

Report to Norfolk Strategic Planning Member Forum
25th January 2022

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

Trevor Wiggett, Programme Manager: 07557 489520

Further Information

None.

Report

Purpose

The purpose of the Norfolk Strategic Planning Framework (NSPF) Work Programme is to maintain the 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. The programme will also deliver a number of new joint studies to inform local plans providing cost savings 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 and it's implementation
- The completion of an Older Persons housing and support needs Study for Norfolk
- Review of the Health Protocol

NSPF

1. Version 3 of the NSPF was completed in Spring 2021 the latest version of the NSPF is available at the member forum website www.norfolk.gov.uk/nsf
2. At present a further update of the NSPF has not been started due to the uncertainty of the proposed planning reforms.

Outstanding Work

3. A number of workstreams are on going, progress on these is detailed below:

Green Infrastructure and Recreational Impact Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy County Wide Statement of Common Ground

4. A county wide Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) between all LPAs in Norfolk and Natural England (NE) is being finalised by officers but we now have broad agreement on it's content and wording. We expect this to be finalised in the next few weeks. Some Local Authorities are implementing the tariff or have already implemented it, while others are waiting for the SoCG to be agreed. It is proposed for all LAs to have the tariff collection in place by the end of March 2022.

Governance and Management of GIRAMS Fund

5. The governance arrangements for the RAMS fund were discussed at the December Member Forum. A steering group has been setup to create terms of reference for the overarching board and a job description will be created for the Delivery Officer Role. Formal arrangements will be worked on with the county to be the accountable body and hosting organisation.

RAMS Mitigation Package Review Study

6. The brief for this new study is being finalised with officers. West Suffolk are interested in joining the RAMS review to cover the whole of the Brecks and officers are meeting with West Suffolk to explore how this could happen.
7. Officers continue to look at the most cost-effective way to deliver this study whilst ensuring it delivers the best outcomes against the brief. It is likely that this will mean the study is put out to tender.

Planning in Health Protocol Review

8. It was previously agreed as part of the Norfolk Strategic Planning Framework update (2021) to undertake a review of the Planning In Health Protocol (2019) to reflect changes in National Health Service structures and to consider how to better put promoting good health into the planning and design arena. Members will be aware that the Protocol is an engagement tool between the Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) and the Health Community supporting appropriate health infrastructure and the principles of health and well-being are adequately considered in the plan making and determining application.
9. The review of the Protocol will largely focus on consider the following:
 - Updating of NHS and ICS structures – ensuring LPAs still have a single point of contact into the NHS; and reaffirming their status as “first point of contact”;
 - Checking current engagement and feedback process from both planning and NHS perspective and whether this is still the most appropriate way to engage within the changing landscape;
 - Inclusion of Infrastructure Delivery Plans (IDPs) – do LPAs need to engage Health Sector on these Plans too;
 - Building in principles of healthy design and reviewing the checklist, supported by information on relative impacts on population health i.e. looking at preventative measure towards good health;
 - Review the role and scope of HIAs (or similar) proportionate to impact and capacity and affirming prevention principles at early stages
10. Whilst the pandemic has clearly altered work patterns for some in terms of a shift towards working from home, this has not been the case for all workers and others are returning to prior levels of activity. The Protocol Review will consider in very broad terms the implications of the Pandemic on Planning in Health, although it is recognised that it is not the remit of the engagement Protocol to address the wider strategic and long term implications arising from the global pandemic.
11. Overseen by the officers on NSPG a small working group will look at some key issues including:
 - Stream 1
 - Update new ICS structure / boundaries
 - Review the range of planning meetings across various geographies
 - NHS structural requirements / CIL / s.106 etc and locality delivery plans and delivery models / methodology
 - Stream 2
 - Role of Health Impact Assessments and similar
 - Collation of key external guides and good practice
 - Guidance on impacts of design / interventions on population health

Older Persons Accommodation and Support Needs Study

12. 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

This study is now complete and a copy of the study is included with this report.

New Workstreams

13. Delays to the current work programme have resulted in no new work being started this year. A new programme will be finalised in the coming months to take account of any further updates on government policy relating to the planning white paper.