

# **Northampton Borough Council**



## **Northampton Central Area Action Plan Pre-Submission Publication**

### **Consultation Statement**

**November 2010**

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## INTRODUCTION

1.0 In 2004, the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act came into force. This replaced the previous system of Local Plans with the Local Development Framework. This is a suite of Local Development Documents. One of the key objectives of the revised planning system is that there will be meaningful engagement with the community.

1.1. The Council adopted its Statement of Community Involvement in 2006 which sets out the Council policy, as a planning authority, for involving the community, both in the preparation and revision of Local Development Documents.

1.2. The Council has undertaken significant pre Publication consultation which, over the life of developing the Central Area Action Plan, goes beyond the requirements of planning regulations and that of the Statement of Community Involvement.

1.3. The Council is now embarking on the Publication of the Draft Pre-Submission Central Area Action Plan. This stage of consultation will be undertaken in line with Regulation 27 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2008.

1.4. In line with the Councils Statement of Community Involvement 2006, the following actions contained within Table 1: Consultation Requirements of Statement of Community Involvement, 2006, have been completed through the 'frontloading' of consultation. The stages of consultation that have been completed are highlighted in the columns to the right of the table.

1.5. Summaries of the issues raised through the different consultation exercises can be found in the Appendix of this report. The policy issues that have been raised through these exercises have been dealt with within the Central Area Action Plan (CAAP) and are outlined in the Background Technical Papers accompanying the Pre-Submission CAAP.

**Table 1: Consultation Requirements of Statement of Community Involvement, 2006**

Area	Requirements	Issues and Options	Emerging Strategy	Publication Stage
Continuous dialogue	Tailored to reflect the community being consulted and the type of subject or issue	✓	✓	✓
Area Partnerships	Consultative role	✓	✓	✓
Forums	Key mechanism to engage hard to reach groups	✓	✓	✓
Citizens Panel	Citizens Panel and focus groups recruited via the panel used where appropriate	✓	✓	
Access to information	Paper and electronic and include Council's website	✓	✓	✓
	Copies in libraries, local authority	✓	✓	✓

Area	Requirements	Issues and Options	Emerging Strategy	Publication Stage
	offices and other buildings accessible to the public, as appropriate			
	All information available in 'other formats' upon request	✓	✓	✓
	Single point of contact	✓	✓	✓
	Newsletters / leaflets / email raising awareness	✓	✓	✓
	Using existing networks	✓	✓	✓
	Anyone who makes comment will be included on a database	✓	✓	✓
Target Groups	General Public Councillors Businesses Parish Councils Developers / agents / landowners / registered social landlords Providers of community infrastructure Central / local government WNDC Statutory bodies and groups Interest groups Residents associations / community groups Voluntary sector	✓	✓	✓

## FORMAL STAGES OF CONSULTATION (by date)

### Regulation 27: Publication of Pre-Submission: 4 November – 16 December 2010

2.0 The publication of the Pre-Submission Central Area Action Plan will be carried out in accordance with Regulation 27 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2008. This is a formal stage of the plan making process and requires the document to be published for a 6-week period. This will be done between 4 November – 16 December 2010.

2.1. The Action Plan is published before it is submitted to the Secretary of State for approval. The Council believes that the Action Plan is sound – this means that the plan is consistent with national policies, justified and effective. The purpose behind publishing the document is to seek representations which have not already been considered through previous stages of consultation.

2.2. The publication of the Pre-Submission Central Area Action Plan (CAAP) involves the production of a number of documents to support the communication of the Action Plan.

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The Central Area Action Plan will be published, along with a representation form and the supporting documents, which include:

- Background Technical Papers to support the plan
- Sustainability Appraisal
- Statement of Consultation
- Appropriate Assessment
- Equality Impact Assessment

2.3. A Guide to the CAAP document has been produced to enable the Action Plan to be communicated to a wider audience than the full page document would be able to reach. This A Guide to the CAAP document will be sent out to libraries, community centres, parish councils and residents associations along with a notification of publication letter.

2.4. A glossy flyer has also been produced to raise awareness of the plan and act as a signpost to the main document and representation process. This flyer highlights some of the main issues raised through consultation activities on the Central Area Action Plan and how the plan will respond to them. This flyer will be sent out with the local free newspaper, as well as being available at exhibitions, libraries, community centres etc.

2.5. To raise awareness of the publication of the Pre-submission CAAP the town's poster sites, located at the edge of the highways are being used. A poster has been produced entitled 'your ideas, your plan, your future'. This will act as a signpost to locations to view the documents.

2.6. All of the publication documents will be available on the consultation portal for viewing on-line or downloading. Consultees registered with the consultation portal will receive an automatic notification at the start of the publication period.

2.7. A CD Rom will be produced containing the consultation documents including the CAAP document, representation form, A Guide to the CAAP, flyer, background papers.

2.8. In line with the Council's Statement of Community Involvement, 2006, the following actions are being undertaken:

- notification letters will be sent out to a range of organisations, groups and individuals which highlight the consultation portal address where all of the consultation documents were held
  - Those specific consultation bodies who have requested electronic communication will receive a link to the Pre-Submission documents
  - Those specific consultation bodies who have not requested electronic communication will receive a letter and a CD Rom containing the Pre-Submission documents and the representations procedure.
  - 9 Libraries and 7 Parish Councils will receive a letter, a hard copy of the Pre-Submission CAAP, a CD Rom containing the Pre-Submission documents and the representations procedure, copies of the A Guide to the CAAP, flyer and a poster
  - 11 Libraries adjoining the Borough will receive letters about the consultation and receive a CD Rom
  - Residents Associations will receive a letter and copies of A Guide to the CAAP and flyer

- Community Centres will receive copies of A Guide to the CAAP and flyer, posters, a CD Rom
- 2 Council receptions will receive copies of A Guide to the CAAP and flyer, posters, a CD Rom
- The Councils Community Forums and Area Partnerships will be notified of the consultation via the Community Information Exchange which takes place at the forum meetings
- Staffed exhibitions will be held as follows:
  - Grosvenor Centre on Thursday 11, Friday 12 and Saturday 13 November: 10 - 4 p.m.
  - Spencer Percival Reception (opposite the Guildhall One Stop Shop) Thursday 2, Friday 3 and Saturday 4 December 2010: 10 - 4 p.m.
- An unstaffed exhibition will be available in the Spence Percival Reception at the Guildhall from 2 – 16 December
- A media briefing on Wednesday 2 November 2010 will launch the Publication period
- The Northampton Borough Council website and Consultation Portal will be updated with consultation information and signposting
- A public notice will be placed in the local 'pay' newspaper, the Chronicle and Echo and the local free paper, the Herald and Post on Thursday 4 November 2010

## **Regulation 25: Ongoing Consultation**

3.0 In 2008 the Town and Country Planning Act was amended by The Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2008. This led to a significant change to Regulation 26 and further emphasis being placed on ongoing consultation until the point of Publication of the Development Plan Document, under Regulation 25.

3.1. Stakeholder engagement around the Central Area Action Plan has been underway since 2005, when the Town Centre Commission was launched. Over this time there has been a range of engagement activities, including:

- Awareness raising
- Leaflets and brochures
- Staffed and unstaffed exhibitions
- Local newspaper articles
- Internet information and electronic feedback forms and questionnaires
- Surveys, interviews and questionnaires
- Workshops
- Stakeholder liaison groups

3.2. These engagement tools have been used to complete a variety of tasks:

- Increase awareness about plan making and the Central Area Action Plan
- Gather views and information
- Gain perspectives about specific issues and challenges
- Build consensus among stakeholders

3.3. The remainder of this document is set out in the following way:

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- Detail about more formal consultation stages in developing the Central Area Action Plan:
    - Emerging Strategy Consultation
    - Issues and Options Consultation
  - Other consultation/ dialogue based processes
  - Meetings with partners and Members
  - Awareness raising activities

## **Emerging Strategy Consultation: 7 August – 18 September 2009**

4.0 In light of the amendments to the Planning Act, officers considered that it would be prudent to undertake some wider targeted consultation on the Emerging Strategy for the Central Area Action Plan. This was because of the advances that had been made on the Central Area Action Plan since the Issues and Options consultation in September and October 2007.

4.1. Although there is no requirement to publish and consult on a document at this stage, the Emerging Strategy consultation was undertaken in accordance with Regulation 25 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2008. The document was consulted on in August 2009 for a 6-week period between 7 August – 18 September 2010.

4.2. The consultation on the Emerging Strategy was carried out at two levels; the full Emerging Strategy document was published with a questionnaire and a Summary Leaflet and summary questionnaire were also produced.

4.3. The Emerging Strategy document - contained a total of 32 questions, including a question to seek any other issues that might need to be contained within the plan and also a space for further comments.

4.4. A Summary Leaflet - containing pictures, maps and diagrams was produced, with a clear signpost to the fuller document if it was required. This contained 17 questions – of which 15 were tick box. There was also a question seeking anything the respondent might want to say to support their answers.

4.5. A CD Rom - was produced containing all of the consultation documents: the Emerging Strategy document, the questionnaire and the Summary Leaflet.

4.6. In line with the Council's Statement of Community Involvement, 2006, the following actions were undertaken:

- 972 notification letters were sent out to a range of organisations, groups and individuals which highlighted the consultation portal address where all of the consultation documents were held
  - All Statutory consultees received notification letters
  - 9 Libraries and 7 Parish Councils received letters, documents, CD Roms, leaflets and a poster
  - 11 Libraries adjoining the Borough received letters about the consultation and received a CD Rom
  - 57 Residents Associations received copies of the leaflet

- 21 Community Centres received copies of the leaflet, posters, a CD Rom and a Emerging Strategy document and questionnaire
- 2 Council receptions received copies of the leaflet and the document for distribution
- The Council's Community Forums and Area Partnerships were notified of the consultation
- Leaflets were sent to 1276 households on the Spring Boroughs estate as one of the main housing areas within the Central Area and also identified for regeneration
- Staffed exhibitions were held as follows:
  - Kingsthorpe Library – 2 days
  - Market Square – 3 days (including a Saturday)
  - Weston Favell Shopping Centre – 1 day
- An unstaffed exhibition was provided in the Planning Office Reception throughout the consultation period
- A media event to launch the consultation resulted in a positive 2 page spread in the local Chronicle and Echo and coverage on BBC Radio Northampton tea time show. **See Appendix 1 – Press Coverage.**
- A Video Pod was placed in Lings Leisure Centre for approximately one month – during and after the consultation period to capture the views of young people
- A Northampton Borough Council Officers management event was held to explore the Emerging Strategy for the Central Area Action Plan and the Emergent Joint Core Strategy
- Officers attended residents associations meetings
- The Northampton Borough Council website and Consultation Portal were updated with consultation information and signposting
- A shared consultation process was undertaken with the West Northamptonshire Emergent Joint Core Strategy which was taking place during the same time period

## Feedback

4.7. A total of 236 responses were received to the consultation on the Emerging Strategy for the Central Area Action Plan. Responses were received in the following formats:

- Emails - 10
- Letters - 33
- Long questionnaires from the main consultation document - 23
- Short questionnaires from the summary leaflet - 157
- Electronic responses submitted through the consultation portal - 13

4.8. In order to provide accessibility to the feedback, the responses were summarised around each of the topics / question areas contained within the Emerging Strategy. A short higher level summary was also produced to provide an overview of responses received. **See Appendix 2 for the Consultation Feedback Summary Report.**

4.9. Feedback was also obtained from the exhibitions, although members of the public attending exhibitions were encouraged to take away a short summary leaflet to read and to complete the questionnaire. Copies of the published document and questionnaire were also available and all of the information was also contained on a CD-Rom.

4.10. Attendance at the exhibitions on the Market Square is shown below, however it must be noted that officers attempted to record a tally of the number of people that were talked to about the Emerging Strategy; but at times this was challenging due to the number and frequency of people attending:

- Market Square - Thursday 13 July 2009 – 123 people talked to (not interested 12)
- Market Square - Friday 14 July 2009 – 59 people talked to (not interested 6)
- Market Square - Saturday 15 July 2009 – 79 people talked to (not interested 4)
- Weston Favell Shopping Centre - Friday 21 August – 74 people talked to (not interested 9)

Anecdotal feedback collected at the exhibition days can be found in **Appendix 3 Exhibition Feedback**.



### **Video Pod**

4.11. The feedback gathered from the Video Pod presented a challenge as it was recorded by minors and requires parental consent in order to use the video footage. However, where possible, the broad comments that were made, have been recorded. This feedback (see **Appendix 4 Video Pod Feedback**) also includes some comments made by several adults but the vast majority were made by under 16's.

## **Issues and Options Consultation – 27 September – 22 November 2007**

5.0 The Council published a Northampton Central Area Action Plan, Issues and Options Discussion Paper, September 2007. This document provided the first stage of consultation on the action plan, in line with Regulation 25, Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004. This states that consultation during the production stage should be 'a continuous process of informal discussion with people during this phase as opposed to formal discrete public participation as required by Regulation 26'.

5.1. In line with the Council's Statement of Community Involvement, 2006, the following actions were undertaken:

- The Issues and Options Discussion Paper, 2007, was published in paper and electronic format, produced along with accompanying questionnaire and maps.
- Consultation notification and information was also sent to specific and general consultation bodies set out within Regulation 25 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004. This totalled around 1,000 database entries including a wide range of public, private, voluntary sector groups and organisations, along with interested individuals.
- Local libraries and community centres and Council receptions received copies of the document, questionnaires and advertisement posters
- Consultation information and documents were posted on the Council's website
- Poster sites located on main roads around the town were used to raise awareness (**see Appendix 5**) of the consultation and to advertise dates and venues for local exhibitions.
- A series of Staffed exhibitions were held in the following locations:
  - Grosvenor Centre - 27-29/09/07 & 1-2/09/07
  - Kingsthorpe Library - 11-12/10/07
  - Hunsbury Library - 11-12/10/07
  - Sixfields – Sainsburys - 16-17/10/07
- Following these dates the exhibition was available in the Council's main reception at the Guildhall until end of consultation along with documents & questionnaires.
- Interviews were also held with the local media, including television and radio to provide for wider awareness raising about the consultation
- Print copy was also provided to the CASPAR+NR team to place in the CASPAR newsletter in the Spring Boroughs area of the town



5.2. Consultation monitoring forms were distributed with the documents and questionnaires to monitor consultation activities by asking demographic questions: gender, age group and ethnic group. Questions about how the Council provides information to the public were also included on this form.

### Feedback

5.3. A total of 146 responses were received to the consultation on the Issues and Options consultation document for the Central Area Action Plan.

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5.4. The key findings from the consultation responses are contained within the Executive Summary of the Issues and Options Consultation Feedback Report. The first part of the main report contains a statistical summary of responses. The second part contains the quantitative response to the questions and the comments that were made.

5.5. 99 people completed consultation monitoring forms.

5.6. Details about the consultation and findings and feedback were published in the Northampton Central Area Action Plan, Issues and Options, Consultation Feedback report, August 2008. The Executive Summary for this document can be found in **Appendix 6 Issues and Options Feedback Report**.

5.7. A subsequent workshop was held with West Northamptonshire Development Corporation and Northamptonshire County Council on 16/11/07 to start taking forward the feedback from the Issues and Options consultation to towards the next stage of plan production.

## **OTHER CONSULTATION**

### **Town Centre Commission and Steering Group**

6.0 In September 2005, the Council set up a Town Centre Commission in order to engage a full range of stakeholders in the production of a Central Area Action Plan. The Commission was launched with a one-day collaborative event involving a range of stakeholders from across the private, public and community sectors. At the event stakeholders considered ideas for the future of the town centre – particularly in the context of devising a generic set of urban design principles for future planning. Northampton Town Centre Commission, Report of Stakeholder Consultation Event, October 2005.

6.1. A Town Centre Commission Steering Group resulted from the one day consultation event. This group reflected the key stakeholder interests within the town, including businesses, educational establishments, diversity forums, community groups. This group met regularly between 2006 – 2008 to discuss issues and challenges for the Central Area as they arose to help shape the first formal stage of consultation – Issues and Option, September 2007. The group also provided a useful ‘sounding board’ for early discussion about regeneration projects.

6.2. A range of activities and events took place over a 2 year period in order to support and inform the production of a CAAP with the Town Centre Commission being at the core. Consultation has taken place with Northampton Borough Council Community Forums. These are sector specific groups tasked with representing the views of their interest sector. They comprise of:

- Disabled People’s Forum
- Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Forum
- Pensioners Forum
- Race Equality Forum
- Women’s Forum

- Young Peoples Forum

6.3. A number of other groups have also been involved in discussion processes in order to contribute feedback to the process and this has been captured in a series of reports

- Access Advisory Group
- Spring Boroughs Residents Association
- Market Traders

### **Design, Development and Movement Framework Consultation: 5 February – 30 March 2007**

7.0 In November 2006, BDP consultants published a Development Framework for the Central Area, called Design, Development and Movement Framework, 2007, BDP Consultants which they were commissioned to produce. This document is not a statutory plan document, but was used to inform the development of the Central Area Action Plan.

7.1. This piece of work was led by Northampton Borough Council in partnership with West Northamptonshire Development Corporation, Northamptonshire County Council and English Partnerships.

7.2. Northampton Borough Council issued the BDP report for consultation between 5 February - 30 March 2007. This consultation involved various means of accessing a range of different audiences over this period.

7.3. The full BDP report was available to access in the following locations:

- Northampton Borough Council website
- Council's receptions in the town centre and the local planning office
- Through the members of the Town Centre Commission Steering Group

7.4. A questionnaire accompanied the report and was available online and in paper format in the Council's receptions in the town centre and the local planning office.

7.5. Exhibitions were provided to key audiences and at local events taking place during the consultation period.

- Fish Market Photographic Exhibition – unstaffed exhibition – 08/02/07-24/03/07
- International Women's Day in Spring Boroughs – staffed exhibition – 07/03/07
- International Women's Day in the Guildhall – staffed exhibition – 10/03/07

7.6. Presentations and discussions took place with local groups and the Council's community forums:

- Conservation Area Group – presentation and discussion – 07/03/07
- Area Partnership Meeting – presentation and discussion – 12/03/07
- Town Centre Partnership – presentation and discussion – 12/03/07
- Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual and Transgender Forum presentation and discussion – 14/03/07

7.7. The Northampton Borough Council forums email network was used to notify the whole network of the BDP Framework Report consultation period.

7.8. There were a total of 14 questionnaires completed. This was made up of 6 completed online via the Internet and 8 completed by people at the events and local groups. Following a request from a member of public at a local exhibition event a translation of the questionnaire was made into Bengali. Translated copies were also sent to a local Bengali community centre (the Gateway Centre, Semilong).

7.9. The BDP Report questionnaire asked specific questions about the report. The feedback was collated to reflect the headings of the BDP report which were used as a means of consulting the public. General feedback from these questionnaires has been collated and can be found in **Appendix 7**.

### **Tall Buildings and Key Views Workshop Discussions**

7.10. In 2008, the Policy team undertook consultation with local groups and organisations to provide insights in order to develop a policy to guide the preservation of key views and the allocation of tall buildings within the town. It also sought to identify current development which does not site well within the townscape.

7.11. A group of stakeholders from local conservation groups, residents associations, local businesses, community forums, local developers met over a series of two meetings to develop their views. The first meeting consisted of a site visit around Northampton to provide baseline knowledge and perspective. The second meeting discussed the groups findings and arrived at some conclusions about the location of tall buildings and identify key views to protect. Feedback from these sessions can be found in **Appendix 8**.

7.12. This work formed part of the baseline information for a later consultant's report in 2010. Consultants \_"Space" were appointed to undertake a Character Assessment and Tall Buildings Strategy for Northampton Central Area, 2010.

### **Town Centre Frontages and Primary Shopping Area Consultation**

7.13. Whilst developing the Central Area Action Plan the Council required an interim view on the identity of the primary and secondary retail frontages and the boundary of the Primary Shopping Area. A consultation was carried out between 25 February – 8 April 2010. The consultation plan can be found in.

7.14. A draft technical report was published for consultation and was posted in the following locations:

- the Councils consultation homepage
- the Planning Policy consultation page and email notification of the consultation to registered users
- the Central Library and One Stop Shop
- the Planning Reception at Cliftonville

7.15. Letters were sent to all business operating in the streets identified within the technical report. Letters to notify consultees about the consultations were also sent to relevant consultees on the consultation database; this included retail agents, town centre partnership and town centre manager, Chamber of Commerce, and other retail and business related groups.

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7.16. A workshop event was held with technical/ informed retail stakeholders on 26/03/10 to look at issues relating to the designation of streets as primary and secondary frontage, reducing the A1 retailing thresholds and proposed Primary Shopping Area.

### **Feedback**

7.17. There were 20 responses to the Town Centre Frontages and Primary Shopping Area consultation. This feedback was collated into a summary report, along with the key workshop findings and shaped the retail policy within the Central Area Action Plan. This report can be found in **Appendix 9**.

### **Character Area Assessment and Tall Buildings Strategy**

7.18. In 2010, consultant's \_Space were appointed to complete a piece of work to carry out a Characterisation and Tall Buildings Strategy. The earlier work completed on tall buildings and key views in 2008 formed part of the evidence base for this work. An initial workshop was held on 08/04/10 with key stakeholders from around the town. Workshop discussions looked to start the exploration of how Northampton's distinct heritage and character could be enhanced and preserved by any new development within the Central Area, as the town evolves into a city by 2026. Stakeholders were involved in two workshop discussions; Firstly to identify 3 things which make Northampton a unique place and the secondly, to map the key areas in Northampton which are distinct and unique. The findings from this workshop were used by the consultants in drafting the Character Area Assessment and Tall Buildings Strategy.

7.19. A further follow-up dissemination event was held with stakeholders and Members on 22/06/10 to share the consultant's findings and conclusions. The resulting report forms part of the evidence base for the Central Area Action Plan.

### **Midsummer Meadow/ Barnes Meadow Workshop**

7.20. Midsummer Meadows and the surrounding area are currently underused. Providing leisure and recreational opportunities in this area will not only satisfy leisure and recreational requirements of the Central Area Action Plan but it will make a better use of this neglected and under used resource.

7.21. Policy Officers on 22/10/09 hosted a workshop to investigate the area and examine suitable facilities and activities that could take place. Officers attended from Northampton Borough Council; West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit; West Northamptonshire Development Corporation; Environment Agency; Sport England; Wildlife Trust; Northamptonshire Sport and the River Nene Regional Park. This work has since led to the appointment of consultants, "Nortoft", to undertake the development of some Masterplan options.

7.22. Following the appointment of Nortoft, some extensive consultation was undertaken to inform the development of a Masterplan for the area. This involved local stakeholders, including local landowners, businesses, residents, service providers and community groups. Stakeholders came together over a two meeting process. Meeting 1 took place on 07/06/10 and Meeting 2 took place on 29/06/10.

7.23. The content of the process was as follows:

- Meeting 1: Site visit and early discussion.

- Stakeholders were then asked to consult with their respective groups and organisations before the second meeting.
- Meeting 2: Feedback and discussion to identify consensus areas for the Masterplan.

7.24. The feedback from this process was used by the consultant to produce a Masterplan for the area – this is currently underway. The findings from the Technical Officers Workshop and the wider stakeholders workshops can be found in **Appendix 10**.

## **MEETINGS WITH PARTNERS AND MEMBERS**

### **Meetings with Partners**

8.0 Ongoing meetings were held with the West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit between 2008-2010.

8.1. Planning Officers hosted an interactive work session with Managers at Northampton Borough Council on 25/08/09. This session was carried out in conjunction with the West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit. It included a presentation to provide an overview of the Emerging Strategy highlights, the draft phasing plans and the remainder of the plan making process. Managers were tasked to consider the Emerging Plan and the biggest challenges and opportunities it provided for their Service areas. In managing these challenges and opportunities managers were asked to identify what they would require from the Action Plan. In addition they were asked to identify anything that they expected to see which was missing. The findings from the work session can be found in **Appendix 11**.

### **Internal Publication Consultation - Between 26/07/10 – 17/09/10**

8.2. An internal draft of the Publication Central Area Action Plan was circulated for early comment. Consultees included internal Council Officers, West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit, Northamptonshire Enterprise Limited, West Northamptonshire Development Corporation, Northamptonshire County Council and East Midlands Development Agency.

8.3. The findings from this consultation will shape the final version of the Central Area Action Plan.

### **Meetings and Workshops with Members**

8.4. A series of 1:1 briefing sessions were held with Members over a 3-day period. The objective of these sessions was to brief members on the emerging content of the Central Area Action Plan and provide an opportunity to address any questions. The feedback was used to inform the development of a series of Member Workshop with officers on 11/06/09 to discuss the following:

- The challenges for the future
- The longer term plan
- The Central Area: 1-5 years
- Transportation challenges

8.5. A series of Member workshop sessions were held to support the development of the Publication stage of developing the Central Area Action Plan. These workshops were open to all Council members.

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8.6. The workshops focussed on different topics following an initial briefing on 03/06/10 to set the scene for the plan and revisit work to date. The purpose of the sessions was to allow free and frank discussion with Members around some of the key issues and challenges in planning for the Central Area. These were private Member/ Officer discussions.

8.7. The workshops covered:

- Nene Meadows – 15/06/10
- Characterisation and Tall Buildings Strategy (stakeholders and Members) -22/06/10
- Environment - 01/07/10 (Green Infrastructure, Flooding and Public Realm)
- Town Centre Uses - 08/07/10
- Accessibility and Movement - 21/07/10 – Public Realm was also covered in this session as a result of member's interest

### **Pre-Publication Members Briefing Meeting - 22/09/10**

8.8. A subsequent Member workshop was held on the 22/09/10 to look at the Publication version of the Central Area Action Plan and how Member and stakeholder feedback had been taken on board.

## **AWARENESS RAISING ACTIVITIES and Events**

### **Presentations**

9.0 Ongoing engagement with stakeholders took place in the form of presentations with the following:

- Northampton Voluntary and Community Sector Forum, 26 April 2007, on the Design, Development and Movement Framework, 2007, BDP Consultants - presentation and discussion.
- St Albans Activity Seekers (over 55's group) 30 May 2007 presentation on the plan making process, work to date and process that was to follow.

9.1. A presentation was made to the Northampton Federation of Residents Associations on 30-09-09. This was to update them on the next stages of the plan making process. This was done in conjunction with the Council's Regeneration Team.

### **Exhibitions**

9.2. The Regeneration and Development Directorate staffed an exhibition at the Northampton Balloon Festival 2008. The purpose of this exhibition was to raise awareness about the plan making process and the emerging spatial plan map.

9.3. The Planning Policy team staffed an exhibition at the Northampton Polish Day on 14/10/08. This event allowed staff to highlight the plan making process and the future options developing within the Central Area Action Plan to the Polish Community.

### **Consultees**

A list of those bodies involved in the consultation of the Central Area Action Plan can be found in **Appendix 12 Consultation Bodies**.

# Appendices

1. **Emerging Strategy Press Coverage**
2. **Emerging Strategy Consultation Feedback Summary**
3. **Emerging Strategy Exhibition Feedback**
4. **Emerging Strategy Video Pod Feedback**
5. **Emerging Strategy Town Posters**
6. **Issues and Options Consultation Feedback**
7. **BDP Northampton Central Area Design, Development and Movement Framework – Feedback**
8. **Pre Emerging Strategy Tall Buildings and Key Views - Feedback 2008**
9. **Town Centre Frontages and Primary Shopping Area Consultation Report 2010**
10. **Nene Meadows Workshop Feedback**
11. **Managers Session Feedback**
12. **Consultation Bodies**