

Local Plan Committee
Wednesday 4th July 2012 at 7.00pm
in The Council Chamber, The Cube, Corby

Councillors present: Councillor Dady (Chair)
Councillors Beattie, Goult and Bromhall

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors McEwan & Pengelly.

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 such declarations were made.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

RESOLVED that:

The minutes of the meeting held on 2nd May 2012, copies of which had been circulated to Members, be received and agreed as a correct record.

4. Publication of the National Planning Policy Framework

The Principal Planner (Local Plans) presented a report updating Members on the progress of the review of the Joint Core Strategy for North Northamptonshire. The review of the Core Spatial Strategy was ongoing and the Joint Planning Committee was to consider an emerging draft Joint Core Strategy on the 3 July 2012, it was anticipated that the emerging approach would be considered for release for public consultation.

The emerging strategy had involved extensive input from stakeholders and the wider public through the Issues Paper consultation. Officers from the Council and Members represented on the Joint Planning Committee had through formal meetings and ongoing dialogue had the opportunity to have substantial input into the current iteration of the Strategy.

The Joint Core Strategy would set out the key elements of the planning framework for North Northamptonshire until 2031; it would comprise a long term spatial vision, core policies and strategic outcomes on key strategic issues.

The emerging draft strategy excluded policies that dealt with town centre and retail strategy in view of the planning application at Rushden Lakes for a substantial out-of-town retail/leisure development. The proposal could have significant implications for the spatial strategy.

The public consultation stage was non-statutory but provided an essential step in reviewing the Joint Core Strategy, the consultation would run for 10 weeks from the end of July to the middle of October.

Officers would continue to input into shaping the replacement Core Strategy as the plan was refined as a result of responses received to public consultation and the completion of technical evidence based studies.

Councillors made comment on the Core Policies attached as Appendix A to the report, Members of Local Plan who also sat on Joint Planning Committee said that the Core Policies were the result of a lot of hard work, the case for Corby had been made very strongly, the document as it stood was good and Corby would benefit.

Members asked when this document would be agreed and Officers explained that there would be the public consultation and then the document would be finalised and published in October 2013.

HoS Planning and Environment stated that it was anticipated that after consultation there would be a determination on Rushden Lakes, relevant groups would then make a decision, there was a strong likelihood that if Rushden Lakes was agreed it would be called in for the Secretary of State to make a decision.

Members also asked about Policy 33 as this was not part of the papers but was mentioned, the Principal Planner explained that they were waiting for further information which might not be available until pre-submission.

RESOLVED that:-

Members note the report

5. Close of Meeting

The meeting closed at 7.40pm.