

## **WNJPU press release: Review of the Local Development Scheme for West Northamptonshire**

On Tuesday 20 October members of the Joint Strategic Planning Committee, at the invitation of the Government Office for the East Midlands, will consider revising the timetable for the Joint Core Strategy that will manage the growth of West Northamptonshire.

The Government Office for the East Midlands has written supporting the work of the Committee and Joint Planning Unit, but shares concerns with the West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit that the work cannot be completed in time for a further consultation in November.

The letter follows a meeting between officers at the West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit and Government Office for the East Midlands. At the meeting West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit officers raised concerns that the existing deadline would not allow enough time for some key studies to be completed and for them to fully consider all of the issues including flooding, transportation and responses to the recent consultation.

A spokesperson for the West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit said: "We want to get this right, and that means spending as much time on plan making as is needed. The plans we are making now will affect the whole area for years to come and there are some key issues to resolve with public agencies responsible for providing infrastructure"

"We have had a fantastic response to what has proved to be an effective consultation with thousands of people getting involved. Our officers now need the time to properly consider each response, as they must, so everyone's voice is heard.

"Government Office East Midlands have accepted the progress made in securing the publication of the Emergent Joint Core Strategy which has drawn out the inadequacy of existing infrastructure. There is more to do to resolve these issues and this will take time."

If approved, the WNJPU will work with Daventry District Council, Northampton Borough Council, Northamptonshire County Council and South Northamptonshire Council, as well as key public agencies and GOEM to develop a revised timetable.

The report "Review of the Local Development Scheme for West Northamptonshire" will be discussed at the next meeting of the Joint Strategic Planning Committee on Tuesday 20 October. Copies of the report are available online, please visit the West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit website [www.westnorthamptonshirejpu.org](http://www.westnorthamptonshirejpu.org)

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