

Meeting: **JOINT COMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC PLANNING AND TRANSPORT**

Date: **21 March 2014**

agenda item number:

From: **JOINT OFFICER STEERING GROUP**

JOINT COMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC PLANNING AND TRANSPORT

Purpose of report

1. To consider the Terms of Reference (Protocol) of the Joint Committee.

Information and Advice

2. The Terms of Reference of Joint Committee (Protocol For The Operation Of A Joint Committee On Strategic Planning And Transport In Greater Nottingham) were originally approved in 1998. They have been periodically reviewed to determine whether updated terms of reference are required. They were last considered by Joint Committee in September 2010. Due to the uncertainty around replacement strategic planning arrangements following the announcement that Regional Strategies were abolished, it was resolved that the Terms of Reference remain the same with a future review when once the Localism Bill is enacted, and the National Planning Policy Framework approved. The Terms of Reference are attached at Appendix 1.
3. The Terms of Reference are therefore due for review. Since the formation of the Joint Committee other overlapping governance structures with a similar remit to the Joint Committee have been established, principally the Greater Joint Planning Advisory Board (JPAB). There are also new governance arrangements emerging around the D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership which may have a bearing on the work of this Committee.
4. Although the roles of Joint Committee and JPAB are different, in that Joint Committee has an oversight of Minerals and Waste planning and Strategic Transport matters, there is a high degree of overlap. The Terms of Reference of JPAB are currently under review, and it would be opportune to consider the operation of the Joint Committee in the light of revised Terms of Reference of JPAB, to explore the scope for rationalisation, in the interests of efficient decision making.
5. It is therefore proposed that the Joint Committee receive a further report on this matter once the revised Terms of Reference for the JPAB are established.

Recommendation

That no changes are made to the Terms of Reference of Joint Committee (the Protocol) but that a future meeting of the Joint Committee consider a paper outlining options for its future operation as described in this report.

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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

