**Local Plan Committee**

**Part 2 Local Plan for Corby – Update Report**

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**SYNOPSIS**

To inform members on the progress made in preparing the Part 2 Local Plan.

This report provides an overview of progress on the Part 2 Local Plan since last reported to members at the end of April; and acts as an introduction to the Members seminar that will follow.

1. **Introduction**
   1.1 The Part 2 Plan for Corby is being produced which will set out non-strategic development allocations and a number of detailed policies to manage development within the Borough up to 2031. It will follow on from the Joint Core Strategy (Part 1 Local Plan), adopted in July 2016 that sets out strategic planning policies for North Northamptonshire.
   
   1.2 An update on the progress with the Part 2 Local Plan was presented to Local Plan Committee on 26th April 2017. The report highlighted that since Regulation 18 consultation in November/December 2016 a number of technical studies are being progressed, including infrastructure delivery statements, open space, sport and recreational facilities assessment, housing background paper and employment land assessment.

2. **Part 2 Local Plan Update**
   
   2.1 Since reporting to Members in April 2017 progress has been made on preparing the Local Plan as detailed below.

   **Developing a robust evidence base**
   
   2.2 The Local Plan must be based on robust and credible evidence to ensure it meets legislative requirements and stands up to scrutiny at public examination.
   
   2.3 The key pieces of evidence that have been progressed since April 2017 are set out below.
   
   2.4 These documents will be finalised and published prior to the consultation on the Pre-Submission version of the Local Plan.

   This report highlights several key pieces of evidence that are under preparation, including:

   - **Open Space, Sport and Recreational Facilities Assessment** – to provide a comprehensive assessment of the Borough’s existing supply of and future demand for open spaces, sport and recreational facilities (both indoor and outdoor). The consultants working on the Open Space, Sport and Recreational Facilities Assessment have provided draft assessment reports for open spaces, playing pitches and indoor sport facilities. Further details to be provided in the workshop immediately following this meeting.
   
   Draft reports have been published which will be discussed in further detail at the seminar.

   - **Employment Land Assessment** – to assess the supply and demand for employment sites in the Borough. Officers are working in collaboration with consultants. A successful stakeholder workshop involving local property market agents and key stakeholders was held in June 2017. Work remains on track to report by the end of October 2017.

   An event was held with Corby Property Forum in June to inform the Employment Land Assessment.

   - **Infrastructure Planning and Delivery Background Paper** – identifies the infrastructure needed to support the population and housing growth over the plan period. The background paper covers transport, education and training, social and cultural
infrastructure, emergency services, health and well-being, utility services, telecommunications and green infrastructure. Initial research work has been completed. The next stage of work will involve consultation with key service providers. We will also work closely with the North Northamptonshire Joint Planning and Delivery Unit to ensure that work on updating the North Northamptonshire Infrastructure Delivery Plan is aligned, as far as possible.

- **Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment** – to provide a robust and up-to-date assessment of current and future need for Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpersons accommodation within the Borough. Initial discussions have been held with neighbouring authorities to undertake this key strategic evidence on a joint basis.

- **Housing Background Paper** – to set out the background and evidence to the following matters
  - Housing Contingencies
  - Rural Housing Delivery
  - Accessible Standards in Housing
  - Specific Housing Needs

- **Housing Needs Surveys** – Midland Rural Housing has been appointed to carry out an independent Housing Need Survey for each of the rural communities in the Borough. It is designed to establish the local housing needs, particularly affordable housing needs, of people who have strong local connections to the Parish. It is anticipated that meetings with Parish Councils and postal survey questionnaire to every home in the Parish will take place during October with the findings to be reported back in the New Year.

- **Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Update** – to demonstrate that the Council has taken into account the flood risk associated with the future development proposed. There is no update from the report to the 26th April 2017 meeting of the Local Plan Committee.

- **Visioning and Outcomes Background Paper** – to set out the background and evidence to local outcomes. Further details to be provided in the workshop immediately following this meeting.

- **Town Centre and Town Centre Uses Background Paper** – to provide the context and background for approach to town centres and town centres uses. Preparatory work is underway to include informal consultation with CENTARA neighbourhood planning group and the main town centre landowners.

- **Site Selection Methodology Background Paper** – to provide robust and consistent assessment of potential development site. Work continues

**Policy Formulation**

Alongside the gathering of evidence officers have been developing

2.5 Work is currently taking place to prepare an Emerging Draft Plan for formal Member consideration early next year.

2.6 Developing and drafting policies for the emerging draft plan is taking place in parallel with the consideration of the updated evidence. This is because of the importance of avoiding any significant delays in preparing the Local Plan. Given the relatively short timetable for implementing the Part 2 Local Plan, it is essential that planning policy matters and issues should be able to be discussed and debated on a regular and ongoing basis over the coming months.

2.7 Officers believe that this would be most appropriately provided in the context of informal seminars. The seminars will provide a mechanism for officers to discuss topics that have arisen as a result of the consultation and latest evidence and for members to ask questions and seek clarification. The first of these seminars immediately following this meeting will cover:

- Open Space, Sport and Recreational Facilities Assessment Update
- Draft Vision and Objectives Background Paper
3. **Options to be considered (if any)**
   Not to update Members on the progress made in preparing the Part 2 Local Plan.

4. **Issues to be taken into account**

   **Policy Priorities**
   The statutory development plan for the Borough forms a part of the Borough Council’s overarching policy framework. It has potentially wide-ranging policy implications beyond the field of spatial planning. There will be a need for positive interaction between the Plan, and other plans and strategies of the Borough Council (and other stakeholders) to ensure that a consistent and holistic approach is adopted.

   **Financial**
   Members of the One Corby Policy Committee agreed a three year budget to support the delivery of the Part 2 Local Plan on 29th November 2016.

   **Legal**
   Preparation of a local plan is a statutory duty upon every Local Planning Authority. Local plans are prepared within the framework set out by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, as amended by the Localism Act 2011. Once adopted, the Local Plan will become part of the statutory Development Plan. Section 38(6) of the act requires planning decisions to be made in accordance with the plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

   **Performance Information**
   None directly linked to this report.

   **Best Value**
   None directly linked to this report.

   **Human Rights**
   It is intended that the new Local Plan, and the process of preparing it, should be inclusive and respectful of human rights. The adopted Statement of Community Involvement spells out the rights that the public have to engage with the plan-making process. Implications are (directly or indirectly) considered.

   **Equalities and Sustainability**
   The Local Plan will address a wide range of economic, social and environmental considerations with particular regard to identifying and addressing the needs of groups within the community with specific/additional needs. The Local Plan will be accompanied by a Sustainability Appraisal which includes equalities and sustainability assessment.

   **Risk Management**
   A risk assessment of the project has been undertaken. As far as possible control measures have been put in place to minimise these risks, including regular project meetings where risk is reviewed.

5. **Recommendation**
   That Members note current progress with plan making and workshop is to follow.

**Background Papers**
- Local Plan Committee, 26th April 2017
- One Corby Policy Committee, 29th November 2016

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