

**Proposed Changes to
the Pre-Submission
West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy**

**Statement of Community Engagement and
Consultation - Update**

July 2012



**West Northamptonshire
Joint Planning Unit**

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1. Introduction

Purpose of this Statement

- 1.1 This statement sets out the community engagement and consultation undertaken at the Pre-Submission stage of the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy, including details of the consultation activities and the responses received. This report is an update to the Report of Community Engagement and Consultation published in February 2011 alongside the Pre-Submission version of the Joint Core Strategy.

What is the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy?

- 1.2 West Northamptonshire is the area covered by Daventry District, Northampton Borough and South Northamptonshire Councils. It includes the towns of Northampton, Daventry, Towcester and Brackley and all the villages and rural areas within the three Councils' administrative areas.
- 1.3 The West Northamptonshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee was established by Statutory Instrument¹ in 2008. The Committee is responsible for plan-making in West Northamptonshire. The Committee is supported by the West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit (JPU).
- 1.4 The Joint Core Strategy (JCS) has been prepared by the JPU on behalf of the three Councils of Daventry District, Northampton Borough and South Northamptonshire working together with Northamptonshire County Council.
- 1.5 The preparation of the Joint Core Strategy has involved intensive research, evidence gathering and consultation including gaining and understanding the views and opinions of the general public, organisations and individuals with an interest in West Northamptonshire. Public involvement has been a continuous process throughout all stages of producing the document and has had a major influence in shaping the Joint Core Strategy.

The Statements of Community Involvement

- 1.6 Each local planning authority is required to produce a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) to set out how and at what stages different parts of its community can take part in, and influence, the plan-making process and significant development control decisions. The preparation of all Local Development Documents must be undertaken in accordance with the adopted SCI and with the relevant Local Development Regulations in force at the time.

¹The West Northamptonshire Joint Committee Order 2008 No 1572

1.7 As the Joint Strategic Planning Committee had not yet been established when each of the three local authorities in West Northamptonshire (Daventry District, Northampton Borough and South Northamptonshire Councils) started to prepare their SCIs three separate SCIs, one for each Council, were prepared and adopted in 2006.

1.8 The SCIs can be viewed on each Council's website via the following links:

1) Daventry District Council

<http://www.daventrydc.gov.uk/living/planning-policy/statement-of-community-involvement/?locale=en>

2) Northampton Borough Council

http://www.northampton.gov.uk/downloads/download/58/statement_of_community_involvement

3) South Northamptonshire Council

<http://www.southnorthants.gov.uk/1132.htm>

In addition all three Statements can be found on the West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit's web site at

<http://www.westnorthamptonshirejpu.org/connect.ti/website/view?objectId=2737616>

1.9 Reflecting the three Councils' SCIs a variety of formal and informal community involvement and consultation methods have been used throughout the preparation of the Joint Core Strategy.

1.10 All three SCIs identify types of consultees and list the consultation methods that will, or may, be used for the Joint Core Strategy by type of consultee.

1.11 Appendix 1 of this statement lists the types of consultation methods identified by the SCIs and the consultation methods that were used for the Joint Core Strategy Issues and Options stage and the Emergent Joint Core Strategy. This demonstrates that the Joint Core Strategy Issues and Options stage and Emergent Joint Core Strategy consultation have complied with the requirements of the SCIs.

Overview of the Joint Core Strategy Stages to Date

1.12 Work formally began on the Joint Core Strategy in September 2006. The Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report was prepared between October 2006 and January 2007.

1.13 The identification of the key issues and the development of options, known as the Issues and Options stage, took place between March and October 2007. It should be noted that this stage took place in accordance with Regulation 25 of the 2004 Regulations².

² The Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004

- 1.14 In June 2008 the Government issued amendments³ to the 2004 Regulations. These amendments included an amendment to Regulation 25 of 2004 Regulations. The key change was that there was no longer a requirement for a Preferred Options stage of consultation. Instead the Government placed greater emphasis on the involvement of residents and businesses in the preparation of development plans as a continual process. Consequently in January 2009 the Joint Planning Unit carried out additional consultation on the scope of the Joint Core Strategy, i.e. what it should contain.
- 1.15 In July 2009 the Emergent Joint Core Strategy was published for consultation under Regulation 25 of the 2008 Regulations. The Emergent Joint Core Strategy set out thinking at the time of its publication with respect to the policy approach that should be taken in West Northamptonshire and was based on the evidence collected to date. It was not a draft plan or a final strategy; it did not set out policies but it did set out the policy approach and the preferred options and rejected options for the locations of growth at each town in West Northamptonshire.
- 1.16 The following section of this statement sets out further details of how the JPU has engaged with all sections of the community, including specific consultation bodies and general consultation bodies, as prescribed by the Regulations and the Statements of Community Involvement at the Pre-Submission Joint Core Strategy stage. This includes how consultation took place, including who was consulted and how they were consulted, and how comments were taken into account at each stage.

³ The Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2008

Northamptonshire Key Diagram Enlargement									
Figure 4 – Northampton Related Development Area Map	3	2	1	1	2	1	0	1	0
Figure 5 – West Northamptonshire Proposals Map & Insets	20	20	0	4	16	6	7	2	1
Figure 6 – West Northamptonshire Green Infrastructure Networks Map	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	4056	2814	1242	490	3566	1443	1531	564	28