
Local Development Scheme Review

SYNOPSIS

The purpose of this report is to consider amendments to the Local Development Scheme to reflect the timetable for the Part 2 Local Plan for Corby

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Local Development Scheme (LDS) is a project plan setting out the production timetable for new and revised planning policy the Council is preparing as part of its Local Plan. The LDS for Corby is incorporated within the North Northamptonshire LDS covering the work of the Joint Planning Unit as well as the councils of East Northamptonshire, Kettering and Wellingborough.
- 1.2 The Council is required to keep up to date its LDS and post it on its website¹.
- 1.3 The LDS requires updating in light of the adoption of the Joint Core Strategy and the need to progress the Part 2 Local Plan for Corby. An indicative work programme together with related profile is appended to this report.

2. Background

- 2.1 The existing LDS was prepared in April 2015 to support the progress of the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy. With the most strategic part of the Local Plan (the Joint Core Strategy) adopted in July 2016, this report seeks approval to update the LDS to include details of the Part 2 Local Plan for Corby that will provide locally specific policies and site allocations to complement the strategic policies provided by the Joint Core Strategy.
- 2.2 It is a major element of current Government policy that local authorities put in place Local Plans which address their future housing and economic growth requirements as speedily as possible. The importance of having an up to date Local Plan for the future development and growth of the Borough has never been greater. This was reinforced in the recent Housing and Planning Act 2016 which expects local authorities to have up to date Local Plans in place by 2017, stating it will intervene if they fail. For the Council, local plan documents offer benefits by ensuring that it is in the best possible position to manage development pressures in the Borough, and by providing certainty to local residents, businesses and other stakeholders about when and where future development will take place.
- 2.3 The Joint Core Strategy provides a long term vision for North Northamptonshire and sets out the overall spatial strategy for growth including the amount of new housing and jobs, infrastructure priorities, proposals for enhancing the environment and the policy framework for development control. The Joint Core Strategy also includes strategic site allocations and provides the framework for all subsequent planning documents, including Part 2 Local Plans and Neighbourhood Plans.
- 2.4 The Joint Core Strategy helps to satisfy the requirement for having an up to date plan in place. However, that plan left further detailed guidance to be provided at a district level. Preparation of the Part 2 Local Plan for Corby will ensure comprehensive Local Plan coverage across the Borough up until 2031.

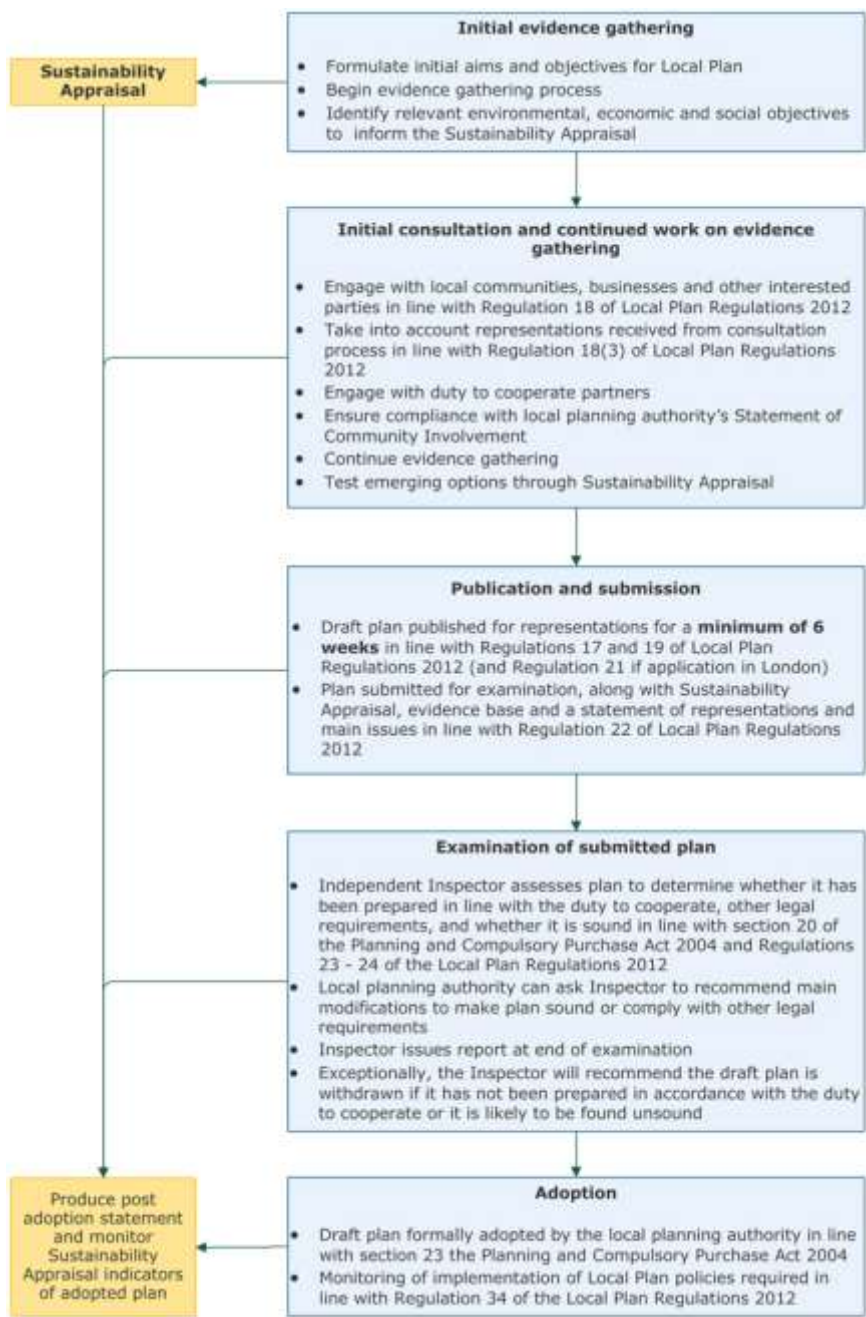
¹ The production of an Local Development Scheme is a requirement on Local Planning Authorities arising from the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, as amended by Section 111 of the Localism Act 2011

3. National Context

- 3.1 The National Planning Policy Framework, and a set of supporting Planning Practice Guidance, provides the national context for the preparation of the Part 2 Local Plan for Corby.
- 3.2 Local Plans are required to meet the tests of soundness as defined by paragraph 182 of the National Framework. This means they should be 'positively prepared', 'justified', 'effective' and 'consistent with national policy'.
- 3.3 'Positively prepared' means:

“the plan should be prepared based on a strategy which seeks to meet objectively assessed development and infrastructure requirements, including unmet requirements from neighbouring authorities where it is reasonable to do so and consistent with achieving sustainable development”.
- 3.4 'Justified' means that the document is:
 - The most appropriate strategy when considered against the reasonable alternatives,
 - Based on proportionate evidence.
- 3.5 'Effective' means that the document is:
 - Deliverable over its period,
 - Based on effective joint working on cross-boundary strategic priorities.
- 3.6 Local Plans are produced through an iterative process structured by national regulations, with public consultation/examination at prescribed stages. An overview of the plan-making process is set out in Figure 1. The parallel process of Sustainability Appraisal is also highlighted.

Figure 1: Extract from the National Planning Practice Guidance (March 2014)



4. Work Programme

4.1 Work has already commenced on the Part 2 Plan for Corby in terms of initial evidence gathering. This commenced with a detailed review of existing evidence and consultations with various stakeholders, including the Environment Agency, Northamptonshire County Council and the Joint Planning Unit. A number of technical studies are in the process of being prepared or commissioned to ensure that the Part 2 Local Plan for Corby is based on robust evidence that justifies the choice made. The key studies underway or proposed comprise an update to the Open Space, Sport and Recreation Assessment, Site Selection Methodology Background Paper, Assessment of Retail Network and Hierarchy, Employment Land Review and Sustainability Appraisal. Further work on the financial viability assessment of policies is anticipated in the future. The Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report incorporating a Habitats Regulation Assessment Screening Report was sent to the statutory environmental bodies, namely Heritage England, Natural England and the Environment Agency, on 23rd June 2016.

- 4.2 The next stage in preparing a Local Plan requires the Council, as the Local Planning Authority, to initiate public participation in the preparation of the Local Plan. This must be achieved by notifying consultation bodies and such residents or other persons it considers appropriate of the subject of the Local Plan which the Council propose to prepare, and invite them to make representations on the proposed scope of the Local Plan, including the proposed subject and plan area and the proposed plan period.
- 4.3 Typically local planning authorities will produce a short scoping document for consultation at this stage, setting out what they consider to be the main issues to be addressed in the plan. However, having undertaken considerable background work over the last few years, this Council is able to identify issues and policy options for consultation as part of this scoping document. This approach enables the local community, local organisations and businesses to become involved as early as possible in the development of options. This should also act to speed up the process later on, and reduce conflict at subsequent stages of consultation. It is envisaged that the Scoping Document incorporating issues and policy options will be reported to Local Plan Committee on 26th October 2016 with public consultation to take place during November and December 2016 subject to member's approval.
- 4.4 Following initial consultation it is anticipated that an 'Emerging Draft' document will be produced for consultation in Autumn 2017 followed by publication of the draft plan in early 2018. Beyond that work will be focused on preparing for independent examination, which is anticipated to be held in Summer 2019, before the Plan is finally adopted towards the end of 2019.
- 4.5 The work programme detailed in Appendix 1 assumes a smooth transition between each stage, however it is the first stage of public consultation under Regulation 18 that will provide a measure of the range of issues and matters to be addressed and more importantly will identify the level of work involved to move forward. It is therefore vital in these early stages that the work programme is closely monitored, so that time frames can be amended or the need for additional work and any additional resources can be highlighted.

5. Options to be considered (if any)

There are no reasonable alternative options to the preparation of an LDS. There is a legal requirement to have an LDS and to broadly comply with its timetable, it is vital that the Council have an LDS published to provide the timetable against which it will prepare the Part 2 Local Plan for Corby. If the Council does not, it will have failed to meet one of the legal compliance test examined by the Inspector at Examination and will not be able to adopt the Part 2 Local Plan for Corby.

6. Issues to be taken into account:-

Policy Priorities

The Local Plan is intrinsic to delivery of all the Councils corporate priorities.

Financial

There are no direct costs associated with producing and making available the updated LDS. However, there are some significant costs attached to the progression of the Part 2 Local Plan for Corby.

At this point in time the cost to prepare the Part 2 Local Plan for Corby is anticipated to be in the order of £200,000+. This estimate can only be provided as an indicator at this point as we are currently within the scoping stage which will determine the workload for future stages. Currently approved budget for the preparation of the Part 2 Local Plan for Corby provides £50,000 for 2016/17. The approved budget is supplemented by the Joint Planning Unit that will provide in-kind support equivalent to £150,000 over the next three years. The Head of Planning and Environmental Services will therefore need to monitor the costs and make appropriate provision in future year's budgets.

Legal

An up to date LDS is a legal requirement for plan making

Performance Information

None directly related to this report.

Best Value, Human Rights, Equalities, Community Safety and Sustainability

None directly related to this report

Risk Management

Preparing a Local Plan is very expensive and can be a significant call on the resources of Local Planning Authorities. The technical nature of much of the evidence requires the commissioning of specialists (for example in sustainability appraisal, flood risk and financial viability) who can be called upon to produce reports and if necessary to provide support at Examination in Public. Ensuring an adequate budget to support plan making is a key risk in meeting the timetable of the LDS. The risk can be partly managed by ensuring budgets are kept under review as work progresses on the Local Plan.

Corby Borough Council has a relatively small team with responsibility for preparing the Local Plan. It should be noted that the remit of the Local Plan team goes further than simply producing the Part 2 Plan for Corby which can divert resources away from plan production. A further risk may arise if there is interest from local communities producing Neighbourhood Plans. Such plans could require significant assistance from Local Plan officers. The work and staffing of the team, both in terms of number of staff and expertise will be monitored closely to ensure that the work programme remains realistic and achievable

7. Recommendation

It is recommended that Members:

- i. Agree the amendments to the Local Development Scheme set out in Appendix 2 to be incorporated into the North Northamptonshire Local Development Scheme;
- ii. Note that the Regulation 18 Scoping Document including issues and policy options will be reported to the next meeting of this committee.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Indicative Work Programme

Appendix 2 – Part 2 Local Plan for Corby Profile

Background Papers

[National Planning Policy Framework](#) - March 2012

[North Northamptonshire Local Development Scheme Update](#), April 2015

Officer to Contact

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Principal Planner

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Appendix 1: Indicative Work Programme

Stage	2016				2017												2018												2019																	
	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D						
Evidence Gathering	█	█																																												
Desktop studies/Scoping																																														
Stakeholder Engagement	█	█																																												
Produce Scoping Document	█	█																																												
Approval to consult		█																																												
Scoping Document					█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█																															
Public Consultation			█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█																															
Assessment of responses				█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█																															
Report to Members								█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█																															
Further evidence gathering								█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█																															
Produce Draft SA												█	█	█	█																															
Produce Emerging Draft												█	█	█	█																															
Approval to consult													█	█	█																															
Emerging Draft																█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	
Public consultation																█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
Assessment of responses																█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
Report to Members																																														
Further evidence gathering																																														
Produce Final SA																																														
Produce Draft Plan																																														
Approval to consult																																														
Draft Plan																																														
Public Consultation																																														
Assessment of responses																																														
Produce Consultation Statement																																														
Produce final SA																																														
Complete final support documents																																														
Approval to consult/submit																																														
Appoint Programme Officer																																														
Submission and Examination																																														
Period for representation																																														
Examination Statements																																														
Examination Hearings																																														
Inspectors Report																																														
Make any Amendment																																														
Approval to adopt																																														
Adoption																																														

Appendix 2: Part 2 Local Plan for Corby Profile

Part 2 Local Plan for Corby																	
Document details	<p>Role and Subject The Part 2 Local Plan for Corby provides locally specific policies and site allocations which complement the strategic context set out in the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy 2011-2031</p>																
	<p>Status Statutory Development Plan Document</p>																
	<p>Geographic coverage Borough wide</p>																
	<p>Chain of conformity National planning policy and the Joint Core Strategy</p>																
Timetable and Milestones	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Regulation 18: Publish Scoping document for consultation: to include issues and policy options</td> <td>November/December 2016</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Regulation 18: Publish Emerging Draft for consultation</td> <td>December 2016/January 2017</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Regulation 19: Pre-Submission publication (minimum six week period for representations)</td> <td>October/November 2018</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Regulation 22: Submission of Local Plan and representations to the Secretary of State</td> <td>June 2019</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pre-Examination Meeting</td> <td>July 2019</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Independent Examination</td> <td>August 2019</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Receive Inspectors Report</td> <td>November 2019</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Adoption</td> <td>December 2019</td> </tr> </table>	Regulation 18: Publish Scoping document for consultation: to include issues and policy options	November/December 2016	Regulation 18: Publish Emerging Draft for consultation	December 2016/January 2017	Regulation 19: Pre-Submission publication (minimum six week period for representations)	October/November 2018	Regulation 22: Submission of Local Plan and representations to the Secretary of State	June 2019	Pre-Examination Meeting	July 2019	Independent Examination	August 2019	Receive Inspectors Report	November 2019	Adoption	December 2019
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	Adoption	December 2019															
Arrangements for production	<p>Organisation leading the process Corby Borough Council</p>																
	<p>Management arrangements The Local Plan will be agreed by Corby Borough Council following consideration by the Local Plan Committee. Its preparation, including drafting and consultation, will be managed by the Corby Borough Council. Some proposals may require joint working in relation to cross boundary proposals.</p>																
	<p>Resources required to produce the Local Plan The work will be led by the Council's Local Plans team which is within its Planning and Environmental Health section. This will draw on relevant information and research available externally.</p>																
	<p>Approach to involving stakeholders and the community In accordance with the relevant regulations and the strategy set out in the Statement of Community Involvement</p>																
Monitoring and Review	Through Joint Authorities Report																