What is the Joint Core Strategy about?

The Joint Core Strategy deals with the future planning of your area. It covers the whole of Daventry District, Northampton Borough and South Northamptonshire.

It sets out a vision and a strategy for how our area will develop in the future. It covers:

- the location of future strategic housing developments.
- where jobs should be located.
- how people can move around the area.
- the location and size of new shopping, leisure and cultural facilities.
- protection and improvement of the natural and built environment.
- how to address the needs of the areas diverse communities.
- how and when infrastructure (such as roads and schools) will be delivered.

The Joint Core Strategy will guide the transformation and regeneration of our area. It supports economic growth at our town centres and aids the delivery of a broad mix of new homes supported by new shops, employment, leisure, transport and environmental improvements and preserves our rural areas.

The Joint Core Strategy will guide future development decisions throughout the West Northamptonshire area and will be used to decide planning applications. It will also provide the strategic framework for other, more detailed plans.

What Stage are we at Now?

We want to produce positive, local policies which will make the area a place where people will want to live, work and invest. Public engagement in the Strategy as it develops is very important. We began the journey with the publication of Issues and Options in 2007 and progressed with the publication of the Emergent Joint Core Strategy in 2009. The comments we received helped us shape the Pre-Submission version of the Strategy which was formally consulted on in 2011. The Pre-Submission version of the Joint Core Strategy replaced the Emergent version of the Strategy. The responses we have received to all consultation stages so far are available on our website.

As a formal consultation stage the Pre Submission Joint Core Strategy consultation in 2011 invited representations on the “soundness” of the plan. Those representations have now been considered and in the light of those representations as well as changes to national planning policy the Joint Strategic Planning Committee has recommended that changes (known as Proposed Changes) be made to the Pre-Submission Joint Core Strategy.

The Proposed Changes do not go to the heart of the plan but are considered necessary to ensure the Strategy is sound. The vast majority of the changes are simply to factually update the plan or to correct minor drafting errors and these are not significant changes. Some are however more important although they still do not change the overall strategy or the direction of the plan.

The Joint Core Strategy is now at the ‘Proposed Changes to Pre-Submission’ stage. This is the stage before we submit the Strategy formally to the Secretary of State for approval.

When the plan is submitted the Secretary of State will receive the Pre-Submission Joint Core Strategy, the Proposed Changes the Joint Strategic Planning Committee wish to make to the strategy (which are the subject of this consultation) and the responses received to the Proposed Changes as a result of this consultation. The independent inspector appointed to examine the soundness of the Strategy will take into account the Proposed Changes the Joint Strategic Planning Committee wish to make and the responses received in relation to those changes. In addition the inspector will have available all the responses made at previous stages of the consultation process.

How to get involved

Representations are now invited on the Proposed Changes to the Strategy.

All representations must be received by 5pm on Wednesday 26th September 2012.

At this stage of the Joint Core Strategy we are only able to accept representations that relate to the Proposed Changes. We cannot accept any representations that relate to unchanged parts of the Strategy as this is not an opportunity to reconsider the Strategy in its entirety.

As with the Pre-Submission consultation stage of the Joint Core Strategy the Proposed Changes consultation is also a formal stage of consultation. We are therefore only able to accept representations about whether the Proposed Changes to the Joint Core Strategy are ‘legally compliant’ and/ or ‘sound’. The tests of ‘soundness’ are set out in law.
The tests of soundness are:

- **Positively prepared** – The plan should be prepared based on a strategy which seeks to meet objectively assessed development and infrastructure requirements, including unmet requirements from neighbouring authorities where it is reasonable to do so and consistent with achieving sustainable development;

- **Justified** – The plan should be the most appropriate strategy, when considered against the reasonable alternatives, based on proportionate evidence;

- **Effective** – The plan should be deliverable over its period and based on effective joint working on cross-boundary strategic priorities; and

- **Consistent with national policy** – The plan should enable the delivery of sustainable development in accordance with the policies in the Framework.

All of the documents you need in order to make a representation are available on our website and at Council Offices and local libraries (normal office and opening times) throughout the West Northamptonshire area.

There is a representation form available which you will need to make your representations. The representation form is accompanied by Guidance Notes. There is no need to repeat any comments that you have made to previous consultations as they will have already been considered.

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**How to Comment**

You can make your representations on the Proposed Changes to the Pre-Submission Joint Core Strategy:

**Online**: We encourage electronic representations via our consultation portal at [http://ldfconsultation.westnorthamptonshirejpu.org](http://ldfconsultation.westnorthamptonshirejpu.org) where you will be able to print or save a copy for your own records

**Email**: You can email your representations to westnorthantsjpu@northampton.gov.uk

**Post**: You can post your representations to: West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit, The Guildhall, St Giles Square, Northampton, NN1 1DE

**Fax**: 01604 838543

If you have any questions, please contact us by email at: westnorthantsjpu@northampton.gov.uk or by telephone: 01604 837838

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**West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy Local Plan – Proposed Changes to Pre Submission Version**

**July 2012**

**How to Find Out More**