

Appendices: 3



NORTHAMPTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

Agenda Status: Public

Directorate: Planning and Sustainability

Report Title	Northampton Local Plan Part 2: Submission Version
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1. Purpose

- 1.1 To seek agreement to submit the Northampton Local Plan Part 2 to the Secretary of State for independent examination.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That Council approves the submission of the Northampton Local Plan Part 2 to the Secretary of State for independent examination by a Planning Inspector under Regulation 22 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 as amended. A copy of the Plan is attached as Appendix 1.
- 2.2 That the Officer responses to the representations made on the Proposed Submission Local Plan Round 2 be agreed (Appendix 2).
- 2.3 That the Proposed Schedule of Minor Modifications be agreed (Appendix 3).
- 2.4 That the Director of Planning and Sustainability may approve any necessary supporting documentation to the Plan required for submission.

3. Issues and Choices

3.1 Report Background

- 3.1.1 On 16th December 2020, Cabinet agreed that the submission version of the Northampton Local Plan Part 2 be recommended for approval by full Council to submit to the Secretary of State for independent examination by a Planning Inspector.

Policy context

- 3.1.2 The Northampton Local Plan Part 2 (the Plan) seeks to deliver the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy including the delivery of 18,870 net additional dwellings from 2011 to 2029 and a significant contribution to the creation of 28,500 jobs. The Plan therefore includes site specific allocations which show where these houses and jobs can be delivered. The Plan also includes development management policies which will be used to determine planning applications.

Plan preparation process

- 3.1.3 The Council went through a series of consultation exercises to reach this stage, which began in May 2016. The stages were: Issues (May 2016), Options (September 2016), Sites (September 2017), Proposed Submission Round 1 (May 2019) and Proposed Submission Round 2 (July 2020).
- 3.1.4 The second round of public consultation on the Proposed Submission version concluded in September 2020. This consultation stage was in conformity with Regulation 19 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012, as amended. Representations were sought on the grounds of legal compliance and soundness and in accordance with the requirements set out in the National Planning Policy Framework. If, as a result of the responses received to Regulation 19 consultation, only minor modifications are required to the Local Plan, the local planning authority can submit it to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government for independent examination.
- 3.1.5 The content of the Local Plan has been informed by an extensive evidence base which has been kept up to date and reviewed in the light of representations to previous consultations. The Plan, which is accompanied by a Policies Map, is also supported by a Sustainability Appraisal which appraises the social, economic and environmental effects of the plan and to consider choices made in comparison to reasonable alternatives. These documents can be found here: <https://www.northampton.gov.uk/lpp2proposedsubmissionround2> .
- 3.1.6 The Council has worked with neighbouring councils and the County Council during the preparation of this plan in accordance with the Duty to Cooperate.

Northampton Local Plan Part 2 (Proposed Submission Round 2) consultation

- 3.1.7 The Proposed Submission Local Plan Part 2, published in July 2020, contains 44 policies, 6 of which are site specific. The Council received responses from 65 respondents, generating over 800 separate comments.
- 3.1.8 48 respondents stated that the Plan was legally compliant, 6 said it was not and 11 did not specify. 19 respondents said the Plan was sound, 39 said it was not and 7 did not specify.

- 3.1.9 The comments received focused mainly on specific policies and issues. Historic England and Natural England were recommending further changes to the wordings of the relevant policies, but not changing their contents or direction. Objections were received from the housebuilding industry and planning consultants who were concerned about the housing policies including the requirements for self-built and custom-built housing. Objections were received from residents to some of the housing allocations including Great Houghton and Abington Mill Farm.
- 3.1.10 There were expressions of support for some of the policies on the basis that they reflected the outcome of the first round of consultation. Support was received from Historic England as well as matters relating to public health.

Independent Examination

- 3.1.11 Once submitted to the Secretary of State, a Planning Inspector will be allocated to conduct an independent examination on the Plan. If the Plan is submitted by mid-February at the latest, it is anticipated that an examination in public will take place in early summer.

Adoption

- 3.1.12 Once an examination is concluded, there is a likelihood that the Planning Inspector will recommend some major and minor modifications to the Plan. These will need to be released for consultation prior to adoption.
- 3.1.13 It is anticipated that the Plan could be adopted in the autumn of 2021.

3.1 Decision details

- 3.2.1 If Council agrees to the Northampton Local Plan Part 2 being submitted, the Plan and its supporting documents will be submitted to the Secretary of State for independent examination by a Planning Inspector. At this point, the Plan will start to carry greater weight, which means that any decisions for development management purposes made using these policies will be afforded weight on the grounds that it will have been submitted.
- 3.2.2 If Council does not agree to the Northampton Local Plan being submitted, then the Plan will continue to have limited impacts on the development management decisions that need to be made and the outcome of development proposals in Northampton.

4. Implications (including financial implications)

4.1 Policy

- 4.1.1 The Northampton Local Plan Part 2 will replace the 1997 Local Plan Saved Policies and the 2013 Central Area Action Plan. An up-to-date Local Plan will provide greater certainty and allow policies at the local level to address local issues and be fully compliant with up-to-date requirements and the requirements of the adopted West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy. Planning applications will be determined in accordance with the development

plan, including this Local Plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise. It is important to note that both Daventry District and South Northamptonshire Councils have recently adopted their respective Local Plan Part 2.

4.2 Resources and Risk

- 4.2.1 Sufficient financial resources are available for the process of submission to take place as scheduled in the budget for 202/21 and 2021/22. Every effort will continue to be made to ensure that the submission to the Secretary of State and the independent examination are not adversely affected by any redeployment of Planning Policy officers as a result of efforts to tackle the Covid 19 outbreak.

4.3 Legal

- 4.3.1 The Local Plan is a statutory document and was prepared in accordance with the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, as amended and the Town and Country Planning Act (Local Planning)(England) Regulation 2012 (as amended); The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004; and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010.

4.4 Equality

- 4.4.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment has been carried out and it is concluded that none of the policies in the Plan needed to go beyond the screening stage as no unjustifiable negative impacts were identified.

4.5 Environmental Implications (including climate change issues)

- 4.5.1 On 3rd June 2019, the Council declared a climate change emergency, and the objective to make Northampton carbon neutral by 2030. The local plan contains policies that help to address climate change and will help to improve the sustainability of new development.

4.6 Other Implications

- 4.6.1 There are no other implications arising directly from the proposals in this report.

5. Background Papers

- 5.1 National Planning Policy Framework, 2019

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/810197/NPPF_Feb_2019_revised.pdf

- 5.2 West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy, 2014

<https://westnorthantsjpu.inconsult.uk/connect.ti/website/view?objectId=2737424>

5.3 Central Area Action Plan, 2013

https://www.northampton.gov.uk/info/200205/planning_for_the_future/1748/central_area_action_plan_caap

5.4 Northampton Local Plan, 1997

https://www.northampton.gov.uk/info/200205/planning_for_the_future/1746/

5.5 Northampton Statement of Community Involvement, 2018

https://www.northampton.gov.uk/info/200205/planning_for_the_future/1746/

Appendix 1 - Northampton Local Plan Part 2 Submission, December 2020

Appendix 2 – Summary of Representations and Officer Responses, November 2020

Appendix 3 – Proposed Schedule of Minor Modifications, November 2020

Peter Baguley
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