1. Introduction

1.1 This report seeks approval of the Publication Draft (Pre-Submission) version of the Part 2 Local Plan for Corby and revised Local Development Scheme, prior to a period of statutory public consultation under Regulation 19 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.

2. Background

2.1 The development plan is at the heart of the planning system with a requirement set in law that planning decisions must be taken in accordance with the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise. It is essential that plans are in place and kept up-to-date.

2.2 The Part 2 Local Plan for Corby will form part of the development plan for Corby, alongside the adopted North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy 2011–2031 and the adopted Northamptonshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan.

2.3 The purpose of the Part 2 Local Plan for Corby is to provide detailed policies and additional non-strategic development allocations in accordance with the strategic policies of the Joint Core Strategy (Part 1 of the Local Plan). Should any communities wish to progress Neighbourhood Plans, these will also form part of the development plan when they have been through the appropriate processes.

3. Evolution of the plan

3.1 The Council must follow a number of prescribed stages in producing a Local Plan in order to ensure that the community and other stakeholders are fully engaged in the process, as outlined in the timetable in Table 1 at the end of this report.

3.2 Work began in earnest on the Part 2 Local Plan in 2016. The Council carried out consultation on the scope and content of the Plan between November and December 2016. This was the first public consultation event on the Plan since the Local Plan Committee had agreed the programme and timetable for its preparation in August 2016. Following the 2016 consultation, the Council published the Emerging Draft Options Consultation for eight weeks consultation between July and August 2018.

3.3 Both stages of consultation were carried out in compliance with the North Northamptonshire Statement of Community Involvement and a summary of representations for each stage has been reported back to the Local Plan Committee on 8 March 2017 and 10 October 2018.

3.4 As a result of these representations the Council has progressed updates to various pieces of evidence in order to address the issues that have arisen from the public consultation. Updates to the evidence base have been undertaken for the following studies:

- **Custom and Self-Build Demand Assessment Framework**, December 2018
- **Assessment of Retail Network and Hierarchy**, March 2019
- North Northamptonshire Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment, March 2019
- **Employment Land Review Update**, May 2019
- **Town Centre Background Paper**, May 2019
- **Corby Town Centre Parking Study**, May 2019
3.5 A significant amount of work has been done to refine and develop the Plan in response to representations made during the consultations and to take account of the updated evidence and reforms to national planning policy and associated guidance. Helpful input has also been received from key officers from across the Council, including officers from development control and housing strategy.

3.6 Members of the Local Plan Committee have considered various topic-based policies as set out in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Local Plan Committee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Custom and Self-Build Housing</td>
<td>30 January 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single Plot Exception Sites</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary School Opportunity Site</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing Land Allocations</td>
<td>27 March 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Infrastructure Corridors</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delivering Economic Prosperity</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Green Space</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.7 Key stakeholders have been asked again for their views as the Plan has been refined, including the Environment Agency, Sport England, Corby Town Centre SARL, Anglian Water, Homes England, North Northamptonshire Joint Planning and Delivery Unit, Natural England and Wildlife Trust.

3.8 Fortnightly Project Group meetings have been held to support the preparation of the Plan and given the Interim Head of Planning and Building Control opportunity to oversee the evolution of the Plan. A copy of the document was approved by Senior Management Team on 5 June 2019. Officers consider this is now ready to be subject of public consultation ahead of submission to the Secretary of State, in accordance with the Local Plan Regulations. A copy of the emerging Publication Draft (Pre-Submission) version of the Part 2 Local Plan for Corby is attached as Appendix 1.

4. **Overview of the Publication Draft (Pre-Submission)**

4.1 This version of the Plan, also referred to as the Proposed Submission Plan, is the final iteration before submission of the Plan to Government.

4.2 The Publication Draft (Pre-Submission) offers a range of policies with supporting text. As the policies flow from the Joint Core Strategy and help to implement it, they are presented under similar headings as in the Joint Core Strategy. The sections below summarise briefly the key points from each chapter of the Plan.

**Introduction**

4.3 The introduction explains the role and purpose of the Plan and supporting documents and sets the scene in explaining the wider context for the Plan and the relationship to the Joint Core Strategy.

**Spatial Portrait, Vision and Local Outcomes**

4.4 Various sources of data and background information have been used to produce a spatial portrait that describes the borough and identifies the challenges it faces over the next decade or so. It also includes the vision statement from the Joint Core Strategy and presents thirty-two detailed local outcomes that will take forward the strategic vision and form the basis of policies in the Plan.

**Securing Infrastructure and Services**

4.5 This chapter complements the Joint Core Strategy and North Northamptonshire Infrastructure Delivery Plan in setting out additional local policies to secure physical, social and green infrastructure in the borough.
Policy 1 - Open Space, Sport and Recreation. A policy that recognises the need to protect open spaces, sport and recreational facilities and sets out requirements for new or improved spaces and facilities and the local standards expected to meet the needs arising from the development.

Policy 2 – Health and Wellbeing. A criteria-based policy which encourages new developments to support and enhance health and well-being. Measures include monitoring air quality; provision of green infrastructure and increasing access to healthy foods.

Policy 3 - Secondary School Opportunity Site. A facilitating policy to address requirements for the provision of a new secondary school.

Policy 4 - Electronic Communications. This policy updates the existing Local Plan policy on telecommunications to take account of best practice and updates to national planning policy in supporting the expansion of electronic communications networks including next generation mobile technology.

Policy 5 - Bad Neighbour Uses. This policy carries forward the existing Local Plan policy to clarify that the effects of bad neighbour uses will be a material consideration in dealing with planning applications.

Natural Assets

4.6 The protection and enhancement of assets is well covered in the adopted Joint Core Strategy. Consequently the Plan proposes only two further local policies under this subject.

Policy 6 – Green Corridors. This policy seeks to strengthen and expand the network of green infrastructure corridors, including the identification of additional neighbourhood green corridors and refinement of strategic corridors to reflect the Master Plans for the sustainable urban extensions and latest evidence.

Policy 7 – Local Green Space. This policy allocates the Community Orchard in Middleton as a Local Green Space, effectively ruling out development in all but very exceptional circumstances.

Delivering Economic Prosperity

4.7 This section of the Plan contains policies to assist the Joint Core Strategy in improving employment opportunities and diversifying the economy.

Policy 8 – Employment Land Provision. This policy allocates non-strategic employment sites, including long term reserves sites, to meet the strategic targets and complement the strategic employment allocations in the Joint Core Strategy. This is based on evidence including the 2018 Corby Employment Land Review. These are listed below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ref</th>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Area (Ha)</th>
<th>Employment Uses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Non-Strategic Sites</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E1</td>
<td>Land off Courier Road</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>B1, B2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E2</td>
<td>Land at Corby Innovation Hub</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>B1, B2, B8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E3</td>
<td>Princewood Road</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>B2, B8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E4</td>
<td>St Luke’s Road, St James Industrial Estate</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>B1, B2, B8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Long-term Land Reserve</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E5</td>
<td>Tripark</td>
<td>5.8</td>
<td>B1, B2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E6</td>
<td>Saxon 26</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>B1, B2, B8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Policy 9 – Employment Uses in Established Industrial Estates. This policy seeks to safeguard identified employment areas to primarily ensure that sufficient land is available within the established industrial estates for employment B1 (business), B2 (general and industrial) and B8 (storage and distribution) opportunities. The policy also sets out criteria that would have to be met in order to support small scale non-ancillary non B1, B2 and B8 uses within the established industrial estates.
Policy 10 – Non-employment Uses in Established Industrial Estates. This policy similarly seeks to safeguard identified employment areas. It sets out criteria that would have to be satisfied in order to support non B1, B2 and B8 uses within the established industrial estates.

Delivering Housing

4.8 Local policies to maintain a supply of housing land and support the Council’s ambitions for regeneration and growth are set out in this section of the Plan.

Policy 11 – Delivering Housing. This policy allocates sites to accommodate around 751 dwellings over the remaining plan period to 2031. A very extensive and thorough assessment of sites was carried out to identify the housing land allocations as set out in the Site Selection Methodology Background Paper. The capacity of the allocated sites combined with previous completions and existing housing supply with planning permission would provide a total of 11,930 dwellings over the plan period, which is 30% above the Joint Core Strategy requirements. A list of the non-strategic sites allocated for housing development, or mixed-use development, including housing is set out below with estimated capacities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ref</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Capacity</th>
<th>Planning Permission</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>H1</td>
<td>Builders Yard, Rockingham Road</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H2</td>
<td>Maple House, Canada Square</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H3</td>
<td>Former Our Lady Pope John School, Tower Hill Road</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H4</td>
<td>Land at Station Road</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H5</td>
<td>Land Off Elizabeth Street</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H6</td>
<td>Pluto, Gainsborough Road</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H7</td>
<td>Cheltenham Road</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TC1</td>
<td>Parkland Gateway</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TC2</td>
<td>Everest Lane</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TC3</td>
<td>Former Co-Op, Alexandra Road</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Policies H1 to H7. Policies set out site specific principles against which the design of the proposals on the housing allocations will be assessed in addition to development plan policies and material considerations.

Policy 12 – Custom and Self-Build. A policy that seeks a proportion of serviced plots for custom and self-build housing. Since the previous consultation on this policy the amount of developments captured by these policy requirements has increased to developments of 20 or more dwellings and greater flexibility has been applied to the proportion based on evidence of local need, the nature of the development proposed and viability.

Policy 13 - Single Plot Exception Sites for Custom and Self-Build. This policy enables single plot custom and self-build in rural exception sites. Further explanation on the operation of Policy 12 and 13 may be provided in a Supplementary Planning Document.

Policy 14- Gypsies and Travellers. This policy introduces pitch targets for gypsies and travellers accommodation.

Policy 15 - Specialist Housing and Older People’s Accommodation. This policy sets out requirements for a proportion of specialist housing and older people’s accommodation to be provided on sites of 50 dwellings or more subject to evidence of need, scale and location of the site and viability. The policy also encourages proposals for granny annexes. These requirements respond to the needs of the borough’s expanding population of elderly people.

Policy 16 – Residential Gardens. This policy seeks to control development in residential gardens where it would cause harm to the local area.

Villages and Rural Areas

4.9 Policies to support the rural economy and to meet locally identified needs are well covered in the adopted Joint Core Strategy. Consequently the Plan proposes only two further local policies under this subject.
Policy 17 – Settlement Boundaries. This policy identifies settlement boundaries to protect the character and identify of settlements and safeguards them from unnecessary expansion into the open countryside.

Policy 18 – Restraint Villages. This policy seeks to strictly manage development within the Restraint Villages of East Carlton and Rockingham.

Policy 19 – Network and Hierarchy of Centres. This policy establishes a network and hierarchy of fourteen town centres across Corby, including main town, district and local centres. It also guides proposals for retail, leisure and other town centre uses towards these centres with a particular focus on Corby Town Centre as the main town centre. In accordance with national policy, proposals for ‘town centre’ uses outside existing centres must demonstrate that any need cannot be more suitably met within or on the edge of an existing centre and that they would not cause harm to any existing centre.

Policy 20 - Change of Use of Shops Outside the Defined Centres. A policy that supports the provision and protection of small scale retail development outside the network and hierarchy of town centres. It recognises that shops outside the designated centres provide a valuable service to local communities in meeting day-to-day needs and it deals with pressures to close these shops.

Policy 21 - Primary Shopping Areas. A policy that defines the extent of the Primary Shopping Areas for each of the town centres identified in the network and hierarchy of town centres and sets out support for proposals that add to the attractiveness of the centre and do not lead to the predominance of A1 retail use being critically undermined. It further encourages residential on upper floors.

Policy 22 - Regeneration Strategy for Corby Town Centre. This policy provides updated objectives for the regeneration of the town centre, drawing on and refreshing the Master Plan that has shaped and supported development in the town centre over the last decade to continue to support regeneration and development.

Policy 23 - Spatial Framework for Corby Town Centre. This policy sets out an updated concept plan for ongoing regeneration of the town centre, drawing on and refreshing the existing Master Plan to continue to support the delivery of the Council’s town centre regeneration plan.

Policy 24 - Corby Town Centre Redevelopment Opportunities. A policy that allocates redevelopment opportunities in Corby town centre.

Policies TC1 to H4. These policies set out the general principles against which the design of the proposals on the town centre allocations will be assessed.

5. Summary of changes made to the Part 2 Local Plan since the Emerging Draft Options

5.1 Key changes made to the Part 2 Local Plan since the Emerging Draft Options can be summarised as follows:

- A facilitating policy to encourage the provision of a new secondary school and ensure that it is carefully planned has been introduced in response to consultation and to take account of proposals to the east of Weldon which offer a potential exceptional opportunity to meet the pressing need for a new secondary school in Corby.
- A criteria-based policy which encourages new developments to support and enhance health and well-being has been included in response to consultation and the major health and wellbeing issues in Corby.
- The community orchard in Middleton has been designated as a Local Green Space following nomination and the submission of evidence from Middleton Parish Council.
- The non-strategic housing allocations have been reduced from 785 dwellings to 751 dwellings following the site boundary change for land off Elizabeth Street and the removal of the garage courts and land at Pen Green. Two additional sites have been
assessed and included for allocation (Former Co-Op on Alexandra Road and Everest Lane).

- The site-specific development principles for the allocated sites have been refined to take into account representations made during the Emerging Draft Options consultations and detailed input from design surgeries and internal consultation.
- A more flexible approach has been taken to the provision of custom and self-build housing in response to consultation and updated evidence, including support for individual self-build plots as rural exception sites.
- Pitch targets for gypsies and travellers have been established.
- The local threshold for applying the retail impact assessment was previously set out in a separate policy, however this has been consolidated with the network and hierarchy of centres policy so that the National Planning Policy Framework tests can be read together.
- Primary Shopping Frontage designations have been deleted as a result of changes to national planning policy that removed the requirement for local planning authorities to define shopping frontages in Local Plans.

6. Publication

6.1 The Publication Draft Plan (Pre-Submission) continues to be subject to a Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulation Assessment together with a Viability Assessment, which has been carried out by independent consultants to ensure impartiality.


6.3 The Plan will be subject to a six week public consultation period, in accordance with the statements of consultation and national regulations, running from Monday 5 August until Monday 16 September 2019. Advanced notification of the consultation will be provided during July to allow additional time during the summer holidays in accordance with the statements of consultation.

6.4 All consultation material will be online and Council offices and inspection points. A public notice will be placed in the Evening Telegraph to advertise the consultation. All statutory bodies, together with individuals or organisations registered on the Local Plan consultation database will be directly notified of the consultation. Furthermore the consultation will be advertised on the Council’s website and through press releases and social media. In addition to the general publicity, a series of staffed drop-in exhibitions will be organised around the borough.

6.5 It should be noted that Regulation 19 is a key stage in the progress of the Plan and consultation is very different to the earlier consultations undertaken. It is not a consultation exercise to help inform the Council’s preparation of the Plan, rather it is a consultation exercise that focuses on the legal compliance and soundness of the Plan.

6.6 The legal tests relating to its preparation are:

- In accordance with the Local Development Scheme
- Whether the consultation has been in accordance with the Statement of Consultation and national consultation regulations
- Whether it has been subject to sustainability appraisal; and
- Whether the duty to co-operate has been met.

6.7 The tests of soundness are set out in paragraph 35 of the National Planning Policy Framework as follows
• Positively prepared – providing a strategy which, as a minimum, seeks to meet the area’s objectively assessed needs; and is informed by agreements with other authorities, so that unmet need from neighbouring areas is accommodated where it is practical to do so and is consistent with achieving sustainable development
• Justified – an appropriate strategy, taking into account the reasonable alternatives, and based on proportionate evidence
• Effective – deliverable over the plan period, and based on effective joint working on cross-boundary strategic matters that have been dealt with rather than deferred, as evidenced by the statement of common ground; and
• Consistent with national policy – enabling the delivery of sustainable development in accordance with the policies in the National Planning Policy Framework.

7. Supporting documentation
Policies Map
7.1 The Plan incorporates a Policies Map which displays the areas covered by different planning policies. It consists of a map of the entire local authority area at a scale of 1:45,000, plus inset maps at larger scales to show smaller areas in more detail. These inset maps show the urban area, the town centre and each village.

Duty to Cooperate Statement of Common Ground
7.3 A separate Duty to Cooperate Statement of Common Ground is under preparation to demonstrate that the Council has worked constructively with neighbouring authorities and other prescribed bodies on preparing the Part 2 Local Plan.

Evidence
7.4 The Plan is based upon a comprehensive evidence base, in addition to the technical documents mentioned above, all the documents listed below must be available for the public to view and comment on, when the Plan is published:

• Corby Employment Land Review Final Report, May 2018
  o Corby Employment Land Review Appendix 1, May 2018
• Corby Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Level 1 Main Report, February 2019
• Playing Pitch Strategy Assessment Report, November 2017
• Playing Pitch Strategy and Action Plan, November 2017
• Indoor and Built Facilities Needs Assessment, November 2017
• Indoor and Built Facilities Strategy, November 2017
• Open Space Assessment Report, November 2017
• Open Space Study Standards Paper, November 2017
• Study of Housing and Support Needs of Older People Across Northamptonshire, March 2017
• Review of Boundaries in Corby Town Centre, July 2016
• Vision and Local Outcomes Background Paper – Formulation of Spatial Portrait, May 2018

7.5 A consultation report has been prepared setting out officer response to the representations to the regulation 19 Local Plan.

8. Next steps
8.1 Subject to the approval of the Part 2 Local Plan - Publication Draft (Pre-Submission) for consultation, it is proposed that consultation commences on Monday 5 August 2019 for a six week period closing on Monday 16 September 2019. During September and October, officers will process responses to the pre-submission publication, produce a consultation report and consider any necessary changes to the plan with the intention of submitting the Plan for examination in December 2019. It is expected that examination, including hearings, will take
place in summer 2020 and be concluded by winter 2020. At that stage, if the Inspector finds the Part 2 Local Plan "sound", it will be for the local planning authority to formally adopt it.

9. Local Development Scheme

9.1 Local authorities must prepare and maintain a local development scheme which specifies the documents which, when prepared, will comprise the Local Plan. The Local Plan must be prepared in accordance with the Local Development Scheme. The substantive Local Development Scheme for North Northamptonshire (September 2009) brought into effect at Local Plan Committee on 16 December 2009 indicates that an individual Local Plan will be prepared for Corby. A revised profile for the Part 2 Local Plan was produced in August 2016. Various updates to the Local Development Scheme were published in April 2017, June 2018 and January 2019 that extended the timetable for the production of the Part 2 Local Plan. It is proposed to further revise the Local Development Scheme to reflect the current programme as set out below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stage</th>
<th>Timescale</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Part 2 Local Plan – Publication Draft (Pre-Submission Consultation)</td>
<td>August/September 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submission to the Planning Inspector</td>
<td>December 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Examination In Public</td>
<td>Summer 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adoption</td>
<td>Winter 2020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1 – Stages of plan preparation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plan Preparation/Initial Consultation</th>
<th>Local Plan Regulations 2012 – Regulation 18</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scoping incorporating Issues and Options</td>
<td>7 November 2016 - 20 December 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emerging Draft Options</td>
<td>2 July 2018 - 28 August 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publication</td>
<td>5 August 2019 – 16 September 2019</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
8. **Options to be considered (if any)**

In preparing the Publication Draft (Pre-Submission) version of the Part 2 Local Plan, alternative options were fully considered and consulted on at the Emerging Draft Options stage of the earlier Part 2 Local Plan process within the context of the Joint Core Strategy that determined the strategic choices. This process has taken account of up-to-date evidence, the outcomes of the consultation on the Emerging Draft Options and the requirements of national policy including the revised National Planning Policy Framework (February 2019). A sustainability appraisal has been undertaken which robustly assessed the emerging Plan (including alternative policy approaches and sites) against a range of economic, social and environmental objectives. Having regard to all these factors, a number of adjustments have been made to the Plan (summarised in section 5 of this report).

9. **Issues to be taken into account:-**

**Policy Priorities**

The new policies are needed to guide decisions about planning applications and set out the way that Corby will develop to 2031. The intention is that they should complement the strategic policies in the Joint Core Strategy to help deliver the Councils Corporate Plan themes, objective and priorities in particular Healthier, Safer and Stronger Communities, Regeneration and Economic Growth and Environment and Climate Change.

**Financial**

Public consultation on the Pre-Submission Publication Draft will be carried out by Local Plan officers and delivered within previously approved budget allocations and existing resources.
Legal


Performance Information and Best Value

None directly related to this report.

Equalities

A series of Equality Questionnaires have been prepared in accordance with the Council’s Equality Impact Assessment Guidance. The results of the Stage 1 equality assessment indicate that a full Stage 2 Equality Impact Assessment is not required as the policies in the Part 2 Local Plan are not likely to have a negative impact on the equality target groups.

Community Safety and Sustainability

The production of the Local Plan document requires a comprehensive analysis of its policies to assess any impact on issues of safety and sustainability.

Risk Management

The key issue is to ensure that the risk to the soundness of Plan is minimised by clearly documenting the rationale behind any decision by the Council to amend the Plan.

10. Recommendation

10.1 It is recommended that Members:

- Approve the Publication Draft (Pre-Submission) attached to the report at Appendix 1 subject to any amendments agreed by the Head of Planning and Environmental Services in consultation with the Chair
- Agree the revised Local Development Scheme set out in the report to be adopted and brought into effect.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Part 2 Local Plan – Publication Draft (Pre-Submission)

Background Papers

National Planning Policy Framework – February 2019
North Northamptonshire Statement of Community Involvement – January 2014
North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy – July 2016

Officer to Contact

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Principal Planner
01536 463185