

Report to Norfolk Strategic Planning Member Forum
13th July 2021

Report of Norfolk Strategic Framework Programme Manager

Subject Norfolk Strategic Planning Work Programme

Purpose

To update members on progress of the on-going Norfolk Strategic Planning Framework work programme.

Recommendation

To note the contents of this report and progress made on the NSPF.

Financial implications

No financial implications.

Contact officers

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Further Information

None.

Report

Purpose

The purpose of the Norfolk Strategic Planning Framework (NSPF) Work Programme is to update and maintain the previously endorsed NSPF. The programme has provided a refreshed NSPF in 2021, this version of the document is likely to be used for the submission of a number of local plans in 2021. The programme will also deliver a number of new joint studies to inform local plans providing cost saving over local authorities commissioning these separately. The following work streams are being completed by the programme:

- The completion of a county wide Green Infrastructure and Recreational impact avoidance and mitigation Strategy
- The completion of an Older Persons housing and support needs Study for Norfolk

The Programme has already completed:

- A comprehensive review of Climate Change and its impact across the area to inform local plans looking at mitigation, adaptation and sequestering of greenhouse gases
- The production of 5G Shared guidance and the Broadband guides

Revised NSPF and Endorsement

1. A revised NSPF was considered at the January 2021 Member Forum. At this meeting it was agreed that the NSPF could be taken forward for endorsement by each authority.
2. Since then, all authorities have taken the NSPF to their relevant cabinet/council meetings for endorsement and the latest version of the NSPF is now fully endorsed.
3. The document also has been signed off by the New Anglia LEP, the Environment Agency, Natural England, Anglian Water, MMO, Water Resources East and Active Norfolk
4. The revised version of the NSPF is available at the member forum website www.norfolk.gov.uk/nsf

Outstanding Work

5. A number of studies have been completed as part of the NSPF update and 2 of these remain uncompleted, progress on these is detailed below:

Green Infrastructure and Recreational Impact Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy

6. Place Services have now completed the final report for this study according to the original brief for this work. The report includes:
 - A review of the opportunity areas for the provision of new and/or enhanced GI in the county
 - An understanding of the current management measures for visitors to the European sites and evidence for recreational disturbance.
 - A proposed mitigation package to avoid significant adverse effects from residential development and to be funded by developer contributions from qualifying development schemes
7. The report also suggests further work to undertake an enhanced green infrastructure study for the county which is supported by Natural England.

8. Following feedback from Member Forums and the workshop held this year it became clear that further work is required around certain areas of the study. This further work includes establishing governance arrangements, with appropriate elected member oversight, clearly defining success factors and ensuring clarity on the apportionment of funding arising from development in different locations in Norfolk. It is also proposed that the mitigation package is subject to an immediate review. The approach to the implementation of the GIRAMS proposals are currently the subject of negotiations on a Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) between the Greater Norwich Authorities and Natural England in connection with the planned Submission of the Greater Norwich Local Plan. If acceptable to all parties, the content of this SoCG may form the basis of a Norfolk wide agreement that would be referred to each individual authority for endorsement.

Older Persons Accommodation and Support Needs Study

9. Three Dragons were commissioned to complete an Older Persons Accommodation and Support Needs Study. The study was to
 - a. Provide a robust evidence-based demand assessment of older people's accommodation until 2041 to inform local plans
 - b. Provide context on viability and how Local Planning Authorities can support development
 - c. Develop site identification criteria which can be used consistently across Norfolk

Work on this project was expected to be complete by now but further updates to the study have been requested by officers and these changes are currently being undertaken by the consultants. We expect to be able to provide the final report to members at the October Member Forum including a presentation from the county council about how this study fits into their work.

New Workstreams

10. Delays to the current work programme have resulted in no new work being started in this financial year. A new programme will be finalised in the coming months to include the new GI RAMS workstream and some initial scoping work will be started on the county wide design guide and the review of the health protocol. It is hoped the new work programme can be agreed at the next member forum based on capacity and budget to complete the work and to take account of any further updates on government policy relating to the planning white paper.