

Report to Norfolk Strategic Planning Member Forum
14th January 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

Trevor Wiggett, Programme Manager: 01603 212557

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 following work streams are being completed to support the process:

- 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

Through the NSPF update process the programme will also:

- Ensure all evidence and housing needs calculations are up to date following publications of updated data and the new Housing Standard Methodology
- Ensure the NSPF is aligned to the Water Resource Management Plan being prepared by Water Resources East
- Ensure the NSPF is aligned to any strategic work of neighbouring authorities and links to neighbouring counties are maintained.
- Maintain links to public bodies and Utilities involved in the NSPF

The NSPF will be reviewed regularly as the duty to co-operate requires authorities to work together in 'an ongoing and meaningful way' and Statement of Common Ground must 'reflect the most up to date position in terms of joint working across the area'.

Current NSPF and Endorsement

1. A revised NSPF was considered at the July 2019 Member Forum. At this meeting it was agreed that the NSPF could be taken forward for endorsement by each authority. Since then each authority has taken the NSPF to their relevant cabinet/council meetings for endorsement. This process was completed in October 2019 and the NSPF is now endorsed by all partners.
2. The document also continues to be endorsed by the New Anglia LEP, the Environment Agency, Natural England and Anglian Water.
3. The revised version of the NSPF is available via this link: <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/-/media/norfolk/downloads/what-we-do-and-how-we-work/policy-performance-and-partnerships/partnerships/strategic-member-forum/norfolk-strategic-planning-framework.pdf?la=en>

Progress of the Next Version of the NSPF

4. Much of the work is already underway for the third version of the NSPF. 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 are given below.
5. **Green Infrastructure and Recreational Impact Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy** – Place Services were commissioned earlier in 2019 to produce a county wide Green Infrastructure and Recreational Impact Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy. This work is progressing well and we expect the output to include:
 - a. A review of the strategically significant opportunities for the provision of new and/or enhanced GI in the county
 - b. Understand the current management measures for visitors to the European sites and evidence for recreational disturbance, including any disturbance 'hotspots' or particular concerns with locations proposed for housing growth
 - c. Develop the mitigation necessary to avoid significant adverse effects from 'in-combination' impacts from residential development and identify a detailed programme of strategic mitigation measures which will be recommended to be funded by developer contributions from residential development schemes

We expect to be able to report back on the completion of this work to members in January/February 2020.

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
 - a. Provide a robust evidence-based demand assessment of older people's accommodation until 2036 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 is now well underway and consultants are currently looking at the demand modelling at a local level. We expect to be able to report back on the findings of this work to members at the Spring 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, such as the Report from the Committee on Climate Change that helped inform the Government's changes to the Climate Change Act 2008, and the adoption of the 2050 net zero target. The group have produced a detailed paper on the various topics that local government can influence covering both mitigation and adaptation to climate change. This will lead to recommendations and areas to explore further to discuss with members at the January 2020 member forum.
8. **Economic Review** – a number of economic development officers and planners from the County and Districts are currently reviewing the Economic section of the NSPF for the next version of the document. This work is progressing well and it will be reviewed at the joint Norfolk Strategic Planning Group/Growth Delivery Group in February 2020.

9. **Health** – Local Authorities continue to work with Health Colleagues to understand how we can ensure a better Health provision for the communities of Norfolk:
 - a. 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 changes/legislation/S106/CIL
 - b. The STP have adopted a new model (HUDU) to provide a comprehensive and detailed response in relation to the health impacts to a planning application. The response encompasses all health partners, including acute, mental health, community and primary care. Member will be provided with a detailed walkthrough of the model at the January 2020 member forum.
 - c. 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.
10. **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 produced however recent government consultations on 5G have resulted in the need to review these before they are taken forward, this review has yet to take place.
11. **Overall Programme Timetable** – The High level programme of work for the NSPF remains on target to produce a draft version for the document for review by members in September/October 2020. However the programme will continue to be reviewed in light of any government announcements/papers/legislation which might impact on the areas covered by the NSPF.