

Report to Norfolk Strategic Planning Member Forum
1st October 2020

Report of Norfolk Strategic Framework Programme Manager

Subject Norfolk Strategic Planning Framework Progress

Purpose

To update members on progress of Norfolk Strategic Planning Framework 2020/21 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) Programme is to update and maintain the previously endorsed NSPF. The programme will aim to provide a refreshed NSPF in early 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 completion of 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 NSPF Economic section will be reviewed to align with the Local Industrial Strategy and other local and national work
- Maintain links to NHS estates and the CCGs with regular meetings to share updates on key developments and progress of Local Plans
- Complete the production of 5G Shared guidance and the Broadband guides

Implications of the Planning White Paper

1. The government published it's Planning for the Future white paper on the 6th of August. Amongst the many changes to the planning system proposed by the paper is the abolishment of the Duty to Cooperate. However a number of authorities are looking to expedite their local plan process and submit their Local Plans before any new regulations come into force. As a result work on updating of the NSPF continues so that there is an up to date version of the NSPF ready for these local plans.
2. Because of the white paper and the timescales to have a new version of the NSPF completed, the changes to the document are being scaled back and officers are proposing that there is not a public consultation on this new version of the document.
3. NSPF is being updated with appreciation for the proposed changes in the white paper and other changes announced at the same time like the new Standard Methodology for calculating local housing need. However there remains much uncertainty around the detail of the changes.

Progress of the Next Version of the NSPF

4. Much of the work for the third version of the NSPF is nearing completion. This will enhance areas deemed to need improvement and deliver a number of new joint studies to inform local plans. Details of progress with the various workstreams is given below.

5. **Green Infrastructure and Recreational Impact Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy** – Place Services were commissioned in 2019 to produce a county wide Green Infrastructure and Recreational Impact Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy. The final report for this study is nearing completion, the work has been delayed because we have been unable to get the necessary input from Natural England who have been heavily engaged in Sizewell C proposals. The work will include:
- a. A review of the opportunity areas for the provision of new and/or enhanced GI in the county
 - b. An understanding of the current management measures for visitors to the European sites and evidence for recreational disturbance.
 - c. The mitigation necessary to avoid significant adverse effects from residential development and a detailed programme of strategic mitigation measures which is recommended for funding by developer contributions from residential development schemes

We expect this work to be completed in the next 2 months and the recommendations will be reported to members at the next member forum.

6. **Older Persons Accommodation and Support Needs Study** – Three Dragons have been commissioned to complete an Older Persons Accommodation and Support Needs Study. The study will
- d. Provide a robust evidence-based demand assessment of older people's accommodation until 2041 to inform local plans
 - e. Provide context on viability and how Local Planning Authorities can support development
 - f. Develop site identification criteria which can be used consistently across Norfolk

Work on this project is nearing completion and we are working with the consultants to finalise the report. We expect this work to be completed in the next 2 months and outputs will be reported to members at the next member forum.

7. **Climate Change** – The Climate Change group was set up late Summer in 2019, the group has reviewed information in relation to Climate Change with a specific focus on the role and impact on Local Plans and the planning system generally. It has also explored some of the emerging policy work around climate change, and background information.

The group are finalising recommendations and have produced a detailed paper on the various topics that local government can influence covering both mitigation and adaptation to climate change. We expect this work to be completed in the next 2 months and recommendations will be reported to members at the next member forum.

8. **Health** – Local Authorities continue to work with Health Colleagues to understand how we can ensure a better Health provision for the communities of Norfolk. Regular meetings are continuing to take place covering West Norfolk, Central Norfolk, and Great Yarmouth and Waveney to:
- i. Review Local Plan progress
 - ii. Provide updates on current and forthcoming key development schemes,
 - iii. Provide updates on key healthcare developments and new facilities
 - iv. Review production of health Infrastructure Delivery Plans
 - v. Review key planning/Health changes

The STP are working on producing Health Infrastructure Delivery plans for each of the local planning areas in the county, LPAs will continue to work with the STP to support their production.

The meetings are also being used to understand a number of changes with the health system with the merger of the 5 CCGs in Norfolk and the move to an Integrated Care System, and the impacts of the Coronavirus and how this may impact health care provision in the future.

9. **5G Shared guidance and the Broadband guides** – New guidance and joint policies to support the roll out of 5G and broadband to the county have been produce and the work of the group completed. The recommendations will be reported to members at the next member forum.
10. **Overall Programme Timetable** – The High level programme of work for the NSPF has been delayed slightly for various reasons including the coronavirus as officers have been pulled on to other work to support this. However the programme remains on target to produce a draft version of the document for local plans looking to be submitted early in the New Year. A new additional Member Forum will be schedule in November/December to focus on the updated NSPF and the outputs of all the workstreams due to complete soon. The aim will be to have a new endorsed NSPF in January/February 2021.