

Local Plan Committee

Wednesday 9 November 2005 at 7.00pm
in Committee Room, 2nd Floor, Deene House, Corby

Councillors present: Councillor Kane (Chair)
Councillors Scott, Smith, Torrie and Howard

9. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Jackson and O'Neill.

10. 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. Cllr Scott expressed a Personal non – Prejudicial interest in the LDF Report, Item b. Staffing – progress of the next phase of the LDF.

11. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED that: -

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 September 2005, having been circulated to Members, be agreed.

12. Local Development Framework

The Corporate Director (Operations) presented an update report on the Local Development Framework and related matters.

North Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit/Joint Planning Committee

The second meeting had been held on 13 October 2005, a copy of the Draft Minutes was attached to the report. The main topic of discussion had been the 'Preferred Options' paper, there was a separate report on this later in the Agenda.

Staffing Issues

Two appointments had been made in the Planning Department, Planning Officer and Planning Support Officer, both members of staff were in post.

Advertising for the Principal Planner post was unsuccessful and the post remained vacant, Phil Fain had been covering on a temporary basis and had agreed to continue for a period of time.

Review of East Midlands Regional Plan to 2026: East Midlands Regional Assembly

On the 24 October 2005 a paper was released entitled 'Options for Change', a summary copy was attached to the report, full documents could be found in the Members Room.

A full report would be brought to the next meeting of the Committee and Members had been encouraged to access a copy.

RESOLVED that: -

The reports be noted.

13. Preferred Options Report – Core Strategy For North Northamptonshire

The Corporate Director (Operations) presented a report advising Members of the progress of the Joint Planning Committee's preferred Options Report.

At the meeting on the 13 July 2005 the Local Plan Committee discussed its response to the draft paper, a number of detailed comments would ensure Corby's profile and its active regeneration remained paramount in the overall Core Spatial Strategy. A summary was produced by the JPU in September and a draft 'Preferred Options' in October 2005.

The progress towards final Preferred Options for North Northamptonshire had required vigilance to maintain Corby's position as a key player in the Regeneration and Growth of North Northamptonshire. The report was for consultation and the Council along with all other bodies and the general public would have a further chance to comment over the three months to January 2006.

It was concluded that the Preferred Options Paper and Public Consultation was a key stage in the Planning Strategy for North Northamptonshire. The need for Corby's Regeneration was highlighted in the paper and it would be welcomed.

Members raised concerns that in some areas of the initial paper there had been comments that were detrimental to Corby, also papers had been produced at the JPC meeting on the night, this did not allow people time to read them.

RESOLVED that: -

Members agreed to support the paper in principle and that a letter be sent to Ministers with a copy to NNJPC with respect to A14/Junction 7 capacity issues.

14. PPG17 Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study

The Corporate Director (Operations) presented a report updating Members on the progress and interim findings of the PPG17 Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study.

Consultants were commissioned to undertake a study of open space sports and recreation provision in Corby. This was a joint study with East Northants Council, although separate reports were submitted.

The findings were contained within the report and the final results would be fed back to the Borough's Local Development Framework process, this would guide formulation of site specific policies and guidance.

Identifying Local Needs incorporated a review of strategic background and a consultation process. There was an Audit of local provision and suggestions for local draft standards, this information was contained within the report.

It was concluded that the audit and database for the study was extremely comprehensive and covered all open spaces and indoor sports facilities in the Borough. Extensive consultation had taken place throughout the Borough. The study identified where existing or proposed facilities might cover any local deficits.

The analysis established where, on less valued space some new development could be accommodated. The final report would provide a clear picture of Corby's existing and future needs, surpluses and shortfalls in provision and recommendations for resolving key issues, sources of external funding and advice regarding formulae for developer contributions.

RESOLVED that: -

The draft Local Standards contained in the report be adopted pro tem as a basis for ongoing work on the Local Development Framework.

15. Close of Meeting

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 7.55pm.