

Report to Norfolk Strategic Planning Member Forum
8th December 2020

Report of Norfolk Strategic Framework Programme Manager

Subject Norfolk Strategic Planning Framework Version 3

Purpose

To review with members the first draft of the Norfolk Strategic Planning Framework Version 3.

Recommendation

To provide feedback and comments on the changes to the NSPF highlighted in this report.

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) Work Programme is to update and maintain the previously endorsed NSPF. The programme will aim to provide a refreshed NSPF in early 2021, this version of the document is likely to be used for the submission of a number of local plans next year. 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
- Complete the production of 5G Shared guidance and the Broadband guides

NSPF Version 3 Draft

1. The new draft version of the NSPF will accompany this report. The NSPF has been updated to ensure it represents the most recent legislation and information, all data and links have been updated to the latest available.

NSPF Significant Changes

2. A number of more significant changes have been made in areas deemed to have needed strengthening, these include:
 - a. A new section on Climate Change
 - b. A new Section on Health
 - c. Significant changes to the telecoms section following the work of the sub group and progress with the 5G rollout
 - d. Changes to the Green Infrastructure section following the work of the sub group
 - e. Changes to the Elderly section following the work of the sub group
 - f. The Economic Section has been reorganised following a review earlier in the year and reference has been included to the New Anglia LEP Covid 19 Economic Recovery Restart Plan
 - g. References made to the Planning White Paper and other proposed changes to the planning system
 - h. Some small changes have been made to the vision and objectives to highlight the importance of health of the residence of the county
 - i. The conclusion and next steps section has been updated to highlight the commitment from all authorities to continue joint working – at least for the next financial year

NSPF New Agreements and Changes to Existing One

3. A number of new agreements are also proposed, these are:
 - a. A new agreement in the economic section to say that Local Authorities will work positively to assist the New Anglia Covid 19 Economic Recovery Restart Plan
 - b. A new agreement on climate change highlighting that Local Planning Authorities in Norfolk agree that climate change is an urgent, strategic cross boundary issue which will be addressed at the heart of Local Plans. The agreement also states that Local Authorities will give consideration to the approaches in the Climate Change supporting documentation when the relevant policies are next being reviewed and updated as part of the Local Plan process.
 - c. Related to the climate change agreement above a new agreement is included highlighting that a number of climate change initiatives are best addressed via a Norfolk wide design guide and Local Planning Authorities will work together to investigate the production of one with climate change best practice guidance included. This work will also help facilitate healthy living initiatives across the county by providing high level principles.
 - d. A new agreement has also been included to support the high speed broadband provision in emerging Local Plans - Norfolk Local Planning Authorities will consider the extent to which they could require high-speed broadband to be delivered as part of new developments and promoting Fibre to the Premises (FTTP) to smaller sites through the inclusion of a new policy.
4. Changes have also been made to a number of existing agreements, the key changes are:
 - a. A change to the telecoms agreement highlighting the shared guidance produced with Mobile UK, this highlights that authorities will continue to engage with the telecommunications industry on their 5G rollout plans for Norfolk.
 - b. A change to the Health agreement to make reference to healthy environments in design guides/codes and reference to Building for Health Life
 - c. The agreement in the GI section has also been updated to highlight that Local Planning Authorities will work together to deliver and administer The Norfolk Green Infrastructure and Recreational Impact Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy.
5. The Norfolk Strategic Planning Officers Group have reviewed the new NSPF and now seek feedback from members of the changes made and how suitable the New NSPF is for supporting Local Plans submitted for inspection next year.

Supporting Documentation

6. Much of the work programme for this financial year is nearing completion. This will deliver a number of new reports to support the NSPF. The reports provides further detailed information on their subject area. It is proposed that these will be published alongside the NSPF. These reports include:

- a. Shared Objectives for extending 4G coverage and the rollout of 5G infrastructure in the County of Norfolk
- b. A guide to Broadband for Norfolk Local Planning Authorities
- c. Climate change and the planning system summary document and supporting documents on each subject area
- d. Green Infrastructure and Recreational Impact Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy
- e. Older Persons Accommodation and Support Needs Study

A number of these documents are still being drafted but the outstanding documents will be reviewed at the January Member Forum. As draft versions of these documents are already available and the NSPF has been updated accordingly, it is not anticipated that further change to the NSPF will be required. The supporting documentation which has been finalised is included with this report for review.

7. **Overall Programme Timetable** – Following feedback from the members of this forum the NSPF will be update accordingly. The document will then be passed to the other signatories (eg Environment Agency, Anglian Water, Natural England, New Anglia LEP, MMO) for review and sign off. The NSPF will then be presented at the January 2021 Member Forum for recommendation for endorsement by each authority in February and March 2021. At that meeting the remaining sub group work will also be presented along with the supporting documentation. Purdah and local election earmarked for the spring mean that should the endorsement be pushed back it will be unlikely that the NSPF could be endorsed until the summer.