

Report to Norfolk Strategic Planning Member Forum
12th July 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 and no additional budget required.

Contact officers

Trevor Wiggett, Project Manager: 01603 212557

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. Following the endorsement of the first version of the NSPF, work is now under way on updating the document in light of the revised NPPF and commitments made in the current document.
3. At the member forum held in April the proposed workstreams for the work programme were presented to members, the work programme centres on the update of the NSPF and developing this into a Statement of Common Ground.

4. The work programme will:
 - a. Develop the NSPF into a Statement of Common ground covering the whole of Norfolk.
 - b. Review of agreements in the NSPF to ensure they fit the government guidelines on the Statement of Common requirements.
 - c. Review the impacts of the new housing methodology on the housing section and the ability of each authority to meet its own housing needs. This will include writing to each authority involved in the NSPF and all neighbouring authorities to formally confirm if they will need to seek assistance from their neighbours to meet their housing need.
 - d. Review of the section on delivery issues and proposed actions to take forward jointly.
 - e. Produce shared guidance on the location of base and booster stations for the 5G network.
 - f. Incorporate a new Transport agreement to be included in revised NSPF
 - g. Produce a GI Strategy for Norfolk and review of GI section within the NSPF
 - h. Review Tier one Employment sites and update to the employment section in light of the new East of England Forecast Model run and the delivery work of the of the New Anglia LEP following the publication of their Economic Strategy.
 - i. Update to the utilities section following further improved engagement with UK Power networks and Anglian Water, and to reflect the work of the Local Energy East project.
 - j. Update to the Health protocol and Health section following further improved engagement with the Norfolk Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG) and the Sustainability and Transformation Partnership (STP).
 - k. Commission a study looking to housing with care and other specialist housing needs which will include a supported and agreed planning and housing need evidence base.

5. The work will be completed by a steering group supported by 3 sub-groups covering the telecoms, GI and delivery elements of the work. There are also groups of officers supporting updates to the health, elderly and transport sections.

Progress of group work

6. The Steering Group has identified all changes that are required to the current document, these have been noted in an updated version of the document which has been reviewed by the NSPG, work on updating the document in line with these notes is now underway.
7. The Steering group have proposed 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.
8. As part of this review the NSPG have proposed that during this update of the NSPF:
 - a. The vision and objectives will not be significantly changed
 - b. Minerals and waste issues will now be addressed by the document.
9. The GI group are waiting for Norfolk County Council's environment team to complete the final stage of the work commissioned for the first draft of the NSPF, this should be completed during July 2018 to allow a full scope of work for this year to be completed.
10. The telecoms group met in early July and have agreed Terms of Reference and scope for the project. The required work is now being progressed.

11. Progress has been made in updating the Health protocol, this has been reviewed by the health STP and CCG groups and is now being reviewed by public health at the county.
12. Engagement continues with the utility companies and working with UK Power Networks to improve the information they provide to help ensure power issues are identified early in the development process and to reflect the work of the Local Energy East project.

Delivery

13. As highlighted in the April Member Forum there are a number of groups working across Norfolk and Suffolk looking at various aspect of housing delivery. There have been some changes to this structure which include:
 - The Norfolk Strategic Growth Group has been disbanded and ownership of their work has been taken on by the Norfolk Chief Executive Group.
 - The Norfolk Operational Growth Group is now called the Growth Delivery Group
 - The various Building Growth sub groups looking at housing delivery/innovation, planning innovation and the land market remain unchanged.
14. At this stage it has not been possible to finalise how these groups should work together to help improve delivery and further engagement will be undertaken with the Norfolk Chief Executive Group. A more detailed report over how delivery matters can be cooperatively progressed is expected to be ready for the October Member Forum.

Budget

15. The 2018 Work programme will be funded using contributions of £10,000 per authority which has now been collected from each authority.

Governance

16. The governance structure to oversee the 2018 work programme was presented at the April Member Forum. The changes to the NSPF will be created by the existing Steering Group which will report up to the NSPF and the Member Forum. The steering group will use Task and Finish Groups to oversee specific specialist work covering the Green Infrastructure Strategy and Telecoms Shared Guidance. Once it is clear what delivery work can be taken forward by the group it is likely a delivery group will be set up to oversee this work.

Timetable

17. 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.

