

**PROPOSED**  
**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING RELATING TO THE**  
**PREPARATION OF DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSPORTATION PLANS**  
**FOR WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**  
**(OCTOBER 2006)**

BETWEEN

- DAVENTRY DISTRICT COUNCIL
- NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
- SOUTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL
- NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**IN ASSOCIATION WITH**

- WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

As the local planning authorities (and highway authority in the case of Northamptonshire County Council) responsible for preparing Local Development Documents and transport plans and policies, including the Local Transport Plan, within West Northamptonshire. West Northamptonshire as the local delivery vehicle with responsibility to secure sustainable regeneration and growth of Northampton, Daventry and Towcester.

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**Context for Joint Planning**

- 1) Through the Regional Spatial Strategy for the East Midlands (RSS8) and the Milton Keynes and South Midlands Sub-Regional Strategy, approved in March 2005, Northampton, Daventry and Towcester have been identified as locations for growth in West Northamptonshire. These strategies express *“a presumption in favour of preparation of Joint Local Development Documents”* such as to *“help co-ordinate the development of the Northampton Implementation Area and address common issues”*.
- 2) Additionally, the three Local Strategic Partnerships for Northampton, Daventry and South Northamptonshire have between them set out a collective vision and agenda for West Northamptonshire. This draws strongly on the three community strategies, reflecting the challenges associated with West Northamptonshire’s new role as part of a national growth area and promoting the opportunity to become an exemplar for sustainable communities. This vision needs to be realised and be reflected in the development and transport plans covering West

Northamptonshire. West Northamptonshire Development Corporation has published a Prospectus setting out key areas for action to help achieve this mutual outcome and is developing a Growth Delivery Plan to secure implementation of its objectives.

- 3) For this growth to be progressed in an effective, cohesive and sustainable manner the local authorities of Northampton Borough Council, Daventry District Council and South Northamptonshire Council, along with Northamptonshire County Council, covering West Northamptonshire are committed to working together and with partners to shape and produce development and transport plans to accommodate this growth.
- 4) Northampton Borough Council, Daventry District Council and South Northamptonshire Council are the authorities responsible for the Local Development Documents accommodating and allocating growth in West Northamptonshire. Northamptonshire County Council is responsible for minerals and waste Development Documents and the Local Transport Plan covering West Northamptonshire. West Northamptonshire Development Corporation is the local delivery vehicle with responsibility to secure sustainable regeneration and growth of Northampton, Daventry and Towcester.

### **Intentions of Joint Planning**

- 5) The authorities, as Local Development Document and Local Transport Plan making authorities in West Northamptonshire, are jointly committed to the sustainable growth of Northampton, Daventry and Towcester and wider West Northamptonshire including realising necessary supporting transport and other infrastructure. The authorities will seek to develop complementary strategies for these areas, and work constructively together on cross boundary issues and matters, which jointly affect West Northamptonshire.
- 6) To this end the authorities commit to formal engagement/ consultation with each other and other partners, including the West Northamptonshire Development Corporation (WNDC), on strategic planning issues, particularly related to the co-ordination of transport and other infrastructure planning, and also on reviews of regional and sub-regional strategies.

### **Programme for Joint Planning**

- 7) In particular, the three Local Planning Authorities of Northampton, Daventry and South Northamptonshire are jointly committed to the early adoption of Local Development Documents across West

Northamptonshire to ensure that a firm and robust planning policy framework is in place to guide implementation of the vision and strategy for West Northamptonshire by the authorities, the WNDP and other agencies.

### **Scope and Programme of Joint Planning**

- 8) Joint planning will take the form of
  - a. A joint study to evaluate options for the longer-term growth of Northampton, prior to incorporation within future Local Development Documents.
  - b. The preparation of a joint Core Strategy (Local Development Document) including those matters concerning the long term strategic planning and growth of the Northampton Implementation Area which affect all authorities.
  - c. Co-ordination of the programme and approach to local development documents and transport plans across West Northamptonshire.
  - d. Other Local Development Documents and Supplementary Planning Documents which may be needed in future.

### **Arrangements for Joint Planning**

- 9) The authorities will meet as a West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Forum.
- 10) The purpose of the Forum will be for members of the three District plan making authorities, in conjunction with the County Council and West Northamptonshire Development Corporation, to consider together the development of joint planning documents in order to gain **provisional** agreement and therefore enable joint documents to be swiftly endorsed through the decision making processes of each Council. The Forum will also obtain provisional agreement over the policies and approaches of studies and documents and to consider any other matter of common interest related to spatial planning within West Northamptonshire.
- 11) The Forum will comprise members with Executive responsibility for planning and transport policy within each District and County. Whilst it will not have any executive powers and responsibility and all local development documents relating to each authority will remain the main responsibility of the respective preparing authority, it is the sole

means for debating and initially agreeing joint planning policy and therefore members and officers should

- a. Be prepared at each Forum to debate issues and reach common agreement
  - b. Promote and recommend an agreement of Forum to the relevant Council decision making body
  - c. Consider within each Council the scope of planning matters which require formal Council approval
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- 12) The Forum will comprise member and officer representatives of the authorities of Northampton, Daventry and South Northamptonshire Districts and Northamptonshire County Council and West Northamptonshire Development Corporation.
- 13) Voting rights at the Forum on district and borough Local Development Documents shall be granted to Northampton, Daventry and South Northamptonshire authorities. .
- 14) Each authority should be represented by two members - the Leader and Portfolio Holder (or his/ her nominated representative) with support from the Chief Officer of each authority (or his/ her nominated representative).
- 15) One elected Member from each of the three District authorities shall be present at the meeting, for it to be quorate.
- 16) Officers of the Government Office for the East Midlands will be invited to attend its meetings as observers and contributors. Other organisations may be invited with the agreement of the Chair to meetings as appropriate.
- 17) The Chair shall rotate annually between the three district authorities. Meetings shall be hosted in rotation by the three district authorities. Meetings will normally be held on a bi-monthly basis. Administrative arrangements will be made by the officer Joint Planning Team supporting the Joint Planning work.

Signed.....

.....Date

Leader – Daventry District Council

.....Date

Leader – Northampton Borough Council

.....Date

Leader – South Northamptonshire Council

.....Date

Leader – Northamptonshire County Council

.....Date

Chairman – West Northamptonshire Development Corporation