

Appendix A - Draft scope of NN Strategic Plan as endorsed by JPC (March 2021)

To address the key strategic priorities for the area it is expected that the scope of the plan will include the issues set out below. This may be refined subject to national guidance and consultation feedback:

- **The spatial vision for North Northamptonshire** – extended to 2050 to reflect the ASF.
- **The approach to climate change** – setting the framework for the local response to the climate emergency, building on existing initiatives and setting priorities to deliver net zero carbon.
- **The spatial strategy for the distribution of development** – including the roles of settlements and the distribution of housing, employment, retail, leisure, and other commercial development. Cooperation will be needed with adjoining authorities to ensure cross boundary issues, including options for the longer-term growth of Northampton and development options for Bedford Borough are considered.
- **The housing requirement** – The number of new homes to be provided across North Northamptonshire and the distribution of these. Within this context, the size, type, and tenure of housing needed for different groups will be identified including the proportion of the overall housing requirement that should be affordable.
- **Economic growth** – An economic vision to strengthen and diversify the economy of NN, taking account of existing sectoral strengths, opportunities provided by the Oxford-Cambridge Arc and implications of Covid-19, including changes to working patterns. An overall jobs target for North Northamptonshire, distribution of this and identification of strategic locations for new employment land.
- **Town Centres** - Updated policy guidance and strategy for town centres and retail development taking account of the impact of policy changes and social/economic implications including Covid-19. This will focus on regeneration and supporting recovery from Covid-19 including opportunities for town centres to become community service hubs with increased leisure and residential space.
- **Strategic Infrastructure** – Key infrastructure projects that are required to deliver the strategy such as strategic transport schemes, utility networks and community facilities.
- **Strategic Development Locations and Opportunities** – Strategic sites that are key to the delivery of the spatial strategy will be identified in the Plan. The strategic site threshold¹ for the NNSP will be refined as the plan is progressed, including consultation on its scope. The location of these

¹ The current threshold in the JCS is 500+ dwellings or 5+ ha of employment land. This will be reviewed taking account of the thresholds for development proposals to be considered by NNC's Strategic Development Management Committee.

sites will be a key consideration in the context of climate-change related risks and ensuring future development contributes towards a reduction in carbon emissions. The plan will define clear development principles for these areas. These will be the basis for design codes/frameworks.

- **Place shaping/sustainable development** – Key principles to ensure high quality development and sustainable places. The design and future sustainability of development will be a key consideration in the approach to climate change and the NNSP will set out a stronger approach to integrating land-use and transport considerations. This will include a review and refresh of the Protecting Assets policies in the JCS to ensure they are as locally distinctive as possible with increased emphasis on health and wellbeing. It may be necessary to harmonise the approach to open space/sports provision across NN and the broad criteria for the delivery of these.
- **Built & Natural Environment** – Key principles and measures to achieve environmental net gain including the protection, restoration, and enhancement of natural, built, and historic assets. This will include natural capital benefits such as flood protection, recreation and improved water and air quality as well as ensuring appropriate measures for nationally and locally designated wildlife sites and priority habitats. The NNSP will seek to maximise the health and wellbeing benefits of nature and accessibility to it. Opportunities to enhance the green infrastructure network within NN and maximise its wider benefits and opportunities will be set out.