

Local Plan Committee

Wednesday 29 June 2016 at 7.00pm
in the Council Chamber, The Cube, Corby

Councillors present: Councillors Dady (Chair) Elliston, Beeby, Pengelly, Keane and McEwan

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Rahman and Rutt.

2. Declarations of Interest

Members were asked to declare any interest they might have in the business to be discussed and/or indicate whether these were prejudicial or non-prejudicial, the nature of the interest and whether they intend to participate in the relevant agenda item. No declarations were made.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

RESOLVED that:

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 April 2016, copies of which had been circulated to Members, be agreed as a correct record.

4. School Organisation Plan 2016-21.

The purpose of the report before Committee was to provide comment on the Northamptonshire County Council School Organisation Plan 2016-21 which had been published for consultation.

The plan outlined how the educational needs within the County would be met over the next five years.

Section 2 of the document outlined the methodology for school place planning in the County based on primary and secondary pupil projection forecasts, the number of pupils currently in the system, levels of in-migration to the County and recommended levels of surplus capacity.

The document acknowledged that in recent years, in-migration to the County had become a major factor in terms of school place planning. The levels of in-migration as a whole or to a specific town were impossible to predict, particularly as unlike rising birth rates the impact upon the foundation stage of primary school first and could be planned in advance.

Section 3 outlined the County Council's main principles in providing additional school places to meet demand through the provision of new facilities and extensions to existing facilities. A number of funding mechanisms to enable future facilities had been identified, including developer contributions, basic need grant funding from Central Government, capital receipts from surplus sites etc.

Section 4 outlined how mainstream education would be delivered, this included providing for those with special educational needs, post 16 provision and early years provision.

Section 5 included area plans for the 7 boroughs/district in Northamptonshire with the area profile for Corby acknowledging that the surplus capacity figure for most year groups was less than the DfE benchmark of 5%.

Primary pupil projections suggested Reception intakes would be broadly static until September 2019. High levels of in-migration combined with the levels of planned growth across the borough would result in an increased demand for primary school places. An additional primary school at Priors Hall was due to open in September 2016 and new primary schools were planned at Weldon Park, Corby West and Oakley Vale.

There was currently Year 7 capacity for 863 students in existing secondary schools in the Corby borough. Increased numbers of primary pupils progressing through will begin to impact on the secondary phase. Projections suggested that by September 2017, all existing Corby

secondary schools would be full and additional capacity would be required. Plans were being progressed by the County Council to ensure the provision of sufficient secondary places.

County Council had provided a consultation response form to the document which posed five questions as well as an opportunity to make further comment. Officer had responded as follows:

Officer comment: *The area profile for Corby (section 5.2) assumes a figure of 350 completions each year; justification should be provided for why an alternative estimate has been used to that of the emerging Joint Core Strategy, which sets a target of 460 completions per year based on objectively assessed need, particularly as the document refers to the emerging JCS figures in appendix 2.*

Members asked if officers could advise the likely location of the secondary school, officers advised that Stanion Plantation had been mentioned but no further discussions had taken place. Members also felt that parents should be encouraged to send their children to local schools rather than bussed to different areas. Concern was raised on the subject of Free Schools, members were against the provision of such schools saying that the schools should be LEA.

RESOLVED that:-

Members note the contents of Northamptonshire County Council's School Organisation Plan 2016-21 and, where necessary, provide comments to feed into the consultation process and supplement the officer comments.

Members also requested that officers arrange for an officer from County to provide an All Member briefing with regard to the School Plan.

5. Northamptonshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan

NCC were undertaking an update on the Minerals and Waste Local Plan, the document had been subject to two periods of consultation and was now at the final draft stage. Representations at this stage were based on legal compliance only and the test of soundness.

Legal requirements included that the Plan was subject to a sustainability appraisal, developed in accordance with the Local Development Scheme, accords with the Statement of Community Involvement and allowed for appropriate and meaningful community involvement and had been prepared with the engagement of adjoining authorities.

CBC had previously made representation to NCC that buffer zones should be included as a mechanism to protect residential locations, County Council had responded by strengthening the supporting text to Policy 18 to include specific reference to more sensitive land uses such as residential development.

Whilst desirable it was accepted that the amendment ensured the impact of waste development could be avoided or mitigated for sensitive land uses such as schools and residential development through the planning application process.

CBC had previously made representation to NCC that areas with more industrial space could take a disproportionate burden of waste related development. NCC had addressed this by addition to Policy 12 that required proposals to demonstrate how the development affected the overall distribution in Northamptonshire's waste management network. This change should help balance the distribution of waste development in the County.

Members raised their continued concerns regarding buffer zones and asked that the recommendation be changed to reflect those concerns.

RESOLVED that:-

Members note the report and agree that no representations are required at this stage of consultation on the grounds of soundness or legal compliance. However objections should continue to be submitted regarding the lack of buffer zones.

6. **Brownfield Land Pilot**

The report before Committee was to inform of progress with regard to the preparing of a pilot brownfield register.

The Government were introducing a legal requirement for all councils to publish a register of brownfield land suitable for housing through the Housing and Planning Act 2016. The Act would also introduce 'permission in principle' as a new route to obtaining planning permission, enabling the Secretary of State to make a development order granting planning permission in principle for development in relation to land that was allocated in a 'qualifying document'.

To help the Government produce policy and guidelines to prepare brownfield registers councils were invited to bid to pilot the formation of the register which came with funding of £10k per authority. The JPU submitted a successful bid and was therefore required to publish a pilot register by the end of June 2016.

Eleven sites had been shortlisted in Corby Borough, these include brownfield sites which already benefit from planning permission in accordance with the DCLG's Pilot Register Manual.

All of the shortlisted sites were locations that had been identified in the Local Plan process for a number of years. However, one of the sites identified for further detailed assessment included a parcel of land that a Community Association had requested the Council consider nominating for 'Field in Trust' status, it was therefore suggested that the boundary of the shortlisted Pen Green Lane site should be amended to exclude the parcel of land subject to further consideration.

RESOLVED that:-

Members approve the provisional shortlisted sites for further detailed assessment by the Joint Planning Unit and partners, subject to the realignment of the boundary at Pen Green Lane to permanently exclude the land suggested for nomination as 'Fields in Trust' status.

7. **Close of Meeting**

The meeting closed at 7.55 pm.