North Northamptonshire
Joint Planning Unit

NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE JOINT CORE STRATEGY 2011-2031
JUNE 2015 FOCUSED CHANGES TO THE PRE-SUBMISSION PLAN

GUIDANCE NOTE ON THE COMPLETION OF THE REPRESENTATION FORM

1. Introduction

1.1 Focused Changes to the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy Pre-Submission Plan have been published in order for representations to be made by the public and interested parties, prior to submission to the Secretary of State. Any representations received in response, together with those representations already made to the Pre-Submission Plan, will be submitted with the Submission Plan for examination by a Planning Inspector. The Submission Plan will comprise the Joint Core Strategy Pre-Submission Plan (as amended by the Focused Changes) and is hereafter referred to as the Plan. The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004[1] (as amended) states that the purpose of the examination is to consider whether the Plan complies with the legal requirements, the duty to co-operate and is 'sound'. Detailed guidance on these requirements was published alongside the Pre-Submission Plan and is summarised in Appendix 1 of this note.

2. Responding to Focused Changes

2.1 The published Pre-Submission Joint Core Strategy, as amended by the Focused Changes, is intended to be the final version of the Plan for submission to the Secretary of State. **Representations previously made to the Pre-Submission Joint Core Strategy will be considered by the Inspector, and there is no need to re-iterate these**. Representations at this stage should relate only to the Focused Changes set out in the Addendum of Focused Changes and illustrated in the marked-up version of the Plan, both available at www.nnjpu.org.uk.

2.2 If you are opposed to a Focused Change, you should make clear in what way the Focused Change fails to meet the duty to co-operate or other legal requirements, or is not sound/ would result in the Plan not being sound, having regard to the tests of soundness. If you consider that a Focused Change should be amended, then you should try to support your representation by evidence showing why it should be changed. It will be helpful if you also say precisely how you think a Focused Change should be modified.

2.3 If you wish to support a Focused Change, please explain why and whether the Focused Change has satisfied, in whole or part, a representation that you made on the Pre-Submission Joint Core Strategy.

2.4 Representations should cover succinctly all the information, evidence and supporting information necessary to support/justify the representation and any suggested modification of the Focused Change, as there will not normally be a subsequent opportunity to make further submissions based on the original representation. After this

[1] View at http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2004/5/contents

stage, further submissions will be only at the request of the Inspector, based on the matters and issues that he/she identifies for examination.

2.5 Where there are groups who share a common view on how they wish to see a Focused Change modified, it would be very helpful for that group to send a single representation which represents the view, rather than for a large number of individuals to send in separate representations which repeat the same points. In such cases the group should indicate how many people it is representing and how the representation has been authorised.

2.6 Please return the completed Representation form to the North Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit (JPU) **by 5.00pm on Monday 27th July 2015**. A Word version of the Representation Form can be downloaded from the JPU website www.nnjpu.org.uk and then can be sent to consultation@nnjpu.org.uk before the expiry of the deadline. Please note that this is our preferred method of response, but if you wish, you can send completed forms to us by post at the following address:-

North Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit
c/o East Northamptonshire Council
Cedar Drive
Thrapston
Northants NN14 4LZ

2.7 Please do not send duplicates at this stage. Note that copies of all comments submitted (including your name, but not the contact details of private individuals) will be made available for the public to read and therefore cannot be treated as confidential. All comments you wish to make, should be made using the Representation Form to help ensure the Joint Planning Unit has all the information needed to process your response to our Joint Core Strategy. Please type or print clearly in black or blue ink.

2.8 It is important that a separate form is used for each representation you make. If you use additional sheets, please mark them clearly with your name and organisation.

2.9 In accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998, your details will be retained on our database, and the database for the examination of the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy.

3. Further Information

Please contact the North Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit if you have any queries or require assistance in completing the Representation Form, via e-mail to consultation@nnjpu.org.uk or via telephone on 01832 742358.

Thank you for taking the time to read this Guidance Note.

APPENDIX 1

Examination of the Joint Core Strategy (including Focused Changes)

Legal Compliance and Duty to Co-operate

The Inspector will first check that the Plan meets the legal requirements under s20 (5) (a) and the duty to co-operate under s20 (5) (c) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act before moving on to test for soundness. Specific legal requirements are that:

- The Plan is required to be included in the current Local Development Scheme (LDS) and refer to the key stages which should have been followed. The LDS is effectively a programme of work set out by the North Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit on behalf of the Joint Committee (as the Plan making authority).

- The process of community involvement for the Plan is obliged to be in general accordance with the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) which has been adopted by the North Northamptonshire Joint Committee. The SCI sets out the strategy for involving the community in the preparation and revision of Plans and the consideration of planning applications.

- The Plan should comply with the Town and County Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (the Regulations)[2]. On publication, the Joint Planning Unit (and the Partner Councils) must publish the documents prescribed in the Regulations, and make them available at its principal offices of these organisations, and on their websites.

- The Joint Planning Unit on behalf of the Joint Committee as the Plan making authority, is required to provide a Sustainability Appraisal Report when it publishes the Joint Core Strategy. Sustainability Appraisal is a tool for appraising policies to ensure they reflect social, environmental, and economic factors.

- The Joint Core Strategy must have regard to any Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) for its area (i.e. county and district). The SCS is subject to consultation but not to an independent examination.

The duty to co-operate came into force on 15 November 2011 and any plan submitted for examination on or after this date will be examined for compliance. Non-compliance with the duty to co-operate cannot be rectified after the submission of the Plan. Therefore the Inspector has no power to recommend modifications in this regard. Where the duty has not been complied with, the Inspector has no choice but to recommend non-adoption of the Plan.

[2] View at http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2012/767/contents/made

Soundness

Soundness is explained in paragraph 182 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). For the Joint Core Strategy (including Focused Changes) to be found sound, the Inspector has to be satisfied that the Plan is:

A Positively prepared

This means that the Plan should be prepared based on a strategy which seeks to meet objectively assessed development and infrastructure requirements, including unmet requirements from neighbouring authorities where it is reasonable to do so and consistent with achieving sustainable development.

B Justified

The Plan should be the most appropriate strategy when considered against reasonable alternatives, based on proportionate evidence.

C Effective

The Plan should be deliverable over its period and based on effective joint working on cross-boundary strategic priorities.

D Consistent with national policy

The Plan should enable the delivery of sustainable development in accordance with the policies in the NPPF.