council’s designated planning solicitor throughout the process.
- **Legal Challenge** – As above, the Council will work closely with its designated planning solicitor to reduce the risk of a successful legal challenge.
- **Programme Slippage** – The timetables set are considered challenging but also achievable. To seek to reduce the risk of slippage, the programme will be regularly monitored, and contingencies explored to keep the timetables on track.

Monitoring and Review

- 5.4 The North Northamptonshire Authorities’ Annual Monitoring Report will monitor the progress of the LDS on an annual basis, reporting by December each year. An annual monitoring report will be prepared to report on the delivery of policies for each of the Development Plan Documents once each document is adopted.
- 5.5 The LDS will be reviewed within a minimum of three years from the adoption of this document.

Schedule of proposed Development Plan Documents to be prepared and agreed by Kettering Borough Council

Document title	Status	Responsible authority	Brief description	Chain of conformity	Early stakeholder + community involvement	Consultation on Publication Plan	Date for submission to S. of S.	Proposed date for adoption
Site Specific Part 2 Local Plan	DPD	KBC	Policy framework containing land allocations and site-specific proposals in Kettering Borough	To conform with the Joint Core Strategy	Draft Plan for consultation June-July 2018	December 2019-February 2020	May 2020	March 2021
Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocation Policy	DPD	KBC	Identify projected need for gypsy and traveller accommodation, and will seek to allocate land to provide sufficient pitch numbers to meet the identified need.	To conform with the Joint Core Strategy	January-March 2021	April-May 2021	July 2021	April 2022
Kettering BC Policies Maps	DPD	KBC	Illustration of policies and proposals on ordnance survey base.	To conform with the Joint Core Strategy and Site Specific Part 2 Local Plan	Continuously updated			
Kettering Town Centre Area Action Plan Review	DPD	KBC	Review of the existing document, to continue to provide a policy framework and deliver a vision for Kettering town centre.	To conform with the Joint Core Strategy and Site Specific Part 2 Local Plan	January-March 2021	September 2021	January 2022	December 2022

Title: Site Specific Part 2 Local Plan		
Document details	<p>Role and subject The Site Specific Part 2 Local Plan, when adopted, will form part of the statutory North Northamptonshire Development Plan. The document will cover the whole Borough with the exception of issues addressed in the Joint Core Strategy and the Kettering Town Centre Area Action Plan. The allocation of land for gypsy and traveller accommodation will also be addressed through a separate Development Plan Document. The Part 2 Local Plan will include the identification of sites for housing, employment, recreation, green infrastructure and other land uses. In addition, it will contain policies relating to specific areas such as Rothwell, Desborough and Burton Latimer town centres. The plan may also contain policies relating to topics of design, affordable housing and protection of the open countryside.</p> <p>Geographical coverage The administrative District of Kettering Borough</p> <p>Status Development Plan Document</p> <p>Chain of conformity North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy</p>	
Timetable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Early stakeholder and community engagement - Draft Plan for consultation - Publication consultation - Submission to S of S - Examination - Adoption 	<p>April 2009 – December 2015</p> <p>June - July 2018</p> <p>December 2019 – February 2020</p> <p>May 2020</p> <p>October 2020</p> <p>March 2021</p>
Arrangements for production	<p>Organisation leading the process Kettering Borough Council</p> <p>Management arrangements The Site Specific Part 2 Local Plan will be prepared, consulted upon, and managed by the Planning Policy Committee. Adoption of the Plan will be considered by KBC Full Council.</p> <p>Resources required to produce the DPD Planning Policy Team, Development Services Planning Policy budget</p> <p>Approach to involving stakeholders and the community Refer to the adopted Statement of Community Involvement.</p>	

Title: Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocation Policy		
Document details	<p>Role and subject The Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocation Policy, when adopted, will form part of the statutory North Northamptonshire Development Plan. This document will explore projected need for gypsy and traveller accommodation throughout Kettering Borough. It will seek to allocate land to provide sufficient pitch numbers to meet the identified need. A Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) for North Northamptonshire identifying needs for the area was published in March 2019.</p> <p>Geographical coverage The administrative District of Kettering Borough</p> <p>Status Development Plan Document</p> <p>Chain of conformity North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy</p>	
Timetable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Early stakeholder and community engagement - Draft Plan for consultation - Publication consultation - Submission to S of S - Examination - Adoption 	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>January-March 2021</p> <p>April-May 2021</p> <p>July 2021</p> <p>October 2021</p> <p>April 2022</p>
Arrangements for production	<p>Organisation leading the process Kettering Borough Council</p> <p>Management arrangements The Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocation Policy will be prepared, consulted upon, and managed by the Planning Policy Committee. Adoption of the Plan will be considered by KBC Full Council.</p> <p>Resources required to produce the DPD Planning Policy Team, Development Services Planning Policy budget</p> <p>Approach to involving stakeholders and the community Refer to the adopted Statement of Community Involvement.</p>	

Title: Kettering Borough Policies Maps	
Document details	<p>Role and subject The policies maps will illustrate on an Ordnance Survey base map all the policies and proposals contained in development plan documents and saved policies. It will reflect the Key Diagram in the Joint Core Strategy, and it will contain Insets showing the proposals within specific areas (e.g. sites subject to development allocation; Area Action Plans; or sites to which policies apply for protection and/or enhancement).</p> <p>Geographical coverage The maps will cover the administrative district of Kettering Borough.</p> <p>Status Development Plan Document</p> <p>Chain of conformity North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy</p>
Timetable	The Policies Maps will be revised, where necessary, to reflect the up-to-date plan for the area whenever a Development Plan Document is adopted or a 'saved' policy ceases to be part of the Local Plan.
Arrangements for production	<p>Organisation leading the process Kettering Borough Council</p> <p>Management arrangements The Proposals Maps will be prepared, consulted upon, and managed by the Planning Policy Committee. Adoption of policies that appear on the Proposals Maps will be considered by KBC Full Council or the Joint Planning Committee, dependent upon the relative powers.</p> <p>Resources required to produce the DPD Planning Policy Team, Development Services Plus external resources to be procured from companies providing cartographic, printing and online information, through funds allocated in the Planning Policy budget</p> <p>Approach to involving stakeholders and the community Refer to the adopted Statement of Community Involvement.</p>

Title: Kettering Town Centre Area Action Plan Review		
Document details	<p>Role and subject This AAP will review the existing Kettering Town Centre AAP, setting out policies and proposals for Kettering Town Centre. The aim of the Development Plan Document will be to enhance the vitality and viability of the town centre by considering issues of growth, distribution of land uses, access, and improvements to the public realm. It will require reference to AAP Annual Monitoring Reports and subsequent reports on the health of the town centre as a result of the major out-of-town development at Rushden Lakes, changes on shopping habits, and development at neighbouring town centres.</p> <p>Geographical coverage Kettering Town Centre</p> <p>Status Development Plan Document</p> <p>Chain of conformity North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy.</p>	
Timetable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Early stakeholder and community engagement - Draft Plan for consultation - Publication consultation - Submission to S of S - Examination - Adoption 	<p>Ongoing January – March 2021 September 2021 January 2022 April 2022 December 2022</p>
Arrangements for production	<p>Organisation leading the process Kettering Borough Council</p> <p>Management arrangements The Kettering Town Centre AAP will be prepared, consulted upon, and managed by the Planning Policy Committee. Adoption of the Plan will be considered by KBC Full Council.</p> <p>Resources required to produce the LDD Planning Policy Team, Development Services Planning Policy budget</p> <p>Approach to involving stakeholders and the community Refer to the adopted Statement of Community Involvement.</p>	

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Report Originator	Head of Development Services	Fwd Plan Ref No:	
Wards Affected	All	1 September 2020	
Title	GYPSY AND TRAVELLERS SITE ALLOCATION POLICY UPDATE		

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide Members with an update on the progress being made with the Gypsy and Travellers Site Allocation Policy.

2. INFORMATION

- 2.1 Members may recall that at the meeting of this Committee on 10th September 2019 (Minute 19.PP.12 refers) Members noted the content of the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) and that officers seek to progress a series of Proposed Actions Going Forward. The report highlighted that specialist consultants in this field have a greater depth of skills and knowledge of working with the gypsy and traveller community. The Council has appointed Opinion Research Services (ORS), authors of the North Northamptonshire GTAA to undertake a Pitch Delivery Assessment on the Council’s behalf. This will be a key piece of work establishing a strategy for meeting the Borough’s gypsy and traveller accommodation needs.
- 2.2 As a part of the commission, ORS will complete additional interviews with residents on sites where a need for pitches was identified in the GTAA. The intension is to better understand the accommodation needs, and to undertake an assessment of the sites, and the suitability, availability and achievability of providing additional capacity.
- 2.3 In addition, the GTAA identified 2 sites occupied by non-Traveller families. Additional interviews will be undertaken with families at these sites to better understand their accommodation need, and establish potential options for releasing these pitches for occupation by gypsies and travellers.
- 2.4 ORS will identify potential delivery models where need cannot be met on existing sites. This will include identifying potential locations for the identified need to be met across the wider North Northamptonshire area, in line with changes in Council boundary with the new North Northamptonshire Unitary Council. This could be through the allocation of new sites or extension/ intensification of existing sites. In addition, upon request ORS will ensure it engages with those Parish Councils closely related to gypsy and traveller sites.

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- 2.5 ORS will also support the Borough Council by bringing its vast knowledge of the national picture and initiatives being undertaken to address pitch supply and management issues of sites, and its knowledge of local family networks. It will also provide advice on unlocking the delivery of unimplemented sites in the Borough.
- 2.6 The timescales for the ORS Site Deliverability Assessment report are tight, identified as the end of September, there may be some limited slippage brought on by a delay in commencing the contract, and hitting the holiday and travelling period. It should however still be completed in good time for progress to be made towards developing a strategy on pitch delivery, and consulting with stakeholders and the public in January 2021.

3. CONSULTATION AND CUSTOMER IMPACT

- 3.1 Consultation in the preparation of the GTAA was undertaken primarily with members of the gypsy and traveller community. Consultation will be undertaken in the preparation of the Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocation Policy once sufficient evidence has been gathered to enable a supply strategy, or strategies, to be shaped. The proposed approach will be put before Members for agreement before consultations are launched.

4. POLICY AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocation Policy will form part of the North Northamptonshire Development Plan and will guide the allocation of land for new gypsy and traveller sites in Kettering Borough. Policy 31 – *Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Show People* of the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy states that where necessary part 2 Local Plans will allocate further sites for accommodation for gypsies, travellers and travelling show people, it already provides a series of criteria for assessing new site allocations or considering planning applications.
- 4.2 The cost of preparation of the Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocation Policy will be met within the existing Development Services Planning Policy budget.

5. LEGAL AND EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocation Policy will propose the means for providing pitches to meet gypsy and traveller accommodation needs identified in the GTAA. This document will provide the basis for the Council to go about satisfying the need, whilst eliminating unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation; provide equality of opportunity; foster good relations; and develop a robust policy and strategy involving stakeholders in the decision-making process.

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6. CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations Policy will be subject to sustainability appraisal throughout its evolution, inclusive of which is climate change implications.

7. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Members note the contents of this report with regards to progress being made in preparing a Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocation Policy.

Contact Officer: Simon Richardson – Development Manager

Previous Reports/Minutes:

Ref: Planning Policy Committee - Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) 2019

Date: 10th September 2019

Ref: Planning Policy Committee - Agreement to Remove the Gypsy and Traveller Allocations Policy from the Site Specific Part 2 Local Plan

Date: 5th July 2017

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Report Originator	Head of Development Services	<i>Fwd Plan Ref No:</i>	
Wards Affected	All	1 September 2020	
Title	PLANNING THE FUTURE OF OPENSACE, PLAYING PITCH PROVISION AND SPORTS FACILITIES FOR KETTERING BOROUGH		

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- To inform Members of the publication of:
 - Open Space Audit and Needs Assessment (2020) (KKP) Open Space Standards Paper (2020) (KKP)
 - Playing Pitch Audit and Needs Assessment (2019) (KKP) and Playing Pitch Strategy (2020) (KKP)
 - Sports Facilities Audit and Needs assessment (2020) (KKP) and Sports Facilities Strategy (2020) (KKP)
- To advise Members that the above documents form part of the evidence base for plan-making. In addition they will support decision making and service development by other service areas within the Council (e.g. Community Services; Environmental Care) as they provide a strategic and action planned approach to the enhancement of existing and creation of new open space, pitch and sporting provision, including changing room and ancillary support facilities.

2. INFORMATION

Introduction

- 2.1 The [National Planning Policy Framework](#) (NPPF) (2019), [North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy](#) (JCS) (2016) and the emerging [Site Specific Part 2 Local Plan](#) (Submission Plan) (2020) (SSP2) all emphasise the importance and value of open space and opportunities to engage with sport and/or physical activity. These play a vital role in building healthy neighbourhoods and contributing to the physical, mental and emotional well-being of our residents. It is important therefore that appropriate provision of good quality open space and sports provision is provided in the right place for both new and existing residents. Increases in population should not lead to lower opportunities to access sports provision or a worsening of the quality of existing sites due to their increased use.

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- 2.2 To ensure the Council can manage, maintain, enhance and plan for the right open spaces, pitches and sports provision in the right places into the future three separate studies have been independently prepared by the consultants Knight, Kavanagh and Page Ltd. (KKP). These are the:
- [Open Space Audit and Needs Assessment](#) informing the development of the [Open Space Standards Paper](#)
 - [Playing Pitch Audit and Needs Assessment](#) informing the development of the [Playing Pitch Strategy](#)
 - [Sports Facilities Audit and Needs Assessment](#) informing the development of the [Sports Facilities Strategy](#)
- 2.3 These studies provide a concise, robust, comprehensive and up-to-date evidence base for the preparation of the Site Specific Part 2 Local Plan (SSP2). In addition they will support service development by other service areas within the Council (e.g. Community Services; Environmental Care) as they provide a strategic and action planned approach to the enhancement of existing and creation of new open space, pitch and sporting provision, including changing room and ancillary support facilities.
- 2.4 The inter-relationship between the documents must be noted as some sports covered by the playing pitch assessment also use indoor facilities for matches/training or use open space areas for informal use. Similarly, there may be forms of open space which feature a playing pitch or sporting facility.
- 2.5 This Committee Report will continue by setting out information with respect to the three studies including the:
- policy justification behind them including their relationship to the Site Specific Part 2 Local Plan;
 - methodologies for their preparation;
 - key strategic findings; and
 - future intentions.

Policy Justification

- 2.6 Paragraph 96 of the [National Planning Policy Framework](#) (2019) (NPPF) establishes that access to a network of high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity is important for health and well-being. It states that planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. Specific needs and quantitative and qualitative deficiencies and surpluses in local areas should also be identified. This information should be used to inform what provision is required in an area.

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- 2.7 Paragraph 97 goes on to state that existing open space, sports and recreation sites, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:
- An assessment has been undertaken, which has clearly shown the site to be surplus to requirements; or
 - The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or
 - The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.
- 2.8 The [North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy](#) (2016) (JCS) establishes that open space, sports and recreation are essential elements of sustainable communities that contribute towards health, quality of life, sense of place and overall well-being. They add to an area's uniqueness, making it a distinctive, stimulating and exceptional place to live and work.
- 2.9 It recognises that development and notably development arising from the Sustainable Urban Extensions, will generate population growth that will require new services and facilities. There is also an appreciation that with an increasing population of older people, access to locally based services will become increasingly important, reflecting lower mobility levels.
- 2.10 The retention and enhancement of existing community assets and the incorporation of existing assets into new development design and the co-location of community facilities in assets such as a multi-purpose community buildings are all supported in the JCS. It seeks to safeguard existing facilities and not result in a net loss of provision unless the series of exceptions criteria set out in Policy 7 (Community Services and Facilities) can be met.
- 2.11 While the JCS identifies the North Northamptonshire Strategic Sports Facilities Framework (2014) as a frame of reference to identify the level of provision required to meet population growth, there is recognition that there may be more up-to-date and detailed local assessments prepared. Furthermore, the JCS provides that individual areas of open space will be designated for protection through the Part 2 Local Plans.
- 2.12 The [Site Specific Part 2 Local Plan – Submission Plan](#) (2020) (SSP2) has been submitted to the Secretary of State and is scheduled for Examination in Public with the hearings due to commence at on Thursday, 8th October 2020.
- 2.13 The SSP2 contains Policy HWC3 (Sport, Recreation and Physical Activity) which seeks to build an inclusive, high quality, easily accessible, multi-functional and well maintained network of sport and physical activity facilities to ensure taking part in physical activity is safe and easy, making active lifestyles effortless. The

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policy supports the enhancement of existing and/or the provision of new sport and physical activity facilities stipulating that these will be delivered through developer contributions and other funding mechanisms in accordance with the most up to date evidence base.

2.14 In addition, Policy NEH4 (Open Spaces) seeks to ensure that the stability of the open space network will not be compromised by new development. It will be recognised as natural capital for its important contribution to the health and well-being of people, the welfare of wildlife and for the provision of ecosystem services. The policy seeks to ensure the protection, enhancement and development of the open space network by stipulating that all major development will be required to contribute to:

- the supply of new open space and/or the enhancement of existing open space through on-site provision and/or off-site contributions, as appropriate and in accordance with the most up to date evidence base;
- a long term management and maintenance programme

2.15 Paragraphs 7.24 and 8.47 identify the Council's intention to produce supporting Supplementary Planning Documents for sports and physical activity and another on open spaces. These will be based on the findings of the open space, playing pitch and sports facilities studies. They will provide guidance to inform development management practices. Read together with the studies the SPDs will support the delivery of both Policy HWC3 and NEH4, including how to determine appropriate developer contributions.

Methodologies

2.16 Each study followed a methodology to ensure the requirements of the NPPF have been met. The studies provide up-to-date assessments of need for open space, playing pitch, sports and recreation facilities. They provide an overview of the current provision across the Borough taking account of the quality, quantity, accessibility and availability. They consider demand for facilities based on population distribution, planned growth and taking into consideration health and economic deprivation. They establish what surpluses and deficiencies of provision exist and identify opportunities for new provision.

2.17 The following guidance was used to support the development of each study:

- **Open space:** [Assessing needs and opportunities: a companion guide to planning policy guidance 17](#) (2002) (ODPM)
- **Playing pitch:** [Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance: An approach to developing and delivering a playing pitch strategy](#) (2013) (Sport England)
- **Sports facilities:** [Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance - for Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities](#) (2014)

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- 2.18 The Companion Guide to PPG17 was withdrawn by MHCLG in 2014 with the statement it was replaced by the Planning Practice Guidance (PPG). However, PPG fails to set out any preferred approach to assessing the needs and opportunities for open space. As such best practice has continued to be reliant on the Companion Guide until the PPG is updated to provide a national approach.
- 2.19 The PPG establishes when assessing the needs for sports and recreation facilities local authorities and developers may refer to Sport England guidance. Sport England are a statutory consultee on planning applications and hold funding streams for the provision of new and enhancement of existing facilities. Failure to prepare a playing pitch and/or sports facility strategy in accordance with their guidance is likely result in objections to planning applications or the withholding of available funding.
- 2.20 While each study has been prepared in accordance with the relevant guidance there are commonalities in the approach of each methodology. All three studies have been prepared and based on information collated through a variety of research techniques to ensure they provide a robust and informed evidence base.
- 2.21 Desk-top research examined national, strategic and local policy and guidance and collates existing site-led information. GIS was used to identify and map sites and/or locations. Modelling was undertaken to assess the extent to which the existing supply of swimming pools and sports halls meet current and future levels of demand. Site visits were undertaken to assess the quality and accessibility of open spaces, playing pitches and sports facilities.
- 2.22 Consultation for all three studies was extensive and employed face to face and telephone interviews as well as electronic and on-line surveys. Consultation was held with internal officers from across the relevant service areas, external stakeholders, National Governing Bodies and sports providers. On-line and electronic user surveys allowed people who live, work and visit Kettering Borough to provide their views on open space, pitch and sports provision.
- 2.23 For full details relating to individual methodologies in the preparation of each study please refer to the [Open Space Audit and Needs Assessment](#), the [Playing Audit and Needs Assessment](#) and the [Sports Facilities Audit and Needs Assessment](#).

Key Strategic Findings

Open Space

2.24

P&G (Parks & Gardens)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ 20 sites classified as P&G provide over 100ha across the Borough ◀ Current provision per 1000 population is 1ha which equals the recommended provision standard of 1ha per 1000 population. There is a shortfall in the Rural Analysis Area where no Neighbourhood / Strategic
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	<p>or Premier parks are identified. Shortfall is compensated by surplus of NSN and AGS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ 35% of P&G score above the quality assessment threshold ◀ Majority of P&G are accessible within the accessibility standard (10 minute walk to Neighbourhood Park; 15 minute walk to Premier / Strategic Park). Minor gaps in provision are being met by other forms of open space in the locality
NSN (Natural / Semi- Natural)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ 50 accessible sites classified as NSN provide over 784ha across the Borough ◀ 49 sites recorded as inaccessible, when these are included total hectarage of NSN increases to over 1,551ha ◀ Excluding inaccessible sites, current provision per 1000 population is 7.82ha which exceeds the recommended provision standard of 1.7ha per 1000 population. The majority of NSN is located in the Rural Analysis Area ◀ 66% of NSN score above the quality assessment threshold ◀ There are gaps in provision when the accessibility standard (10 minute walk to Strategic NSN / 6 minute walk to non-strategic NSN) is applied, particularly for the Desborough and Rothwell Analysis Area. In the main gaps are being met by other forms of open space
AGS (Amenity Green Space)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ 73 sites classified as AGS provide over 92ha across the Borough. ◀ Current provision per 1000 population is 0.92ha which equals the recommended provision standard of 0.92ha per 1000 population. There are no shortfalls across the Analysis Areas ◀ 57% of AGS score above the quality assessment threshold ◀ Majority of AGS are accessible within the accessibility standard (10 minute walk to Strategic AGS / 6 minute walk to non-strategic AGS). There are minor gaps in provision in the Kettering and Burton Latimer Analysis Area but these are being met by other forms of open space in the locality
CYP (Children & Young People)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ 67 sites classified as provision for CYP provide over 7.33ha of play space across the Borough. ◀ Current provision per 1000 population is 0.07ha which equals the recommended provision standard of 0.07ha per 1000 population. There is a minor shortfall in the Desborough & Rothwell Analysis Area ◀ 66% of provision for CYP score above the quality assessment threshold ◀ Majority of AGS are accessible within the accessibility standard (10 minute walk for children / 15 minute walk for young people). There are minor gaps in provision in the Kettering and Burton Latimer Analysis Area which could be remedied by installing play equipment on existing areas of open space
ALT (Allotments)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ 23 sites classified as ALT provide over 36ha across the Borough. ◀ Current provision per 1000 population is 0.36ha which equals the recommended provision standard of 0.36ha per 1000 population. There is a minor shortfall in the Desborough & Rothwell and Rural Analysis Areas

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ 68% of ALT score above the quality assessment threshold ◀ No accessibility standard is set for ALT as is standard practice. Access is often by car and all sites can be reached within a 30 minute drive time
C&C (Cemeteries & Churchyards)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ 42 sites classified as C&C provide over 28ha across the Borough. ◀ No quantity standards are set for this typology as is standard practice. Provision should be based on burial demand, the Borough current has just over 339 years of burial capacity remaining, with a total of 4,689 available plots ◀ 76% of C&C score above the quality assessment threshold ◀ No accessibility standard is set for C&C as is standard practice. The provision of new C&C should be based on demand for burial space which would be determined through a separate needs assessment for burial space
CS (Civic Space)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ 11 sites classified as CS provide 0.78ha with the majority of provision split between the Kettering & Burton Latimer and Desborough & Rothwell Analysis Areas. ◀ No quantity standards are set for this typology as is standard practice. Other informal pedestrian areas, streets or squares provide similar roles and functions as civic space but are too small to warrant assessment. ◀ Eight out of the 11 CS rate above the quality threshold set. The highest scoring sites are Market Place (69%) and Churchill Way Gardens (63%) ◀ No accessibility standard is set for CS as is standard practice. The provision of new CS should focus on providing areas within existing sites

2.25 For more detailed information about open space provision in the Borough, including the analysis of individual typologies and strategic recommendations please make reference to the [Open Space Audit and Needs Assessment](#) which should be read in conjunction with the [Open Space Standards Paper](#)

Playing Pitches – Football, 3G, Cricket, Rugby Union and Hockey

Football	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ There are 64 grass football pitches across 25 sites. 63 are available, at some level, for community use across 24 sites. 43% of the provision are adult pitches ◀ Five pitches score as good quality, 21 pitches as standard and 37 as poor ◀ Most sites (14) have ancillary facilities which are rated as standard quality ◀ Based on current demand, there are shortfalls on all pitch types primarily as a result of poor quality due to overplay; however, displaced demand is also a key factor with regards to adult pitch provision
3G pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ There are three full size 3G pitches across three sites all of which are floodlit and available for community use; there are four smaller size 3G pitches across two other sites. The full size flood lit site being constructed at the time of audit should now be complete at Latimer Arts College ◀ The current shortfall of one full sized 3G will be met by the provision of the Latimer Arts College Pitch. Future growth will lead to a predicted shortfall

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	<p>of one more full sized 3G pitch for the Kettering and Burton Latimer Analysis Area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ There is a need to address identified quality issues with the Montsaye Academy pitch to ensure additional shortfalls are not created
Cricket	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ There are 13 grass cricket squares located across 11 sites ◀ All grass cricket squares are available for community use ◀ There are five non turf pitches (NTPs) in Kettering. Four of these accompany grass wickets squares. The remaining NTP is standalone and unavailable for community use ◀ Six squares score as good quality with the remaining seven rating as standard ◀ 12 squares are accompanied by ancillary facilities eight squares of which score as good quality and the remaining four rate as poor quality ◀ A shortage of indoor cricket facilities is reported ◀ Three sites are classed as being overplayed ◀ Grass cricket squares are overplayed at senior peak period. Some of this is due to pitch quality which if improved would increase capacity but not sufficiently to eradicate the current shortfall ◀ Based on future demand the shortfall increases. Without new pitch provision and quality improvements to existing provision the shortfalls will only increase over time ◀ At present there is sufficient grass cricket square provision to accommodate junior play midweek
Rugby Union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ There are five senior and two junior rugby pitch pitches across six sites. All seven pitches are available for community use ◀ All 4 pitches on education sites are rated as poor quality. The remaining three at Kettering Rugby Club score as good, standard and poor. ◀ No sites have actual (peak time) spare capacity. This mostly attributed to unsecure tenure and poor pitch quality. ◀ Three pitches are currently overplayed, two senior pitches and one junior. Training demand and pitch quality are the principle reasons creating this shortfall. The current shortfall is predicted to increase with future demand ◀ Improving quality, distributing training demand and working with the FA to make provision of a new 3G rugby compliant would alleviate the shortfall
Hockey (sand/water-based AGPs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Competitive league hockey matches and training can only be played on sand filled, sand dressed or water based artificial grass pitches (AGPs) ◀ There are currently two full sized AGPs, both are floodlit and available for community use. They are located at Bishop Stopford School and Kettering Pitch and Track ◀ Bishop Stopford's pitch rates as good quality and was developed in 2017. The Pitch and Track rates poorly and is unused for hockey. It is overdue a resurface and well exceeds the recommended ten-year carpet lifespan ◀ At present the AGP at Bishop Stopford School is operating at capacity for adult hockey and cannot accommodate more play at peak time

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Quantitatively there are enough hockey suitable AGPs to accommodate both current and future demand in Kettering. However, the inaccessibility (due to poor quality) of Kettering Pitch & Track AGP creates a future shortfall. ◀ A new sand based AGP is proposed at the Hanwood Park development. England Hockey are carrying out discussions to assess their options i.e. the long term sustainability of maintaining three full size sand AGPs or releasing the Pitch and Track for an alternative use and working on new provision at Hanwood Park
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2.26 For more detailed information about playing pitch provision in the Borough please make reference to the [Playing Pitch Audit and Needs Assessment](#) and [Playing Pitch Strategy](#). Read together these documents provide an in-depth analysis of the above pitch sports and, in addition, an analysis for outdoor bowling greens, tennis and netball courts, athletics, archery and cycling provisions and golf courses. The Playing Pitch Strategy continues by setting out a series of strategic recommendations and action plan and advice on how to deliver the strategy.

Sports Facilities – Sports Halls, Swimming Pools, Gymnasiums and Squash

Sports Halls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ There are 12 sports halls on eight sites providing the hall space equivalent of 40 badminton courts available for community use ◀ Six of the eight sports halls are owned by educational establishments so meeting demand is dependent on community use at these sites ◀ FPM analysis indicates available supply exceeds demand by 11 courts decreasing to 8 in 2031. In quantitative terms, supply is sufficient to meet Borough demands for present and future needs ◀ Unmet demand is low, the equivalent of 1.6 courts rising to 1.9 in 2031 ◀ Courts on six of the eight hall sites are rated as above average with the remaining two rated as below average. Changing facilities at two of the eight sites rate above average, three rate as below average and three were not assessed as they were in use. ◀ There is a close correlation between sport hall locations, their catchment areas and the location of demand for Borough facilities. The facilities are in the right location and very accessible ◀ Investment programmes to improve the quality and flexibility of existing stock and to expand facilities where possible would also increase capacity
Swimming pools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ There are six swimming pools providing 960m² of water space. Only three (Kettering Pool, Montsaye Academy and Sports Direct Fitness) of the six meet the size and programme requisites to be considered fully accessible and available for community use ◀ FPM analysis indicates that the total demand for pools exceeds the supply in 2018 and 2031 by 476 m² and 574m² respectively. The deficiency is low and demand from local residents is being met through use of neighbouring authority pools

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ A dedicated learner/teaching pool for within the Borough would help meet demand by releasing programming capacity at the three key pool sites ◀ Kettering and Montsaye Academy swimming pools and changing facilities are rated as below average in quality. Sports Direct Fitness pool is rated above average (changing not assessed). ◀ In terms of scale and availability only Kettering Swimming Pool and Montsaye Academy are providing the full range of swimming activities on a pay and play option ◀ A feasibility study into the provision of water space in the Borough is recommended. This should consider the benefits of providing a new teaching / learner pool versus the provision a new leisure facility offering greater mix of provision (e.g larger fitness suite, teaching pool, main pool and studios) to meet the long term needs of Kettering residents. The study will include an assessment of potential locations
Squash	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Arena Sports is a commercial facility providing 4 squash courts on one site. Arena is the only squash court provide in the Borough ◀ 2 additional squash courts and changing facilities are planned at Desborough Leisure Centre; delivery is dependent on development of Desborough North ◀ The court and changing provision for Arena Sports rated as above average quality ◀ Existing facilities are well used and at capacity during peak play times though there is spare capacity for daytime use
Gymnastics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ There is one dedicated (Kettering Gymnastics Club) and one non-dedicated gymnastics facility (Desborough Leisure Centre) within the borough ◀ The Kettering Gymnastics facility is rated as below average quality. Both the hall and changing facilities in Desborough Leisure Centre are rated as above average for quality but the need to erect and dismantle equipment for each session means additional costs to clubs with the programme limited by other activities ◀ Capacity issues are prohibiting participation. There is a need to support Kettering Gymnastics Club to either move to a new facility or provide additional facilities as a gymnastics hub in order to meet current demand for the sport in Kettering

2.27 For more detailed information about sporting provision in the Borough please make reference to the [Sports Facilities Audit and Needs Assessment](#) and [Sports Facilities Strategy](#). Read together these documents provide an in-depth analysis of the above sports and, in addition, an analysis for village / community halls, health, fitness and dance studios, indoor bowls and sailing provision. The Sports Facilities Strategy continues by setting out a series of strategic recommendations followed by an action plan on a sport by sport and sports facilities basis.

The Future

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2.28 As noted above, these studies collectively provide a concise, robust, comprehensive and up-to-date evidence base to support the work of planning policy and development management officers. Furthermore the strategies will meet the needs of different service areas within the Authority (e.g. Community Services; Environmental Care) by providing a strategic and action planned approach to the enhancement of existing and creation of new open space, pitch and sporting provision, including changing room and ancillary support facilities.

Supplementary Planning Documents

2.29 Paragraph 2.6 above identifies the intention to produce two Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD); one for sports and physical activity and the other on open spaces. These will be based on the findings of the three studies. Read together with the studies the SPDs will support the delivery of policies set out in the SSP2, with particular reference to HWC3 (Sport, Recreation and Physical Activity) and NEH4 (Open Spaces), including how to determine appropriate developer contributions.

2.30 In addition to providing guidance to inform development management and planning policy practices the SPD's will support other service areas to meet their needs by ensuring planning and development contributes to the enhancement of existing and/or the provision of new open space, sport and recreation provision across the Borough. Preparation for these documents has not yet commenced. The programme for both documents is as follows:

Stage	Date
Stakeholder and Community Engagement	March 2021
Adoption	September 2021

Information Seminar

2.31 Prior to the production of the SPDs an information seminar will be arranged inviting Officers from across the relevant service areas to attend. The session will be aimed at familiarising and orientating participants with the content of the studies and setting out the opportunities these studies provide in helping teams meet their service needs.

Monitoring and Review

2.32 Collectively the three studies provide prioritised action plans that include recommendations to address issues such as which facilities should be protected and enhanced; possible locations for new provision and what opportunities exist for change or potential rationalisation. The strategies will provide a justified approach toward the enhancement of existing and creation of new facilities in the Borough for now and up to 2031.

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- 2.33 To ensure they are delivered and the audit and assessment information remains relevant and up-to-date it is important that actions are monitored and information updated annually. Monitoring should be led by the relevant Service Areas in the Council and undertaken in association with partners and stakeholders who are invested in the successful delivery of the action plans.
- 2.34 Training will be provided by Knight, Kavanagh and Page Ltd, the commissioned consultants for these studies. The training will enable Council Officers to use the tools developed to prepare the studies including the databases holding all the information gathered.
- 2.35 It is important to note that if no review and subsequent update has been carried out within three years of the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) being signed off Sport England and the National Governing Bodies will consider the PPS and the information on which it is based to be out of date. This will affect the determination of planning applications and awarding of funding.

3. CONSULTATION AND CUSTOMER IMPACT

- 3.1 Consultation has been undertaken during the development of all three studies in accordance with the guidance used to produce them. Consultation techniques included face to face and telephone interviews as well as electronic and on-line surveys across a range of internal and external stakeholders who identify as both users of provision and service providers. The full consultation methodology for each study can be accessed here:
- **Open space:** [Assessing needs and opportunities: a companion guide to planning policy guidance 17](#) (2002) (ODPM)
 - **Playing pitch:** [Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance: An approach to developing and delivering a playing pitch strategy](#) (2013) (Sport England)
 - **Sports facilities:** [Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance - for Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities](#) (2014) (Sport England)

4. POLICY AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The studies will support the development of planning policy as part of the North Northamptonshire Development Plan which guides the provision of sustainable growth in Kettering Borough.
- 4.2 The cost of preparing the studies has been met within the existing Development Services Planning Policy budget.
- 4.3 If used appropriately the studies provide a robust evidence base that will help secure streaming funds either in terms of S106 contributions and/or through external sources that will enable the delivery of new and/or the enhancement of

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existing open spaces, playing pitches and other sports provision within the Borough.

5. LEGAL AND EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The purpose of the three studies is to help the Council manage, maintain, enhance and plan for the right open spaces, playing pitches and sports provision in the right places for Kettering Borough up to 2031.
- 5.2 The preparation of the studies meets legal requirements and equality standards as they have followed the guidance recommended by the National Planning Policy Framework (2019).

6. CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The impact of climate change is a recognised concern. One which open space provision has the ability to help contribute towards tackling through measures such as tree planting, landscaping, re-wilding and creation of wild areas etc. It is therefore vital for local authorities to know what open space provision currently exists, where new provision is required and how existing provision can be enhanced to increase the multi-functionality of an open space. In addition, these spaces can be links, improving connectivity encouraging people to walk or cycle as opposed to using the private car. Playing pitches and other outdoor sports provision are usually located on large areas of open space which can support flood mitigation.

7. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Members:

- Note the publication of the:
 - Open Space Audit and Needs Assessment (2020) (KKP) and Open Space Standards Paper (2020) (KKP)
 - Playing Pitch Audit and Needs Assessment (2019) (KKP) and Playing Pitch Strategy (2020) (KKP)
 - Sports Facilities Audit and Needs Assessment (2020) (KKP) and Sports Facilities Strategy (2020) (KKP)
- Be advised that the above documents form part of the evidence base for plan-making. In addition they will support decision making and service development by other service areas within the Council (e.g. Community Services; Environmental Care) as they provide a strategic and action planned approach to the enhancement of existing and creation of new open space, pitch and sporting provision, including changing room and ancillary support facilities.

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Previous Minutes/Reports:

Contact Officer Emma Arklay, Senior Development Officer, Planning Policy

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Report Originator	Interim Head of Development Services	<i>Fwd Plan Ref No:</i>	
Wards Affected	All	1 September 2020	
Title	ENGLAND'S ECONOMIC HEARTLAND – DRAFT TRANSPORT STRATEGY		

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To make Members aware of the England's Economic Heartland - Draft Transport Strategy consultation and agree any broad comments to be fed into a response to be agreed by the North Northamptonshire Joint Planning committee.

2. INFORMATION

- 2.1 The consultation on England's Economic Heartland Draft Transport Strategy (<http://www.englandseconomicheartland.com/Pages/transport-strategyconsult.aspx>) runs until 6th October 2020. The Draft Strategy proposes a step-change in the approach to transport in the region. The extent of the region is large, including Northamptonshire, Peterborough and Cambridgeshire to the north and east; and Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Hertfordshire to the south and west. It also includes the counties, town and cities between, such as Milton Keynes and Bedford.
- 2.2 The North Northamptonshire Joint Planning and Delivery Unit (JPDU) has arranged a briefing for Joint Planning Committee (JPC) and Shadow Authority Members for 8th September. This will provide the opportunity to explore at greater depth the proposals being put forward, and the role North Northamptonshire can play in support the ambitious step-change. The JPDU has also agreed with England's Economic Heartland an extension for its response, to follow a meeting of the JPC scheduled for 28th October.
- 2.3 Given the strategic nature and scale of the Draft Strategy, it is proposed that this Council feed into a more comprehensive response to be submitted to the extended timetable agreed by the JPDU. To encourage Members to provide some initial input into these comments, it is proposed that a verbal presentation be made at the meeting of this Committee, and that this form the basis of the Council's joint response.
- 2.4 It is therefore proposed that the Council's response is delegated to those Members who sit on the Joint Planning Committee, and that make up the Shadow Authority.
- 2.5 By way of introduction, the ambition is for the Strategy to be bold, and use the Heartland's strength in science and technology innovation to deliver new solutions which improve connectivity and achieve net environmental gain. The Strategy is shaped by four overarching principles, these being:

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- Achieving net-zero carbon emissions from transport no later than 2050
- Improving quality of life and wellbeing through an inclusive transport system accessible to all which emphasises sustainable and active travel
- Supporting the regional economy by connecting people and businesses to markets and opportunities
- Ensuring the Heartland works for the UK by enabling the efficient movement of people and goods through the region and to/from international gateways.

2.6 The document proposes corridor studies, the one affecting Kettering links Peterborough, Northampton and Oxford. Enhanced rail connectivity is another feature.

3. CONSULTATION AND CUSTOMER IMPACT

3.1 Kettering Borough Council is a consultee to the England's Economic Heartland Transport Strategy.

4. POLICY AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The proposals contained within the consultation will have significant implications for both policy development and resource implications for Development Services. The Council should engage in full, given the strategic nature of the study it is proposed this is best achieved on the basis of a North Northamptonshire joint approach.

5. LEGAL AND EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The proposals will result in changes to legislation and regulatory requirements which the Council will need to take into account when carrying out plan making and development management functions.

6. CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The proposals set out in the Draft Transport Study will fundamentally be proposed to bring with them significant benefits in terms of climate change implications.

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7. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Members:

- Note the consultation on England's Economic Heartland – Draft Transport Strategy; and
- Feed any comments into a joint North Northamptonshire response; and
- Delegate input into a response to Members of the North Northamptonshire Joint Planning Committee and the Shadow Authority Members.

Background Papers:

Title	England Economic Heartland – Draft Transport Strategy
Date	August 2020
Contact Officer:	Simon Richardson – Development Manager

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Report Originator	Head of Development Services	<i>Fwd Plan Ref No:</i>	
Wards Affected	All	1 September 2020	
Title	PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE – WHITE PAPER CONSULTATION		

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Members of the consultation on the *Planning for the future* White Paper, to seek Members initial feedback on the proposals, and to ask Members to delegate the preparation of the Council's response on the consultation to the Interim Head of Development Services in consultation with the Chair of Planning Policy Committee.

2. INFORMATION

- 2.1 The *Planning for the future* White Paper was published on 6 August 2020 for a 12-week consultation. The White Paper proposes significant reforms of the planning system through which the Government seeks to streamline and modernise the planning process, bring a new focus to design and sustainability, improve the system of developer contributions to infrastructure, and ensure more land is available for development where it is needed.
- 2.2 Subject to the outcomes of this consultation, the Government will seek to bring forward legislation and policy changes to implement the reforms.
- 2.3 The consultation closes on Thursday 29 October 2020. A full copy of the White Paper is available to view at:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/planning-for-the-future>.
- 2.4 The proposals contained in the White Paper are fundamental and propose radical changes to the planning system. Given the complexity of the White Paper, the significance of the proposals, and the timing of this committee, it is considered appropriate to give greater consideration and depth to the Council's response to this consultation than could be provided at this early stage. Therefore, this paper seeks to inform Members of the key proposals and asks Members to consider the proposals set out and raise any thoughts or comments they have on the proposals.
- 2.5 Officers will then undertake a thorough review of the proposals and will prepare a Kettering Borough Council response to the consultation. This will be prepared alongside work being undertaken by North Northamptonshire colleagues in preparing a response on a North Northamptonshire basis which will be reported to and agreed by the North Northamptonshire Joint Planning Committee who meet on 28th October 2020.

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2.6 Given the timescales for preparing a more detailed report to committee, Members are asked to delegate the preparation of the Council’s response to this consultation to the Interim Head of Development Services, in consultation with the Chair of Planning Policy Committee.

2.7 Alongside the White Paper the Government has also published a *Changes to the current planning system* consultation. The consultation on this document runs for 8 weeks, the closing date is 1st October 2020. This consultation sets out the Government’s proposals for measures to improve the effectiveness of the current planning system. The four main proposals are:

- Changes to the standard method for assessing local housing need
- Securing of First Homes through developer contributions in the short term until the transition to a new system
- Supporting small and medium-sized builders by temporarily lifting the small sites threshold below which developers do not need to contribute to affordable housing
- Extending the current Permission in Principle for major development

2.8 The *Changes to the current planning system* consultation is available to view at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/changes-to-the-current-planning-system>.

2.9 Officers will also prepare a separate response to this consultation.

Planning for the Future White Paper

2.10 A summary of the proposals set out in the White Paper is provided below, but an overview of the Government’s proposals includes:

- Streamline the planning process with more democracy taking place more effectively at the plan-making stage and will replace the entire corpus of plan-making law in England.
- A radical, digital-first approach to modernise the planning process. This means moving from a process based on documents to a process driven by data.
- A new focus on design and sustainability.
- To improve infrastructure delivery in all parts of the country and ensure developers play their part, through reform of developer contributions.
- To ensure more land is available for the homes and development people and communities need, and to support renewal of our town and city centres.

2.11 The proposals in the White Paper are set out in 3 pillars:

- Pillar One – Planning for development
- Pillar Two – Planning for beautiful and sustainable places

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- Pillar Three – Planning for infrastructure and connected places

2.12 Within each of these Pillars there are a series of proposals and the consultation document contains questions relating to each of these proposals. The proposals for each pillar are summarised below.

Pillar One – Planning for development

A New Approach to Plan Making

Proposal 1 – The role of land use plans should be simplified. It is proposed that Local Plans should identify three types of land – Growth areas suitable for substantial development, Renewal Areas suitable for development, and areas that are Protected.

Proposal 2 – Development management policies established at a national scale and an altered role for Local Plans.

Proposal 3 – Local Plans should be subject to a single statutory “sustainable development” test, replacing the tests of soundness. This proposal includes the abolition of Sustainability Appraisals, removal of the Duty to Cooperate and a slimmed down assessment of deliverability for the plan.

Proposal 4 – A standard method for establishing the housing requirement figures which ensures enough land is released in areas where affordability is worst, to stop land supply being a barrier to enough homes being built. The housing requirement would factor in land constraints and opportunities to more effectively use land, including through densification where appropriate, to ensure that the land is identified in the most appropriate areas and housing targets are met.

A streamlined development management process with automatic planning permission for schemes in line with plans.

Proposal 5: Areas identified as Growth areas (suitable for substantial development) would automatically be granted outline planning permission for the principle of development, while automatic approvals would also be available for pre-established development types in other areas suitable for building.

Proposal 6: Decision-making should be faster and more certain, with firm deadlines, and make greater use of digital technology.

A new interactive, web-based map standard for planning documents

Proposal 7: Local Plans should be visual and map-based, standardised, based on the latest digital technology, and supported by a new template.

A streamlined, more engaging plan-making process

Proposal 8: Local authorities and the Planning Inspectorate will be required through legislation to meet the statutory timetable for key stages of the process, and the Government will consider what sanctions there would be for those who fail to do so.

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Proposal 9: Neighbourhood Plans should be retained as an important means for community input, and we will support communities to make better use of digital tools.

Speeding up the delivery of development

Proposal 10: A stronger emphasis on build out through planning.

Pillar 2 – Planning for beautiful and sustainable places

Creating frameworks for quality

Proposal 11: To make design expectations more visual and predictable, the Government will expect design guidance and codes to be prepared locally with community involvement and ensure that codes are more binding on decisions about development.

Proposal 12: To support the transition to a planning system which is more visual and rooted in local preferences and character, the Government will set up a body to support the delivery of provably locally-popular design codes, and propose that each authority have a chief officer for design and place-making.

Proposal 13: To further embed national leadership on delivering better places, the Government will consider how Homes England’s strategic objectives can give greater emphasis to delivering beautiful places.

A fast-track for beauty

Proposal 14: It is proposed to introduce a fast-track for beauty through changes to national policy and legislation, to incentivise and accelerate high quality development which reflects local character and preferences.

Effective stewardship for enhancement of our natural and historic environment

Proposal 15: The Government intends to amend the National Planning Policy Framework to ensure that it targets those areas where a reformed planning system can most effectively play a role in mitigating and adapting to climate change and maximising environmental benefits.

Proposal 16: The Government intends to design a quicker, simpler framework for assessing environmental impacts and enhancement opportunities, that speeds up the process while protecting and enhancing the most valuable and important habitats and specific in England.

Proposal 17: Conserving and enhancing our historic buildings and areas in the 21st Century.

Proposal 18: To complement the planning reforms, the Government will facilitate ambitious improvements in the energy efficiency standards for buildings to help deliver its world-leading commitment to net-zero by 2050.

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Pillar 3 – Planning for infrastructure and connected places

A consolidated infrastructure levy

Proposal 19: The Community Infrastructure Levy should be reformed to be charged as a fixed proportion of development value above a threshold, with a mandatory nationally-set rate or rates and the current system of planning obligations abolished.

Proposal 20: The scope of the Infrastructure Levy could be extended to capture changes of use through permitted development rights.

Proposal 21: The reformed Infrastructure Levy should deliver affordable housing provisions.

Proposal 22: More freedom could be given to local authorities over how they spend the Infrastructure Levy

Delivering Change

2.13 The White Paper sets out how the Government intends to deliver the change proposed. Subject to the responses to the consultation the Government will consider arrangements for implementation to minimise disruption to existing plans and development proposals and ensure a smooth transition.

2.14 This includes making sure that recently approved plans, existing permissions and any associated planning obligations can continue to be implemented as intended; and that there are clear transitional arrangements for bringing forward new plans and development proposals as the new system begins to be implemented.

2.15 The Government sets out that it wants to make rapid progress towards this new planning system and the White Paper references changes that have already been recently introduced, including the new Use Classes Order, and associated permitted development rights for High Streets and new permitted development rights to enable more new homes to be built on top of existing buildings and the demolition and rebuild of vacant buildings for housing, without the need for usual planning permission.

2.16 The consultation document also sets out that the Government wants to:

- Make better use of public assets and investments
- Support innovation in delivery
- Make sure the system has the right people and skills
- Place more emphasis on enforcement

2.17 The proposals set out in this section include:

Proposal 23: As the Government develop their final proposal for this new planning system, they will develop a comprehensive resources and skills strategy for the planning sector to support the implementation of their reforms.

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Proposal 24: The Government will seek to strengthen enforcement powers and sanctions.

- 2.18 The consultation document contains 26 questions relating to each of the proposals and to implementation of the proposals.

Conclusions

- 2.19 This report has summarised the main proposals set out in the White Paper. These proposals will result in a significant overhaul of the planning system and it will be important for officers to carefully consider these proposals and provide a thorough response. As set out above Members are asked to provide their initial comments on the proposals and to agree that the preparation of the Council's response to this consultation be delegated to the Interim Head of Development Services in consultation with the Chair of Planning Policy Committee.
- 2.20 The implementation of the proposals will require more detail on how the proposals would work in practice. It will also be critical that local authorities are properly resourced to deliver the changes outlined. Many of the changes also require changes to legislation which would need to be brought forward in a timely manner to prevent delays.

3. CONSULTATION AND CUSTOMER IMPACT

- 3.1 Kettering Borough Council is a consultee to the *Planning for the future* White Paper and the Changes to the Current Planning System consultations.

4. POLICY AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The proposals contained in the *Planning for the future* White Paper will have significant implications for both policy development and resource implications for Development Services. When the proposals are finalised, the Council will need to take the proposals into consideration in preparing its Local Plan and in determining planning applications.

5. LEGAL AND EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The proposals will result in changes to legislation and regulatory requirements which the Council will need to take into account when carrying out plan making and development management functions.

6. CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The proposals set out in the *Planning for the future* White Paper will fundamentally change the way the planning system operates and therefore have the potential to have significant climate change implications. Consideration will

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be given to Climate Change implications in drafting the Council's response to the consultation.

7. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Members:

- Note the consultation on the *Planning for the future* White Paper;
- Provide feedback on the proposals; and
- Agree that the Council's response to the consultation be delegated to the Interim Head of Development Services in consultation with the Chair of Planning Policy Committee.

Background Papers:

Title	Planning for the future White Paper
Date	6 th August 2020
Contact Officer:	Julia Baish – Development Team Leader

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