

Date: 28 July 2017

Committee approval paves way for summer consultation on Local Plan

This summer people in South Northamptonshire will be given a chance to help shape the future of their district, after the current stage of the Local Plan was given the green light.

As the local planning authority, South Northamptonshire Council (SNC) must prepare and review at regular intervals a Local Plan which allocates land for development, areas to be protected from development, and the policies used to determine planning applications in the those areas.

On Wednesday, 26 July SNC's planning policy and regeneration strategy committee approved the final draft of the Local Plan (Part 2) Preferred Options Consultation paving the way for a 10-week public consultation which will take place this summer.

Cllr Roger Clarke, SNC's portfolio holder for planning and environment said: "There are times when people say they have had little opportunity to have their say on development in their communities.

"This is one of those opportunities and I urge people to familiarise themselves with the Local Plan and to take part in the consultation when it starts."

South Northamptonshire already benefits from the West Northants Joint Core Strategy (WNJCS), and the adopted Part 1 Local Plan, which has given developers a robust set of rules around which to plot their proposals.

Part 2 of the Local Plan adds more detail to the WNJCS and includes: planning policies that set out the general criteria against which planning applications should be judged, a hierarchy of development sites which groups together towns and villages according to their ability to sustain more development, housing policies that allow for the development of new housing to meet local and specialist needs, as well as a policy approach to help meet the shortfall in the delivery of housing within Northampton.

The Plan includes employment policies, including proposals for new employment development including sites near Towcester and Old Stratford.

It proposes that all new houses should include charging points for electric cars, and safeguards a route for the A361 Chipping Warden Bypass.

The Plan also seeks to make the most out of local canals and includes protection for the district's heritage, landscapes and community green spaces.

Following the consultation, which is likely to begin at the end of August, it will be revised before it is the subject of an Examination in Public by an independent Planning Inspector.

For more information on the South Northants Local Plan visit -

<http://modgov.southnorthants.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=352&MId=2418&Ver=4>