Consultation Guidance Notes

- Northampton Local Plan (Part 2) Issues Consultation
- Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report
- Draft Statement of Community Involvement

Northampton Borough Council is inviting your comments on the Northampton Local Plan (Part 2) Issues consultation and accompanying Partial Review of the Central Area Action Plan, the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report and a draft Statement of Community Involvement (SCI).

The Borough Council has published the Northampton Local Plan (Part 2) Issues consultation paper for consultation until Friday 10 June 2016. It is accompanied by a Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report as part of the consultation. This is in accordance with Regulation 18 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.

The Northampton Local Plan (Part 2) will be the starting point for considering all planning applications within the Borough, alongside the policies in the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy. The Local Plan (Part 2) will focus on providing local detail that is not already the subject of strategic policies.

It will identify land for new development for the provision of housing, jobs and other uses as well as areas for protection. The Local Plan will also include policies to help determine planning applications.

The Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report sets out the scope of the Sustainability Report which will accompany the Northampton Local Plan (Part 2).

The Council is also consulting on the Draft Statement of Community Involvement, which sets out how the Council will involve the community in plan making and when considering planning applications.

The consultation period runs from 27 April to 10 June 2016.

Where can I view the consultation documents?

You can view the consultation documents in the following ways:

- On the Council’s consultation portal at http://northampton.gov.uk/localplanissues
  This system also allows you to submit comments.
- At The Guildhall One Stop Shop, Northampton Borough Council, St Giles Square, Northampton NN1 1DE.
At all libraries in Northampton Borough.

If you do not have access to a computer, you can request paper copies by:

emailing planningpolicy@northampton.gov.uk

telephoning 01604 837326

or by writing to Northampton Local Plan (Part 2) Issues Consultation,

Planning Policy, Regeneration, Enterprise & Planning Directorate,
Northampton Borough Council, The Guildhall, St Giles Square,
Northampton NN1 1DE

If you would like copies of consultation documents in translated or other formats please refer to the Council’s website at:

http://www.northampton.gov.uk/info/200041/equality_and_diversity/1309/interpreting

How can I comment?

You can comment on the consultation documents in one of the following ways:

Online: http://northampton.gov.uk/localplanissues OR

Complete the comments form which you can download from the website. By using the comments form, it helps us ensure we have all the correct information to register and process your comments and keep you informed. Once completed you can do the following:

Email: planningpolicy@northampton.gov.uk OR

Post: Northampton Local Plan (Part 2) Issues Consultation, Planning Policy, Regeneration, Enterprise & Planning Directorate, Northampton Borough Council, The Guildhall, St Giles Square, Northampton NN1 1DE (using the comments form available on the website)

All the above can be found by accessing the following link:

http://northampton.gov.uk/localplanissues

Responses should be submitted by 5pm on Friday 10 June 2016.
How will my comments be used?

The Council will consider your comments in progressing work on the Northampton Local Plan (Part 2). Comments received will be published on the Council’s consultation portal in accordance with the Data Protection Act.

Responses will be reported to the Council’s Cabinet Advisory Group, which advises on the preparation of the Northampton Local Plan (Part 2). They will also be reported in summary to the Council’s Cabinet.

If you are organising a petition or intend to, or have signed one, it must be submitted by the deadline and be accompanied by the name and contact details of the petition organiser. The Council will only register the petition organiser on its Local Plan consultation database and future notifications will only be sent to the petition organiser. The number of signatories to the petition will be recorded.

Following the consultation, a feedback report will be produced setting out the main issues raised by the consultation documents. Responses will be used to inform preparation of the next versions of the documents. These will be:

- Northampton Local Plan (Part 2) Options consultation
- Sustainability Appraisal Report for Options Local Plan
- Final Statement of Community Involvement

Fair Processing Notice issued under The Data Protection Act 1998

All observations, objections and supporting comments submitted to Northampton Borough Council are public documents. Therefore the information you submit in response to consultations on the Local Plan will be publicly available as part of the consultation responses and made available for any member of the public to view in person. This may include your name and the comment made. Specific personal contact data such as your email address, signature, postal address and telephone number will not be published on the Northampton Borough Council website but retained for contact purposes only by the planning department at Northampton Borough Council.

In submitting a comment on the Local Plan you agree for your information to be held and processed for the purpose(s) and in the way detailed above.

If you have any questions, please contact us by email at: planningpolicy@northampton.gov.uk or by telephone: 01604 837326.
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Northampton Local Plan (Part 2) and Partial Review of the Central Area Action Plan

Issues Paper

Northampton Local Plan (Part 2)

Question 1 – What are the main issues relating to housing delivery, mix and affordability which the Local Plan (Part 2) should consider? The Local Plan (Part 2) will not be reviewing the number of new homes that is already identified in the adopted Joint Core Strategy.

Question 2 – Do you think that we need sites that can deliver new homes more quickly, in the short to medium term?
Question 3 - Do you think that we need a mix of market housing eg. family homes, housing for single households?

Question 4 - Do you think that we need a mix of affordable housing eg. affordable rent, social rent, shared ownership, Starter Homes?
Question 5 – Is there evidence to support the Local Plan (Part 2) introducing the optional national housing technical standards in relation to access and space standards?

Question 6 – Is there evidence to support the Local Plan (Part 2) introducing the optional national housing technical standards in relation to water efficiency standards?
Question 7 – Are there particular sites that are not used currently for employment uses which you consider would be particularly suitable for new employment uses? The Local Plan (Part 2) will not be reviewing the jobs growth which is already set out in the adopted Joint Core Strategy.

Question 8 – Outside of the Enterprise Zone, are there any other existing employment areas where opportunities could be improved and vacancy rates could be addressed? If so, how could this be achieved?
Question 9 – Do you think there are any areas within the Borough where certain types of employment development are generally acceptable but which currently require planning permission, which could reasonably be dispensed with through the introduction of a Local Development Order?

Question 10 – Please provide details of any particular infrastructure issues in relation to new development which you think the Local Plan (Part 2) should address, if possible providing evidence?
Question 11 – How do we ensure a successful town centre in light of changes to shopping habits such as increased use of out of town retail and on-line shopping? The Local Plan (Part 2) will not be reviewing the retail growth which is set out in the adopted Joint Core Strategy.

Question 12 - Are there areas where the location of betting shops and hot food takeaways should be restricted?
Question 13 – Is there a need for the Local Plan (Part 2) to include a locally specific policy to protect and enhance areas of biodiversity in addition to the policies in the NPPF and Joint Core Strategy?

Question 14 - Do you think there are priority areas where green infrastructure networks could be enhanced or extended?
Question 15 – Is there a need for the Local Plan (Part 2) to include a locally specific policy to protect and enhance heritage in addition to the policies on the historic environment in the NPPF and the Joint Core Strategy?

Question 16 - Should the Council review the list of locally listed assets of historical importance?
Question 17 - Do you think there are locally important landscapes which should be identified in the Local Plan (Part 2)?

Question 18 – How do we ensure that new development preserves and enhances the character and appearance of the Borough and makes a positive contribution?
Question 19 – Is there a need for the Local Plan (Part 2) to include a locally specific policy to promote measures within new development to address climate change and renewable energy in addition to the policies in the Joint Core Strategy?

Question 20 – Should we review and incorporate existing Interim Planning Policy Guidance (eg. Affordable Housing, Houses in Multiple Occupation, etc) into the Local Plan (Part 2)?
Question 21 - Are there any other issues that the Local Plan (Part 2) needs to consider?
Central Area Action Plan

Question 22 - Flood Risk and Drainage (Policy 5) - is this policy still appropriate and up to date in relation to the Drainage Plan Part 1?

Question 23 - Inner Ring Road (Policy 6) - is the proposal for the Inner Ring Road still appropriate and up-to-date?
Question 24 - Safeguarded Public Transport Route (Policy 8) – is the proposal for a public transport / cycling / walking route still appropriate and up-to-date?

Question 25 - Pedestrian and Cycling Movement Network (Policy 9) – should this policy be updated to link to the County Council’s Smart Corridors initiative? Are the identified routes into and across the town centre still up-to-date?
Question 26 - Parking (Policy 10) – should the Council identify more car parks within the town centre and if so, where should they be?

Question 27 - Improving the Retail Offer (Policy 13) – this policy needs to be updated due to changes in Government policy such as the extension of permitted development rights. Do secondary frontages still need to be identified?
Question 28 - Meeting Retail Capacity (Policy 14) – do we need a more up-to-date retail capacity study to ensure that this policy is up-to-date?

Question 29 - Office and Business Uses (Policy 15) – this policy needs to be revised due to changes in Government policy. Should we identify land for new offices within the town centre? How should the Council seek to safeguard existing office space, especially in light of recent and proposed Government changes regarding permitted development rights?
Question 30 – Do any of the site specific policies need updating? Please indicate which policies and provide details if possible (Policies 18-35).

Question 31 - Please provide details of any other policies in the Central Area Action Plan which you consider the Council should reassess to ensure that they are up-to-date, if possible providing evidence.
When preparing a Local Plan, the Council is legally required to undertake an environmental appraisal of its proposed plans and policies, as well as a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). There is a requirement to consider the social, economic and environmental impacts of these policies.

**Question 32 - Do you have any comments on the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report?**

Please identify the page, paragraph number(s), table or appendix within the Scoping Report to which each of your comments applies.
The Statement of Community Involvement sets out how the local community, businesses and other organisations with an interest in development in Northampton can get involved. It provides a framework for involving and informing community engagement in plan making as well as in determining planning applications.

**Question 33 - Do you have any comments on the Draft Statement of Community Involvement?**