1.0 Background

1.1 The Joint Core Strategy (the ‘Part 1’, strategic part of the Local Plan) will provide the strategic framework for growth and development in North Northamptonshire. It will deal with cross boundary issues such as strategic development, infrastructure priorities, housing and employment need and improving the environment. It will also provide the context for ‘Part 2’ Local Plans to make further non-strategic land allocations and more detailed policies for implementation and development control, where necessary.

1.2 The Joint Core Strategy is the responsibility of the North Northamptonshire Joint Planning Committee, set up by the Secretary of State in 2005. This is made up of three members from each of the partner authorities and is currently chaired by Councillor Mark Pengelly. The Joint Planning Committee is supported by officers at the Joint Planning Unit who are managed through a Steering Group of the Chief Planning Officers from the councils. These arrangements ensure that the emerging plan reflects local priorities and objectives that contribute to the delivery of the Councils corporate plan.

2.0 Progress/Update

2.1 The Joint Planning Unit is working to secure Joint Planning Committee approval for the Pre-Submission Draft North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy and supporting documentation, on 18th December 2014. This will be followed by a statutory six weeks consultation on the Pre-Submission Draft North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy during January and February 2015.

2.2 Since the last progress report to Local Plan Committee on 20th August 2014, the Joint Planning Committee has considered draft policies on Sustainable Buildings and Allowable Solutions, Town Centre Uses and Gypsies and Travellers. A copy of the new draft policies discussed by members of the Joint Planning Committee is set out in Appendix 1.

Policy 9 – Sustainable Buildings and Allowable Solutions

The approach to sustainable construction has changed significantly since the adoption of the Core Spatial Strategy in June 2008. The latest approach reflects the Governments approach to technical buildings standards which is rapidly evolving and increasingly sitting outside the remit of planning policy. Nonetheless, the updated policy sets out a localised approach to water efficiency, commercial buildings, solar designs and allowable solutions.

Policy 12 – Town Centres and Town Centre Uses

The policy is updated in line with retail capacity work undertaken by Peter Brett Associates following the Inspectors Report at the Rushden Lakes inquiry. Based on the latest evidence, the level of growth in retail expenditure available to support additional retail floor space is anticipated to decrease. The policy splits the revised retail requirements in the Northern Sub Area equally between Corby and Kettering.
Policy 31 – Gypsies and travellers and travelling show people

The updated policy takes forward the requirements identified in the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment Update. It is noted that the policy indicates a need for one additional pitch by 2022, to provide a total of 19 pitches by 2022. A total of 22 pitches have been delivered within the Borough against this target, hereby exceeding strategic targets. Requirements beyond this period will be left to Part 2 Local Plans.

2.3 The Joint Planning Committee also considered refinements to elements of the plan that had previously been reported. Updates with particular implications for Corby Borough Council are considered below:


Specific reference to strategic flood storage measures such as the Weldon flood storage reservoir have been deleted from the supporting text at paragraph 3.62 as these are not now identified in the Northamptonshire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy Action Plan Update (October 2014). Work is well underway on a Corby Flood Risk Management Plan which will identify any flood and water management projects that are required and this will be incorporated within the Infrastructure Delivery Plan to accompany the Joint Core Strategy.

Policy 11 – Network of Urban and Rural Areas

Updates to the supporting text provide policy hooks to introduce strategic gaps and a more detailed settlement hierarchy within the second part of the Local Plan

Policy 14 – Deenethorpe Airfield Area of Opportunity

The requirement for cross boundary working at Deenethorpe Airfield has been strengthened within the supporting text following concerns raised at Joint Planning Committee. Moreover, the policy has been amended to offer further protection to Weldon and to public transport services between Corby and Oundle. These amendments are welcomed but members may have a view on whether it goes far enough to prevent this development close to Corby competing and diverting investment from the Sustainable Urban Extensions which are the key building blocks of the Joint Core Strategy.

Policy 17 – North Northamptonshire’s Strategic Connections

Additional text added to the supporting text at paragraph 6.33 to clarify that enhanced northbound rail services from Corby include an improved service to Oakham, Melton Mowbray with more regular services throughout the day, and beyond to Derby and Nottingham.

2.4 The outstanding draft policies relating to Housing Mix and Tenure together with development principles for strategic sites, including Corby West and Cockerell Road employment site will be taken to Joint Planning Committee on 18th December 2014. At the time of writing the report the draft policies were not available but a verbal update will be reported to the Committee.

3.0 Ongoing opportunities to input in the review of the Joint Core Strategy

3.1 The Council will be formally consulted on the Pre-Submission Draft North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy when it is published in January but it is important that we continue to have an input into the plan as it is developed. The views of this committee can be fed back to the Joint Planning Committee by the Councils representatives.

4.0 Options to be considered (if any)

The Joint Planning Committee will have the final decision on the content of the Pre-Submission Draft North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy. However, it is considered important that the Local Plan Committee gives a view in advance of the Joint Planning Committee, in order to inform the final decision.
Issues to be taken into account:-

Policy Priorities
It is essential that the Council secures an up to date Local Plan to provide a basis for future development control decisions and for the Part 2 Local Plan.

Financial
None directly from this report

Risk
None directly from this report

Legal
None directly from this report

Performance Indicators and Best Value
None directly from this report

Human Rights and Community Safety
None directly from this report

Equalities and Sustainability
None directly related to this report. The Joint Core Strategy review will be subject to an ongoing process of sustainability appraisal and equality impact assessment.

5.0 Recommendation
Members to note work on the Joint Core Strategy and that any comments on the emerging plan will be fed into the Joint Core Strategy process

Background Papers
North Northamptonshire Joint Planning Committee, 3rd November 2014
https://cmis.northamptonshire.gov.uk/cmis5live/MeetingsCalendar/tabid/73/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/410/Meeting/2439/Committee/414/Default.aspx

Officer to Contact
Terry Begley, Local Plan Principal Planner (01536) 463185
Appendix 1

Policy 9 - Sustainable Buildings and Allowable Solutions

Development should incorporate measures to ensure high standards of resource and energy efficiency and reduction in carbon emissions.

All residential development should incorporate measures to limit use to no more than 105 litres/person/day and external water use of no more than 5 litres/person/day or alternative national standard applying to areas of water stress.

Design and access statements must demonstrate how sustainable design principles have been addressed. In particular:

1. Subject to economic viability, developments of 1000+ square metres of non residential floorspace should, as a minimum meet BREEAM very good or equivalent nationally recognised standards.

2. The layout and design of sites, buildings and associated landscaping should:
   a. maximise the use of passive solar design to address heating and cooling; and
   b. where technically feasible, enable access to or provision of decentralised energy networks, or safeguard future opportunities to do so without major disruption;

3. Where off-site “allowable solutions” are to be used to reach zero carbon, the presumption is that these should be achieved through investment in projects within North Northamptonshire such as:
   - Retro fitting of community buildings
   - Retrofitting of housing stock - social and market housing
   - Tree planting schemes in the Rockingham Forest for Life area
   - Small scale renewable community projects
   - Other schemes that are able to capture carbon or reduce carbon emissions (through a decrease in non-renewable energy use or generation of renewable energy)

Policy 12 – Town Centres and Town Centre Uses

The vitality and viability of the town centres in North Northamptonshire will be supported by:

a) Securing and maintaining a vibrant mix of retail, employment, leisure and cultural facilities and supporting the provision of additional residential uses on appropriate sites including the re-use of vacant space above shops. Part 2 Local Plans will identify the extent of the Town Centres, sites to accommodate town centre uses, and Primary Shopping Areas where existing retail uses should be retained;

b) Enhancing the public realm and improving access to the town centres for pedestrians, cyclists and public transport users and supporting proposals to provide convenient, safe and secure car parking;

c) Maintaining and regenerating Kettering and Corby town centres as the focus of higher order facilities and retail investment serving growing communities in the north. This will include a minimum increase of 13,000 sq m net comparison shopping floorspace in each of Corby and Kettering town centres by 2031;

d) Adapting and diversifying Wellingborough and Rushden town centres to provide offers complementary to the permitted out-of-town retail and leisure development at Rushden Lakes, which will provide up to 26,750 sq m net retail sales area serving growing communities in the southern area;

e) Supporting the provision of a medium-sized foodstore to serve the Desborough/ Rothwell area and an additional 4,500 sq m of convenience goods floorspace in the southern area by 2031;
f) Supporting development in the town centres of the Market Towns where this is of a scale and nature consistent with the character of the settlement and the role of Market Towns in providing mainly convenience shopping and local services. Part 2 Local Plans and Neighbourhood Plans may identify additional development opportunities where these do not undermine the focus of retail development at the Growth Town Centres; and

g) Applying the sequential and impact tests set out in the NPPF to the assessment of retail development and other town centre uses which cannot be accommodated within the defined town centre areas (other than small scale rural development and the creation of local centres to meet the day to day needs of residents in the SUEs)

Policy 31- Gypsies and travellers and travelling show people

Local Planning Authorities will protect existing lawful sites, plots and pitches for Gypsies and Travellers. The following additional provision will be made for accommodation for gypsies, travellers and travelling show people in the period up to 2022:

Table 6

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Residential pitches</th>
<th>Transit pitches</th>
<th>Travelling Showpeople plots</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Corby</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Northamptonshire</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kettering</td>
<td>13*</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wellingborough</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total NN</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*This figure is the number required following the delivery of the 7 pitches at the Laurels, Desborough

New site allocations and applications for planning permission should satisfy all of the following criteria:

a) the applicant can demonstrate that the site is required to meet identified need in accordance with the most up to date North Northamptonshire Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment or an impartial needs assessment based on a standard agreed methodology;

b) the site, or the cumulative impact of the site, in combination with existing or planned sites, will not have an unacceptable impact on local infrastructure;

c) the site has good access to community services by non-car modes;

d) the site provides a suitable level of residential amenity for the proposed residents;

e) the site is served (or can be served) by an adequate water supply and appropriate means of sewage disposal;

f) there is adequate space for operational needs including the parking, turning and servicing of vehicles;

g) the health and well-being of occupants is not put at risk including through unsafe access to the site, poor air quality and unacceptable noise or unacceptable flood risk and contaminated land;

h) where sites are proposed in rural or semi-rural settings the scale does not dominate the nearest settled community;

i) the proposed development does not have a significant adverse impact on the character of the landscape and takes account of the Landscape Character Assessment of the area. Appropriate landscaping and boundaries shall be provided to mitigate impact.