

Report to Norfolk Strategic Planning Member Forum
11th October 2018

Report of Norfolk Strategic Framework Project Manager

Subject Norfolk Strategic Planning Framework Progress

Purpose

To update members on proposed work programme for 2018.

Recommendation

To note the contents of this report and progress on the update of 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) Project is to update the previously endorsed NSPF to:

- Ensure the document meets the new requirements of the revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) particularly:
 - it meets the requirements set out for the Statement of Common Ground (SCG)
 - it is updated to assess the impacts of the new housing methodology on the housing section and the ability of each authority to meet its own housing needs
- Complete the commitments set out in the currently endorsed document including:
 - Shared guidance on the roll out of the 5G network
 - Update to the Health Protocol and health section following further improved engagement with the Norfolk Clinical Commissioning Groups and the Sustainability and Transformation Partnership (STP)
 - Update to the utilities section following further improved engagement with UK Power Networks and Anglian Water
 - Update and more detailed information regarding elderly housing needs
 - Production of a Norfolk wide GI Strategy
 - Review of the section on delivery issues and proposed actions to take forward jointly
 - Inclusion of transport agreement
 - Review tier one employment sites

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'.

NSPF Endorsement

1. The endorsed 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/latest-endorsed-version-of-the-norfolk-strategic-planning-framework.pdf?la=en>

2018 Work Programme

2. Work on updating the NSPF continues in light of the revised NPPF published on the 24th July 2018 and commitments made in the current document.
3. The Steering Group are working on the changes that are required to the current document. The first four sections have been updated and the changes are currently being reviewed.
4. The Steering group has reviewed the letter which will be used to write to all authorities that are part of the Framework and also all neighbouring authorities to formally confirm if they will need to seek assistance from their neighbours to meet their housing need.
5. The Steering group are also reviewing evidence that is being produced by the county around housing with care and other specialist housing needs. The aim is to commission a further study to complete the evidence required in this area for the local plan process, a brief is being prepared to highlight the work that needs to be completed.
6. The GI group are finalising a brief for the proposed work to commission a GI strategy, because of the delays in the final stage of the GI mapping project, this work will not be completed until summer next year and as such will not be included in the draft NSPF being produced for the end of the year. It will either be included in the final version for the summer 2019 or a further version of the NSPG at a later date.
7. The telecoms group met in early September and are currently working to produce shared guidance for the 5G network as well as an agreement to encourage developers to provide fibre broadband connectivity to new homes.
8. Progress has been made in updating the Health protocol and this will be cover by a separate presentation at the member meeting. It is expected that the updated Health protocol will be completed in line with the draft NSPF in December 2018.
9. Engagement continues with the utility companies and working with UK Power Networks and Anglian Water to improve the information they provide to help ensure power issues are identified early in the development process. It is also worth noting the Anglian Water have introduced a flat rate of charging for connection to the waste water system which should help prevent waste water infrastructure cost from being a block on site progression.
10. Discussions are continuing on how best to progress the delivery recommendations from the WSP study finalised early this year. The recommendations will be discusses at the Norfolk Chief Executives meeting in November to ensure it is aligned to other delivery work which is being undertaken by other groups.

Timetable

The proposed timetable for the work is set out below. It is proposed that all changes to the NSPF will be completed by November 2018 in time for review at a Member Forum meeting in December 2018. There will then be a short public consultation held in early 2019 before the NSPF is finalised for endorsement in June 2019. The GI strategy, Specialist Housing Needs (elderly) and Delivery workstreams will continue into 2019.

