

Report to	Cabinet	Item
	11 March 2015	
Report of	Executive head of regeneration and development	7
Subject	Formal cooperation on strategic planning issues through a shared non-statutory strategic framework	

Purpose

To agree how Norwich City Council will meet the requirement to cooperate on strategic matters in local plan making.

Recommendation

To agree to cooperate on strategic planning matters through a shared non-statutory strategic framework, subject to revised terms of reference for the member forum, budget provision and detailed arrangements for framework production being agreed.

Corporate and service priorities

The report helps to meet the corporate priority “A prosperous city” and the service plan priority to produce a local plan.

Financial implications

Costs should be a maximum of c£15,000 in the next financial year (2015/16) with no more than £10,000 in the following financial year. These costs can be met in 2015/16 from the agreed Local Plan budget.

Ward/s: All wards

Cabinet member: Councillor Stonard – Environment development and transport

Contact officers

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Background documents

None

Report

1. The National Planning Policy Framework states (paragraph 181) that

“Local planning authorities will be expected to demonstrate evidence of having effectively cooperated to plan for issues with cross-boundary impacts when their Local Plans are submitted for examination. This could be by way of plans or policies prepared as part of a joint committee, a memorandum of understanding or a jointly prepared strategy which is presented as evidence of an agreed position.”

2. The Norfolk Duty to Cooperate Member Forum was established in early 2013 to address the government’s requirement that the Duty to Cooperate should be member led. The portfolio holder for the environment and transport is Norwich City Council’s representative on the group.
3. Appendix A to this paper is a paper that was considered by the county wide forum at its meeting on 14 January examining options for addressing the Duty to Cooperate in Norfolk. The options identified were:

- a) Informal cooperation (i.e. continue the current approach)
- b) Structured cooperation through a Memorandum of Understanding
- c) Formal cooperation through a shared non-statutory strategic framework
- d) A statutory Joint Strategic Plan
- e) A statutory single Local Plan.

4. The forum agreed to:

- a) Endorse the principle of option 3, formal cooperation through a shared non-statutory strategic framework.
- b) Recommend that each constituent authority agrees formally to take forward option 3 at its earliest convenience subject to later agreement of:
 - i. Amended terms of reference for the member Duty to Cooperate Group;
 - ii. Appropriate officer and member working arrangements; and
 - iii. Budget and timetableto support preparation of the shared non-statutory framework.
- c) Instruct officers to prepare detailed reports on matters 2 A-C for consideration at the next member Duty to Cooperate meeting.

5. The Sustainable Development Panel considered the report in appendix A at its meeting on February 25 2015. Its recommendations will be reported verbally to Cabinet.

6. Work is continuing on the details of the practical arrangements for how a non-statutory strategic framework can be prepared and establish its area of coverage. A report will be presented to the forum on March 16 2015.

Integrated impact assessment



NORWICH
City Council

Report author to complete

Committee:	Cabinet
Committee date:	11 March 2015
Head of service:	Graham Nelson
Report subject:	Possible formal cooperation on strategic planning issues through a shared non-statutory strategic framework
Date assessed:	12 February 2015
Description:	Agreement to the production of a shared non-statutory strategic planning framework

	Impact			
Economic (please add an 'x' as appropriate)	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Comments
Finance (value for money)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The production of a shared evidence base and non-statutory framework with other local planning authorities is highly likely to lead to economies of scale in Local Plan production.
Other departments and services e.g. office facilities, customer contact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
ICT services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Economic development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Strategic evidence work and plan making will assist coordinated sustainable economic development in the area.
Financial inclusion	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Social (please add an 'x' as appropriate)	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Comments
Safeguarding children and adults	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<u>S17 crime and disorder act 1998</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Human Rights Act 1998	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Health and well being	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Strategic evidence work and plan making will assist coordinated sustainable economic development in the area.

	Impact			
Equality and diversity (please add an 'x' as appropriate)	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Comments
Relations between groups (cohesion)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Eliminating discrimination & harassment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Advancing equality of opportunity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Environmental (please add an 'x' as appropriate)	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Comments
Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Transport is a key cross boundary cooperation issue.
Natural and built environment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The development of the strategic green infrastructure network will enhance the natural and built environment.
Waste minimisation & resource use	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Pollution	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Sustainable procurement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Energy and climate change	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Climate change is a key cross boundary cooperation issue.
(Please add an 'x' as appropriate)	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Comments

	Impact			
Risk management	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Effective cooperation on Local Plan making is required by government. Without such cooperation, the risks of a future Local Plan failing to reach examination are substantial. Such a failure would have significant financial and reputational consequences.

Recommendations from impact assessment

Positive

Agreement to the production of a shared non-statutory strategic planning framework is key to the promotion of long term sustainable development and would bring significant environmental, economic and social benefits.

Negative

No negative effects associated with the production of a non-statutory strategic planning framework have been identified.

Neutral

Issues

