

Lucy Staves

From: Higginson Tom <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 10 June 2016 16:08
To: Planning Policy
Subject: Northampton Local Plan - Issues and options
Attachments: NBC issues and options.docx

Dear sirs – please find my comments on the NBC issues and options paper.

Regards
Tom Higginson

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10th June 2016

Dear Sirs

Northampton Local Plan – Issues and Options paper

I write in respect of the recently published issues and options paper for the next iteration of the Northampton Local Plan.

My main observation and comment is my surprise at a total lack of questions concerning the fantastic cultural facilities that Northampton has and indeed what appears to be a lack of planning policy to support, promote and enhance what is on offer.

I recently moved from London and whilst it is unfair to compare and contrast I believe that the cultural facilities that are at the core of the town centre are leading in their field - particularly the theatres, cinema and independent NN Arts facility. They are a strong cultural draw and asset bringing in visitors and residents alike. They are an important driver, and catalyst, for regeneration and the continued success of the town centre which must have a strong and supportive planning policy context.

What I find equally surprising is that the cultural quarter is clearly signposted yet within the current plan its existence is not mentioned. This must be addressed in the next plan and a clear recognition given to the role and importance of this to the continued success of the town centre.

There are many success stories around the country where local authorities who play on the strength of their cultural assets to drive economic regeneration. Northampton has the potential to do the same.

I look forward to seeing a cultural quarter policy section in the first draft of the plan.

Yours

Tom Higginson