



Joint Authorities Monitoring Report

For

Local Plans in West Northamptonshire

1st April 2019 – 31st March 2020

On Behalf of Partner Local Planning Authorities



In Partnership With



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Section 1 – The Joint Authorities Monitoring Report

- 1.1 This Monitoring Report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of Section 35 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) and the relevant regulations set out in the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 that came into force from 6th April 2012. These can be summarised as:
- Report progress on the timetable and milestones for the preparation of documents as set out in the Local Development Scheme, including reasons where they are not being met;
 - Identify any policy specified in a Local Plan which is not being implemented and state why it is not being implemented;
 - Report on progress in the year and since the policy started against any number relating to additional dwellings or additional affordable homes specified in a local plan policy;
 - Details of any neighbourhood development order or neighbourhood development plan;
 - Information on the implementation of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) (where CIL is being collected); and
 - Details of what action has been taken in relation to co-operation with another local planning authority, county council or a body or a person prescribed under Section 33A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act, as amended.

The Monitoring Position in West Northamptonshire

- 1.2 Until December 2009 the three local authorities covered by the former West Northamptonshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee (JSPC) produced separate AMRs. In addition, Northamptonshire County Council (also members of the former JSPC) produces a Minerals and Waste Monitoring Report, for which they retain responsibility. Following the formation of the West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Committee in July 2008¹ it was agreed to produce a Joint AMR with production led by the West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit. Data collection and ownership remains the preserve of the individual Local Authorities, but a Joint AMR allows comprehensive, and as far as possible uniform, reporting of outputs and outcomes across the area. Northamptonshire County Council remains involved in production of the Joint AMR through data sharing across the Partnership. This AMR is the eleventh to be produced jointly by the constituent local planning authorities of Northampton Borough, South Northamptonshire District, and Daventry District.
- 1.3 All previous Joint AMRs were made available through the website of the West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit and all partner councils. The documents have generally been well received when used by partners, external stakeholders and members of the public in terms of providing a unified and consistent baseline for West Northamptonshire, available in a single location, to chart the progress on the preparation of Local Plans, outputs from

¹ The Statutory Instrument for the Joint Strategic Planning Committee can be viewed here:
<http://www.westnorthamptonshirejpu.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=d2zHD2qkmyc%3d&tabid=113>

development and other issues such as the 'duty to cooperate' and Neighbourhood Planning.

- 1.4 It should be noted that the production of future AMRs will be the responsibility of the new unitary West Northamptonshire Council which replaces the existing local authorities with effect from 1st April 2021.

The Monitoring Framework for West Northamptonshire

- 1.5 Following the adoption of the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy in December 2014, this is the fifth Joint AMR which seeks to reflect the Monitoring Framework set out in the adopted Joint Core Strategy. The Joint AMR also provides an update of progress on the preparation Local Plans in the area which include Part 2 Local Plans covering each of the local authority areas and the preparation of a new West Northamptonshire Strategic Plan which will review and replace strategic policies in the Joint Core Strategy.
- 1.6 The West Northamptonshire Monitoring Framework included in the adopted JCS has been developed to record and assess the implementation of JCS policies. This uses a series of indicators to show the outputs and wider outcomes of development and how the area is changing over the plan period. This framework is being used to check that the amount of development and infrastructure set out in the Plan is being delivered and to assess whether the objectives and spatial vision of the Plan are being realized. Due to resource constraints it has not been possible to report on all the indicators in the Framework and work is ongoing to establish more datasets.

Approach and Structure of the West Northamptonshire Joint AMR 2019/20

- 1.7 The Authorities' Monitoring Report for 2019/20 follows broadly the same structure as the previous JAMRs. The aim is not to produce three separate AMRs in a single document but an AMR that reflects the circumstances of the different local areas and performance against indicators applied across West Northamptonshire.
- 1.8 The JAMR comprises the following sections. Section 2 is a review of the preparation of Local Plans against the Local Development Scheme timetables. Section 3 covers a review of performance against the objectives and indicators set out in the JCS Monitoring Framework. Information from Partner Authorities is considered in Section 4 including updates on Neighbourhood Plans, and the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). Section 5 deals with duty to co-operate updates. Section 6 summarises key findings and conclusions.
- 1.9 The production of the AMR is reliant on various sources of data including Development Management data and evidence already submitted to Government (annual returns). The AMR also relies on existing in-house data collected by the Councils and provided to the JPU. In addition, key partners who provided data for this AMR include Northamptonshire County Council and the Environment Agency.

- 1.10 With effect from 1st April 2021 the existing partner Councils will be replaced by a new unitary council, West Northamptonshire Council (WNC). WNC will be responsible for the preparation of AMRs from this date.

Section 2 - Progress on the Local Development Schemes in West Northamptonshire

- 2.1 West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy Local Plan (Part 1) was prepared and adopted in accordance with a Joint Local Development Scheme for the West Northamptonshire area. The focus of plan preparation subsequently moved to the series of Part 2 Local Plans which are being produced by the partner Councils in accordance with their own adopted Local Development Schemes. The partner Councils adopted a new Joint Local Development Scheme in October 2018 setting out the timetable for the proposed West Northamptonshire Strategic Plan which will review and replace the strategic policies of the Joint Core Strategy.

Joint Local Development Scheme for West Northamptonshire October 2018

- 2.2 The joint Local Development Scheme that covers the 2019-20 monitoring period was agreed by the partner Councils in October 2019. The Joint LDS sets out a timetable for the preparation of the West Northamptonshire Strategic Plan, which will review and where appropriate replace the policies that address the strategic priorities for the area in the adopted West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy Local Plan (Part 1). The scope of the plan will comprise: the spatial vision for West Northamptonshire, the spatial strategy for the distribution of development a strategic policies covering housing, economic growth, infrastructure, place-shaping and sustainable development

Progress against the Joint Local Development Scheme

- 2.3 This section sets out the progress made against the key milestones for the preparation of the West Northamptonshire Strategic Plan as contained in the LDS, which were scheduled for the 2019/20 Monitoring Period.

West Northamptonshire Strategic Plan			
Milestone in LDS	Date Scheduled	Milestone Met?	Commentary
Issues consultation (Regulation 18)	April 2019	<i>Not Achieved</i>	<i>The Issues Consultation took place later than planned between 5th August and 11th October 2019.</i>
Options consultation (Regulation 18)	November 2019	<i>Not Achieved</i>	<i>The Options Consultation has not yet taken place.</i>

Daventry District Council Local Development Scheme (LDS) 2019-2020

2.4 The Local Development Scheme² that covers the 2019-20 monitoring period was approved by Full Council on 6th December 2019 and replaced the previous LDS which covered the period from 2017 – 2019. The LDS covers the period December 2019 to 2020 during which time the District Council proposed the adoption of one development plan document as follows:

- **Settlements and Countryside Local Plan (Part 2)** - The Part 2 Local Plan will set out clear local policies, standards and criteria against which all proposals for development and change of use of land and buildings in Daventry District will be assessed and to inform decisions on planning applications made in the period to 2029. This will also include establishing a settlement hierarchy and allocations of land to meet identified development needs established in the WNJCS and set out needs, policies, standards and criteria related to sites for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople.

Progress against the Daventry District Local Development Scheme

2.5 This section sets out the progress made against the key milestones for the preparation of the Part 2 Local Plan as contained in the LDS, which were scheduled for the 2019/20 Monitoring Period.

Settlements and Countryside Local Plan (Part 2)			
Milestone in LDS	Date Scheduled	Milestone Met?	Commentary
Adoption	February 2020	<i>Achieved</i>	<i>The plan was adopted on 20th February 2020</i>

2.6 In accordance with the LDS, Daventry District Council adopted the Part 2 Local Plan on 20th February 2020. Adoption of the plan followed examination hearing sessions which were held in June 2020 and a six-week consultation on Main Modifications to the Plan which ran from 23rd September to 4th November 2020.

Northampton Borough Council Local Development Scheme April 2019

2.7 The LDS for Northampton Borough Council which covers the 2019/20 monitoring period was approved and brought into effect by Cabinet on 3rd April 2019. The LDS set out the programme for preparing the following Local Plan:

- **Northampton Local Plan Part 2** - To set out site specific allocations for Northampton Borough including residential and employment uses. It will include policies against which planning applications for the development, management and use of land and buildings will be

² [Daventry District Council Local Development Scheme \(December 2019\)](#)

considered. It will include the identification, phasing and implementation of local infrastructure for sites. As an example of some of its policy content, it will include boundaries of retail centres, historic conservation, open space and nature conservation policies and designations, highway issues and car parking. It will replace the Central Area Action Plan.

Progress against the Northampton Local Development Scheme

- 2.8 This section records the progress made against key milestones for the preparation of the Local Plan included in the LDS, which were scheduled during the 2019/20 Monitoring Period.

Northampton Local Plan Part 2			
Milestone in the LDS	Date Scheduled	Milestone Met?	Commentary
Publication of Draft Plan and Consultation (Regulation 19)	May '19 – June '19	<i>Achieved</i>	<i>Was published for consultation between 1 May and 14 June 2019</i>
Submission (Regulation 22)	November '19	<i>Not achieved</i>	<i>A revised LDS was approved in June 2020</i>

- 2.9 The Northampton Local Plan Part 2 Submission Draft was published for consultation between 1 May and 14 June in accordance with the LDS. Following consideration of the responses to the consultation and the publication of new government guidelines on housing delivery, the Borough Council decided that further work was required including new policies and the strengthening of existing policies. The target for submission of the Plan to the Secretary of State for examination was not therefore achieved.
- 2.10 A revised LDS was subsequently approved in June and second round of consultation on the revised Submission Plan commenced in July 2020 in accordance with the revised LDS. Progress of plan preparation against the revised LDS will be reported in the 2020/21 JAMR.

South Northamptonshire Council Local Development Scheme September 2018

- 2.11 South Northamptonshire Council approved an updated Local Development Scheme³ in September 2018 replacing the one which was brought into effect in July 2017. The LDS proposes the preparation of a single Part 2 Local Plan for the District as follows:
- **South Northamptonshire Local Plan (Part 2)** – The key components of the Plan will include:
 - Redefinition of town and village confines;
 - Designation of local green space;

³ [South Northamptonshire Council Local Development Scheme \(July 2017\)](#)

- Establishing a Settlement Hierarchy;
- Support for the local economy through the provision of new and extended employment sites;
- Heritage policies and designations;
- Production of Development Management policies; and
- Urban and Rural Allocations.

Progress against the South Northamptonshire Local Development Scheme

- 2.12 This section reviews progress in the preparation of the Part 2 Local Plan as contained in the LDS, against the key milestones for the 2019/20 Monitoring Period.

South Northamptonshire Local Plan (Part 2)			
Milestone in the LDS	Date Scheduled	Milestone Met?	Commentary
Commencement of Examination (Regulation 24)	May 2019 (estimated)	<i>Achieved</i>	<i>Examination Hearing Sessions were held in June 2019</i>
Adoption of DPD (Regulation 26)	September 2019 (estimated)	<i>Not Achieved</i>	<i>The plan was adopted on 22 July 2020.</i>

- 2.13 Following the submission of the Part 2 Plan to the Secretary of State in January 2019 and the subsequent appointment of an Inspector, examination hearings were held in June 2020, broadly as expected by the LDS. The LDS had originally estimated that the Plan could be adopted by 2019. As a consequence of matters raised as a result of the examination the Council undertook consultation on Proposed Main Modifications to the Plan in October/November 2019. The response to this consultation necessitated a limited number of further Main Modifications which were consulted on in February/March 2020.
- 2.14 The Inspector's Report was received on 23rd June 2020 and the Council resolved to adopt the Part 2 Local Plan in line with the Inspector's recommendations on 22nd July 2020.

Summary of Progress and Issues

- 2.15 The partner Councils have made substantive progress on the preparation of their Part 2 Local Plans. This has culminated in the adoption of the Part 2 Local Plan for Daventry District in February 2020 followed by the adoption of South Northamptonshire's Part 2 Local Plan in July 2020.
- 2.16 Northampton Borough Council continue to prepare their Part 2 Local Plan and have completed two Regulation 19 consultations. It is expected that the Plan will be submitted for examination early in 2021 prior to the formation on the new West Northamptonshire Council.

- 2.17 The partner Councils have also made progress on the preparation of the West Northamptonshire Strategic Plan, which will review and replace the strategic policies in the Joint Core Strategy. Having completed an Issues consultation, progress towards an Options consultation has been slower than envisaged in the joint LDS.
- 2.18 It should be noted that the Joint LDS set out an ambitious timetable which was in part based on the prospect of a growth deal with central government in the context of the Oxford-Cambridge Arc. The anticipated growth deal and the resources it would have provided for plan-making have not been forthcoming. Notwithstanding this work on the Strategic Plan continues primarily through the development of a robust evidence base to support the next stages of consultation. A review of the joint LDS is required to reflect the revised timescales for the Strategic Plan and is expected to be agreed the new unitary West Northamptonshire Council.

Section 3 – West Northamptonshire Monitoring Framework

Introduction

- 3.1 The adopted Joint Core Strategy includes a Monitoring Framework which is designed to measure the effectiveness of the JCS in achieving the vision and objectives which are set out in the Plan. The Framework has been developed to record and assess the implementation of JCS policies. This uses a series of indicators which are clearly linked to the Plan's objectives to show the outputs and wider outcomes of development.
- 3.2 At the current time it has not been possible to monitor all the indicators set out in the JCS Monitoring Framework. From 1st April the responsibility for future AMRs will rest with the new West Northamptonshire Council (WNC). It is hoped that WNC will continue to work on improving data availability to increase the number of indicators that can be reported in future AMRs. This section of the JAMR reports against a series of key indicators from the Monitoring Framework, which cover most of the objectives in the JCS and meets the requirements for AMRs as prescribed by regulations.
- 3.3 For each of the objectives where indicators are available the JAMR uses a traffic light rating system as a measure of performance against the Monitoring Framework as follows:

Red = Targets are not being achieved and the triggers set out in the Framework have been breached.

Amber = There is a risk that targets will not be achieved, or targets are not being met, but the triggers in the Framework have not been breached.

Green = Targets have been met or are on track to being achieved.

Objective 1 – Climate Change

- 3.4 Objective 1 of the JCS is ***“To minimise demand for resources and mitigate and adapt to climate change, by:***
- ***Promoting sustainable design and construction in all new development;***
 - ***Ensuring strategic development allocations are located and designed so as to be resilient to future climate change and risk of flooding;***
 - ***Encouraging renewable energy production in appropriate locations;***
and
 - ***Ensuring new development promotes the use of sustainable travel modes”***

Ref	Indicator	Target	Trigger	Result for 2019/20
1d	Planning Permissions Granted Contrary to EA Advice on Water Quality or Flood Risk Grounds after failing the sequential and/or exceptions test	No applications should be granted contrary to EA advice	Target is 0 permissions granted contrary to advice.	0 planning permissions were granted contrary to EA advice.

- 3.5 Given the policy approach set out in policies BN7A and BN7 of the JCS which deal with water quality and flood risk issues it is expected that that there would be no applications granted contrary to Environment Agency (EA) advice. This is confirmed by an analysis of data supplied by the EA for 2019/20. There were 16 applications where the EA initially raised objections, 11 of which were in Northampton Borough 3 in South Northamptonshire and 2 in Daventry. 15 of the objections related to flood risk and 1 to water quality. The most common reason for objections related to either an absence of or an inadequate Flood Risk Assessment (FRA). 8 of these applications were subsequently approved by the local authority and in each case the initial EA objection was withdrawn following the submission of additional information or revisions to the layout of schemes. 4 applications were withdrawn by the applicants and 1 was refused with flood risk being the key reason for refusal. Decision are pending on the remaining 3 applications at the time of writing.

Ref	Indicator	Target	Trigger	Result for 2019/20
1e	NO2 Levels at existing designated AQMAs	New development should address existing problems. Regular reporting of measurements	>5% increase in no. of properties within designated AQMAs, based on no. of properties at 01/04/2011	The number of properties within designated AQMAs has decreased when measured against the base date of 01.04.2011

- 3.6 There are currently 8 designated Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) within West Northamptonshire; 6 within the urban area of Northampton, 1 along the M1 corridor between junction 15 and 15a and 1 along the A5 in Towcester Town Centre. The indicator in the JCS uses a base date of 01.04.11 as a base date against which to measure the number of properties within designated AQMAs. Using the base date, the total number of properties has decreased, which is primarily because 4 AQMAs in Northampton Borough were revoked in July 2012, thus significantly reducing the number of properties affected. The

extent of the other AQMAs has not changed since the base date, for example as at 31.3.20 there were 74 properties within the AQMA at Towcester, a figure which is unchanged from the base date of 01.04.11.

- 3.7 Northampton Borough Council have consulted on proposed changes to the AQMAs within the Borough. These changes would see a single town centre AQMA to cover the inner ring road which would encompass existing AQMAs and other exceedance areas and the main arterial routes into the town centre. This would be achieved by extending one existing AQMA and revoking 4 to form one. Whilst the number of AQMAs would reduce the overall area covered by the extended/new AQMA will increase. These changes have not yet been implemented but are still expected to proceed.
- 3.8 Air quality monitoring undertaken by South Northamptonshire Council in 2019 showed a significant reduction in nitrogen dioxide within the Towcester AQMA, such that all monitoring locations within the AQMA were within the national air quality objective levels for nitrogen dioxide. However, concentrations at one location in the AQMA were still within 10% of the objective levels. Due to historic exceedances and ongoing development in the locality and region, the Council have no current plans to revoke the AQMA.

Ref	Indicator	Target	Trigger	Result for 2019/20
1f	Percentage of River Lengths assessed as good biological/chemical quality	New development should address existing problems. Regular reporting of measurements	Decrease of 5% in river lengths assessed of good ecological/chemical quality	<p>Good ecological status has increased from 3.7% (2015) to 8.6% (2019)</p> <p>Good chemical status has fallen from 100% (2015) to 0% (2019)</p>

- 3.9 Policy BN7A of the JCS seeks to ensure that new development protects, and where practicable improves water quality. 2015/16 was the first full monitoring year following the adoption of the JCS and as such this year has been used as a baseline against which future changes in water quality can be measured. Data for 2016/17 was reported in the 2016/17 JAMR as set out in Table 1 below.
- 3.10 The 2016/17 data showed that in terms of chemical status 98.5% of the total length of the waterbodies has achieved good status. This was a small reduction of 1.5% compared to 2015/16 but was well below the 5% trigger set out in the JCS Monitoring Framework. The figure for good ecological status increased slightly from 3.7% to 4.0%.
- 3.11 Following the 2016 classifications the Environment Agency (EA) have moved to a three-year reporting frequency. The latest available monitoring data from the EA is from 2019 and was published in September 2020. In terms of ecological quality there has been an increase in the length of waterbodies that have achieved good status from 3.7% in 2015 to 8.6% in 2019. This modest improvement is however overshadowed by the results in respect of chemical

quality. In 2016 98.5% of waterbodies in West Northamptonshire achieved good status, whereas in 2019 all the waterbodies failed to achieve good status.

- 3.12 West Northamptonshire is not unusual in this respect as the EA data revealed that all waterbodies in England failed to achieve good status for chemical quality. The key reason for this relates to improvements in the method of monitoring used by the EA which now includes testing for the presence of substances in fish and shellfish as well as in water. Notwithstanding the change in methodology, it is clear that water quality has not improved since 2016. Wastewater discharges from water companies and run-off from agriculture are the most significant sources of pollution. Concerted action is required to improve the situation and water quality will undoubtedly be a key consideration for the review of policies in the Joint Core Strategy.

Table 1– Ecological and Chemical Quality of Waterbodies in West Northamptonshire 2015/16 to 2019/20

Water Framework Directive Classification	2015/16		2016/17		2019/20	
	Waterbody length (km)	%	Waterbody length (km)	%	Waterbody length (km)	%
Ecological (Good)	31.2	3.7%	33.9	4.0%	72.8	8.6
Chemical (Good)	842.8	100%	829.8	98.5%	0.0	0.0

Source: <http://environment.data.gov.uk/catchment-planning/>

Objective 2 – Infrastructure and Development

- 3.13 Objective 2 of the JCS is ***“To protect and enhance existing local services and to ensure social, physical and green infrastructure is adequately provided to meet the needs of people and business in a timely and sustainable manner in response to regeneration and new development in West Northamptonshire.”***

Ref	Indicator	Target	Trigger	Result for 2019/20
2a	Delivery of major Infrastructure priorities identified to facilitate development against IDP timescale	Table 7 in Infrastructure section of the JCS. Measurement against details presented in West Northamptonshire Infrastructure Delivery Plan	Any significant potential delay in the supply of infrastructure affecting housing/ employment delivery identified in the annual monitoring of the Infrastructure Delivery Plan	See key projects in Table 2 below

- 3.14 The West Northamptonshire Infrastructure Delivery Plan sets out comprehensive information on the infrastructure which is scheduled to support the development planned in the JCS. The Joint Planning Unit will be publishing a 2020 update of the IDP which sets out the latest position. For the purposes of the JAMR it is proposed that monitoring will concentrate on the delivery of the of the 11 key primary infrastructure projects which are listed in the IDP and reproduced in Table 2 below:

Table 2 – Delivery of Key Primary Infrastructure Projects in 2019-20

Infrastructure Required	Reason for Requirement	Broad Phasing	Status
Improvements to the Wastewater Network - Northampton Town Centre	To provide capacity to the main sewer allowing for increases in wastewater flows	Scale and type of solution to be informed by Northampton Central Area Drainage Assessment (May 2012)	On track
Wastewater Treatment Works* - Great Billing, Northampton	Increased capacity required for development in Northampton beyond 2019	Works to commence in 2019 and complete by mid-2021	Anglian Water Services have advised that an upgrade to Great Billing WRC is unlikely to be required in the plan-period to 2029.
North West Bypass – Northampton (now referred to as Northampton North-West Relief Road)	Required to serve the Sustainable Urban Extensions of: North of Whitehills, Kings Heath and Northampton West	Phase 1 (A428 to Grange Farm) to commence by 2016. Phase 2 (Grange Farm to A5199) to commence by 2021	Following a successful Local Growth Fund bid and additional funding from Northampton Borough Council construction is now expected to commence in 2021 with completion by 2023
Sandy Lane Relief Road – Northampton	Required to serve the Sustainable Urban Extensions of	Completion required by 2019	South Northamptonshire Council granted planning permission for the road in June

Infrastructure Required	Reason for Requirement	Broad Phasing	Status
	Northampton West, North of Whitehills, Kings Heath and Norwood Farm/ Upton Lodge		2020. The timetable for construction is linked to the delivery of dwellings on the Norwood Farm Sustainable Urban Extension. The partner Councils will continue to explore options for funding to accelerate the delivery of the road.
Northampton Growth Management Scheme - Northampton	Improvements are required to the A45 between M1 J15 and the Great Billing Interchange to support growth in Northampton and to ensure access and egress onto the Strategic Road Network is managed effectively and that the safety and free flow of traffic on the A45/ M1 is maintained	Phased programme (see Appendix 4 of the JCS for details) with commencement in 2012/13	Memorandum of understanding was agreed in March 2012 and updated in January 2017. Phased programme has been reviewed following delays in the development of Northampton South and Northampton South of Brackmills SUEs. Design work on the first two junction improvements has continued in 2020, with work on the Queen Eleanor junction expected to begin in 2021.
Water Reclamation Centre – Towcester	Capacity impacts on development in Towcester beyond 2018/19	Work to extend capacity is programmed to be undertaken between 2020-25	On Track
Water Reclamation Centre – Brackley	Capacity impacts on development	Work to extend capacity is programmed to	Completed

Infrastructure Required	Reason for Requirement	Broad Phasing	Status
	in Brackley beyond 2018/19	be completed in 2020/21	
Daventry Development Link	Required to enable strategic growth at Daventry	Improvements required to be completed by 2021	Completed – opened to traffic in December 2018.
Castle Station Public Transport Interchange - Northampton	Required as a key part of modal shift measures within the town centre	Three-year project commencing 2012. Project completed December 2015	Completed
A43 Junction Improvements in South Northamptonshire	Required to enable housing and employment growth in Towcester, Silverstone and Brackley	To commence 2014	Completed – Tove junction completed in April 2015. Abthorpe junction completed in April 2017.
Towcester A5 Relief Road	Required to deliver housing and employment development at the Towcester South SUE and to enable the re-routing of HGVs and other through traffic away from the town centre.	To commence in 2018/19	Funding for the scheme has been retained in the Government's Road Investment Strategy (RIS2). Approvals are in place to enable construction to commence at the end of 2020/ early 2021. Completion expected early 2023.

3.15 2019/20 saw the completion of works to upgrade the Water Reclamation Centre in Brackley to provide the additional capacity required to accommodate planned development in the town. This means that 4 out of the 11 key primary infrastructure projects have now been completed.

3.16 Whilst the implementation of other schemes has not progressed as quickly as anticipated progress is still being made. The partner Councils have continued to work collectively and with other bodies such as Highways England to ensure that these key projects are brought forward as quickly as possible, albeit later than originally anticipated. For example, design work for the Northampton

Growth Management Scheme has progressed using funding from Highways England’s Growth and Housing Fund. Planning permission has been granted for the route of the Northampton North-West Relief Road and this will now be delivered utilising funding from Northampton Borough Council, SEMLEP and developer contributions. At Towcester, funding for the delivery of the proposed A5 relief road has been retained in the government’s Roads Investment Strategy 2 (RIS2 2020-2025). Together with developer contributions this should enable completion of the route by spring 2023.

Objective 3 – Connections

- 3.17 Objective 3 of the JCS is to: ***“To reduce the need to travel, shorten travel distances and make sustainable travel a priority across West Northamptonshire by maximising the use of alternative travel modes. In so doing, combat congestion in our main towns and town centres, reduce carbon emissions and address social exclusion for those in both rural and urban areas who do not have access to a private car.”***

Ref	Indicator	Target	Trigger	Result for 2019/20
3a	Delivery of relevant Transport Schemes to timescales set out in the Infrastructure Delivery Plan	Delivery of specific transportation schemes as set out in the IDP	Any significant potential delay in the supply of infrastructure affecting housing/ employment delivery identified in the annual monitoring of the Infrastructure Delivery Plan and NTP	See commentary below

- 3.18 For the purposes of this indicator the JAMR is concentrating on the seven transport projects which are listed as key infrastructure projects (see Table 2 above). Three of these schemes i.e. Northampton Castle Station, the Daventry Development Link, and the A43 junction improvements in South Northamptonshire have been successfully completed.

- 3.19 The implementation of the other four schemes has been subject to delays. The current position on these schemes is summarised below:

- **Northampton North-West Relief Road** - The first phase of the road east of the A428 is expected to be delivered as part of the Kings Heath SUE and the County Council will deliver the second phase which links to the A5199. Funding of £7.93m has been secured as part of SEMLEP’s Local Growth Deal and Northampton Borough Council has committed up to £4.2m towards the scheme. The remainder of the funding is expected from developers, including the Community Infrastructure Levy. A preferred route

for the road was established in October 2018 and planning permission for the route was secured in September 2020. Construction was planned to start by the end of 2020, but it is now expected that the scheme will be taken forward by West Northamptonshire Council from 2021 onwards.

- **Sandy Lane Relief Road (SLRR), Northampton** – It is expected that this road will be delivered as part of the Norwood Farm / Upton Lodge SUEs. In May 2016 a planning application was submitted for the Norwood Farm part of the SUE which includes the construction of the relief road through that part of the site. In March 2019 South Northamptonshire Council resolved to approve the planning application, subject to the completion of a S106 Agreement. The planning permission was issued by the Council in June 2020. Delivery of the road is linked to the construction of dwellings on the SUE and must be open prior to the completion of the 550th dwelling. It will also be necessary to secure the completion of a shorter section of the SLRR on the adjoining Upton Lodge SUE, which is owned by Homes England. The partner Councils continue to explore other funding options which would enable completion of the SLRR to be brought forward at the earliest opportunity.
- **Northampton Growth Management Scheme (NGMS)** – This scheme relates to a series of junction improvements on the A45 from the M1 junction 15 in the west to the Great Billing Interchange in the east. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been agreed by the partner Councils and Highways England, which sets out the mechanism for funding and delivery of the scheme and this was updated in January 2017 to take full account of the implementation of CIL by the partner Councils. The NGMS has secured in excess of £6.5 million in developer contributions to support delivery of the scheme. The implementation of the first phases of the NGMS is closely linked to the development of the Northampton South of Brackmills SUE and the Northampton South SUE. The development of both sites has been delayed following the refusal of planning applications and subsequent appeals. The partner Councils have been working closely with Highways England and have secured £4.08 m from their Growth and Housing Fund. Design work has progressed on the first junction improvements at the Queen Eleanor and Brackmills junctions. The implementation programme is currently under review, but it is hoped that work on the Queen Eleanor junction can commence in 2021.
- **Towcester A5 Relief Road** – The new road is required to deliver employment and housing development at the Towcester South SUE and is also expected to relieve traffic congestion on the A5 in Towcester town centre. The scheme is expected to be delivered as part of the Towcester South SUE. Planning permission for the development of the SUE including the construction of the relief road was granted in March 2015. Whilst the scheme will be principally funded by developer contributions, public sector funding to support the delivery has been secured through the government's Roads Investment Strategy (RIS). The funding was originally identified in RIS1 which covered the period 2015-2020, but it has been carried forward in RIS2 which covers the years 2020-2025. Together with developer funding this should enable commencement of the scheme in late 2020/early 2021, with completion in spring 2023.

Objective 4 – Protecting and Building Urban Communities

- 3.20 Objective 4 of the JCS is: ***“To ensure new development in urban areas effectively supports and links new and existing communities physically and socially, to achieve social cohesion and address the areas of deprivation identified in parts of Northampton and Daventry.”***
- 3.21 Data is not currently available for the indicator(s) relating to this objective. The partner Councils commissioned consultants to prepare an Open Space, Sport and Recreation Strategy (OSSRS) for the West Northamptonshire area. The OSSRS, proposes quantitative and qualitative standards for the provision of open space, sport and recreation facilities. These standards have been incorporated into the Part 2 Local Plans which have been adopted by Daventry District and South Northamptonshire Councils. The standards should also feature in the Northampton Local Plan Part 2 when it is adopted. In turn it is anticipated that the delivery of open space against these standards will be considered in the monitoring frameworks of the Part 2 Local Plans.

Objective 5 – Supporting Northampton Town Centre

- 3.22 Objective 5 of the JCS is: ***“To support the regeneration of Northampton's town centre by making it the focus of high-quality retail, employment, leisure and cultural development at the heart of Northamptonshire and to support the delivery of the Northampton Central Area Action Plan.”***

Ref	Indicator	Target	Trigger	Result for 2019/20
5a	Amount of new net convenience floorspace created in Northampton Town Centre	2,900m ² net convenience (food) floorspace for period 2010 - 2026	>3,000m ² net convenience floorspace permitted 2010-2026 <1,000m ² net convenience (Food) floorspace completed or under construction by 2021	Net gain of 55m ² of convenience (food) floorspace (see commentary below)
Ref	Indicator	Target	Trigger	Result for 2019/20
5b	Amount of new net comparison floorspace created in Northampton Town Centre	5,100m ² net comparison shopping floorspace for period 2010 - 2026	<2,500m ² net comparison floorspace completed or under construction by 2021	Net loss of 966m ² comparison floorspace (see commentary below)

- 3.23 Data published in JAMRs between 2010 and 2014 indicates that there was an overall net loss of 1048m² of shopping (A1 use class) floorspace in Northampton Town Centre. The monitoring data did not provide any disaggregation between comparison and convenience floorspace. Northampton Borough Council completed retail monitoring in the town centre in 2017/18 which picked up all the changes in floorspace that have occurred since 2014. This indicated a small additional loss of 151m² of shopping floorspace. A further loss of 803m² of floorspace has been recorded in 2018/19. In 2019/20 the Borough Council has supplied disaggregated data which shows a small gain in convenience for space of 55m² and a loss of 966m² of comparison floorspace. This equates to a net loss of floorspace of 911m² for 2019/20. Overall, since 2014 the data indicates a net loss of 2,913m² of shopping floorspace.
- 3.24 It is well known that the economic context within which town centre retail uses now operate is substantially more challenging than that which existed at the time that retail policies in the JCS and CAAP were developed. As such it is likely that the floorspace targets set out in these plans are overly optimistic. At that time developments such as a significant expansion of the Grosvenor Centre were expected, but this is now highly unlikely to happen. This situation has been exacerbated by the coronavirus pandemic during 2020 which has had a severe impact on the economy and town centre retail in particular.
- 3.25 The review of the JCS through the West Northamptonshire Strategic Plan will need to reconsider the planning policy approach towards retail and town centres in the light of changing economic circumstances and other changes such as the revision to the use classes and permitted development rights.

Objective 6 – Supporting Daventry Town Centre

- 3.26 Objective 6 of the JCS is: ***“To support the regeneration of Daventry town centre through planned growth and infrastructure delivery.”***

Ref	Indicator	Target	Trigger	Result for 2019/20
6a	Amount of new net convenience floorspace created in Daventry Town Centre	2,900m ² net convenience (food) floorspace for period 2010 - 2026	<1,000m ² net convenience (Food) floorspace completed or under construction by 2021	Net loss of 347 m ² * of retail floorspace. (See commentary below)
Ref	Indicator	Target	Trigger	Result for 2019/20
6b	Amount of new net comparison floorspace created in Daventry Town Centre	5,100m ² net comparison shopping floorspace for period 2010 - 2026	<2,500m ² net convenience (Food) floorspace completed or under construction by 2021	Net loss of 347 m ² * of retail floorspace. (See commentary below)

*This figure is not disaggregated and includes both convenience and comparison retail floorspace.

- 3.27 Policy D2 of the Joint Core Strategy makes provision for a minimum increase in shopping provision in Daventry Town Centre of 5,100m² net comparison (non-food) floorspace, and 2,900m² net convenience (food) floorspace to 2026. These target figures were calculated from a base date of 2010. An analysis of data published in previous monitoring reports indicates that in the period between 2010/11 and 2014/15 there was a small reduction of shopping (A1 use class) floorspace of 347m² within Daventry Town Centre. It should be noted that this data was not disaggregated between comparison and convenience floorspace.
- 3.28 In the last 5 years between 2015/16 and 2019/20 no increase in floorspace has been recorded. In March 2018 Daventry District Council granted planning permission for a mixed-use regeneration scheme on a 5.31-hectare site adjoining the town centre, known as Site 5. This permission included the provision of 4,320m² of comparison retail floorspace and 2,600m² of convenience floorspace. The developers have now concluded that the retail scheme is not viable and are not proceeding with it. A development agreement with the Council is in the process of being terminated. Given the proximity and relationship to the town centre, this part of the site is considered suitable for a range of uses. Policy EC3 of the Local Plan Part 2 allocates this site (with site 3) for the following mix of uses; Residential, Office, Hotel, Leisure, Restaurant and Health. Development of this site must be informed by a masterplan.
- 3.29 The Council is currently preparing a Town Centre Vision for 2035 which includes the site within its proposals. At present it is considered that the site is unlikely to contribute to the retail floorspace requirements however this position will need to be kept under-review as work on the Town Centre vision progresses.

Objective 7 – Supporting Towcester and Brackley Town Centres

- 3.30 Objective 7 of the JCS is: ***“To support Towcester and Brackley in their rural service centre roles to ensure their communities are self-sufficient sustainable places and the towns are the focus of services and facilities for surrounding villages.”***
- 3.31 An updated monitoring process is being developed, but data is not currently available to report on the indicators for this objective.

Objective 8 – Economic Advantage

- 3.32 Objective 8 of the JCS is: ***“To strengthen and diversify West Northamptonshire's economy by taking advantage of our internationally well-placed location, strategic transport network and proximity to London and Birmingham.”***

Ref	Indicator	Target	Trigger	Result for 2019/20
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8a	Employment land available - by type	Maintain 5-year pipeline-of prime employment land	Amount of land available falls by >15% in a rolling 5 year period against 2012 Employment Technical Paper base	See Table 3 and commentary below
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3.33 The JCS does not include any specific floorspace targets for the provision of employment land. For the purpose of this indicator the provision of additional employment floorspace is being monitored and compared against the anticipated demand for floorspace set out in the technical work underpinning the jobs target in the Joint Core Strategy. This technical work estimated demand for floorspace for the whole plan period and split this into phases. The first phase ran from 2010/11 to 2015/16 and a summary of the floorspace provided in this period is set out in Table 3 below. There has been a small net gain of B1 floorspace over this period of just over 2,000m², which is substantially below the anticipated demand figure of over 100,000m². The provision of B2 and B8 floorspace presents a more positive picture with a net gain of over 370,000m². This is however more than 100,000m² short of the anticipated demand figure.

Table 3 – Delivery of Additional Employment Floorspace in West Northamptonshire 2010/11 to 2015/16 (Phase 1)

Total Amount of Additional Employment Floorspace By Type 2010/11 – 2015/16 (square metres net)					
		B1	B2	B8	B2/B8 Combined
2010/11 – 2015/16	DDC	19065	38530	212462	
	NBC	-13814	83571	67122	
	SNC	-3197	-35248	7137	
Total		2054	86853	286721	373574
Demand		108623			477366
Difference		-106569			-103792

Source: West Northants JPU

3.34 2019/20 is the fourth year of the phase 2 period from 2016 to 2021 against which the delivery of employment land is being monitored compared to the demand for floorspace anticipated in the Joint Core Strategy. Table 4 below sets out the data that is available for this period. Unfortunately, no data is available for South Northamptonshire Council and as such it is not possible to draw firm conclusions at this stage. For 2019/20 a new column entitled Mixed B Uses has been added to the table. This reflects the fact that two large schemes have been implemented in Daventry and Northampton where the floorspace can be used flexibly between B1(c), B2 and B8. What can be seen is that the provision of B1 floorspace remains below the demand figure that was

anticipated and is following a similar pattern to that experienced in the phase 1 monitoring (see Table 3 above). On a more positive note the provision of additional B2 and B8 floorspace including Mixed B uses, particularly in Daventry District continues to exceed the anticipated demand for combined B2/B8 floorspace. This contrasts markedly with the shortfall reported in the phase 1 monitoring.

Table 4 – Delivery of Additional Employment Floorspace in West Northamptonshire 2016 to 2021 (Phase 2)

Total Amount of Additional Employment Floorspace by Type 2016-2021 (Square metres net)						
		B1	B2	B8	Mixed B Uses	B2/B8 and Mixed B combined
2016/17	DDC	4,090	26,358	41,663		68,021
	NBC					0
	SNC**					0
2017/18	DDC	209	16,720	58,929		75,649
	NBC*	-7,268	-8,020	0		-8,020
	SNC**					0
2018/19	DDC	0	2,280	0		2,280
	NBC	-7201	-22,567	6,558		-16009
	SNC**					
2019/20	DDC	576	0	0	10,185	10,185
	NBC	-5032	-678	-496	39,590	38,416
	SNC**					
Total		-14,626	14,093	106,654		170,522
Estimated Demand 2016-21		69,476	-33,425	109,726		76,301
Difference		-84,102	47,518	3,072		94,221

* Data for NBC covers both 2016/17 and 2017/18 ** No data available for SNC

Ref	Indicator	Target	Trigger	Result for 2019/20
8c	Net job growth to 2029	28,000 net additional jobs by 2029 (over 2008 base)	<2,000 net additional jobs by 2016 <10,000 net additional jobs by 2021 >10,000 net jobs by 2016	As at 2019 approximately 19,500 net additional jobs have been created. (see Table 4 below for detailed figures)

3.35 The data in Table 5 below shows that West Northamptonshire now provides significantly more employee jobs than prior to the recession in 2008 (+19,500).

All the constituent partner authorities are now showing gains in employment compared to the data in 2008 – i.e. the last information officially reported in the evidence base for the West Northamptonshire JCS. However, the 2019 data is showing an overall fall of 3,000 in the number of jobs in West Northamptonshire compared to 2018. This is the first fall in the number of jobs since 2012. Whilst the overall net gain of 19,500 jobs indicates that the West Northamptonshire area is still on track to deliver the overall target of 28,000 additional jobs by 2029 it must be recognised that the impact of the coronavirus pandemic will result in further job losses. This trend will need to be closely monitored and the need for economic recovery will be a key issue for the review of the Joint Core Strategy to address.

Table 5 - Change in Jobs Numbers 2008 to 2019

	Daventry District	Northampton Borough	South Northamptonshire	West Northamptonshire
2008	38,500	125,000	29,000	192,500
2009	35,000	120,500	28,500	184,000
2010	34,500	122,500	28,500	185,500
2011	35,500	122,500	28,500	186,500
2012	34,000	121,500	28,500	184,000
2013	35,500	123,000	29,000	187,500
2014	35,500	125,000	31,000	191,500
2015	38,000	124,000	33,000	195,000
2016	40,500	128,000	33,000	201,500
2017	42,000	136,500	34,500	213,000
2018	43,000	135,500	36,500	215,000
2019	42,500	134,500	35,000	212,000
Change 2008 - 2019	+4,000	+9,500	+6,000	+19,500

Source: ONS – Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES)

- 3.36 Further analysis has been undertaken of the BRES data to identify those sectors where changes in job numbers are occurring. The table below lists those sectors where the number of jobs either increased or decreased by 500 or more between 2018 and 19. Each of the local authorities have seen a significant growth in the number of jobs in the professional scientific sector and Northampton has seen a large increase (+2500) in the transport and storage sector. Job losses have occurred in business administration and support

services in all three council areas. In Northampton it is notable 9 out of the 18 sectors covered by the BRES data have seen a reduction in job numbers of 500 or more.

Table 6 – Change in Jobs by Sector between 2018 and 2019

Sectors showing an increase in jobs of 500 or more between 2018 and 2019		
Daventry	Northampton	South Northamptonshire
Professional, scientific & technical (M)	Transport & storage (inc postal) (H) Financial & insurance (K) Professional, scientific & technical (M)	Professional, scientific & technical (M)
Sectors showing a decrease in jobs of 500 or more between 2018 and 2019		
Daventry	Northampton	South Northamptonshire
Business administration & support services (N) Health (Q)	Manufacturing (C) Motor trades (Part G) Wholesale (Part G) Accommodation & food services (I) Information & communication (J) Business administration & support services (N) Education (P) Health (Q) Arts, entertainment, recreation & other services (R, S, T and U)	Information & communication (J) Business administration & support services (N) Arts, entertainment, recreation & other services (R, S, T and U)

Source: ONS – Business Register and Employment Survey

Ref	Indicator	Target	Trigger	Result for 2019/20
8d	On track to deliver jobs at Towcester South SUE	Minimum of 10.8 ha employment land by 2029	No employment land delivered by 2021	Delivery of the employment land not expected to commence in 2021, but still expected to be delivered by 2029. (See commentary below)

- 3.37 South Northamptonshire Council granted outline planning permission for the development of the Towcester South SUE in March 2015. This permission includes the provision of 15.4 hectares of employment land, of which 10.8 hectares is expected to be delivered by 2029. It should be noted that in accordance with the accompanying legal agreement, the delivery of employment land was dependent on the prior implementation of the Towcester Relief Road, which was granted reserved matters approval in February 2020. As such, whilst the delivery of employment land will not be achievable prior to the trigger date of 2021, it is expected and reasonable to assume that this target will be achieved. The phasing plan submitted with the application indicates that all the employment land would be developed by the end of phase 4 of the development, prior to the 2029 target.

Ref	Indicator	Target	Trigger	Result for 2019/20
8e	Office provision of 100,000m ² in Northampton Central Area	100,000m ² over plan period	<5,000m ² by 2016 <50,000m ² by 2021	3,035m ² net additional floorspace (see commentary and Table 7 below)

- 3.38 The target for office provision in this indicator is a net figure of office floorspace provided from a base date of 2011 within the Northampton Central area as defined in the Northampton Central Area Action Plan (CAAP). Sites identified in the CAAP have the capacity to provide up to 132,500m² of office development. Table 7 below provides a summary of the provision of office floorspace between 2011 and 2020. Monitoring indicates that between 2011 and 2016 25,946m² of office floorspace was provided in the central area. However, when losses of floorspace are considered then the net provision is 12,274m². Key developments contributing to the increase in office floorspace included the University of Northampton's Innovation Centre and the new County Council offices at Angel Square.

- 3.39 Monitoring for the period 2016/17 to 18/19 indicated that no new floorspace has been created in the Central Area, and just over 7,500m² has been lost to other uses. This trend has continued in 2019/20 with a further net loss of 2,205m² of office floorspace, such that the overall net gain since 2011 has been reduced to 3,035m². The ongoing trend in the loss of office floorspace to the other uses, particularly residential, means that the target of a net increase of 100,000m² in

office floorspace is highly unlikely to be achieved by the end of the plan period. Furthermore, the future demand for office floorspace is likely to be adversely affected by the impact of the coronavirus pandemic.

Table 7 – Provision of Office Floorspace in Northampton Central Area

Provision of Office Floorspace in Northampton Central Area 2011-20		
	Gross (m ²)	Net (m ²)
2011/12-2015/16	25,946	12,740
2016/17-2018/19	0	-7,500
2019/20	159	-2,205
Total 2011-2020	26,105	3,035

Source: Northampton Borough Council – Planning Policy Team

Objective 9 – Specialist Business Development

- 3.40 Objective 9 of the JCS is: ***“To support and develop opportunities for specialist employment clusters and business development focused on a low carbon economy.”***

Ref	Indicator	Target	Trigger	Result for 2018/19
9b	Delivery of Technology Realm at SEMLEP Northampton Waterside Enterprise Zone	Development of Enterprise Zone in accordance with SEMLEP proposed timescale	Use of SEMLEP triggers	On track (see table 5 below)

- 3.41 The Northampton Waterside Enterprise Zone (EZ) covers 120 hectares of land earmarked for economic development across 31 sites along the River Nene. Since its establishment the EZ has been successful in creating new employment opportunities and securing substantial public and private sector investment. As at 31st March 2020 over 6300 jobs have been provided within the EZ, which indicates that the EZ is making a significant contribution to the overall net gain in jobs across the Borough Council area. The EZ has attracted over £85 million in public capital investment, which has in turn levered in over £447 million in private capital investment. Table 8 below sets out a summary of the EZ's performance against a number of key measurements.

Table 8 – Northampton Waterside Enterprise Zone – Key Measurements

Measurement	2019/20	Total 2012-2020
Number of new employment positions filled within the EZ (including construction jobs)	73	6364
Number of new enterprises on the EZ	8	84
Public sector capital investment into the EZ (gross, in £s)	3,493,288	85,063,168
Private sector capital investment into the EZ (gross, in £s)	500,000	447,482,102

Source: Northampton Borough Council: Regeneration Team

Objective 10 – Educational Attainment

- 3.42 Objective 10 of is: ***“To raise educational achievement and the skills base of our communities through supporting the development of West Northamptonshire's learning infrastructure and strengthening the link between local businesses and local schools, Moulton and Northampton Colleges, the University of Northampton and Daventry and Silverstone University Technology Colleges.”***

Ref	Indicator	Target	Trigger	Result for 2019/20
10a	Number of new schools built	As specified in specific SUE policies	School not provided in accordance with relevant SUE policy	On track – see commentary below

- 3.43 The Joint Planning Unit and the partner Councils work closely with Northamptonshire County Council to ensure that education provision matches the growth that is anticipated in the Joint Core Strategy. Detailed information on the planned provision of schools is set out in the West Northamptonshire Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) which is updated annually in consultation with the County Council. The IDP in turn reflects the County Council's strategy for the provision of school places as set out in their School Organisational Plan.

- 3.44 During 2019/20 the following schemes have been removed from the IDP schedule:

- E41 – Northampton NRDA: New three form entry Primary School in Collingtree. (Wave 11 Free School: Approved)
- E43 – Daventry district (Moulton): New two form entry Primary School at Moulton (Wave 11 Free School: Approved)

These schemes have been removed from the IDP following the decision by the DFE to withdraw its support for them under the Free School process. It is expected that sufficient capacity will be provided through existing and other new and expanded schools to meet the demand for places, however this will be kept under review. Further expansion may be required during the plan period and this will be monitored to ensure future projects and funding sources are identified as required.

3.45 Whilst no new schools were opened in 2019/20, work is ongoing to ensure that new schools are provided to meet the demand arising from planned growth. For example, plans are being advanced via the EFSA Free School Programme to bring forward a new secondary school to the north of Northampton to meet the demand generated by growth in the Moulton/Overstone area. This school will accommodate 1500 pupils and has a proposed opening date of September 2023.

Ref	Indicator	Target	Trigger	Result for 2019/20
10b	Investment secured for educational facilities through developer contributions	Budgeting developed as part of the 'Schedule of required infrastructure' presented in West Northamptonshire IDP and in the future through Partner authority regulation 123 lists for CIL spending; or through site specific S106 agreements	No finances or insufficient finances accrued through either Reg 123 CIL or S106 arrangements	See commentary below

3.46 The IDP and the County Council’s School Organisation Plan set out the proposals for additional school places, including the provision of new schools, to meet the demand which will arise from the development proposed in the JCS. The latest estimate of the cost of providing the new education infrastructure that is required is around £301 million. There are a number of funding sources to help meet this cost, but a key funding stream is generated from developer contributions. These contributions have traditionally been secured by Section 106 (S106) agreements. Whilst this will continue, the partner Councils have also introduced the Community Infrastructure Levy which is expected to provide a further source of funding for secondary education provision.

3.47 The County Council has published an Infrastructure Funding Statement (IFS) which reports on developer contributions received, spent and allocated in

2019/20 in respect of education, libraries and fire and rescue. During 2019/20 the County Council received in excess of £18.1 million in S106 income for education related to developments in Northamptonshire, of which approximately £13.2 was from developments in West Northamptonshire. Further information is available via the [County Council Website](#).

Objective 11 – Housing

- 3.48 Objective 11 of the JCS is: ***“To provide a range of housing in sustainable locations to ensure all residents have access to a home that they can afford and that meets their needs. Housing development will be focused at the most sustainable location of Northampton, supported by Daventry and Towcester and Brackley in their roles as rural service centres with limited development in the rural areas to provide for local needs and support local services.”***

Ref	Indicator	Target	Trigger	Result for 2019/20
11a	Density of new dwellings with planning permission on Sustainable Urban Extension Sites	Minimum average density of 35dph on SUE sites set out in Policy H1	Masterplan proposes <35dph on SUE Planning Application (or subsequent amendment applications) results in <35dph on SUE	In broad terms average densities shown on masterplans are at or near 35 dph. (see detailed analysis in Table 9 below)

- 3.49 Policy H1 adopts a design led approach to determine densities on a site by site basis having regard to the need to secure efficient use of land and the particular characteristics of the site and the surrounding area. Notwithstanding the design led approach there is an expectation that development of the allocated SUEs would achieve average net densities of 35 dwellings per hectare.
- 3.50 Table 9 below details the average densities shown in masterplans for those SUEs where planning permission has been granted. In general terms the densities which are being achieved on approved masterplans are consistent with the expectations of Policy H1, and it is recognised that it is ultimately good design that should determine the appropriate densities for a particular site.

Table 9 – Density of New Dwellings on Sustainable Urban Extension Sites

SUE name	Number of Dwellings	Density – dwellings/ hectare	Comments
Brackley North (Radstone Fields)	1000	37 dph	The Brackley North SUE has come forward as three separate planning applications. Taking the site as a whole the average density is 37dph
Brackley North (Foxhills)	180	45 dph	
Brackley North (Sawmills)	139	31 dph	
Brackley East	350	35 dph	
Northampton Kings Heath	3000	35 dph	
Northampton North	2000	30-32 dph	
Northampton North of Whitehills – Phase 1	376	33 dph	
Northampton North of Whitehills –Phase 2A and 2B	380	36.5 dph	
Northampton South	1000	33 dph	
Northampton South of Brackmills	1000	31-35 dph	
Northampton Upton Park	1000	25-30 up to 55-60	The outline application tests a range of low, medium and high densities. The final density will be determined through the approval of reserved matters.
Northampton Norwood Farm	1900	35dph	
Towcester South	2750	33 dph	
Towcester South (Wood Burcote Court)	210	21 dph	The low density for this part of the SUE reflects the high landscape sensitivity of the Wood Burcote area and the need to retain the existing parkland character of the site.

Ref	Indicator	Target	Trigger	Result for 2019/20
11b	Plan Period Housing Targets (as set out in the housing trajectory)	Delivery of a 5-year land supply against the NEED provisions set out in Appendix 3, Policies S3 and S6	Dwelling delivery +/- 25% difference against trajectory on a rolling 3-year basis. (Applications and completions)	As at 31.3.20: Daventry = 6.9 NRDA = 2.56 South Northamptonshire = 8.26 Dwelling delivery against trajectory on a rolling three-year basis: -31%

- 3.51 The partner Councils each publish five-year housing land supply reports for their areas on at least an annual basis. It should be noted that the reports published by Daventry District and South Northamptonshire exclude those parts of their Districts which fall within the Northampton Related Development Area. (NRDA). The report published by Northampton Borough Council is for the whole of the NRDA.
- 3.52 As at 31st March 2020 both Daventry District and South Northamptonshire are able to demonstrate a land supply in excess of 5 years, i.e. 6.9 years for Daventry and 8.26 years for South Northamptonshire. However, the land supply position in the NRDA is below 5 years with the assessment produced by Northampton Borough Council indicating a supply of 2.56 years, which is lower than the previous year which was 2.75 years. The partner Councils continue to work together to bring forward the sites that are allocated in the NRDA and the Borough Council is progressing the Part 2 Local Plan which identifies additional housing allocations to help address the 5-year land supply shortfall.
- 3.53 In 2018 the government introduced the Housing Delivery Test which is an annual measurement of housing delivery in the areas of relevant plan-making authorities. The results for the West Northamptonshire authorities are set out in Table 10 below. All three authorities have passed the test and delivered more housing than expected by the methodology underpinning the test. As a consequence, there is no requirement for the authorities to prepare a Housing Delivery Action Plan at this stage.

Table 10 – West Northamptonshire – Housing Delivery Test – 2020 Results

Area name	Total number of homes required 2017-2020	Total number of homes delivered 2017-2020	Housing Delivery Test: 2020 measurement	Housing Delivery Test: 2020 consequence
Daventry	1,927	2,199	114%	None
Northampton	2,105	2,115	100%	None
South Northamptonshire	1,760	2,077	118%	None

Source:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/953303/HDT_2020.ods

- 3.54 Table 11 summarises the proposed housing trajectory to meet the housing need targets set out in the Joint Core Strategy. This trajectory requires a significant increase in dwelling delivery from a low point of 840 dwellings in 2012/13 to a high point of 3,349 dwellings in 2019/20. Actual dwelling delivery in 2019/20 fell significantly 1,617 dwellings which is over 1,700 dwellings below the need target set out in the JCS trajectory.
- 3.55 The Joint Core Strategy Monitoring Framework includes a trigger for dwelling delivery of +/- 25% difference against the trajectory on a rolling 3-year basis at which point a number of contingency actions will be considered. Looking back over the three-year period from 2017/18 to 2019/20 the adopted trajectory anticipated the delivery of 9372 dwellings. Actual delivery during this period equates to 6427 dwellings which represents a shortfall of 2945 dwellings or 31%, which is above the 25% trigger. If the shortfall from previous years is taken into account, then the shortfall increases to 41.5%. Dwelling delivery in the Northampton Related Development Areas remains the key challenge. It should be noted that the partner Councils are preparing a new Strategic Plan for West Northamptonshire which will review and replace strategic policies in the Joint Core Strategy. One of the reasons for preparing the new Plan is to address issues around housing delivery against the targets in the Core Strategy.

Table 11 - West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy – Actual and Proposed Housing Delivery against Need⁴

Year	Trajectory Need (Dwellings)	Delivery Actual/ planned (Dwellings)	Difference delivery against Trajectory Need	
2011/12	872	872	0	Shaded area represents Actual Delivery
2012/13	840	840	0	
2013/14	1,434	1,432	-2	
2014/15	1,864	1,599	-265	
2015/16	2,239	1,831	-408	
2016/17	2,593	2,326	-267	
2017/18	2,928	2,562	-366	
2018/19	3,095	2,248	-847	
2019/20	3,349	1,617	-1732	
2020/21	3,112	3,052	-60	
2021/22	2,931	3,379	448	
2022/23	2,924	3,394	470	
2023/24	2,656	3,179	523	
2024/25	2,511	2,945	434	
2025/26	2,276	2,786	510	
2026/27	2,216	2,509	293	
2027/28	2,031	2,229	198	
2028/29	1,905	1,928	23	
Total	41,776	40,728	-1,048	

Source: WNJPU 2020

3.56 To provide some context for housing delivery Table 12 below shows the net additional dwelling provision across West Northamptonshire on an annual basis since 2001/2. Between 2013 and 2018 there were 5 consecutive years in dwelling delivery increased. However, the last two years have seen a decrease in completions. In 2019/20 the number of net additional dwellings fell by 631 to 1,617 dwellings. This is a fall of over 24% compared to 2018/19. Dwelling delivery fell slightly in the NRDA, and more significantly in both DDC and SNC. Despite the fall in completions in DDC and SNC the figures are still above the trajectory for these areas set out in the JCS. Delivery in the NRDA however remains well below the expected trajectory.

⁴ Two adjustments have been made to the figures published in the 2018/19 JAMR. The 2017/18 completion figure has been reduced from 2566 to 2562 and the 2018/19 completion figure has been increased from 2170 to 2248 to correct reporting errors.

Table 12 – Net Additional Dwelling Provision in West Northamptonshire 2001/02 – 2019/20⁵

Indicator	Net Additional Dwellings in Previous Years and Net Additional Dwellings in Monitoring Year (2019/20)			
	Daventry District (excluding NRDA)	Northampton Related Development Area (NRDA)	South Northamptonshire (Excluding NRDA)	West Northamptonshire Total
2001/02	417	1,084	498	1,999
2002/03	435	1,208	366	2,009
2003/04	266	1,009	175	1,450
2004/05	247	1,623	325	2,195
2005/06	360	1,626	238	2,224
2006/07	295	1,824	235	2,354
2007/08	319	1,020	211	1,550
2008/09	183	707	220	1,110
2009/10	174	348	258	780
2010/11	158	323	206	687
2011/12	145	423	304	872
2012/13	98	516	226	840
2013/14	265	834	333	1,432
2014/15	379	877	343	1,599
2015/16	483	883	465	1,831
2016/17	563	1174	589	2,326
2017/18	644	1086	832	2,562
2018/19	668	794	786	2,248
2019/20	416	742	459	1,617
Difference 2018/19 and 19/20	-252	-52	-327	-631
% Change	-37.72	-4.79	-41.60	-24.63

Source: WNJPU 2020

⁵ Two adjustments have been made to the figures published in the 2018/19 JAMR. The 2017/18 completion figure for DDC has been reduced from 648 to 644 and the 2018/19 completion figure for the NRDA has been increased from 716 to 794 to correct reporting errors.

Ref	Indicator	Target	Trigger	Result for 2019/20
11d	New and Converted Dwellings on Previously Developed Land	30% Target for completions on Previously Developed Land (from JCS Policy S1)	Dwelling delivery on PDL +/- 25% difference against trajectory on a rolling 3-year basis.	33.8% of new dwellings constructed on PDL

- 3.57 Policy S1 of the JCS supports the best use of previously developed land in urban and other sustainable locations and sets an overall target of 30% of new dwelling completions to be delivered on PDL. As can be seen from Table 13 33.8% of the dwellings delivered in West Northamptonshire during 2019/20 were on PDL which is just above the 30%. There is a marked variation across the local authority areas, with Northampton achieving over 52%, whilst South Northamptonshire and Daventry are both below the target at just over 20%. The relatively low figure for Daventry reflects the completions that are taking place on allocated sites in the Northampton Related Development Area, together with continuing completions on greenfield sites on the edge of villages in the district. In South Northamptonshire, there has been significant development on the allocated Sustainable Urban Extensions in Brackley and Towcester.
- 3.58 Whilst the level of development on PDL during 2019/20 in Northampton Borough remains above the JCS target, it is anticipated that this will reduce over time as the new Sustainable Urban Extension allocations in the JCS which are largely on greenfield land (essential to support delivery of the housing requirement) increase their delivery. However, the JCS policy will continue to support the development of brownfield land, in the most sustainable urban locations, to ensure developable and deliverable sites are brought forward wherever possible.

Table 13 - New and converted dwellings (gross) on Previously Developed Land

Indicator:	New and converted dwellings (gross) on Previously Developed Land (PDL) 2019/20		
	Total Dwellings (Gross)	Total Dwellings on PDL (Gross)	% on PDL
Daventry District	424	88	20.8%
Northampton Borough	606	320	52.8%
South Northamptonshire	459	96	20.9%
West Northamptonshire Total	1489	504	33.8%

Source: WNJPU 2020

Ref	Indicator	Target	Trigger	Result for 2019/20
11e	Net Additional Pitches - Gypsy and Traveller	Detailed breakdown on Transit / Residential / Travelling Showpeople pitch requirements in JCS Policy H6	Policy H7 targets to be achieved by 2029	Northampton Borough = 0 pitches (Targets no longer apply for Daventry District and South Northamptonshire)

3.59 Policy H6 of the JCS sets out the residential pitch requirements for Gypsies and Travellers between 2012 and 2029. This requirement is broken down into five-year phases. In the first five years from 2012 to 2017 it was expected that 8 additional pitches should be provided in Daventry District, 17 in Northampton Borough, and 6 in South Northamptonshire. During this first five-year period 3 additional pitches have been provided in Daventry District, 3 in South Northamptonshire, but none in Northampton Borough. The targets set for the first five years in the Joint Core Strategy have therefore not been met.

3.60 The targets for the second five-year period from 2017-2022 are 5 pitches in Daventry District, 7 in Northampton Borough and 6 in South Northamptonshire. In 2017/18 1 additional pitch was provided in Daventry District bringing the total to 4 pitches since 2012. In 2018/19 two additional pitches were provided in South Northamptonshire bringing the total to 5 pitches since 2012. No additional pitches have been provided in Northampton Borough. No additional pitches were provided in 2019/20

3.61 It should be noted however that the evidence base in respect of the need for Travellers' accommodation has been reviewed by the partner Councils. This follows a change to the planning definition of Gypsies and Travellers as set out

in the Government's Planning Policy for Traveller Sites which was updated in August 2015. The updated West Northamptonshire Travellers' Accommodation Needs Study was published in January 2017⁶. This identifies much lower pitch requirements than those identified in Policy H6 of the JCS. For Daventry and South Northamptonshire, the targets in Policy H6 have been superseded by the adoption of their Part 2 Local Plans in February and July 2020 respectively.

Ref	Indicator	Target	Trigger	Result for 2019/20
11f	Gross Affordable Housing Completions	JCS affordable housing targets, Policy H2: 25% in the town of Daventry, 40% in Rural Areas within Daventry District 35% in Northampton Related Development Area 40% in the towns of Towcester and Brackley 50% in Rural Areas within South Northamptonshire	Daventry Town <20% Daventry Rural Areas <35% Northampton (NRDA) <30% Towcester and Brackley <35% South Northamptonshire Rural Areas <45% All percentages determined on a rolling 3-year basis – permissions and completions	See tables 14 and 15 and the commentary below.

- 3.62 The 2019/20 JAMR is the fifth full year of monitoring since the adoption of the JCS and the analysis of affordable housing data covers the rolling three-year period from 2017 to 2020 in accordance with the JCS monitoring framework.
- 3.63 Table 14 below provides information on the number of affordable dwellings completed. This shows that over the three-year period 1372 affordable dwellings have been completed across West Northamptonshire as a whole. 597 of these homes have been delivered in the NRDA, with Daventry District and South Northamptonshire having completions of 375 and 400 dwellings respectively. Despite the overall fall in housing completions between 2018/19 and 2019/20 the delivery of affordable dwellings increased slightly from 451 to 460, with a particularly significant increase of 140 dwellings in the NRDA.

⁶ [West Northamptonshire Travellers Accommodation Needs Study \(January 2017\)](#)

Table 14 – Gross Affordable Housing Completions 2017-20

Indicator:	Gross Affordable Housing Completions 2017-20			
	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	Total 17-20
Daventry District*	97	186	82	375
Northampton Related Development Area	209	124	264	597
South Northamptonshire*	155	131	114	400
West Northamptonshire	461	451	460	1372

Source: WNJPU 2020

- 3.64 Policy H2 requires affordable housing to be provided as a proportion of the total number of dwellings to be delivered on individual sites above the site size thresholds set out in the policy. In the Northampton Related Development Area, the threshold is 15 or more dwellings, whereas the threshold is 5 or more dwellings for Daventry District and South Northamptonshire. The percentage targets that apply can be seen in the table above (Indicator 11f). It should be noted that in all cases the percentage requirements are subject to the assessment of viability on a site by site basis.
- 3.65 In terms of dwellings permitted during the period 2017-20 the permissions granted in the Northampton Related Development Area should deliver 23.25%. This remains below the 35% target in policy H2. Whilst many of the schemes granted permission will deliver the full 35% set out in the policy, the overall percentage is reduced by those cases where the amount of affordable housing has been reduced on viability grounds. For example, during this period permissions, including reserved matters approval have been granted on Sustainable Urban Extensions, including Northampton South and Northampton Upton Park, where a reduced rate of affordable housing has been agreed on viability grounds.
- 3.66 In Daventry District overall permissions granted in the period 2017-20 should deliver 30.7% affordable housing. In Daventry town the permissions granted should deliver 42.7% affordable housing which is in excess of the target of 25% in Policy H2. The main reason for this is the development of two bespoke schemes which deliver very high levels of affordable housing. An analysis of the permissions granted in the rural area indicates that these will deliver 32.3% which is below the target of 40%. Four permissions were granted in the rural area of Daventry in 2019/20, two of which will deliver 40% affordable. However, one of the permissions included care units from which affordable housing was not sought. The other permission relates to a scheme in Weedon which was based on the level of housing need (market and affordable) in a local housing needs survey in accordance with Part 2 Local Plan Policy RA1. In this case the

local need survey indicated a slightly lower requirement for affordable housing than the target in Policy H2.

- 3.67 In South Northamptonshire overall permissions granted in the period 2017-20 equate to only 19.12% affordable housing. This is a slight increase on the figure reported for 2016-19. Permissions granted in the rural area are expected to deliver 50% affordable housing which meets the 50% target in Policy H2. In Brackley and Towcester permissions granted should deliver 16.3% affordable housing which is below the 40% target in Policy H2. As noted in previous JAMRs the key reason for this is viability, for example the 2019/20 data includes an approval of reserved matters application on part of the Towcester South SUE where a 10% requirement for affordable housing was agreed on the outline permission on the grounds of viability. It should be noted that amongst other items of infrastructure the Towcester South SUE is expected to deliver to Towcester Southern Relief Road, which will help reduce traffic on the A5 in the centre of Towcester.
- 3.68 Figures are also provided for the percentage of dwellings completed between 2016 and 2019. Whilst the percentages are lower than the targets set out in Policy H2 in Daventry and South Northamptonshire just over 35% of completions in the NRDA have been affordable which is just above the 35% target in Policy H2. This reflects, in part, a reduction in the proportion of completions which relate to schemes granted permission prior to the adoption of the Joint Core Strategy when the policy targets for affordable housing were lower.

Table 15 – Affordable Housing Provision 2017-2020

Indicator: Affordable Housing Provision in 2017-20 as a percentage of completions and permissions	% of dwellings permitted on sites above the threshold that are affordable	% of dwellings completed on sites above the threshold that are affordable
Daventry*	30.71%	25.67%
Northampton Related Development Area	23.25%	35.80%
South Northamptonshire*	19.12%	25.66%

Source: WNJPU 2020

Objective 12 – Protecting and Supporting Rural Communities

- 3.69 Objective 12 of the JCS is: **“To protect and support rural communities to ensure they thrive and remain vital.”**

Ref	Indicator	Target	Trigger	Result for 2019/20
12b	Permissions and Completions granted for Rural Exception Sites	No specific target in JCS Policy H3	>40% rural exception sites include an element of market housing in a rolling 3-year period or The proportion of market housing on any individual rural housing exception sites exceeds 25%	No applications determined for rural exception sites in 2019/20

- 3.70 During 2019/20 there were no planning applications determined in respect of rural exceptions sites as defined by Policy H3 of the JCS. Two applications in South Northamptonshire at Hackleton and Paulerspury are expected to feature in the monitoring for 2020/21.

Objective 13 – Rural Diversification

- 3.71 Objective 13 of the JCS is: ***“To support rural diversification and rural employment opportunities, in particular those related to agriculture, horticulture and forestry.”***
- 3.72 Data is not currently available to report on the indicators for this objective.

Objective 14 – Green Infrastructure

- 3.73 Objective 14 of the JCS is: ***“To protect natural species present in West Northamptonshire and enhance the existing strategic green infrastructure network, including biodiversity corridors, by incorporating and designing these into Sustainable Urban Extensions (SUEs) at Northampton, Daventry, Towcester and Brackley.”***

Ref	Indicator	Target	Trigger	Result for 2019/20
14a	Change in Areas of Biodiversity Importance	Monitor change in numbers/area	A decrease in designated areas on a rolling 3-year basis	A net gain of 48.7 ha – see Table 16 below

- 3.74 The total land area designated as Local Wildlife Sites across West Northamptonshire in 2019/20 has increased by 48.7 hectares compared to

2017/18. There have been net gains within all three Council areas. Overall, the net gain in areas of biodiversity is a positive result and a further improvement on the net gain of 12.2 hectares which was reported for 2018/19. The Wildlife Trust continue to actively seek opportunities to secure funding to bring new sites up to the standard required for listing as Local Wildlife Sites to ensure the landscape, flora and fauna of existing and potential wildlife sites are protected and enhanced. This supports the designation of new sites and expansion of areas already protected. Protecting and further enhancing these important natural assets forms a key component of the Joint Core Strategy; and this indicator will continue to be monitored as part of the adopted JCS Monitoring Framework.

Table 16 - Change in Areas of Biodiversity Importance

Indicator	Change in Areas of Biodiversity Importance 2019/20 in Hectares (Ha)					
	Biodiversity Area	Number of Sites 2019/20	Total Area of Biodiversity Importance 2019/20(Ha)	Change in Area since 2017/18	Total Area of Biodiversity Importance 17/18	Total Area of Biodiversity Importance 18/19
Daventry District	Local Wildlife Sites	183	1598.71	3.18	1595.53	1595.21
Northampton Borough	Local Wildlife Sites	46	413.25	1.91	411.34	411.34
South Northants	Local Wildlife Sites	163	2461.65	43.61	2418.04	2433.41
West Northants Total	Local Wildlife Sites	392	4473.61	48.70	4424.91	4439.96

Source: Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire

Ref	Indicator	Target	Trigger	Result for 2019/20
14b	Development designed to take account of bird sightlines within 250 m of the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA Boundary	All development in 250m zone to show no negative impact on bird sightlines	Review all consents within designated 250m zone and the protection area	No new applications approved.

3.75 The Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) has been designated as a European Special Protection Area (SPA) because of

its international importance as a wetland habitat for non-breeding water birds. Policy BN4 of the JCS seeks to ensure that new development will not have any significant adverse impact on the SPA. In order to protect sightlines for birds, new development within a 250m zone of the SPA must demonstrate that it will not have a significant adverse impact on birds using the SPA, or if directly adjacent to existing buildings should reflect surrounding building heights.

- 3.76 During 2019/20 no new planning permissions were granted within the 250m zone.

Objective 15 – High Quality Design

- 3.77 Objective 15 of the JCS is: **“To achieve high quality design in both rural and urban areas that takes account of local character and heritage and provides a safe, healthy and attractive place for residents, visitors and businesses.”**
- 3.78 Data is not currently available to report on the indicators for this objective.

Objective 16 – Heritage

- 3.79 Objective 16 of the JCS is: **“To conserve and where possible enhance, through carefully managed change, the heritage assets and their settings of West Northamptonshire, and to recognise their role in providing a sense of place and local distinctiveness.”**

Ref	Indicator	Target	Trigger	Result for 2019/20
16a	Number of Conservation Areas, and Percentage of Conservation Areas with an up to date character appraisal	Each conservation area to be re-appraised every 5 years	<75% Conservation Areas reviewed in any 5-year period	55%

- 3.80 Conservation Areas are designated because they have special architectural or historic interest, the character of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance. Across West Northamptonshire a total of 114 conservation areas have been designated as at 31.10.20, the majority of which (62) are in South Northamptonshire. Guidance published by Historic England⁷ highlights the benefits of producing character appraisals prior to designation and encourages regular review, although the guidance no longer refers to a specific 5-year period.
- 3.81 Table 17 below shows that most conservation areas in West Northamptonshire (91%) have character appraisals, with South Northamptonshire and Northampton Borough achieving 100% coverage. Daventry District Council have a programme in place to undertake appraisals of existing conservation

⁷ [Historic England \(Feb 2016\) Conservation Area Designation, Appraisal and Management](#)

areas and designate new areas and it is anticipated that the number of appraisals undertaken within the last 5 years will increase as the programme progresses. 60 (53%) of the Conservation Areas have been reviewed within the last 5 years, which represents a slight fall from 55% 2018/19. Whilst additional appraisals which have been undertaken by Daventry District and Northampton Borough in 2019/20, several appraisals undertaken in 2014 by South Northamptonshire are now over 5 years old which brings the percentage down. South Northamptonshire's track record is still impressive given that all 62 of their Conservation Areas have been reviewed since 2012. The Council has also reviewed over 30 villages in the last 5 years to determine whether they are worthy of a conservation area and two new designations have been made.

Table 17 – Conservation Areas in West Northamptonshire 2019/20

	Total number of Conservation Areas	Number and % of Character Appraisals	Number and % of Character Appraisals reviewed in the last 5 years
Daventry	31	21 (68%)	18 (58%)
Northampton	21	21 (100%)	7 (33%)
South Northamptonshire	62	62 (100%)	35 (56%)
West Northamptonshire	114	104 (91%)	60 (53%)

Source: WNJPU as at 31.10.20

Ref	Indicator	Target	Trigger	Result for 2019/20
16b	Percentage of designated heritage assets At Risk	Decrease in the percentage from the 2011 baseline of the English Heritage 'At Risk' Register	Increase in percentage of heritage assets at risk over a rolling 3-year period, from a 2011 base (where available) or since monitoring commenced	See Table 12 and commentary below

- 3.82 The best available consistent data set regarding the condition of heritage assets in the West Northamptonshire area relates to the number and percentage of Grade I and Grade II* listed buildings which are identified as

being 'at risk' in Historic England's Heritage at Risk Register. Grade I buildings are of outstanding interest and Grade II* buildings are particularly important buildings of more than special interest; together they amount to 8% of all listed buildings nationally.

- 3.83 Data on Grade I and II* listed buildings at risk has been consistently reported in JAMRs since 2009/10. The JCS indicator suggests comparison with a base date of 2011. Table 12 below therefore sets out the number and percentage of Grade I and Grade II* listed identified as being at risk and compares this to the percentage at risk in 2011/12. Overall, the percentage at risk has increased from 4.2% in 2011/12 to 7.9% in 2019/20, and this is reflected by increases in the percentage of buildings at risk in each of the local authority areas. Whilst this trend is disappointing it should be noted that the numbers of buildings involved remain relatively small i.e. 25 out of 315.
- 3.84 In terms of changes between 2018/19 and 2019/20 the overall number of buildings at risk has reduced by one and as such the % figure has fallen slightly from 8.3% to 7.9%. In Daventry District there have been no changes the list. In Northampton Borough the Grade 1 Listed Eleanor Cross has been removed from the list following a successful repair programme implemented by the Borough Council with support from Historic England. In South Northamptonshire three historic churches at Grafton Regis, Middleton Cheney and Yardley Hastings were removed from the list, but there have been three new entries this year for churches at Croughton, Nether Heyford and Thenford.
- 3.85 Historic England assign priority categories to each of the buildings on the register ranging from category A 'immediate risk of further rapid deterioration' to F 'Repair scheme in progress and (where applicable) end use or user identified.' Of the 25 buildings on the register in West Northamptonshire 3 are new entries, 2 are deteriorating in condition, 1 is improving and for the remaining 19 buildings the priority category is unchanged.

Table 18 – Number of Grade I and Grade II* Listed Buildings at Risk on Historic England's Register

Indicator	Grade I and II* Listed Buildings at Risk, from Historic England's Register					
	Grade I	Grade II*	Total	Grade I / II* at Risk	% at Risk in 2019/20	% at Risk in 2011/12
Daventry District	42	96	138	13	9.4	6.6
Northampton Borough	16	28	44	2	4.5	2.3
South Northants	41	92	133	9	7.5	2.3
West Northants Total	99	216	315	25	7.9	4.2

Source: Historic England and WNJPU

Section 4 – Information from Partner Authorities and Community Infrastructure Levy Progress

Daventry District

- 4.1 **Neighbourhood Planning:** During 2019/20 a Neighbourhood Area was designated for Arthingworth bringing the total number of Neighbourhood Areas in Daventry District to 27 as at 31.3.20. A further area at Harlestone was designated on 24th June 2020 meaning that there are now 28 designated areas.
- 4.2 The following Neighbourhood Plan was made during 2019/20:
- Maidwell with Draughton (29/11/19)
- 4.3 As at 31.3.20 a total of 15 neighbourhood plans had been made in Daventry District.
- 4.4 **Village Design Statements:** Daventry District Council continues to support the preparation of Village Design Statements by local communities. During 2019/20 a Village Design Statement for Stowe Nine Churches was adopted as a Supplementary Planning Document. This brought the total to 25 adopted Design Statements as at 31.3.20. A further Design Statement for Drayton Park in Daventry was adopted in December 2020 meaning there are now 26 adopted statements.
- 4.5 **Conservation Area Appraisals and Management Plans:** The Council has a programme for reviewing existing Conservation Areas and considering the designation of new Conservation Areas. During 2019/20 Appraisals and Management Plans were approved for the following Conservation Areas:
- Ashby St Ledgers (Feb 2020)
 - Chapel Brampton (Feb 2020)
 - Everdon (Oct 2019)
 - Little Everdon (Oct 2019)
 - Pitsford (Oct 2019)
 - Staverton (Oct 2019)
 - West Haddon (Feb 2020)
 - Woodford Halse (Feb 2020)

Northampton Borough

- 4.6 **Neighbourhood Planning:** As at 31.3.20 there were six designated Neighbourhood Areas in the Borough which comprise the Growing Together Neighbourhood Forum (covers Blackthorn, Goldings, Lings and Lumbertubs), Duston Parish, Semilong and Trinity, Spring Boroughs Voice, Queens Park and Wootton and East Hunsbury Parish. It should be noted however that East Hunsbury and Wootton Parish Councils have decided not to proceed with preparing a Neighbourhood Plan. In March 2020 the Council received an application from Great Houghton Parish Council to designate their parish as a neighbourhood plan area and this was confirmed in June 2020.

- 4.7 There are three made Neighbourhood Plans in the Borough, Duston (Dec 2015), Growing Together (April 2017) and Spring Boroughs (April 2016).
- 4.8 **Supplementary Planning Documents:** The Borough Council adopted the following SPDs in November 2019:
- Houses in Multiple Occupation SPD
 - Northampton Parking Standards SPD
 - Specialist Housing SPD
- 4.10 **Conservation Areas:** The Borough Council has embarked on a programme of reviewing all Conservation Areas in Northampton. Re-appraisals have been adopted for the Barrack Road (Apr 2019), Derngate (June 2019) and St Giles (Feb 2020) Conservation Areas.

South Northamptonshire

- 4.11 **Neighbourhood Planning:** During 2019/20 no further neighbourhood areas were designated and the total number remains at 14. The Roade Neighbourhood Plan was made in July 2019 bringing the total number of 'made' plans in South Northamptonshire to three.

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

- 4.13 CIL is a statutory way of collecting developer contributions to help fund infrastructure projects such as transport schemes and community facilities, to support new development in the area. The West Northamptonshire partner local planning authorities have progressed work on CIL across the partnership. Each Borough and District Council retains its individual identity as a charging and collecting authority and retains control over the spending of CIL receipts. The Joint Planning Unit has supported the partner authorities in the consideration of CIL and in compiling the evidence base to support the CIL rates.
- 4.14 CIL Charging Schedules have been approved by each of the partner Councils. Charging commenced on 1st September 2015 in Daventry District and on 1st April 2016 in Northampton Borough and South Northamptonshire.
- 4.15 Following the approval of CIL and the commencement of charging by the partner Councils the relevant regulations require charging authorities to prepare a report for any financial year in which it collects CIL setting out information on CIL receipts and expenditure for the reported year. These are now known as Infrastructure Funding Statements (IFS)
- 4.16 A summary of CIL receipts to date is provided in Table 19 below. Further information is available in the IFS published by the partner Councils.⁸ In 2019/20 CIL receipts increased significantly in all three council areas with the total amount received through CIL since its introduction now standing at just over £8.4 million.

⁸ [Daventry IFS 2019-20](#) ; [Northampton IFS 2019-20](#) ; [South Northamptonshire IFS 2019-20](#)

Table 19 - Community Infrastructure Levy Receipts

Year	Daventry	Northampton	South Northamptonshire	West Northants Total
2015/16	£9,000	£0	£0.	£9,000
2016/17	£254,162	£0	£147,940	£402,102
2017/18	£989,654	£0	£366,112	£1,355,766
2018/19	£868,976	£442,598	£494,719	£1,806,293
2019/20	£2,473,153	£1,226,983	£1,131,677	£4,831,813
Total 2015-20	£4,594,945	£1,669,581	£2,140,448	£8,404,974

Section 5 – Duty to Co-operate

Introduction

- 5.1 Local Councils are expected to address strategic issues relevant to their areas through a “Duty to Co-operate” set out in the Localism Act 2011 and described in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).
- 5.2 Section 110 of the Localism Act sets out the guidance for the Duty to Co-operate:
- Relates to sustainable development or use of land that would have a significant impact on at least two planning areas or on a planning matter that falls within the remit of a county council;
 - Requires that councils set out planning policies to address such issues;
 - Requires that councils and public bodies engage constructively, actively and on an on-going basis to develop strategic policies; and
 - Requires councils to consider joint approaches to plan making.
- 5.3 Paragraph 24 of the NPPF confirms that local planning authorities are under a duty to cooperate with each other, and other prescribed bodies, on strategic matters that cross administrative boundaries. There is a strong emphasis on joint working and collaboration, particularly on infrastructure and development needs. Evidence will be required to demonstrate having successfully co-operated on issues with cross boundary impacts, through the preparation of statements of common ground.
- 5.4 The Duty to Co-operate is a legal requirement of the plan preparation process and for the plan to be examined by the Planning Inspectorate (PINs) Councils need to demonstrate that the Duty has been undertaken appropriately. Regulations also state that councils should provide details of their co-operation with other local planning authorities, county councils and other prescribed bodies in the Authorities Monitoring Report.

West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy

- 5.5 The Joint Core Strategy was adopted in December 2014 and compliance with the Duty was an essential prerequisite for the adoption of the Plan. Compliance with the Duty was tested through the Examination which considered the Duty to Cooperate Statement published by the JPU in December 2012.⁹ In his report published in October 2014 the Examination Inspector concluded that he was satisfied that the duty to co-operate had been met.¹⁰

Co-operation in 2019/20

- 5.6 As indicated in Section 2, work has continued on Part 2 Local Plans which are being produced by the partner Councils in accordance with their own adopted Local Development Schemes. The Part 2 Local Plans are being prepared in

⁹ West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy Duty to Co-operate Compliance Statement (December 2012) <http://www.westnorthamptonshirejpu.org/connect.ti/website/view?objectId=8964837>

¹⁰ See para 7 of the Inspector’s Report at: <http://www.westnorthamptonshirejpu.org/connect.ti/website/Inspector's Report>

accordance with up to date Statements of Community Involvement which fully reflect the requirements of the Duty to Cooperate.

- 5.7 The work of the Joint Planning Unit continues to ensure effective cooperation between the partner Councils and where appropriate with neighbouring Councils and other prescribed bodies. There are regular cross-partnership meetings covering Local Plan preparation, strategic housing and transport issues.
- 5.8 The partner Councils have agreed a Memorandum of Cooperation to provide and support a Joint Planning and Infrastructure Board for West Northamptonshire. The objectives of the Memorandum are:
- To secure a broad but consistent approach to strategic planning and development across the West Northamptonshire area;
 - To identify and manage spatial planning issues that impact on more than one local planning area within the West Northamptonshire area;
 - To ensure that the local plans and other development policies prepared by each local planning authority are, where appropriate, informed by the views of other local planning authorities across the West Northamptonshire area;
 - To support better coordination of development and investment strategies across the area including the delivery of strategic infrastructure; and
 - To ensure that the Duty to Cooperate is actively addressed.

West Northamptonshire Strategic Plan

- 5.9 The partner Councils have agreed to prepare a new joint Plan known as the West Northamptonshire Strategic Plan (WNSP). This will review and where appropriate replace strategic policies in the Joint Core Strategy. A Joint Local Development Scheme setting out a timetable for the Plan's preparation which was brought into effect in October 2018.
- 5.10 The partner Council's commitment to cooperation was further demonstrated by a Statement of Common Ground which agreed the need for a new Strategic Plan, the geographical coverage and the key cross boundary issues which need to be addressed.
- 5.11 During 2019/20 the partner Councils published an Issues consultation document to seek views of the scope of the WNSP and the issues it should address. The consultation ran from Monday 5th August to Friday 11th October 2019 and all the prescribed bodies and neighbouring local authorities were invited to comment. In addition to the consultation document, duty to cooperate bodies were invited to attend a stakeholder workshop which was held on 12th September 2019.
- 5.12 A scoping assessment has been prepared of the potential duty to cooperate issues arising from the WNSP and those strategic matters that require on-going engagement. This assessment has been shared with all the duty to cooperate bodies as a starting point for discussions as the plan preparation progresses.

Part 2 Local Plans

- 5.13 The tables below summarise the key engagement activities undertaken by the partner Councils, principally relating to the Part 2 Local Plans, with other local authorities and prescribed bodies in 2019/20.

Table 20 - Daventry District Council - Co-operation in 2019/20

Local Authority / Organisation	Summary of Engagement / Outcomes
South Northants Council	Ongoing discussion of strategic planning policy matters at regular meetings of West Northamptonshire Planning Policy Managers, West Northamptonshire Strategic Plan Programme Board and West Northamptonshire Joint Planning and Infrastructure Board, West Northamptonshire Transport Officers Group, West Northamptonshire Monitoring Group and Northamptonshire Policy Officers Meeting. Discussions re potential AoNB designation.
Northampton Borough Council	Ongoing discussion of strategic planning policy matters at regular meetings of West Northamptonshire Planning Policy Managers Meetings, West Northamptonshire Strategic Plan Programme Board and West Northamptonshire Joint Planning and Infrastructure Board, West Northamptonshire Transport Officers Group, West Northamptonshire Monitoring Group and Northamptonshire Policy Officers Meeting. Responded to consultation on NBC's part 2 plan (May 2019)
Highways England	Ongoing engagement on strategic transport issues such as the Northampton Growth Management Scheme through the West Northants Transport Officers Group, regular dialogue through Daventry Regeneration Partnership Board and the A5 Liaison Group.
Northamptonshire County Council	Regular liaison on strategic transport issues through Transport Officers Group and Northamptonshire Policy Officers meeting. Liaison regarding emerging Part 2 Local Plan allocations relating to flood risk, education, transport issues and potential AoNB designation. Liaison with Flood and Water team and Archaeology team regarding emerging plan.

	No duty to cooperate issues were raised through consultation on the main modifications to the part 2 local plan.
Rugby Borough Council	No duty to cooperate issues were raised through consultation on the main modifications to the part 2 local plan.
South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership (SEMLEP)	Attended some liaison meetings with SEMLEP and attended meetings of the SEMLEP Planners Forum throughout the monitoring year.
Stratford, and Wellingborough Councils	Agreed to continue dialogue as part of the duty to cooperate. Discussions with SoA re potential AoNB designation.
Harborough	No duty to cooperate issues were raised through consultation on the main modifications to the part 2 local plan.
Kettering Borough Council	Participated in liaison meetings on Local Plan progress and agreed to continue dialogue as part of the duty to cooperate, including on Gypsy, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople. No duty to cooperate issues were raised through consultation on the main modifications to the part 2 local plan.
North Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit	Regular liaison through Northamptonshire policy officers meeting and SEMLEP Planners Forum. No duty to cooperate issues were raised through consultation on the main modifications to the part 2 local plan.
Anglian Water	No duty to cooperate issues were raised through consultation on the main modifications to the part 2 local plan.
Environment Agency	No duty to cooperate issues were raised through consultation on the main modifications to the part 2 local plan.
Historic England	No duty to cooperate issues were raised through consultation on the main modifications to the part 2 local plan Liaison also took place regarding the emerging Overstone Hall SPD.
Natural England	No duty to cooperate issues were raised through consultation on the main modifications to the part 2 local plan

Table 21 - Northampton Borough Council - Co-operation in 2019/20

Local Authority / Organisation	Summary of Engagement / Outcomes
Anglian Water	Ongoing active engagement with Anglian Water and meetings of Northamptonshire Flood and Water Management Group as part of the progression of the Northampton Local Plan Part 2 (Proposed Submission Round 2).
Borough Council of Wellingborough	Ongoing discussion of strategic planning policy matters at regular Northamptonshire Policy Officers meetings, West Northamptonshire Planning Policy Managers meetings.
Daventry District Council	Ongoing discussion of strategic planning policy matters at regular Northamptonshire Policy Officers meetings, West Northamptonshire Planning Policy Managers meetings, West Northamptonshire Strategic Plan Programme Board meetings and West Northants Joint Planning and Infrastructure Board Ongoing engagement through Joint Monitoring Group Meeting and West Northamptonshire Housing Planning Meeting. Information on housing monitoring was provided for the purposes of preparing the 5YHLS report for the NRDA.
East West Rail Consortium	Ongoing active engagement with the East West Rail Consortium by attending quarterly, member / officer meetings.
Environment Agency	Ongoing engagement through the Northamptonshire Flood and Water Management Group. Active engagement with the Environment Agency throughout the progression of Northampton Local Plan Part 2 (Proposed Submission Round 2) and the preparation of Supplementary Planning Documents of Houses in Multiple Occupation, Specialist Housing and Parking.
Highways England	Ongoing engagement on strategic transport issues such as the Northampton Growth Management Scheme through the West Northants Transport Officers Group.
Northamptonshire County Council	Ongoing discussion of strategic planning policy matters at regular Northamptonshire Policy Officers meetings, West Northamptonshire Planning Policy Managers meetings West Northamptonshire Strategic Plan Programme Board meetings. Regular liaison on strategic transport and flood risk issues through Transport Officers Group and the Northamptonshire Flood and Water Management

	<p>Group. Advice was provided regarding parking issues for the preparation of Houses in Multiple Occupation SPD.</p> <p>Ongoing engagement on transport modelling for the progression of the Northampton Local Plan Part 2 (Submission Draft).</p>
South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership (SEMLEP)	<p>Attended regular liaison meetings with SEMLEP and attended meetings of the SEMLEP Planners Forum throughout the monitoring year.</p>
South Northamptonshire Council	<p>Ongoing discussion of strategic planning policy matters at regular Northamptonshire Policy Officers meetings, West Northamptonshire Planning Policy Managers meetings, West Northamptonshire Strategic Plan Programme Board meetings and West Northants Joint Planning and Infrastructure Board.</p> <p>Ongoing engagement through Joint Monitoring Group Meeting and West Northamptonshire Housing Planning Meeting. Information on housing monitoring was provided for the purposes of preparing a 5YHLS report for the NRDA.</p>

Table 22 -South Northamptonshire Council - Co-operation in 2019/20

Local Authority / Organisation	Summary of Engagement / Outcomes
Daventry District Council	<p>Ongoing discussion of strategic planning policy matters at regular West Northamptonshire Planning Policy Managers Meetings, West Northamptonshire Housing and Planning Group, West Northamptonshire Transport Officers Group, West Northamptonshire Monitoring Group, Northamptonshire Policy Officers Meeting, West Northamptonshire Strategic Plan Programme Board and West Northants Joint Planning and Infrastructure Board.</p> <p>Representatives from both Authorities sit on the West Northamptonshire Strategic Plan Project Team and are working together on the development of the Strategic Plan. This includes the procurement of a joint evidence base to support the work.</p>
Northampton Borough Council	<p>Ongoing discussion of strategic planning policy matters at regular West Northamptonshire Planning Policy Managers Meetings, West Northamptonshire Housing and Planning Group, West Northamptonshire Transport Officers Group, West</p>

	<p>Northamptonshire Monitoring Group, Northamptonshire Policy Officers Meeting, West Northamptonshire Strategic Plan Programme Board and West Northants Joint Planning and Infrastructure Board.</p> <p>Representatives from both Authorities sit on the West Northamptonshire Strategic Plan Project Team and are working together on the development of the Strategic Plan. This includes the procurement of a joint evidence base to support the work.</p>
Highways England	Engage with Highways England through the development management process and on strategic transport projects in the district. The West Northamptonshire Transport Officers Steering Group provides a forum to discuss transport projects and identify priorities.
Northamptonshire County Council	Regular liaison on strategic transport issues through Transport Officers Group.
South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership (SEMLEP)	Attended a range of liaison meetings with SEMLEP throughout the monitoring year.
Stratford, Milton Keynes, Aylesbury Vale and Wellingborough Councils and Bucks County Council	Liaison meetings on Local Plan Part 2 progress and agreed to continue dialogue as part of the duty to cooperate. Ongoing work and liaison in relation to strategic cross boundary matters.
Cherwell District Council	The formal joint-working partnership between South Northamptonshire Council and Cherwell District Council ceased, however, ongoing meetings and dialogue continues.
Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England	Engagement through the development management process and on projects in the district. Liaison with Historic England through the Northamptonshire Conservation Officers Forum. South Northamptonshire Council and Historic England additionally signed a Statement of Common Ground (May 2019) with regards to the Local Plan Part 2.

Section 6 – Conclusion

- 6.1 This is the eleventh Joint Authorities' Monitoring Report covering the West Northamptonshire partnership area. Following the adoption of the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy on 15th December 2014, the resources of the partner Councils are now being focused on the preparation of the Part 2 Local Plans. During the monitoring period of this JAMR each of the partner Councils have prepared and approved Local Development Schemes for their areas, which set out timetables for the Part 2 Local Plans which are being prepared within the framework set by the Joint Core Strategy Local Plan (Part 1).
- 6.2 Strong progress has been made on the preparation of the Part 2 Local Plans across the three Council areas. During the monitoring year the Part 2 Local Plan for Daventry District was adopted (February 2020), and the adoption of South Northamptonshire's Part 2 Local Plan followed shortly after in July 2020. Further progress has been made on the Part 2 Local Plan for Northampton and it is expected that this will now be taken forward for adoption by West Northamptonshire Council.
- 6.3 The partner Councils adopted a Joint Local Development Scheme in October 2018 setting out the timetable for the proposed West Northamptonshire Strategic Plan which will review and replace the strategic policies of the Joint Core Strategy. Work commenced on the Strategic Plan during 2018/19 in accordance with the joint LDS, and an Issues Consultation was undertaken between August and October 2019. Subsequent progress has been slower than anticipated and it is now expected that the new West Northamptonshire Council will agree a revised LDS setting out an updated timetable.

Key Development Outcomes for 2019/20

Infrastructure and Development

- 6.4 2019/20 saw continued progress on the delivery of the key primary infrastructure projects which are identified in the Joint Core Strategy and the Infrastructure Delivery Plan. The following progress is of particular note:
- **Brackley WRC** - 2019/20 saw the completion of works to upgrade the Water Reclamation Centre in Brackley to provide the additional capacity required to accommodate planned development in the town. This means that 4 out of the 11 key primary infrastructure projects have now been completed
 - **Northampton North-West Relief Road** -. Following the agreement of the funding package for the route planning permission was granted in July 2020, which will enable delivery of the scheme by West Northamptonshire Council from 2021 onwards.
 - **Towcester A5 Relief Road** – Public sector funding to support the delivery has been retained through the government's Roads Investment Strategy (RIS). The funding was originally identified in RIS1 which covered the period 2015-2020, but it has been carried forward in RIS2 which covers the years 2020-2025. Together with developer funding this should enable commencement of the scheme in late 2020/ early 2021, with completion in spring 2023.
- 6.5 Whilst some projects have not progressed as quickly as planned the partner Councils continue to work collectively and with other organisations such as

Highways England and SEMLEP to overcome barriers and secure additional funding where necessary.

Employment and Jobs

- 6.6 The JAMR is monitoring the provision of B-use employment floorspace in a series of phases compared to the demand for floorspace anticipated in the Joint Core Strategy. 2019/20 is the fourth year of the phase 2 period from 2016 to 2021 against which the delivery of employment land is being monitored compared to the demand for floorspace anticipated in the Joint Core Strategy. Unfortunately, no data is available for South Northamptonshire Council and as such it is not possible to draw firm conclusions at this stage. It is apparent that the provision of B1 floorspace remains below the demand figure that was anticipated. However, on a more positive note the provision of additional B2 and B8 floorspace including Mixed B uses, particularly in Daventry District continues to exceed the anticipated demand for combined B2/B8 floorspace. This contrasts markedly with the shortfall reported in the phase 1 monitoring.
- 6.7 In terms of job provision, the 2019 data is showing an overall fall of 3,000 in the number of jobs in West Northamptonshire compared to 2018. This is the first fall in the number of jobs since 2012. Whilst the overall net gain of 19,500 jobs indicates that the West Northamptonshire area is still on track to deliver the overall target of 28,000 additional jobs by 2029 it must be recognised that the impact of the coronavirus pandemic will result in further job losses. This trend will need to be closely monitored and the need for economic recovery will be a key issue for the review of the Joint Core Strategy to address.

Housing

- 6.8 Between 2013 and 2018 there were 5 consecutive years in dwelling delivery increased. However, the last two years have seen a decrease in completions. In 2019/20 the number of net additional dwellings fell by 631 to 1,617 dwellings. This is a fall of over 24% compared to 2018/19. Dwelling delivery fell slightly in the NRDA, and more significantly in both DDC and SNC. Despite the fall in completions in DDC and SNC the figures are still above the trajectory for these areas set out in the JCS. Delivery in the NRDA however remains well below the expected trajectory.
- 6.9 The rate of delivery remains below the trajectory set out in the adopted Joint Core Strategy. Actual delivery during the three-year period from 2017-20 equates to 6427 dwellings which represents a shortfall of 3059 dwellings or 31% against the adopted trajectory. This is above the 25% trigger set out in the monitoring framework. If the shortfall from previous years is taken into account, then the shortfall increases to 41%. Dwelling delivery in the Northampton Related Development Area remains the key challenge. It should be noted that the partner Councils are preparing a new Strategic Plan for West Northamptonshire which will review and replace strategic policies in the Joint Core Strategy. One of the reasons for preparing the new Plan is to address issues around housing delivery against the targets in the Core Strategy.
- 6.10 In 2018 the government introduced the Housing Delivery Test which is an annual measurement of housing delivery in the area of relevant plan-making authorities. All three authorities have passed the test and delivered more housing than expected by the methodology underpinning the test.

Consequently, there is no requirement for the authorities to prepare a Housing Delivery Action Plan at this stage.

Environmental Quality

- 6.11 The protection water quality and reduction of flood risk remain important priorities for the partner Councils. This is reflected by the fact that all relevant planning applications in 2019/20 have been determined in accordance with advice received from the Environment Agency.
- 6.12 The total land area designated as Local Wildlife Sites across West Northamptonshire in 2019/20 is just over 48.7 hectares higher compared to 2017/18. Overall, this net gain in areas of biodiversity is a positive result and is a further improvement on the 12.2ha net gain recorded in 2018/19.
- 6.13 The percentage of Grade I and II* Listed Buildings at risk has increased from 4.2% in 2011/12 to 7.9% in 2019/20, and this is reflected by increases in the percentage of buildings at risk in each of the local authority areas. Whilst this trend is disappointing it should be noted that the numbers of buildings involved remain relatively small i.e. 25 out of 315.

Overall Conclusions

- 6.14 This JAMR is the fifth which addresses the Monitoring Framework in the adopted JCS. It has been possible report on 26 of the indicators set out in the Framework using a traffic light rating system. Of the 26 indicators, 11 are rated as green, 11 as amber and 4 as red. It is hoped that West Northamptonshire Council will continue to develop the datasets available to enable additional indicators to be monitored in the 2020/21 JAMR.