

meeting **JOINT COMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC PLANNING & TRANSPORT**

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from: **JOINT OFFICER STEERING GROUP**

Report

REVIEW OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE PROTOCOL

Purpose of Report

1. A review of the Protocol for the Joint Committee is required every two years and the review is now overdue. This report concludes that few changes to the protocol are necessary, however a full review should be undertaken following enactment of the Localism Bill and approval of the National Planning Policy Framework (the subject of another item on this agenda).

Introduction

2. At the meeting of 21st December 2007, Joint Committee agreed an updated Protocol for the Committee alongside recommending a separate body be convened for NGP governance. That separate body was formed as the Joint Planning Advisory Board. In accordance with the recommendation the Joint Committee has received regular reports relating to the recommendations of the Nottingham Core Housing Market Area Programme Board.
3. The operation of this Joint Committee is governed by a Protocol, which is subject to a biennial review. The Committee is an advisory Committee, with decisions being referred as recommendations back to the Executive Bodies of the constituent authorities. A copy of the existing Protocol is attached at appendix 1. That Protocol was updated to reflect the demise of Structure Plans and the new role of the Regional Spatial Strategy, and to incorporate the New Growth Point.

Proposals

4. At its meeting in June 2011 the Committee was informed that although the Government has announced its intention to revoke Regional Strategies this will remain part of the statutory development plan across the two authorities (and for that matter, the country) and that this situation will apply until the Localism Bill is enacted and Regional Strategies are abolished. The Government intends to enact the localism bill before the end of 2011, but this programme may be delayed.
5. In addition, the Government has issued a draft National Planning Policy Framework for consultation. This is the subject of a report elsewhere on this agenda. This, it is intended, will significantly change the policy context within which plan-making and development management takes place.
6. Further changes that are underway affect responsibility for flooding, health, national infrastructure decisions and
7. Consequently, while there have been some changes to the context within which the Joint Committee has operated since the last update of the Protocol have had little or no impact on the protocol itself, and the most significant changes remain to be finalised, so it is recommended that no changes are made at this time, but that a review is undertaken once the Localism Bill is enacted, and the National Planning Policy Framework approved.
8. The final decision on the make up and constitution of the Joint Committee rests with the two Councils, and it is recommended that this decision not to amend the Protocol be ratified by the respective Portfolio holders.

RECOMMENDATION

9. It is RECOMMENDED:

That no changes are made to the Protocol but that a further review takes place as described in this report.

Background Papers

None

Contact Officers

Sally Gill, Communities Department, Nottinghamshire County Council

Tel: 0115 977 4537

E-mail: sally.gill@nottscc.gov.uk

Matt Gregory, Development Department, Nottingham City Council
Tel: 0115 876 3981 E-mail: matt.gregory@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

APPENDIX 1

PROTOCOL FOR THE OPERATION OF A JOINT COMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC PLANNING AND TRANSPORT IN GREATER NOTTINGHAM (REVISED 2007)

1. Nottinghamshire County Council and Nottingham City Council (Unitary) established a Joint Committee between the two Authorities to advise on strategic planning and transport matters in Greater Nottingham in April 1998.
2. The protocol agreed between the two Authorities on the establishment and operation of the Joint Committee (agreed February 2000) requires a two yearly review, to ensure it remains relevant to the needs of the Joint Committee.

Role

3. The role of the Joint Committee is to advise the County Council and City Council on strategic planning and transport matters taking account of the best interests of the whole of Greater Nottingham.

Responsibilities

4. The Joint Committee will be responsible for providing advice on regional, sub-regional and strategic planning and on transport matters including the following:
 - (a) Preparation, review, modification and monitoring of strategic planning advice to the Regional Planning Body;
 - (b) Conformity of Local Development Documents, as agreed with the Regional Planning Body, and strategic planning and transport comments on Draft Development Plans prepared by other Local Planning Authorities;
 - (c) The implementation of the Greater Nottingham elements of the 3 Cities and 3 Counties Growth Point, including the preparing of bids for funding, agreeing programmes for implementation and keeping the implementation of the Growth Point under review;
 - (d) Co-ordination of policies and management for minerals and waste matters, including joint Local Development Documents;

- (e) Greater Nottingham Local Transport Plan;
 - (f) Strategic issues arising from the management of the Traffic Control Centre;
 - (g) Strategic issues arising from Public Transport Operations, including Bus Quality Partnerships and the development of the Nottingham Express Transit;
 - (h) Greater Nottingham Rail Development Plan;
 - (i) Regional Spatial Strategies, relevant sub-regional studies, Regional Transport Strategy, the Integrated Regional Strategy and any other regional/sub-regional consultation/consultant studies insofar as they impact upon Greater Nottingham;
 - (j) Strategic issues arising from the District Council air quality review and assessment.
5. To assist the Joint Committee in carrying out the responsibilities in paragraph 4 above, they shall be entitled to receive information and to comment where they deem appropriate on other relevant matters including:
- (a) Development Plan policies and strategy for the rest of the County;
 - (b) Local Transport Plan for the rest of the County;
 - (c) Planning applications within Greater Nottingham subject to the statutory timetable;
 - (d) Wider aspects of Regional Spatial Strategies and Sub-Regional Studies;
 - (e) Major development proposals in areas surrounding Greater Nottingham;
 - (f) Significant developments in the highway and transport networks;
 - (g) Major strategic initiatives of either Authority in Greater Nottingham e.g. tackling climate change.

- (h) Economic strategies for Greater Nottingham;
- (i) Government legislation, regulations and guidance affecting strategic planning and transport matters.

Area of Responsibility

6. The Joint Committee will be responsible for advising on strategic planning and transport matters across the whole area known as South Nottinghamshire in the Nottinghamshire and Nottingham Joint Structure Plan 2006. This area will be known as Greater Nottingham and its boundaries are illustrated on the attached Map 1. In undertaking the responsibilities for Growth Point in paragraph 4 (c) above, the area will also include Erewash Borough, to coincide with the boundaries of the Nottingham Core Housing Market Area element of the 3 Cities and 3 Counties Growth Point.

Relationship to Parent Authorities

7. The views of the Joint Committee will be communicated to the appropriate executive or other body or bodies of the County and City Councils as soon as possible following a resolution by the Joint Committee. Where the Joint Committee has expressed a view on particular matters that is the subject of a report to any of the parent executive bodies, the recommendation of the Joint Committee will be included in the report.

Membership

8. The Joint Committee will be composed of four (4) members from each authority.
9. With the agreement of the Chair and Vice Chair, other members may be co-opted onto the Committee from time to time to assist the Joint Committee in carrying out the responsibilities in paragraphs 4 to 6 above. Such members will not have voting rights.
10. The appropriateness of co-opted members will be reviewed in accordance with paragraph 18.

Chair and Vice Chair

11. The Chair and Vice Chair will be appointed in alternate years by each authority. The Vice Chair will always be appointed by the authority not holding the Chair.

Frequency of Meetings

12. The Joint Committee will meet at least 4 times a year.

Organisation and Conduct of Meetings

13. Notice of meetings, circulation of papers, conduct of business at meetings and voting arrangements will follow the Standing Orders of the authority which holds the Chair, or such Standing Orders which may be approved by the parent authorities. Meetings will be open to members of the public.

Officer Support

14. The secretariat of the Joint Committee will alternate annually between the two authorities with the Chair. The costs of operating the Joint Committee will be met by the Council providing the secretariat services. The work of the Joint Committee will be serviced by a Joint Officer Steering Group which will assist the Chair and Vice Chair in setting agendas and brief them prior to meetings. They will also be responsible for communicating the views of the Joint Committee.

Disagreement Between the two Authorities

15. Where the members of the Joint Committee cannot arrive at a view on a particular issue which enjoys the support of the majority of members, that issue should be referred back to the relevant executive bodies of the two Councils.

16. Participation in the Joint Committee will not deter either Authority from expressing a dissenting opinion on any specific issue. The right to make representations at a formal deposit stage, at the Examination in Public, at a Public Local Inquiry or at any consultation stage in the formal development plan making process, will not in any way be curtailed by membership of the Joint Committee.

Review

17. The role and operation of the Joint Committee will be kept under review, with a further complete review of its responsibilities and workings to be carried out not later than two years from the adoption of this revised protocol.

Protocol V4

MAP 1

