

Local Plan Committee

Wednesday 8 July 2015 at 7.00pm

in the Council Chamber, The Cube, Corby

Councillors present: Councillors Elliston, Pengelly, Dady, Carratt, McEwan & Watt

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Rahman, Rutt & Beeby, Cllr Watt substituted for Cllr 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. Cllrs Pengelly & Watt declared a personal non prejudicial interest in Item 1.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

RESOLVED that:

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 March 2015, copies of which had been circulated to Members, be agreed as a correct record.

4. Northamptonshire Minerals & Waste Local Plan Update: Issues & Options Consultation

The Local Plan Principal Planner presented a report to inform Members that the Minerals & Waste Local Plan Update: Issues and Options Consultation had been published by NCC for public consultation and Members were being asked to endorse the Officers comments.

The consultation document had been broken down into two main sections:

Section two focused on locations for mineral development, NCC had carried out a call for sites in 2014 and those sites were assessed against a standard methodology. A total of 12 mineral sites had been assessed and these were included in the consultation paper, it was noted that none of these sites was within Corby Borough.

Section three focused on waste development locations, it included the approach to delivering a sustainable waste management network and considered whether there was a need to identify new site specific allocations for inert recycling and advanced treatment works or whether these could be accommodated within general industrial development locations. It summarised the status and progress of 13 site specific waste management allocations across the county with 4 in Corby Borough.

The Local Plan Principal Planner advised that the consultation document raised a number of key questions which required response as they were most relevant to Corby. The suggested responses were included within the report for Members to consider.

Further consultation would take place as the Plan was progressed with the next stage being a Draft Plan for consultation in late 2015 which would include appropriate environmental assessments.

Councillors discussed the concerns they had regarding industrial estates, it would be alright to use the estates but not those areas directly behind housing, a buffer would be required to provide protection. Members said that they agreed that communities needed to take responsibility for their waste.

Head of Planning and Environmental Services said there was a principal on how each area dealt with its waste and it was better to keep it in the local area, however, this was not always viable.

Councillor Watt said that Councillor McKellar had said at the NCC meeting that developers suggested there was little waste in Corby and that the 90 minutes they were asking for would drive down costs and make them more viable.

Head of Planning and Environmental Services said that the Members request for buffers would be included in the officer's comments but this did not guarantee they would be accepted.

RESOLVED that:-

The responses to the consultation document as detailed in the report including the requirement of a buffer zone near to housing be submitted to Northamptonshire County Council.

5. North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy Review

The report provided an update on the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy Review. Part 1 – Strategic part of the Local Plan would provide the strategic framework for growth and development in North Northamptonshire, dealing with cross boundary issues such as strategic development, housing, infrastructure priorities, employment need and improving the environment. This would also provide the context for Part 2 – Local Plans and/or Neighbourhood Plans.

Work on the Plan began in 2009, this involved extensive engagement with the community, close partnership working and included a significant amount of support in technical and background work in strategic areas including housing, jobs and retail growth.

From January 26 to March 9 2015 a draft Local Plan was produced for a six week consultation, 112 organisations and individuals responded, this represented over 1,000 specific representations on elements of the Joint Core Strategy, the main issues were identified and discussed at the Joint Planning Committee on 4 June 2015.

Currently there was no statutory requirement for the Joint Planning Unit and partners to respond to individual representations, however the NPPG offered flexibility to respond to issues raised by submitting the Joint Core Strategy together with proposed changes it considered appropriate. None of the proposed changes fundamentally altered the strategy but the most significant changes for consideration included:

- Boundary for Site 17 – Rockingham Motor Racing Circuit updated to be consistent with the Rockingham Development Framework.
- References to Rushden Lakes amended from 26,747m² net sales area to 28,209m² net to reflect the most recent variation approved by East Northamptonshire Council which increased the floorspace
- Paragraph added within the employment chapter to explain that the balance between jobs and labour force will be monitored to ensure that Part 2 Local Plans will be able to respond if the economy is not delivering jobs or if jobs growth outstrips the growth in labour force
- Additional sentence added to the Deenethorpe Airfield Area of Opportunity policy to ensure that impacts on historic assets are considered in developing a masterplan for the site.
- Logistics policy continues to promote a mix of smaller employment uses on strategic distribution sites but the prescriptive requirement for 30% has been deleted
- Policy for Rockingham Motor Racing Circuit Enterprise Area remodelled to provide additional flexibility
- Housing requirements recalibrated to give an annualised figure over the plan period
- Criteria within Policy 31 that applicants for gypsy and traveller sites should demonstrate need deleted.
- Minor amendments to the development principles for West Corby Sustainable Urban Extension to clarify that future development beyond the plan period will be subject to a technical assessment and that strategic links should be provided to adjoining settlements.

- Minor amendments to the development principles for Cockerell Road to clarify that Willowbrook is designated a 'main river', a gas main is located adjacent to the boundary and that sewage provision should be considered as part of any planning application.

These changes had been discussed at length through policy officer workshops and Chief Planner Officers steering group before being agreed at the Joint Planning Committee, it was therefore considered that the changes be supported.

Members said that at the last JPC East Northants officers and Members said that there had been consultation over the Deenethorpe site but Parish Councillors from the area said that there had been no consultation, there was concern that Corby's Ward Councillors for Weldon and the Parish Council had not been involved in any consultation and yet this site seemed to be at the centre of the Core Spatial Strategy.

Head of Planning and Environmental Services suggested that Councillors seek to make representation, he acknowledged the concerns of the Committee and said that nowhere else had been given this sort of option, he had some doubts if the inspector would find this sound.

Members asked that it be recorded that the Parish Council of Benefield was unhappy and that Local Plan Members were concerned that there had been no consultation with Weldon, the Local Plan Principal Planner would go to the Agent/Promoter and ask what information Weldon had received.

RESOLVED that:-

Members note the progress of the Joint Core Strategy and publication of the Focused Changes for consultation.

6. Close of Meeting

The meeting closed at 7.45 pm.