

Item No: 6
Date: 13 th September 2012

**WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
JOINT STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Draft JPU Budget: Financial Year 2013-14

**REPORT OF THE HEAD JOINT PLANNING UNIT & DIRECTOR OF
RESOURCES/SECTION 151 OFFICER: SOUTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL**

1. Background

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to enable consideration to be given to a proposed budget for the West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit for financial year 2013-14. This budget should be approved prior to 31st October 2012 to accord with requirements set out in paragraph 5 of the fifth schedule of the agreement between the partner Councils. The report has been considered and approved by the Programme Board and the Business Sub Group.

2. Context

- 2.1 The budget being proposed is to progress the programme of work set out in the up to date West Northamptonshire Local Development Scheme (LDS), June 2012, recently approved for publication by the Joint Strategic Planning Committee, together with the work associated with progressing the Community Levy Infrastructure (CIL) on behalf of partner Councils across the West Northamptonshire Local Planning Partnership.
- 2.2 With regard to the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy Local Plan, the examination and adoption processes will now fall into 2013-14 financial year. It is anticipated that no additional base budget will be required to complete the processes relating to the Joint Core Strategy Local Plan. It is likely that the expenditure on this will be funded from budget carry forwards from previous years that have been earmarked specifically for this purpose. Therefore the funding requirement for the Joint Core Strategy Local Plan does not impact on the base budget proposal for 2013-14.
- 2.3 This draft new base budget continues to apply the significant savings made in previous years and does not seek any increase on that contributed to the operation of the JPU in 2012-13 to progress the agreed work plan in 2013-14

2.4 The proposed contribution from individual partner councils is set out below:

• Daventry District Council	£207,445
• South Northants Council	£207,445
• Northampton Borough Council	£276,590
• Northamptonshire County Council	£0
Total Contributions for 2013-14	£691,480

2.5 Turning to future years, in the context of the current financial climate and in the interests of the maintenance of prudent financial planning across the West Northamptonshire Local Planning Partnership going forward; options are being worked on for partner's consideration for future years. These options will relate to the delivery of the Work Programme of the Partnership going forward that will build on that set out in the West Northamptonshire Local Development Scheme, June 2012, including the need for a review of the strategic Local Plan. This Work Programme is under discussion and development across the Partnership. The Work Programme will also have regard to the likely forth - coming Government Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR). The prudent forward financial planning options, currently under development, will be informed both by the Partnership's programme of work going forward and the CSR.

3. Recommendations

3.1 That the Joint Strategic Planning Committee approve the 2013-14 base budget of **£691,480** for the JPU so that it may be forwarded on to partner Councils for their ratification.

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Date:	September 2012	S151 officer, SNC.

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