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**Preparation of the Part 2 Local Plan – Update**

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**SYNOPSIS**

To inform members on the progress made in preparing the Part 2 Local Plan for Corby and some other key areas of work being undertaken.

**1. Introduction**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Members of progress made on preparing the Part 2 Local Plan for Corby and some other key areas of work being undertaken.

**2. Details**

Regulation 18 consultation

- 2.1 Public consultation on the Regulation 18 document and accompanying documents started on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November for six weeks, ending on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2016.
- 2.2 The following activities formed the basis of consultation:
- Email or letters were used to notify over 800 contacts on the Local Plan consultation database informing them about the consultation, the availability of documents and the opportunity to make representations.
  - Copies of the consultation documents were displayed in the One Stop Shop together with local libraries and the mobile library for the duration of the consultation period.
  - Hard copies posted to Parish Councils and Resident Associations
  - A press release targeted at local newspapers was released on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2016
  - A statutory notice was placed in the Evening Telegraph
  - Posters produced to advertise the consultation and particularly the staffed exhibitions. The majority of these were distributed to parish councils and residents associations with the intention that they encouraged attendance at the exhibitions
  - Work with communications team to ensure that the corporate Twitter account is regularly updated to publicise the consultation period and arrangements
  - A short explanatory leaflet detailing the consultation and how to comment was produced and distributed at the staffed exhibitions

- A dedicated consultation webpage holding copies of all consultation documents for download and information on how to make comments was made available. This included an interactive response form
  - Six public exhibitions were held at a number of locations throughout the Borough. These included a display of relevant information and were staffed by planning officers. These exhibitions provide an opportunity for members of the public and other stakeholders to view the documents and discuss matters of concern
  - Attendance at the Rural Area Forum
  - Attendance at parish councils meetings including Cottingham and Weldon.
  - Presentation to Corby Property Forum and Board Members of the Corby Business Academy
  - Members Briefing on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2016.
- 2.3 Public consultation is ongoing at the time of writing this report so a verbal update will be given at the meeting.
- 2.4 The responses to the consultation will be collated and reported back to members later in the year; and these will be used to inform work on the next iteration of the Plan, alongside other evidence, where appropriate.

#### Developing the Evidence Base for the Local Plan

- 2.5 The Part 2 Local Plan must be based on an updated and relevant evidence base to ensure that it is sound and justified, and able to be robustly defended at Examination in Public. The following bullet points summarise the latest position. A verbal update and any further information will be supplied at the committee meeting:
- Consultants KKP have been appointed to undertake an Open Space Assessment and Playing Pitch Strategy to inform and support the Council's strategic approach to open space, sport and recreational facilities. The assessment will be undertaken working with colleagues in Culture and Leisure. Several meetings have been held since the inception meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2016.
  - Work is underway on an Employment Land Assessment. This will provide an assessment of supply and demand of employment land in the Borough. The first stages involve a site assessment of employment land for its suitability, availability and achievability. Whilst officers are able to assess the employment land against a range of criteria. For example accessibility, physical limitations and environmental impacts. Consultants will be recruited in February 2017 to augment the assessment with a commercial evaluation and carry out the later stages of the assessment. The assessment will be produced with input from the Council's Economic Development Officer and North Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit.
  - Detailed Site Assessment. Officers have developed a clear site assessment methodology in order to appraise the relative suitability of sites and to inform the identification of sites which could be progressed into allocations in the Part 2 Local Plan. Over the next few months officers

will be assessing in detail the sites put forward for consideration with input from design surgeries.

- Assessment of Retail Network and Hierarchy has now been completed and is available on the Councils planning policy web pages.
- The Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Update has not yet commenced due to other work pressures.

#### Place Shaping Supplementary Planning Document

- 2.6 A Supplementary Planning Document related to place making and design is being prepared by the North Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit and partners. Following an initial officer workshop in October 2006, it has been agreed by the North Northamptonshire Joint Planning Committee that, a series of workshops with key stakeholders and members seminar will be arranged in February 2017 to refine the document prior to the draft Supplementary Planning Document being reported to the Joint Committee in April 2017 to be endorsed for consultation.

#### Neighbourhood Planning

- 2.7 Gretton Parish Council submitted a proposal in August 2016 to ask for the Neighbourhood Area to be approved before work could begin on the proposed Gretton Neighbourhood Plan. That Neighbourhood Area has now been designated.

### **3. Options to be considered (if any)**

This is an information report for the Committee so there are no alternative options

### **4. Issues to be taken into account:-**

#### ***Policy Priorities***

The statutory development plan for the Borough forms a part of the Borough Council's over-arching 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***

Budget to support the preparation of the Part 2 Local Plan for Corby agreed at One Corby Policy Committee on 29<sup>th</sup> 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 through the preparation of Sustainability Appraisal and Equalities Impact Assessment

***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***

There are no specific risks arising from this information report.

**5. Recommendation**

To note the content of the report

**Background Papers**

Nil

**Officer to Contact**

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