



West Northamptonshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee

Your attendance is requested at a meeting to be held at the Jeffery Room,
The Guildhall, Northampton on Tuesday, 16 December 2008 at 6:00 pm.

D. Kennedy
Chief Executive

Contact: Frazer McGown, Meetings Services Team Leader
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Agenda

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
 - Personal
 - Prejudicial
- 3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21 OCTOBER 2008
(Copy herewith)
4. MATTERS OF URGENCY
To consider any issues that the Chairman is of the opinion are
Matters of Urgency.
5. MOTION FROM NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL;
AUTOMATIC SPRINKLER SYSTEMS IN INDUSTRIAL
BUILDINGS

The following motion was approved unanimously by Northampton Borough Council on 27 October 2008:

“This Council recognises that large-scale fires in industrial buildings risk the lives of the public and emergency service personnel as well as causing serious damage to the environment and local economy.

This Council supports the efforts of the Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service to encourage wider installation of automatic sprinkler systems in industrial buildings, where appropriate within the Borough.

This Council asks West Northants Joint Strategic Planning Committee to consider including a requirement for sprinkler systems in appropriate new buildings within the Local Development Framework process.”

6. TERMS OF REFERENCE
 - (a) Business Sub- Group
 - (b) Programme Board

(Copies herewith)
- 7. WORK PROGRAMME POSITION STATEMENT
(Copy herewith)
- 8. STRUCTURE TO DELIVER THE APPROVED LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME
(Copy herewith)
- 9. BUDGET TO DELIVER THE APPROVED LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME
(Copy herewith)
- 10. PUBLIC LOCAL INQUIRY INTO THREE URBAN EXTENSIONS AT DAVENTRY
(Copy herewith)
- 11. RESPONDING TO CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS
(Copy herewith)
12. THE CHAIRMAN TO MOVE:
“THAT THE PUBLIC BE EXCLUDED FROM THE REMAINDER OF THE MEETING ON THE GROUNDS THAT THERE IS LIKELY TO BE DISCLOSURE TO THEM OF SUCH CATEGORIES OF EXEMPT INFORMATION AS DEFINED BY SECTION 100(1) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AS ARE LISTED AGAINST SUCH ITEM OR ITEMS OF BUSINESS BY REFERENCE TO THE APPROPRIATE PARAGRAPH OF SCHEDULE 12A TO SUCH ACT.”

WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE JOINT STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 21 October 2008

PRESENT: Councillor Woods (Chair); Councillors Amos, Barnes, Church, Clarke, Gonzalez de Savage, Hollis, Melling, Over, Smith, Townsend and P. D. Varnsvery.

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

The Managing Director of Daventry District Council called for nominations for the appointment of a Chairman.

Councillor Barnes proposed and Councillor Amos seconded "That Councillor Woods be appointed Chairman of the Joint Committee."

RESOLVED: That Councillor Woods be appointed Chairman of the Joint Committee.

The Chairman commented that the Joint Committee was a formal partnership between Daventry, South Northamptonshire, Northampton and Northamptonshire councils working together with the WNDC and others (as observers) to produce a vision for the towns, villages and rural areas that form West Northamptonshire. The Joint Committee would also work with the public and other public sector bodies and its primary work would be in relation to spatial planning. The Joint Committee was not a development control or enforcement authority with these roles remaining with either the WNDC or the individual Councils forming the partnership.

2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

The Chairman called for nominations for the appointment of a Vice-Chairman.

Councillor Barnes proposed and Councillor Smith seconded "That Councillor Millar be appointed Vice-Chairman."

RESOLVED: That Councillor Millar be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Joint Committee.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chairman with the consent of the Joint Committee moved this item up to this point in the meeting.

Councillors Barnes, Church, Smith and Woods declared a Personal Interest in item 3 "Appointment of Observers" insofar as the discussion related to the Appointment of an Observer from WNDC as they were Board members of that organisation.

4. APPOINTMENT OF OBSERVERS

(i) West Northamptonshire Development Corporation

Councillor Church proposed and Councillor Barnes seconded "That David Dickinson be appointed Observer from the WNDC".

(ii) WELLINGBOROUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Councillor Church proposed and Councillor Townsend seconded "That Councillor Bass be appointed Observer from Wellingborough Borough Council".

(iii) LABOUR PARTY

Councillor Church proposed and Councillor P D Varnsvery seconded "That Councillor Davies be appointed Observer from the Labour Party".

RESOLVED: That Mr. D Dickinson, Councillor Bass and Councillor Davies be appointed as Observers on the Joint Committee.

5. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were noted from Councillor Millar.

6. ROLE AND POSITION STATEMENT OF THE WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE JOINT COMMITTEE

The Managing Director for Daventry District Council submitted a report that outlined the role of the Joint Committee as a new local planning authority for plan making and to inform residents and the business community in particular. He noted that the item concerning the Local Development Scheme later on the agenda described what the Joint Committee would do and also referred to the additional resources required to review the Local Development Scheme and to create a post of Head of Joint Planning. The Managing Director confirmed that the Joint Committee was not a development control or enforcement authority and referred to the need for good communication with the public to explain the Joint Committee's role. He also referred to a public information sheet, copies of which had been circulated.

The Joint Committee discussed the report noting that its role would be critical in securing the right infrastructure for growth in its broadest sense and for growth to be relevant to each settlement; to create a Northampton that attracted more people, to reinvigorate Daventry and Towcester but also to protect rural areas and villages.

It was noted that the scale of growth over the next thirty years placed a great responsibility upon the Joint Committee, especially as the decisions to be made had to be right first time.

RESOLVED: That the report be received and that the Joint Committee publicises its role on progress via media releases and the Joint Planning website at key stages of its work programme.

7. GOVERNANCE ISSUES

The Corporate Services Manager for South Northamptonshire Council submitted a report and commented upon the precedence of the Statutory Instrument which set up the West Northamptonshire Joint Committee, the Memorandum of Intent and the proposed Supplementary Procedural Rules that had been based upon South Northamptonshire Council's Procedural Rules as the Accountable Body for the Joint Committee.

He particularly highlighted the need for the Joint Committee's opinion upon a two hour guillotine mechanism for the length of meetings; public participation rights; the need for a Chairman's casting vote; Overview & Scrutiny arrangements and a process for handling the Joint Committee's minutes within each of the participating Councils' internal mechanisms. He also made brief reference to budgetary matters and ethics.

The Joint Committee discussed the report.

- RESOLVED:**
- (1) That the terms of reference for the Joint Committee set out in the report be adopted.
 - (2) That Statutory Instrument 2008 No. 1572 "The West Northamptonshire Joint Committee Order 2008" be noted.
 - (3) That the West Northamptonshire Joint Strategic Planning Memorandum of Intent be endorsed.
 - (4) That the Supplementary Procedural Rules be adopted subject to the following changes:
 - (a) There be a two hour guillotine on the length of meetings subject to the Committee's discretion to extend the length of meetings.
 - (b) That in respect of public participation rights these be extended to allow public addresses upon any substantive agenda item and that registrations to speak be accepted by any of the participating Councils and forwarded to the Chief Executive of South Northamptonshire District Council who would co-ordinate them.
 - (c) That in respect of a Chairman's casting vote this be as set out at paragraph 6.2 of the Supplementary Procedure Rules.
 - (d) That in respect of Overview and Scrutiny Arrangements each participating Council be able to scrutinise the work of the Joint Committee as they see fit but that where practicable a collaborative approach be encouraged.
 - (e) That the minutes of the Joint Committee be submitted to each participating Council's executive meetings and Full Council meeting.

8. JPU BUDGET- RESOURCE COMMITMENT

The Chief Executive of Northampton Borough Council reported that the Memorandum of Intent required a budget to be drawn up for the Joint Planning Unit (JPU) and agreed by the Joint Committee and this would be submitted to its next meeting. Some costs would be borne individually by authorities but the cost of the JPU and the joint planning documents would be split proportionately across the authorities, vis Northampton Borough Council one third, Daventry and South Northamptonshire Councils one quarter each and Northamptonshire County Council one sixth. The costs would need to be agreed by the Joint Committee and then individually by each authority. He referred to the following item on the agenda in respect of the review of the Local Development Scheme noting that some of the costs involved were mentioned in that report. All the authorities' Finance Officers had already met to discuss the issues.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

9. REVIEW OF LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

K Moore submitted a report noting an error on page 32 of the proposed Local Development Scheme in that the publication date should read November 2009. She circulated a key to the abbreviations and terms also to be used with the document. She noted that the scheme was the most important tool to guide the development of West Northamptonshire and for the Councils to set out their intent. K Moore noted that the deadline for submission of the scheme to the Secretary of State was 25 October and that the Secretary of State could intervene if not happy with the document or if it was not submitted on time. The Joint Committee was committed to providing resources and leadership to deliver the scheme. In answer to a question she commented that the scheme was deliverable if resources were made available to implement it. The document so far had Government Office support. The Committee discussed the report it being noted that the current economic situation would not affect the planning process and that the life of the plan, in reality, would probably comprise several economic cycles. It was noted that in respect of paragraph 13.12 of the Scheme that the new post of Head of Joint Planning would report to the Joint Committee. A Business Sub-Group would be created that would meet between the meetings of the Joint Committee and would comprise two members from each of the participating authorities. This paragraph should be redrafted in order to clarify this.

In respect of the covering report it was noted that on page 11 in the first paragraph the word "replacing" should be substituted by the word "reviewing".

- RESOLVED:**
- (1) That, subject factual corrections and redrafting of paragraph 13.12, approval be given to the Local Development Scheme as attached for submission to the Government Office for the East Midlands by the deadline of 25 October 2008.
 - (2) That the urgent need to bring forward further resources to deliver the Local Development Scheme be noted.
 - (3) That the progress made to date and the next steps for the work of the Committee and the Joint Planning Unit be noted.

- (4) That approval be given to the establishment of a Business Sub-Group of the Joint Committee as described to monitor the LDS work programme and its resourcing.
- (5) That the Local Development Scheme be brought into effect following agreement by the Government Office for the East Midlands.

N.B. D Dickinson declared a personal interest in this item as a Director of Amicus Horizon Housing Association and of Guinness Peat insofar as the discussion related to the possible role of registered social landlords as developers.

10. EAST MIDLANDS REGIONAL PLAN (REGIONAL SPATIAL STRATEGY)- SECRETARY OF STATE'S PROPOSED CHANGES CONSULTATION

C Berry, Principal Planning Officer with the JPU submitted a report that set out the changes to the East Midlands Regional Plan (Regional Spatial Strategy) proposed by the Secretary of State and that had been published for consultation. She noted that because of the deadlines, the Joint Programme Board had agreed that Officer comments from the Joint Planning Unit be submitted to the Secretary of State in accordance with a deadline of 17 October and that any changes to those comments as a result of the Joint Committee's views be forwarded to the Secretary of State after this meeting. She particularly drew attention to Policy 13; in terms of housing numbers for Daventry and South Northamptonshire no alteration had been suggested but for Northampton a minor increase of 25 dwellings over the period to 2026 was now proposed. In respect of paragraph 3.35 she noted that on 17 October 2008 the Regional Assembly had issued for consultation their proposed project plan for the partial review of the Regional Plan.

The Committee discussed the report it being noted that the planning period of 2006-11 was already almost halfway through and that given the current economic situation it appeared unlikely that the numbers of dwellings proposed would be reached. It was commented that the Secretary of State was unlikely to alter the programme but this should not detract from the validity of the comment. Concern was expressed that there needed to be the right compromise between urban sprawl and over concentration of development and that there should be no scope for new freestanding settlements.

RESOLVED: That the officer response to the proposed changes to the East Midlands Regional Plan (Regional Spatial Strategy) be amended by inclusion of the comments regarding the deliverability of housing number targets in the current economic climate expressed by the Joint Committee.

11. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

Future meetings of the Committee on 16 December 2008 at South Northamptonshire Council and 17 February 2009 at Daventry District Council and in April 2009 (date to be confirmed) were noted.

12. MATTERS OF URGENCY

None.

The meeting concluded at 20.14 hours

DRAFT

WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE BUSINESS SUB GROUP

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Membership:

Councillor Tony Woods	(Chair)	Northampton Borough Council
Councillor Chris Millar		Daventry District Council
Councillor Richard Church		Northampton Borough Council
Councillor John Townsend		South Northants Council
Councillor Stephen Clarke		South Northants Council
Councillor Ben Smith		Northamptonshire County Council
Councillor Andrew Gonzales de Savage		Northamptonshire Council Council
Councillor Wendy Amos		Daventry District Council
Jean Morgan		South Northants
Simon Bovey		Daventry District Council
Tony Ciaburro		Northamptonshire County Council
Roy Boulton		Northamptonshire County Council
David Bailey		Northampton Borough Council
Sue Bridge		Northampton Borough Council
Claire Berry		West Northants JPU
Karen Moore		West Northants JPU

PURPOSE

1. To monitor the progress of the West Northamptonshire Local Development Scheme work programme and its resourcing, both financial and staffing.
2. To provide strategic direction and guidance to the West Northamptonshire Programme Board and feedback issues requiring further consideration or clarification.

ROLE

1. To receive the Minutes and Progress Reports of the West Northamptonshire Programme Board and to provide co-ordinated and balanced advice to the Joint Strategic Planning Committee.
2. To resolve, wherever possible, conflict between the respective Councils and, where not possible, provide balanced advice and options.
3. On advice from the Programme Board, to review agenda and report content to be submitted to the Joint Strategic Planning Committee.
4. To consider any variations to programme and resources recommended by the Programme Board and advise the Joint Strategic Planning Committee accordingly.

West Northamptonshire Programme Board Terms of Reference

Membership:

David Bailey	(Chair)	Northampton Borough Council
Sue Bridge		Northampton Borough Council
Karen Moore		West Northants JPU
Paul Lewin		Northampton Borough Council
Simon Bovey		Daventry District Council
Roy Boulton		Northamptonshire County Council
Andy D'Arcy		South Northants Council
Calvin Bell		South Northants Council
Vincent Goodstadt		West Northants Development Corporation
Fiona Forgham		Government Office East Midlands
Stephen Kelly		West Northants Development Corporation
Richard Wood		Daventry District Council
Claire Berry		West Northants JPU

Purpose

1. To jointly direct the work in developing the preparation and agreement of Local Development Documents as set out in the West Northamptonshire Local Development Scheme.
2. To ensure general conformity with the Regional Spatial Strategy for the East Midlands, compliance with legislation requirements and balancing the need to enable timely implementation of regeneration and infrastructure led growth across the affected area.
3. To advice on the development of the county-wide Minerals and Waste Development Framework, the Transport Strategy for Growth and the Local Transport Plan, co-ordination of sub-regional planning and infrastructure proposals and on cross boundary strategic planning and infrastructure issues.

Role

1. To provide co-ordinated and balanced advice to the Joint Planning Committee and the Business Support Group.
2. To engage key stakeholders in the process and elicit constructive challenge on an ongoing basis.
3. To resolve wherever possible conflict between the respective Councils and where not possible, provide balanced advice and options.
4. To ensure the dimensions of time, cost, quality and risk are properly managed with constructive, timely action initiated to correct divergence.
5. To assist the Head of the Joint Planning Unit in resolving escalated risks and issues.
6. To act wherever possible as a single voice to other agencies on key issues.

Scope

1. To deliver agreed joint local planning documents across the respective Councils.
2. To agree a common strategy, approach and resource plan.
3. To agree any variations to programme and resources.

Item No: 7
Date: 16 December 2008

**WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
JOINT STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Work Programme Position Statement
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REPORT OF THE INTERIM HEAD OF THE JOINT PLANNING UNIT

Background

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to outline the progress on the programme and workstreams to date, and in particular the known remaining gaps in the evidence base. It outlines the next stages in the work programme that are required to fulfil the approved Local Development Scheme timetable. It does not repeat the material set down in the Final Report on Findings of the Review of the Joint Planning Unit by Addison & Associates in August 2008, but does account for this work.
- 1.2 The overall programme requires a spatial portrait to be produced, a vision for the plan area and a set of spatial objectives that guide the strategy and policies in the West Northamptonshire Core Strategy and provide the context for the Northampton Central Area Action Plan. A 'first phase' of evidence collection is required, followed by integrating the findings to establish options for the core strategy. As options are developed and choices made with respect to the matters addressed in the plan, then any gaps in the evidence base or additional evidence that will be required for finer grain work will be uncovered. Essentially this could be called the 'second phase' of evidence gathering. In practice the process is iterative and aspects of plan making can continue in many circumstances whilst some detailed evidence 'catches up' as long as this is not critical to all decisions associated with an aspect of the plan and does not leave the plan wanting with respect to 'soundness'. Given the current position there is a need to progress an assessment of the quality of the evidence produced to date as options are developed. This will be part of the work undertaken in the coming months and is outlined further below.

Progress on Workstreams

- 1.3 The progress on the first phase of the evidence base is now clear and significant studies of work are complete or due to complete in the next 3 months. Appendix 1 contains the main components of the evidence base and is an extract from the approved Local Development Scheme.

- 1.4 The key areas of yet to be completed first phase, West Northamptonshire wide, evidence collection for the Core Strategy and Affordable Housing and Developer Contributions DPDs and its progress appear to be as follows:
- a. Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment – progress had stalled but assistance on methodology has been provided by Andrew Wright, whilst responsibility for the management of the project is being transferred within the Joint Planning Unit. Appropriately skilled temporary staff will be engaged in delivering the survey phase of the study by the end of February. A project plan is being produced and the panel will be reengaged.
 - b. Update on the Strategic Housing Market Assessment – this is being undertaken in house by housing officers of Daventry District, Northampton Borough and South Northamptonshire District in partnership with the planning officers. Some additional viability assessment may be required which may need to be commissioned early in 2009. This will provide key evidence for the Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document.
 - c. Northamptonshire Strategic Employment Land Assessment – Northamptonshire Enterprise has commissioned this work which will fulfil the requirements of Employment Land Reviews and is due to report in March 2009.
 - d. Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Level I – is being finalised following comments from the Environment Agency. It is due in December. The level II scoping of this work is under way and will be commissioned in the new year.
 - e. Green Infrastructure and Environmental Sensitivity Studies – the Northampton Study, and the Towcester and Brackley Studies are due to be completed mid December 2008.
 - f. Water Cycle Study – level 1 due for completion by end of February 2009.
 - g. Rural accessibility assessments and modelling –can be undertaken in house by NCC.
 - h. Strategic urban design appraisals– to frame the strategy with respect to urban form, public realm and place making. These have not yet been progressed but will be critical to the strategic framework for place making. The scope of work to be determined.
 - i. West Northamptonshire Sports Facility Strategy – due for completion by end of January 2009.
 - j. The pursuit of evidence of service needs, projections and plans for education, health, social services etc. A start has been made and this will be done in partnership – partners’ plans will be at various states of development.
 - k. The West Northamptonshire Retail Study – is due for completion December 2008 and on track.
- 1.5 The second phase of evidence which will be required, having assessed and identified options, will include finer grain work for the strategic allocations in the Core Strategy including further transport modelling, environmental impact assessments, water cycle study, infrastructure planning and an element of master planning. This is all to support the evidence of deliverability of the locations chosen. However, the magnitude of this work is not possible to assess accurately until the current evidence base is integrated to assess options and quality checked. Some of this phase II evidence could require only a light touch.

Further Sustainability Appraisal/ Strategic Environmental Assessment may need to be commissioned for options selection, and will be required for the pre-submission and submission documents. In addition an 'Appropriate Assessment' of the implications of the DPD for sites that fall within the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) will be required.

- 1.6 For the sake of clarity depending upon the ability to attract the right skills in house (see report item 6 on this agenda) at least some of these areas of work will need to be commissioned.
- 1.7 The split between work to be achieved in house and to be commissioned is expected to be as follows for completion of phase I evidence:
 - a. In house i.e. among partners – Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment, update on Strategic Housing Market Assessment and strategic urban design appraisals.
 - b. Commissioned – viability assessments linked to the Strategic Housing Market Assessment for affordable housing.
- 1.8 The split between work to be achieved in house and to be commissioned is for completion of phase II evidence will be dependent upon the skills attracted to the JPU, and contributions from partners but could be:
 - a. In house i.e. among partners – transport modelling including rural accessibility, master planning, infrastructure planning.
 - b. Commissioned - Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Level II, Sustainability Appraisal/ Strategic Environmental Assessment, infrastructure planning, environmental impact assessments, water cycle study.
- 1.9 It is assumed that evidence required for the Northampton Central Area Action Plan will be contained in the strategic evidence base for the Core Strategy and the Developer Contributions and Affordable Housing DPD together with existing studies. However, contingency should be made in the budget.
- 1.10 The key workstreams required to move progress on the LDS forward and targets for the next five months are:
 - a. Agreement of a spatial portrait, spatial vision, spatial objectives and spatial strategy for the Core Strategy.
 - b. Developing engagement with the technical work and the relationships with key partners to progress the work and raise the levels of ownership of the outcomes including councillors of the JSPC and beyond, officers of the partner authorities and WNDC in addition to other key service delivery partners.
 - c. Production and delivery of a strategy for all associated public consultation, engagement and publicity to inform and engage communities in West Northamptonshire. This will draw from previous work undertaken on consultations.
 - d. Clarification of the options and their implications for places with reference to the spatial vision and spatial objectives and the evidence base.
 - e. Selection of preferred options including directions of growth and sustainable urban extensions for the Core Strategy.
 - f. Production of the Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document.

- 1.11 The following months programme will then deliver the production of the pre submission West Northamptonshire Core Strategy and Northampton Central Area Action Plans for publication to meet the approved Local Development Scheme timetable. The Developer Contributions and Affordable Housing DPD will progress alongside the development of the Core Strategy. There is a significant level of workload encapsulated in the whole of the programme for the next nine months and beyond to meet the Local Development Scheme timetable.
- 1.12 There are key workstreams for the Joint Planning Unit that are associated with supporting delivery of the LDS and need to be fulfilled :
- a. Completion of the detailed programme for the Core Strategy and Central Area Action Plan. This is underway.
 - b. Introduction of sound project management and project planning practice using project briefs and timetables in addition to time recording against projects. Project briefs for key workstreams are being produced and will include an element of quality check on existing evidence as well as the clear relationship with the LDS programme.
 - c. Introduction of performance and workload management and monitoring systems. These are required as project responsibilities and lines of reporting are blurred. Analysis of appropriate workloads has been undertaken and reorganisation of individual responsibilities with respect to the Core Strategy is being implemented from the 1st December.
 - d. Design and set up of monitoring databases and systems in addition to the collation of base data for plan making e.g. updated information on employment and housing completions, construction of housing trajectory and capture of constraints.
 - e. Improvement of filing and information management as well as recording of the audit trail for evidence. Protocol for information management and recording of decisions on projects are needed to ensure the evidence trail is in place and overcome the impact of projects being transferred between many personnel in their history. This is underway.
 - f. Completion of the introduction of the Limehouse software for consultation and document production.

Next Steps

- 2.0 The next three months are critical to accelerating progress on the Core Strategy to enable it to keep to timetable. Whilst the main studies are being completed the key aspects of the development of the Core Strategy to be bought forward are those noted at 1.10 a, c and d above whilst 1.10 b is an ongoing activity.
- 2.1 The delivery plan for the next three months therefore contains the following three outputs which will be progressed in tandem:
- a. **Agreement of a spatial portrait, spatial vision, spatial objectives and spatial strategy for the core strategy (1.10a).** This is to be undertaken by the Interim Head of the Joint Planning Unit drawing together work to date, redrafting in association with colleagues in the respective authorities and WNDC to a working draft identifying where a steer is needed by members. This will then be the subject of a workshop

with members prior to the February JSPC meeting where a working vision, objectives and strategy must be agreed.

- b. **Production and delivery of a strategy for all associated public consultation, engagement and publicity to inform and engage communities in West Northamptonshire.** The production of a strategy is to begin with the assistance and lead of AJ Gray, Northampton Borough Council's Engagement Officer in close collaboration with the Interim Head of the Joint Planning Unit. The programme for roll out will be in accordance with the approved Local Development Scheme timetable. This will be concurrent with 2.1a above.
- c. **Clarification of the options and their implications for places with reference to the spatial vision and spatial objectives and the evidence base.** An accelerated process is planned to take place in January. This will be a series of workshops with officers from the partnership on a charette model designed to bring each aspect of the evidence base and professional knowledge together and consider its impact on place. It will include the quality check of evidence. **The outcome is expected to be a clear identification of options for growth, and their clear implications for both new and existing communities, infrastructure planning, etcetera.** This includes options with respect to, for example, the role of major towns and the city, and approaches to the settlement hierarchy. These can then be debated with members of the JSPC in workshop format before public consideration in consultation and the assessment of how the selection of the preferred options will be handled. This may require additional workshop dates to be placed in the diaries.

2.2 The expectation with respect to partners' input to this work prior to the recruitment of the full team is preparation and participation in the workshops in 2.1c above which will bring senior planners, transportation and infrastructure specialists together from the four authorities and WNDC. In addition the inclusion of other service specialists is being explored e.g. health, education etc.

2.3 In addition in the period before the full staff complement is recruited to the JPU there will be further staff resource provided by NBC to assist in the production of the Core Strategy and fit with the Northampton Central Area Action Plan. The current contributions from NCC with respect to the time of Chris Wragg Transport Planning Manager, WNDC with respect to the time of Vincent Goodstadt (spatial planning consultant) and of Paul Bullen the Strategic Growth Manager, Northamptonshire Police are proving most helpful.

Key Risks

- 3.0 The updated detailed risk register will be produced but the key risks to this part of the programme are as follows:
 - a. Late recruitment to the permanent full time Head of the Joint Planning Unit (refer item 7 on this agenda)
 - b. Late recruitment to all other required posts

- c. Inability to recruit the required skills or supplement with consultancy support.
- d. Serious concerns arising with respect to the quality of the evidence base not least the uncertainty with respect to the current economic climate and the impact on assumptions made in studies.

3.1 The primary mitigation measures for managing these risks are set out in the papers on the following items 7 and 8 which aim to put in place an appropriate structure and budget.

Recommendation

4.0 That the Joint Strategic Planning Committee notes the report and its relationship to the Structure and Budget Reports on this agenda. The Joint Strategic Planning Committee members support efforts to accelerate progress and ensure that the approved Local Development Scheme milestones are met.

Appendix 1

Extract from approved West Northamptonshire Local Development Scheme
November 2008

Note - Studies marked with an asterix * are to be published in late 2008 or in 2009.

County Wide

- Northamptonshire Local Transport Plan 2006
- Northamptonshire Accessibility Strategy
- Northamptonshire Environmental Character Assessment 2006
- Northamptonshire Joint Waste Management Strategy
- Northamptonshire Commercial Property and Employment Land Assessment
- Northamptonshire Strategic Employment Land Assessment*
- Northamptonshire Biodiversity Action Plan
- Northamptonshire Gypsy and Travellers' Accommodation and Needs Assessment

West Northamptonshire

- West Northamptonshire Housing Market Assessment
- West Northamptonshire Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment*
- West Northamptonshire Strategic Flood Risk Assessment*
- West Northamptonshire Water Cycle Strategy*
- West Northamptonshire Sports Facilities Strategy*
- West Northamptonshire Retail Study*
- Northampton Longer Term Growth Options Study
- Northampton Multi-Model Study Update
- Northampton Green Infrastructure and Environmental Sensitivity Study*
- Towcester and Brackley Green Infrastructure and Environmental Sensitivity Study*
- South Northamptonshire and Daventry Crime and Disorder Strategy

Daventry District Council

- Issues Paper 2002
- Daventry District Transport Strategy 2001
- Model Development Areas 2004
- Retail Study 2003
- Housing Needs Survey 2006
- Town Centre Vision 2004
- Daventry District Council Annual Monitoring Report 2005
- Daventry LDF Core Strategy Issues and Options 2005
- Daventry Community Strategy 2006
- Daventry Urban Capacity Study 2004
- Daventry Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study
- Daventry Housing Strategy 2003
- Daventry Economic Development Strategy 2003
- Daventry Rural Revival Strategy 2003
- Sports Development Strategy 2005

- Daventry Strategic Development Options Study
- Daventry Housing Land Availability Assessment April 2008
- Daventry Annual Monitoring Report 2004/ 05
- Daventry Annual Monitoring Report 2005/ 06
- Daventry Annual Monitoring Report 2006/ 07

Northampton Borough Council

- Northampton Urban Capacity Study 2002 (2003)
- Northampton Strategic Flood Risk Assessment 2004
- Northampton Playing Pitch Strategy
- Northampton Community Strategy
- South West District Review 2004
- Northampton Allotments Strategy
- Northampton Open Space, Sport and Recreation Assessment and Needs Audit 2006
- Northampton Employment Land Study 2006
- Northampton Central Area Design, Development and Movement Framework 2006
- Northampton Retail Study 2008
- Northampton Housing Strategy
- Northampton Housing Needs Survey
- Northampton Housing Land Availability Assessment April 2008
- Northampton Annual Monitoring Report 2004/ 05
- Northampton Annual Monitoring Report 2005/ 06
- Northampton Annual Monitoring Report 2006/ 07

South Northamptonshire Council

- Infrastructure Assessment for Towcester and Brackley
- Issues Papers (2001)
- Issues Report (2004)
- South Northamptonshire LDF Core Strategy Issues and Options (2005)
- Parish Action Plans
- Public Open Space Strategy
- Retail Studies for Brackley and Towcester
- South Northamptonshire Communications Strategy
- South Northamptonshire Community Safety Strategy
- South Northamptonshire Community Strategy
- South Northamptonshire Consultation Strategy
- South Northamptonshire Cultural Strategy
- South Northamptonshire Economic Development Strategy
- South Northamptonshire Environment Strategy
- South Northamptonshire Household Survey
- South Northamptonshire Housing Needs Study
- South Northamptonshire Housing Strategy
- South Northamptonshire Performance Plan
- South Northamptonshire Social Inclusion Strategy
- Urban Capacity Studies for Brackley and Towcester (2005)
- Towcester Multi-Modal Study

- Nathaniel Litchfield - Towcester reports
- South Northamptonshire Housing Land Availability Assessment April 2008
- South Northamptonshire Annual Monitoring Report 2004/ 05
- South Northamptonshire Annual Monitoring Report 2005/ 06
- South Northamptonshire Annual Monitoring Report 2006/ 07
- Towcester Masterplan*
- Brackley Masterplan*
- Roade Masterplan*
- South Northamptonshire Retail Study*
- South Northamptonshire Leisure Study*
- Towcester Marketing Study*

Item No: 8

Date: 16 December 2008

**WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
JOINT STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Structure to deliver the approved Local Development Scheme

REPORT OF THE INTERIM HEAD OF THE JOINT PLANNING UNIT

Background

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to set out the proposed permanent structure for the Joint Planning Unit that will deliver the necessary staff resource and capacity to meet the approved Local Development Scheme timetable.
- 1.2 The Final Report on Findings of the Review of the Joint Planning Unit by Addison & Associates in August 2008 set out the gaps in skills and capacity required to make the Joint Planning Unit fit for purpose. This report builds on that work and is based on finer grained analysis – it sets out the broad responsibility of postholders' skills and experience needed.
- 1.3 The Addison report recommended that approximately 18FTE posts would be required to staff the Joint Planning Unit in order to deliver the Core Strategy and associated documents.
- 1.4 Following the appointment of the Interim Head of the Joint Planning Unit, the fine grain analysis of the evidence base and work done to date by the Joint Planning Unit has refined this requirement and concluded that some 13FTE posts would be required as set out below.
- 1.5 The need to resource the Joint Planning Unit with further staff and skills does not mean that partners' help is not required. In the period before recruitment of the full team help is urgently required to progress the Local Development Framework, and is indeed being offered by all partners including WNDC. This is most valuable and critical to progress and it is clear that all partners recognise this fact and the urgency of the approved Local Development Scheme timetable. This need will continue with respect to contributions from partners and this is outlined in more detail below in paragraph 3.0.

Proposed Structure

1.6 A structure diagram is set out at appendix 1. The following posts are proposed and an indication of responsibilities and skills set out:

1.7 Head of Joint Planning Unit

At Assistant Director level this postholder will lead the unit and programme, develop and maintain relationships with key partners such as WNDC and GOEM in addition to Daventry DC, Northampton BC, South Northamptonshire DC and Northamptonshire CC through both the formal structures and technical workstreams to ensure the engagement of the right officers in DPD production. The Head of the JPU will support the Programme Board, Business Sub Group and Joint Strategic Planning Committee (JSPC) and lead the technical work. The appointment should be an individual who can demonstrate success towards the delivery of a sound core strategy and a clear understanding of the integrated nature of building sustainable communities and place making in a growth context.

DPD production team

1.8 Team Leader DPD Production

This officer will line manage the team of officers producing the DPD as well as contributing to the technical work. The post holder will ensure the integration of the workstreams for DPD production and that sound plans are achieved. The appointment should be an individual who can demonstrate success towards the delivery of a sound core strategy and a clear understanding of the integrated nature of building sustainable communities and place making. The ability to analyse the implications of evidence and apply this to predicted future scenario is critical.

1.9 Principal Spatial Planners

Across the group these experienced officers will provide a strategic perspective as well as the technical ability to develop spatial policy and detailed site planning and guidance to bring forward development. They will lead project workstreams for all DPD. Specialist experience is required covering housing policy, employment/ economic/ retail policy, sustainable communities and environmental assessments, rural planning and the capability to move from broad strategic location to clear site based guidance. At this level at least one appointment should be able to demonstrate success towards the delivery of a sound core strategy, site allocations or area action plan DPD whilst experience in delivery of sites for development and masterplanning would be required for a second postholder. The ability to analyse the implications of evidence and apply this to futures is critical for all of these post holders.

1.10 Senior Planning Officer, Planning Officer and Graduate Planner

These postholders will support the work on DPDs and deliver additional specialisms in transport and infrastructure planning from the strategic perspective, leisure, community and cultural planning. Experience in consultation activity for plan making would also be valuable. They will be capable of research, analysis and policy development and at least one of the postholders will be engaged in production of the annual monitoring report whilst another will take responsibility for the upkeep of the Limehouse system for consultation and

document production. They will need to be flexible in approach to assist in a range of projects.

- 1.11 All post holders in the DPD team must be capable of working with others within and external to the JPU and partner authorities to achieve sound DPDs and SPDs. In addition they must be capable of interacting with the public in a professional manner.

Information and monitoring team

1.12 Information and Programme Manager

This experienced postholder will have the dual role of assisting the DPD Team Leader in chasing and monitoring the programme for the LDS and of providing and managing the monitoring and information systems for effective plan monitoring. Therefore project management skills and a good grounding in information and ICT systems to support plan making are required. The team will produce the Annual Monitoring Report for the LDS, data reports and analysis. It will use and access data systems held by partner authorities and other local agencies as well as regional and national data.

1.9 Planning Technician

This postholder will provide all GIS and mapping support, as well as meeting needs for graphics, publicity and consultation materials production.

1.10 Monitoring Officer

This postholder will maintain monitoring systems collecting and updating data from constituent authorities and other bodies inputting and running reports on aspects of the database and assisting with production of the Annual Monitoring Report. This post must be ICT and literate with respect to statistical techniques and their application.

Administrative Support

1.11 Administrative Assistants

One post holder will provide personal assistance to the Head of the JPU and DPD team leader with respect to diaries, meetings, etcetera. Another will be engaged in administrative support for the activities of the team for example: filing, copying, mail outs and maintenance of library. The work will include maintaining office systems such as recording leave, analysing time sheets etc. These posts are both critical to ensuring that professional officer time is not spent on administrative tasks.

Existing Staff

- 2.0 The six existing professional staff in the JPU (excluding the Interim Head) are seconded from the constituent authorities on the basis that these secondments would be temporary with the exception of one who was recruited to the JPU. Following approval of the budget and structure, discussions will be required with the relevant officers in each authority to determine the procedures by which the permanent posts will be filled.
- 2.1 There is also one administrative officer on an agency contract and this will be regularised.

Additional Staff Resources

3.0 It is anticipated that from time to time the JPU will need to draw on the expertise of officers from the constituent authorities to assist with specific tasks and workstreams. This is noted in the previous report at item 6 of this agenda. The co-operation of the authorities in this will assist in keeping staffing costs to a minimum. In addition to the budget contribution to finance the team and work the following is still required from partner authorities:

- a. Continued contributions to the wide range of steering groups already attended for key aspects of the evidence base.
- b. Continued contributions in time from heads of planning and heads of policy in the respective authorities as well as transport colleagues from the County Council.
- c. Continued engagement of Vincent Goodstadt and increased engagement of other staff in the WNDC such as those with infrastructure specialisms– this has been the subject of initial discussions.
- d. The specific participation in the analytical processes and workshops outlined in paragraph 2.1 of item 6 on this agenda to be held in January 2009.

3.1 These contributions are needed to fulfil two main objectives:

- a. The participation of key professional staff in a plan making process that they rightly should be engaged in on behalf of their Councils and the Development Corporation.
- b. The effective use of experience, expertise and local knowledge that these officers hold.

Conclusion

4 The recommended structure with respect to staff numbers, position and skills sought is a pragmatic but robust response to the Addison report which, on the basis of our current knowledge, and if we are able to recruit, should deliver the work to the approved Local Development Scheme timetable. Recruitment to the right skill and capability level must be made and no appointments that fall short of the requirements can be acceptable if we are to meet our milestones.

4.1 There are a number of key risks associated with the situation:

- a. Recruitment of staff must take place early in 2009 to progress work on the Local Development Scheme at the pace required. Members should note that there is a risk that recruitment may not be successful at the first attempt.
- b. Partners must continue to be engaged to support the progress on the LDF and not consider a full complement of staff in the JPU as a reason to scale down their current professional contributions to the work. Indeed, in the interim and at times throughout the process, there may be

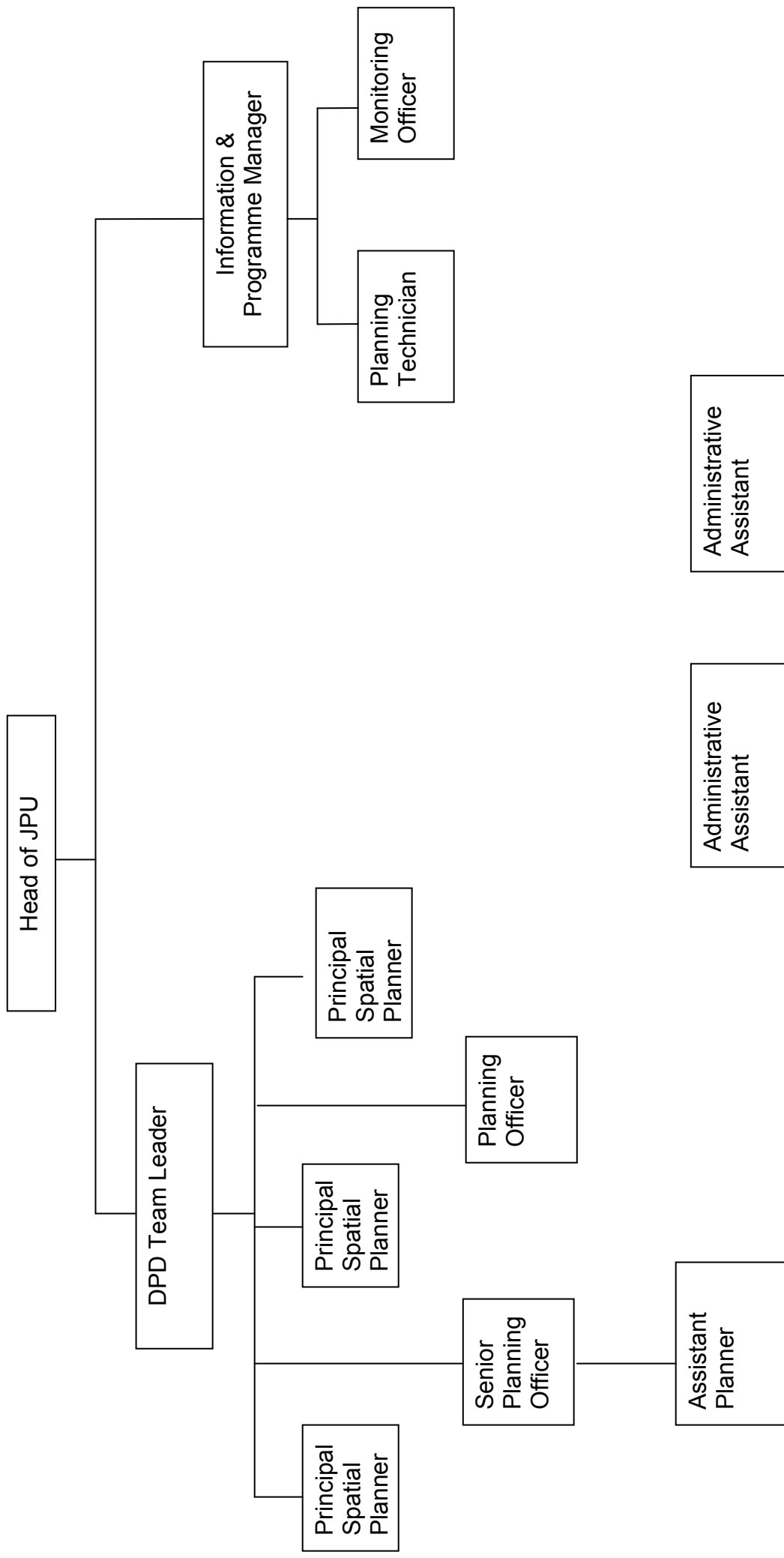
occasions when to maintain progress on the LDF partners may be required to second other staff to engage. (refer paragraph 3.0 above and agenda item 6).

- 4.2 The risks of an inadequate rate of progress in the interim period before new staff are in post must be avoided by the use of help from partners and with temporary staff applied to particular projects.

Recommendation

- 4.1 The Joint Strategic Planning Committee is recommended to agree the proposed structure and note the risks.
- 4.2 The Joint Strategic Planning Committee is recommended to agree that Northampton Borough Council lead on the recruitment processes required and for the post of the Head of the Joint Planning Unit an interview panel be established consisting of an officer from each council together with a member of the Joint Strategic Planning Committee.

Appendix 1 - West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit Permanent Establishment



Agenda Item 9

Item No: 9

Date: 16 December 2008

WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE JOINT STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

Budget to deliver the approved Local Development Scheme

REPORT OF THE INTERIM HEAD OF THE JOINT PLANNING UNIT

Background

1.1 The purpose of this report is to set out the budget required to deliver the necessary staff resource and capacity to meet the remaining workload represented by the approved Local Development Scheme timetable. This covers the period 2009-2012.

Budget

1.2 The following table highlights key expenditure headings.

		2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012
1	Total salary costs	686,700	760,400	801,100
2	Travel and training costs	50,000	51,700	53,300
3	Other operational costs e.g. IT services	38,000	30,000	31,000
4	Consultations & website support	65,000	66,600	68,400
5	Mapping monitoring and database maintenance	15,000	5,300	5,500
	Total operational costs	168,000	153,600	158,200
6	Consultancy on remaining evidence base	95,000	-	-
7	Contingency for evidence base*	150,000	100,000	50,000
	Total evidence costs	245,000	100,000	50,000
8	Examination in Public and counsel	20,000	180,000	170,000
9	Budget Contingency	30,000	35,000	50,000
	Total other costs			
	Total	1,149,700	1,229,000	1,229,300
	* this accounts for studies that are to be completed but not yet costed and work arising from options generation and selection.			

- 1.3 The total estimated budget for 2009-2010 amounts to £1,149,700 which is £104,200 more than 2008-2009 of £1,045,500. The apportionment to individual councils based on number of votes at JSPC is therefore:
- Daventry DC - £287,400
 - South Northants DC - £287,400
 - Northampton BC - £383,300
 - Northamptonshire County Council - £191,600
- 1.4 The salary bill has increased from £395,300 in 2008-2009 to £686,700 for 2009-2010. This is in order to ensure salaries are at a level commensurate with skills required and includes additional posts. The year on year variance in salary costs includes the additional programme officer required for development plan documents examinations in 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 together with salary increments on all of the posts.
- 1.5 The majority of the evidence base costs that can be readily assessed at this stage are covered in 2008-2009 as the target for completion is within this financial year. However, as Item 6 sets out there is likely to be further need for evidence gathering when the options are selected and the Core Strategy and Central Area Action Plan are worked up for publication. Therefore the contingency sum for evidence is critical. In addition the overall budget contingency is also required for a range of costs such as top up on the costs of consultations.
- 1.6 In order to manage a still fluid situation with respect to our understanding of needs for phase 2 of the evidence base (please refer to item 6 of this agenda) and to provide the maximum contingency if there are difficulties with recruitment then it is imperative that any underspend on the current year budget is carried over to the 2009/2010 financial year. The current view of the likely underspend at end year is £213,000.
- 1.7 As outlined in items 6 and 7 there is an urgent need to recruit early, after the JSPC meeting on 16th December, in order to fill the skills and capacity gaps in the current team and deliver the approved programme in the local development scheme. The cost of recruiting in this financial year can be covered by the projected underspend as can the salary costs for the final quarter of this financial year.

Recommendation

- 1.8 The Joint Strategic Planning Committee is recommended to take the budget forward for approval by constituent councils.
- 1.9 The Joint Strategic Planning Committee is recommended to take the budget forward to roll over any underspend on the 2008-2009 budget to 2009-2010.

Item No: 10
Date: 16 December 2008

**WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
JOINT STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Public Local Inquiry into three Urban Extensions at Daventry

REPORT OF THE INTERIM HEAD OF THE JOINT PLANNING UNIT

Recommendation

1. That the Committee approve the attached paper and its submission to the Planning Inspectorate as a statement of the position of the Committee to assist the Public Local Inquiry.
2. That the Committee agrees that Officers of the Joint Planning Unit discuss the possibility of the Secretary of State making a Direction under Article 10(3) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 directing that the Constituent Local Authorities and the West Northants Development Corporation consult the Committee on strategic applications. Officers are to report back to the next meeting.

Background

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to respond to a formal request from Daventry District Council that this Committee makes a statement on its position in respect of the five conjoined Planning Appeals, which are to be the subject of a Public Local Inquiry scheduled to commence on 20th January 2009.
- 1.2 In 2007, WNDC and Daventry District Council received five planning applications for three mixed use urban extensions, known as Danetree, Church Fields and Monksmoor.

The Monksmoor application falls wholly within the WNDC area and is for some 1,000 dwellings and 3,000sq m commercial and employment uses.

The Danetree and Church Fields applications are cross-boundary and are significantly larger than the Monksmoor application. The Appeals are against the failure of WNDC and Daventry District Council to determine the applications.

- 1.3 The Planning Appeals are for up to 10,150 dwellings and a significant amount of commercial and employment uses together with supporting social and community infrastructure and retail. The Secretary of State is the determining authority for all the Appeals.

The Role of the West Northamptonshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee

- 2.1 The WNJSPC came into existence by virtue of the West Northamptonshire Joint Committee Order 2008. Article 3 of the Order states that the WNJSPC is constituted as the local planning authority for the area for the purposes of Part 2 (Local Development) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. It is an important legal distinction that the Order established the WNJSPC as a local planning authority and not a district planning authority. There is, therefore, no statutory duty on the constituent authorities, or the WNDC to consult with the Committee before determining planning applications, which there would be if the WNJSPC was a District Planning Authority. The Committee can, however, request that the constituent authorities and the WNDC consult the Committee on an informal basis with regards to certain specified applications and may wish to consider this.
- 2.2 The Secretary of State may, pursuant to Article 10(3) of the 2004 Act, give a Direction to a local planning authority directing that authority to consult any person or body named in the direction for a specified class or classes of application. The Secretary of State has not made such a Direction, but the Committee could request that she makes such a Direction.
- 2.3 Daventry District Council was the plan making body responsible for producing a Core Strategy, when the planning applications were made. The decision was taken that these large applications would largely pre-determine decisions about the location of new growth in Daventry in advance of the Core Strategy. The Council took the view that the applications were premature, although considered that in view of its modest size, the application at Monksmoor would not materially prejudice the preparation of the Joint Core Strategy.
- 2.4 The Joint Planning Committee is now the plan-making authority and has been asked by Daventry to give a view to assist the Secretary of State in her decision and to assist the Public Local Inquiry.
- 2.5 It would be inappropriate for the Committee to make detailed comments on the application and, in the absence of a Core Strategy or an emerging policy basis for a Core Strategy, cannot give a view based on policy. However, the Committee can consider the implications of the Appeals on the plan-making process. Appendix 1 seeks to do this

and sets out those issues, which would be appropriate, for the Secretary of State to take into account in determining the Appeals. Essentially, this hinges on whether or not she is of the opinion that a favourable determination would be in accordance with PPS3 and that the development would not prejudice the plan making process and the creation of a spatial vision for the area.

- 2.6 This report, together with the attachment, should be sent to the Planning Inspectorate to assist the Inspector during the course of the Inquiry.

STATEMENT FROM THE WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE JOINT STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

1. **Establishment of the WNJSPC**

The West Northamptonshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee (WNJSPC) was established on 25th July 2008 by Statutory Instrument No 1572 for the purposes of Part 2 (Local Development) of the 2004 Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act. The Committee covers the administrative areas of Daventry and South Northamptonshire Districts, and Northampton Borough Council. Northamptonshire County Council is also a member of the WNJSPC.

The Joint Strategic Planning Committee consists of 3 Councillors each from Daventry and South Northamptonshire Councils, 4 councillors from Northampton Borough and 2 from the County Council. It met for the first time on October 21st 2008. The Committee has the power to invite Observers to the Committee, who can contribute to the discussion, but do not have voting rights. The West Northamptonshire Development Corporation and Wellingborough Borough Council have been invited to sit on the Committee as Observers.

At its first meeting, the WNJSPC agreed governance arrangements and a revised Local Development Scheme (3 year programme for production of Development Plan documents).

2. **The Joint Planning Unit**

The Joint Planning Unit consists of Planning Policy Officers seconded from the constituent authorities. The Officers serve the newly created Joint Strategic Planning Committee. The work of the Unit is overseen by a Programme Board, which consists of Senior Officers from the constituent authorities, together with WNDC.

3. **Programme for producing Development Plan Documents.**

The planning system requires that the programme for planning document production be set out in a Local Development Scheme, which is approved by the Secretary of State. The Strategic Planning Committee agreed a revised programme of document production at its inaugural meeting on 21st October. The revised LDS came into effect on the 21st November 2008 after the Secretary of State declined to make a Direction under Sec. 15(4) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. This LDS is therefore the LDS for West Northants for the purposes of Paras. 4.53 to 4.58 of PPS12. It will ensure that sufficient land is allocated for housing and employment in accordance with RSS8 and the MKSM Sub-Regional Strategy together with the necessary supporting infrastructure.

The programme identifies that seven Development Plan Documents and three Supplementary Planning Documents will be produced. The majority of these documents are of direct relevance to the Appeals namely:

- West Northamptonshire Core Strategy DPD
- West Northamptonshire Developer Contributions and Affordable Housing DPD
- West Northamptonshire Site Allocations DPD
- West Northamptonshire Development Management Policies DPD
- Daventry Town DPD
- West Northamptonshire Affordable Housing Policies SPD

It makes provision for the Joint Core Strategy to be published in November 2009, with submission in March 2010 and adoption in January 2011. The other DPD's will follow the Core Strategy in accordance with the LDS timetable.

A copy of the LDS timetable for the production of these documents is attached at Appendix A. Details of the intended scope of these documents can be found in the Local Development Scheme.

WNJSPC has declared its intent to ensure that the milestones for the production of the DPD's and SPD's are adhered to.

4. Purpose of the Joint Core Strategy

The need for joint working between the authorities was established in Northamptonshire Policy 2 of the MKSM Sub-Regional Strategy adopted in March 2005.

In May 2006, GOEM confirmed that the approach set out in the then approved Local Development Schemes of the above Councils was no longer appropriate and that the Councils should move towards preparing a Joint Core Strategy.

In moving the constituent authorities towards the preparation of a Joint Core Strategy, GOEM's objectives were to make sure that cross boundary issues would be dealt with effectively and that there would be a clear and comprehensive framework for the planning and delivery of the future growth in the area.

In September 2006, Baroness Andrews issued a statement on behalf of the Government. She welcomed the decision of the three authorities to work together on the grounds that this approach would allow infrastructure needs to be properly investigated and to provide a clear context for growth area investment. This approach would also provide a strong framework for protecting the environment and delivering economic growth.

The Joint Core Strategy will, therefore, set out the spatial vision, spatial objectives and spatial strategy for all sustainable communities in West Northamptonshire, together with a comprehensive delivery strategy. It will make strategic allocations to 2021 (depending upon the data on housing trajectory and supply that will arise from completion of the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment) and ensure the maintenance of at least the five year housing land supply together with establishing directions of growth for the later phases of the plan period.

The Core Strategy will include some detail of the early sustainable urban extensions including the type and disposition of activities and land uses. The Core Strategy will provide an integrated framework for investment including associated strategic social infrastructure such as health and leisure facilities, green infrastructure, the transport and accessibility strategy and phasing of development. It will provide the context for all other Development Plan Documents and Supplementary Planning Documents and will set out a monitoring and implementation framework for West Northamptonshire.

A fuller explanation of the purpose of the Joint Core Strategy can be found in the Local Development Scheme (November 2008)

5. Progress on the Joint Core Strategy.

Work commenced on a Joint Core Strategy for West Northamptonshire in September 2006. An Issues and Options Paper was published for consultation in September and October 2007.

Since that time, changes have been introduced to the planning system with revised regulations and PPS 12. These require more specificity on certain elements of the Strategy such as identifying strategic sites rather than broad directions of growth.

The Joint Planning Unit is therefore currently completing the evidence base for the Core Strategy. A wide range of studies has already been undertaken, but more work is still required on a number of studies, such as the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and the Water Cycle Study to inform the allocation of Strategic Sites and Sustainable Urban Extensions.

6. Issues for the Inquiry

As a strategic planning authority, the WNJSPC does not wish to comment on the detailed aspects of planning applications, these are matters for the Secretary of State to determine. However in the case of the five appeals currently being considered at Daventry (Monksmoor, Danetree and Church Fields) the WNJSPC is of the view that the proposed developments are of such a scale, both individually and cumulatively, that they have the potential to affect the outcome of the Core Strategy and the proper planning of the area.

WNJSPC accepts that the delay in producing a Core Strategy for the area has led to a housing land supply of less than five years in Daventry. The Appeals therefore have to be considered in this context. PPS3 para. 71 indicates that local planning authorities should consider planning applications favourably where there is less than a five year land supply, having regard to the policies in PPS3, including specifically para. 69.

It is for the Secretary of State to determine whether or not the Appeals before her meet, either collectively or individually, the criteria set out in para. 69.

However, in considering whether or not the proposed development meets these criteria, the WNJSPC would ask that she has particular regard to the final bullet point in that paragraph. The *raison d'être* behind moving the three local planning authorities to preparing a Joint Core Strategy was to ensure that cross boundary issues were considered in the round and that proper provision was made for the delivery of the necessary infrastructure to support the growth area, in other words to establish a spatial vision for the growth area.

WNJSPC is of the view that the proposals currently before the Inquiry should not be determined outside the Joint Core Strategy, unless the Secretary of State is satisfied that approval of these proposals, either individually or collectively, would not prejudice the underlying principles behind the Government's requirements for the production of a Joint Core Strategy in order to achieve the purposes set out above.

Item No: 11
Date: 16 December 2008

**WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
JOINT STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Responding to Consultation Documents

REPORT OF THE INTERIM HEAD OF THE JOINT PLANNING UNIT

Background

- 1.1 The West Northamptonshire Strategic Joint Planning Committee (the Joint Strategic Planning Committee) is set up and is referred to as a Local Planning Authority for the purposes of Part 2 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. This means that the Joint Planning Committee should be consulted on matters set out in Part 2 of that Act. These matters include the Development Plan Documents of the constituent Councils of the JSPC, the Development Plan Documents of neighbouring authorities (listed in Appendix 1 of this report) and the Regional Plans of both the East Midlands and neighbouring regions. In addition the JSPC is likely to be invited to respond to a range of national, regional and local documents including draft Planning Policy Statements, the Regional Economic Strategy and the Sustainable Community Strategies.

Current Approach

- 1.2 Currently responsibility for responding to consultation documents rests with the Joint Strategic Planning Committee itself. Given the fact that the period in which a response on a document needs to be made is limited (e.g. the statutory period of consultation on emerging LDF documents is six weeks) and that the Committee meet bi-monthly, it will not always be possible for the Committee to consider a report on a consultation document and respond within the deadline.
- 1.3 To date the Joint Planning Unit has submitted responses to the East Midlands Regional Plan Proposed Changes, the Rugby Core Strategy Preferred Options, the Northamptonshire Minerals and Waste Development Framework Core Strategy Proposed Submission and Control and Management of Development DPD, and the Cherwell Core Strategy Options for Growth on behalf of the Committee but before Committee approval in order to meet the consultation response deadlines. In the case of the East Midlands Regional Plan Proposed Changes the officer comments were subsequently considered at the inaugural meeting of the JSPC and additional comments submitted to the Government Office for the East Midlands.

Future Delegation

- 1.4 Delegation of consultations will avoid duplication of efforts between councils and demonstrate good partnership working whilst also respecting the right of the councils to respond individually should they consider this necessary. It is clear that only consultations that relate to the strategic work of the JSPC are matters for this form of response.

Recommendation

- 1.5 The Joint Strategic Planning Committee is recommended to delegate the responsibility for responding to consultation documents to the Head of the Joint Planning Unit in consultation with the Chair of the Joint Strategic Planning Committee. This would apply only to consultations of strategic significance to West Northamptonshire which will be judged through discussion with the officers of the Programme Board.
- 1.6 In instances where it is considered both necessary and appropriate for a document to be considered by the Committee, then, where timescales necessitate it, the Head of the Joint Planning Unit will with the agreement of the Chair of the Joint Strategic Planning Committee submit a response by the due deadline pending formal ratification, as an amendment, by the Committee when it next meets.

Appendix 1 – Neighbouring Authorities to West Northamptonshire

Neighbouring Borough and District Councils

Aylesbury Vale District Council
Bedford Borough Council
Borough Council of Wellingborough
Cherwell District Council
Kettering Borough Council
Milton Keynes Council
Harborough District Council
Rugby Borough Council
Stratford-on-Avon District Council

Neighbouring County Councils

Bedfordshire County Council
Buckinghamshire County Council
Leicestershire County Council
Oxfordshire County Council
Warwickshire County Council

Neighbouring Joint Strategic Planning Committees

North Northamptonshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee

Neighbouring Regions

East of England Regional Assembly
South East England Regional Assembly
West Midlands Regional Assembly