

Report to Norfolk Strategic Planning Member Forum
22nd Feb 2018

Report of Norfolk Strategic Framework Project Manager

Subject Norfolk Strategic Planning Framework Progress

Purpose

To update members on progress of the Norfolk Strategic Planning Framework and the on-going joint work of the group.

Recommendation

To note the contents of this report, progress on the NSPF Endorsement and further work for completion

Financial implications

No financial implications and no additional budget required.

Contact officers

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Further Information

None.

Report

Purpose

The purpose of the Norfolk Strategic Planning Framework (NSPF) Project is to produce a non-statutory framework to:

- Agree shared objectives and strategic priorities to improve outcomes for Norfolk and inform the preparation of future local plans;
- Demonstrate compliance with the duty to co-operate;
- Find efficiencies in the planning system through working towards the establishment of a shared evidence base;
- Influence subsequent high level plans; and
- Maximise the opportunities to secure external funding to delivery against agreed objectives.

The NSPF will be reviewed regularly as the duty to co-operate requires authorities to work together in an ongoing and meaningful way. The NSPF produced is the first version and changes will be made as further evidence becomes available and when government policy changes are confirmed.

NSPF Endorsement

1. Following feedback from the Norfolk Strategic Planning Member Forum held in December the NSPF has been updated to the final draft version for endorsement.
2. The document is now in the process of being endorsed by each authority and the table below sets the timescale for this to be completed.

NSPF Endorsement Timetable (as at 15 th Feb)		
Authority	Process (Steps in green are completed)	Expected Completion Date
Breckland	Cabinet - 6 th Feb	6 th Feb
Broadland	Cabinet – 6 th Feb , Council – 22 nd Feb	22 nd Feb
Broads Authority	Planning Committee - 2 nd Feb, Full Authority - 16 th March	16 th March
Great Yarmouth	Policy and Resources Committee - 6 th Feb	6 th Feb
West Norfolk and King's Lynn	Cabinet - 13 th March	13 th March
North Norfolk	Working party - 19 th Feb, Cabinet - 12 th Mar	12 th March
Norwich	SDP - 17 th Jan, Cabinet - 7 th Feb	7 th Feb
South Norfolk	Cabinet – 5 th Feb, Council – 19 th Feb	19 th Feb
Norfolk County	EDT Committee – 16 th March	16 th March

3. As can be seen from the table, as of 15th Feb, 3 authorities have completed their endorsed process. The only feedback received so far from the process has been from Broadland DC who requested to include a summary of all agreements at the start of the document and this will be incorporated into the final version. It is expected that by the 16th March the NSPF will have been tabled for endorsement by all authorities and subject to its endorsement by all a final version will then be published.

Task and Finish Groups

4. Following the completion of the NSPF drafting, the work of the task and finish groups is now considered complete and the four groups – Housing, Economic, Infrastructure and Delivery wound up.
5. The Green Infrastructure group will remain in place to oversee the production of a Green Infrastructure strategy committed to within the NSPF.
6. As the work programme for 2018 (discussed later) becomes clear further Task and Finish groups will be required and a new governance structure will be presented at the April Member forum.

Delivery Group

7. The externally commissioned deep dive into larger Norfolk sites has now been completed by consultants WSP and their report signed off by the Delivery Task and Finish group. The final report will be presented at the February Member Forum and the full report included in the papers for this meeting.
8. As part of this work the delivery group has proposed further actions to take forward the WSP recommendations and subject to agreement at the Member Forum, these actions will be included in the 2018 work programme.
9. This concludes the work of the Delivery Group.

Green Infrastructure

10. The NSPF commits authorities to the production of a Norfolk wide Green Infrastructure Strategy and this work will continue in 2018. Norfolk authorities, led by Great Yarmouth have submitted a bid to the Planning Delivery Fund for financial support for the production of this entitled 'Achieving Housing Growth in Norfolk through a Strategy for People and Wildlife'
11. The success of this bid will influence the scope and timescale of the GI Strategy and further details should be available by the time of the next member forum in April.

Work programme 2018

12. Continued formal cooperation on strategic planning matters will be coordinated through the Norfolk Strategic Planning Member Forum supported by a shared administration function jointly funded by the local planning authorities. Three main workstreams have been identified to be taken forward in 2018:
 - The review of the Norfolk Strategic Planning Framework in light of the forthcoming publication of a revised National Planning Policy Framework and a possible requirement to apply a new standardised methodology to assessing housing need, and produce statements of common ground
 - For authorities to take forward commitments made for further joint working in the Norfolk Strategic Planning Framework and to identify areas for cost savings through joint commissioning of work
 - Maintain links to third parties and to neighbouring authorities and their strategic planning work

13. A work programme for 2018 is being finalised and members will be updated in April on further details of this work. The publication of the draft revised National Planning Policy Framework will allow a more detailed scope of work to be put forward to members.

Budget

14. The NSPF project will be completed with a surplus of around £15k. The 2018 Work programme will be funded using this surplus and an additional contribution of £10k per authority.

Latest Version of the NSPF

15. The latest version of the NSPF is available via this Link:
<https://norfolk.citizenspace.com/consultation/norfolk-strategic-framework/results/20171220-norfolk-strategic-framework-final.pdf>