



## Joint Authorities Monitoring Report

For

## Local Plans in West Northamptonshire

1<sup>st</sup> April 2014 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015

On Behalf of Partner Local Planning Authorities



In Partnership With



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## Abbreviations and Key Terms

| Abbreviation      | Definition  | Further information   |
|-------------------|---|---|
| AMR, JAMR, WNJAMR | (West Northamptonshire) (Joint) Authorities Monitoring Report |   |
| CAAP              | Northampton Borough Central Area Action Plan                  |   |
| CIL               | Community Infrastructure Levy                                 | <a href="#">See information about the Community Infrastructure Levy on the Planning Portal</a>  |
| CFMP              | Catchment Flood Management Plan                               | <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/catchment-flood-management-plans">https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/catchment-flood-management-plans</a>   |
| DCLG/CLG          | Department of Communities and Local Government                | <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-communities-and-local-government">https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-communities-and-local-government</a>                     |
| DIRFT             | Daventry International Rail Freight Terminal                  | <a href="http://www.dirft.com/Proposals%20for%20DIRFT%20III%20on%20the%20National%20Infrastructure%20Planning%20Website">http://www.dirft.com/Proposals for DIRFT III on the National Infrastructure Planning Website</a> |
| DPD               | Development Plan Document                                     |   |
| EZ                | Enterprise Zone   | <a href="http://www.northamptonez.co.uk/enterprise-zone/">http://www.northamptonez.co.uk/enterprise-zone/</a>   |
| GTSLP             | Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople Local Plan      |   |
| HiMO (or HMO)     | House(s) in Multiple Occupation                               |   |
| JCS (WNJCS)       | (West Northamptonshire) Joint Core Strategy                   | <a href="http://www.westnorthamptonshirejpu.org/connect.ti/website/view?objectId=2737424">http://www.westnorthamptonshirejpu.org/connect.ti/website/view?objectId=2737424</a>   |
| JSPC (WNJSPC)     | (West Northamptonshire) Joint Strategic Planning Committee    | <a href="http://www.westnorthamptonshirejpu.org/connect.ti/website/view?objectId=2735664">http://www.westnorthamptonshirejpu.org/connect.ti/website/view?objectId=2735664</a>   |
| LDS               | Local Development Scheme                                      | <a href="#">Local Development Scheme (June 2012)</a>  |
| NPPF              | National Planning Policy Framework                            | <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2</a>   |
| NP                | Neighbourhood Plan  |   |
| NRDA              | Northampton Related Development Area                          | <a href="#">See Figure 4 on page 314 of the adopted Joint Core Strategy</a>   |
| OAHN              | Objectively Assessed Housing Needs                            |   |
| OI                | Output Indicators   | <a href="#">See Section 3</a>   |
| PDL               | Previously Developed Land                                     | <a href="http://www.planningportal.gov.uk/general/glossaryandlinks/glossary/p">http://www.planningportal.gov.uk/general/glossaryandlinks/glossary/p</a>   |
| PINS              | Planning Inspectorate   | <a href="http://www.planningportal.gov.uk/planning/planninginspectorate">http://www.planningportal.gov.uk/planning/planninginspectorate</a>   |
| IPPS or PPS       | (Interim) Planning Policy Statement                           | <a href="http://www.planningportal.gov.uk/general/glossaryandlinks/glossary/p">http://www.planningportal.gov.uk/general/glossaryandlinks/glossary/p</a>   |
| SA                | Sustainability Appraisal                                      | <a href="http://www.planningportal.gov.uk/general/glossaryandlinks/glossary/s">http://www.planningportal.gov.uk/general/glossaryandlinks/glossary/s</a>   |

|          |  |   |
|----------|--|---|
| SEA      | Strategic Environmental Appraisal                            | <a href="http://www.planningportal.gov.uk/general/glossaryandlinks/glossary/s">http://www.planningportal.gov.uk/general/glossaryandlinks/glossary/s</a>   |
| SEMLEP   | South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership             | <a href="http://www.semlep.com/">http://www.semlep.com/</a>   |
| SPD      | Supplementary Planning Document                              | <a href="http://planningguidance.communities.gov.uk/blog/guidance/local-plans/adoption-monitoring-and-supplementary-planning-documents/">http://planningguidance.communities.gov.uk/blog/guidance/local-plans/adoption-monitoring-and-supplementary-planning-documents/</a> |
| SSSI     | Sites of Special Scientific Interest                         | <a href="https://www.gov.uk/guidance/protected-areas-sites-of-special-scientific-interest">https://www.gov.uk/guidance/protected-areas-sites-of-special-scientific-interest</a>   |
| (WN)TANS | (West Northamptonshire) Travellers Accommodation Needs Study | <a href="#">West Northamptonshire Travellers Accommodation Needs Study</a>  |
| WNELS    | West Northamptonshire Employment Land Study                  | <a href="http://www.westnorthamptonshirejpu.org/connect.ti/website/view?objectId=2714704">http://www.westnorthamptonshirejpu.org/connect.ti/website/view?objectId=2714704</a>   |

## Section 1 – The Joint Authorities Monitoring Report

1.1 This Monitoring Report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of Section 35 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) and the relevant regulations set out in the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 that came into force from 6<sup>th</sup> April 2012. These can be summarised as:

- Report progress on the timetable and milestones for the preparation of documents as set out in the Local Development Scheme, including reasons where they are not being met;
- Identify any policy specified in a Local Plan which is not being implemented and state why it is not being implemented;
- Report on progress in the year and since the policy started against any number relating to additional dwellings or additional affordable homes specified in a local plan policy;
- Details of any neighbourhood development order or neighbourhood development plan;
- Information on the implementation of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) (where CIL is being collected); and
- Details of what action has been taken in relation to co-operation with another local planning authority, county council or a body or a person prescribed under Section 33A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act, as amended.

### The Monitoring Position in West Northamptonshire

1.2 Until December 2009 the three local authorities covered by the West Northamptonshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee (JSPC) produced separate AMRs. In addition, Northamptonshire County Council produces a Minerals and Waste Monitoring Report, for which they retain responsibility. Following the formation of the West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Committee in July 2008<sup>1</sup> it was agreed to produce a Joint AMR with production led by the West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit. Data collection and ownership remain the preserve of the individual Local Authorities, but a Joint AMR allows comprehensive, and as far as possible uniform, reporting of outputs and outcomes across the area. The desire and requirement for a Joint AMR has subsequently been established in the Local Development Scheme for West Northamptonshire, most recently the revised version approved in July 2012<sup>2</sup>. Northamptonshire County Council remains involved in production of the Joint AMR through data sharing across the Partnership. This AMR is the sixth to be produced jointly by the constituent local planning authorities of Northampton Borough, South Northamptonshire and Daventry District Councils. It builds on the previous Joint Authorities Monitoring Reports published which established joint reporting and greater data consistency across the Plan Area.

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<sup>1</sup> The Statutory Instrument for the Joint Strategic Planning Committee can be viewed here: <http://www.westnorthamptonshirejpu.org/connect.ti/website/view?objectId=6373157>

<sup>2</sup> [West Northamptonshire Local Development Scheme \(June 2012\)](#)

- 1.3 All previous Joint AMRs were made available through the website of the West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit and all partner councils. The documents have generally been well received when used by partners, external stakeholders and members of the public in terms of providing a unified and consistent baseline for West Northamptonshire, available in a single location, to chart the progress on the Local Development Scheme, outputs from development and the response of the plan area to the economic downturn.

### **The Monitoring Framework for West Northamptonshire**

- 1.4 The Joint AMR provides an update of progress against the West Northamptonshire Local Development Scheme in the last reporting year, including reporting of neighbourhood planning activity. The key event during the monitoring year was the adoption of the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy in December 2014. Whilst this Joint AMR follows the format of previous years, future JAMRs will reflect the Monitoring Framework set out in the now adopted Joint Core Strategy.
- 1.5 The West Northamptonshire Monitoring Framework included in the adopted JCS has been developed to record and assess the implementation of JCS policies. This uses a series of indicators to show the outputs and wider outcomes of development and how the area is changing over the plan period. This framework will be used to check that that the amount of development and infrastructure set out in the Plan is being delivered and also to assess whether the objectives and spatial vision of the Plan are being realized. In the majority of cases it is not appropriate to report on these indicators for 2014/15 as the policies in the adopted JCS have only been effective for the last quarter of the monitoring period and are unlikely to have had any significant effect on development outcomes.
- 1.6 In future the wider performance of the plan must also be investigated through the monitoring of Significant Effects indicators. These are largely suggested through recommendations from the Sustainability Appraisal objectives. The aim is to identify more general positive outcomes of a Local Plan's policies and objectives, or otherwise highlight unintended negative consequences that could necessitate a change in Planning Policy. The 2014/15 AMR continues to set out the basis for Significant Effects Indicators as set out in the Monitoring Framework (drawn from the Objectives of the Sustainability Appraisal). It is anticipated that monitoring of significant effects indicators will commence in the 2015/16 JAMR.

### **Approach and Structure of the West Northamptonshire Joint AMR 2014/15**

- 1.7 The Authorities' Monitoring Report for 2014/15 follows broadly the same structure as the previous JAMRs. The aim is not to produce three separate AMRs in a single document but an AMR that reflects the circumstances of the different local areas and performance against indicators applied across West Northamptonshire. This will enable the unique experience of each authority to be analysed against standardised reported datasets where possible.
- 1.8 One significant change to the JAMR is the deletion of the West Northamptonshire in Context section (Section 2). It was recognised that the regulations do not require the publication of contextual information and it was

also acknowledged that the data used for this section is widely available from both national and local sources<sup>3</sup> It also ensures that the JAMR is a shorter and more focussed document which concentrates on the key elements of monitoring development outcomes and the progress of Local Plan preparation. There remains the potential to produce reports on contextual information as separate documents in the future particularly where this would assist the preparation of Local Plans by the partner Councils.

- 1.9 The JAMR comprises the following sections. Section 2 is a review of the preparation of Local Plans against the Local Development Scheme timetable. Section 3 covers a review of progress against Output Indicators (OIs) for West Northamptonshire within the main topic headings. Information from Partner Authorities is considered in Section 4 including updates on Neighbourhood Plans and the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). Section 5 deals with duty to co-operate updates. Section 6 summarises key findings and conclusions.
- 1.10 The production of the AMR is reliant on various sources of data including Development Management data and evidence already submitted to CLG (annual returns). The AMR will also rely on existing in-house data collected by the Councils and provided to the JPU. In addition, key partners who provided data for this AMR included Northamptonshire County Council and the Environment Agency as this supports the monitoring of additional targets across West Northamptonshire.

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<sup>3</sup> E.g. Office for National Statistics (<http://www.ons.gov.uk/>) and Northamptonshire Analysis (<https://www.northamptonshireanalysis.co.uk/>)



## Section 2 - Progress on the Local Development Scheme

- 2.1 This Section focuses on the progress made towards the preparation of the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy Local Plan (Part 1) and other Local Plans in the annual monitoring period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015. Progress on the preparation of Plans is monitored on the basis of the latest Local Development Scheme, which can be downloaded from the Joint Planning Unit website<sup>4</sup>.

### West Northamptonshire Local Development Scheme

- 2.2 The West Northamptonshire Local Development Scheme provides the structure and milestones to underpin the preparation of a portfolio of Spatial Planning Documents for West Northamptonshire. It outlines the requirements for a suite of documents seeking to manage the growth necessary for West Northamptonshire to ensure the social, environmental and economic benefits that development can bring are harnessed.

### Progress against the West Northamptonshire Local Development Scheme (June 2012)

- 2.3 A revised Local Development Scheme (LDS) was approved by the West Northamptonshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2012. The milestones for Local Plan preparation contained in this June 2012 LDS are those reported against for the purposes of this AMR.
- 2.4 The 2012 LDS sets out a timetable for the progression of six Local Plans by the Joint Strategic Planning Committee from 2012-2014, including two Joint Local Plans covering West Northamptonshire. The Joint Core Strategy is considered the central component in setting the vision, objectives and overarching strategy for sustainable development in West Northamptonshire. It is the second Local Plan in the LDS and was scheduled for adoption in October 2013, behind the Northampton Central Area Action Plan, which was scheduled for adoption in January 2013.
- 2.5 The milestones set out in the 2012 LDS are now somewhat dated and they need to be reviewed and updated either as part of a new Joint Local Development Scheme or through the preparation of an individual LDS by each of the partner Councils. As the LDS was not reviewed and replaced during the 2014/15 monitoring period this JAMR continues to monitor progress against the milestones agreed in June 2012.
- 2.6 Table 2.1 overleaf shows the timescale proposed for Local Plan preparation in the 2012 LDS.

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<sup>4</sup> <http://www.westnorthamptonshirejpu.org/connect.ti/website/view?objectId=7218309>



## Detailed Update on Local Plans in the Local Development Scheme

### West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy Local Plan (Part 1)

- 2.7 These summaries include applicable milestones in the 2014/15 Monitoring Period.

| <i>West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy Local Plan (Part 1)</i>      |                       |                       |   |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|---|
| <b>Milestone in 2012 LDS</b>  | <b>Date Scheduled</b> | <b>Milestone Met?</b> | <b>Commentary</b>   |
| Submission of the Joint Core Strategy for Examination (Regulation 30)     | December 2012         | <i>Achieved</i>       | <i>See Detailed Notes Below</i>   |
| Adoption of the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy (Regulation 36) | October 2013          | <i>N/A</i>            | <i>Inspector's Report received October 2014. Local Plan adopted 14<sup>th</sup> December 2014</i> |

- 2.8 Following completion of the resumed Examination Hearings in March 2014 the Inspector's Report was received by the Joint Planning Unit on the 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2014. The Report concluded that the Joint Core Strategy is "sound" and legally compliant subject to a number of main modifications which have been recommended by the Inspector. These modifications were made available for representations as part of the Examination process from 14<sup>th</sup> January to 25<sup>th</sup> February 2014. The Report and the Schedule of Modifications can be viewed on the Joint Planning Unit's website.<sup>5</sup>
- 2.9 Copies of the Report and the schedule of main modifications were made available for inspection at **Council Offices** and in **local libraries** (normal office and opening times) throughout the West Northamptonshire area and in some libraries in areas adjoining West Northamptonshire.
- 2.10 The Joint Core Strategy as amended by the Inspector's Report and the recommended main modifications was adopted by the Joint Strategic Planning Committee on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2014.

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.westnorthamptonshirejpu.org/connect.ti/website/view?objectId=13138757>

## West Northamptonshire Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople Local Plan (GTTSLP)

| <b>West Northamptonshire Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople Allocations Local Plan</b> |                       |                       |  |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|--|
| <b>Milestone in 2012 LDS with Appropriate Regulations</b>   | <b>Date Scheduled</b> | <b>Milestone Met?</b> | <b>Commentary</b>  |
| Commencement of Preparation (18)  | September 2012        | Yes                   | <i>Commencement of the document began in September 2012.</i> |
| Publication of Local Plan for Representations (19)  | December 2013         | No                    | <i>See Detailed comments below</i>                           |
| Submission of Local Plan and SA Report (22)   | April 2014            | No                    | <i>See Detailed comments below</i>                           |

- 2.11 Work commenced on this document in September 2012 with a draft Project Plan being published in the same month. RRR consultants were appointed in October to begin work on the Housing Needs Survey. The West Northamptonshire Travellers and Accommodation Needs Study was completed in April 2013 and published by the JPU.
- 2.12 The findings of this study were included in the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy and are reflected in Policy H7 of the adopted Local Plan which identifies the pitch and plot requirements for the plan area up to 2029.
- 2.13 No further progress has been made on the preparation of this plan during the monitoring period.

## Northampton Borough Council

### Northampton Borough Central Area Action Plan

- 2.14 The Northampton Borough Central Area Action Plan was adopted in January 2013 in accordance with the milestone set out in the LDS:

| <b>Northampton Borough Central Area Action Plan (CAAP)</b> |                       |                       |                                |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Milestone in 2012 LDS with Appropriate Regulations</b>  | <b>Date Scheduled</b> | <b>Milestone Met?</b> | <b>Commentary</b>              |
| Adoption of the Northampton CAAP (Regulation 36)           | January 2013          | Yes                   | <i>Adopted in January 2013</i> |

### Northampton Related Development Area (NRDA) Local Plan Part 2

| <b>NRDA Allocations and Development Management Local Plan</b> |                       |                       |  |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|--|
| <b>Milestone in 2012 LDS with Appropriate Regulations</b>     | <b>Date Scheduled</b> | <b>Milestone Met?</b> | <b>Commentary</b>                      |
| Commencement of Preparation (18)                              | October 2012          | Yes                   | <i>Work commenced in October 2012.</i> |
| Publication of Local Plan for Representations (19)            | January 2014          | No                    | <i>See Detailed comments below</i>     |
| Submission of Local Plan and SA Report (22)                   | June 2014             | No                    | <i>See Detailed comments below</i>     |

- 2.15 Work commenced on the preparation of the Local Plan in October 2012 in accordance with the LDS. The timetabled publication of the Local Plan for representations – scheduled to take place in January 2014 – and the anticipated submission of the Plan in June 2014, were affected by the additional work requested in respect of the Joint Core Strategy Examination. In order to ensure consistency between the NRDA Local Plan Part 2 and the JCS – in terms of matters such as the requirements for the provision of housing and plan periods covered by the two documents, progression of the plan was delayed pending the adoption of the Joint Core Strategy Local Plan Part 1.
- 2.16 No further progress has been made on the preparation of this plan during the monitoring period.

## Daventry District Council

### Daventry District Settlements and Countryside Local Plan Part 2

- 2.17 The 2012 LDS envisaged that this Local Plan will build on the Joint Core Strategy and will include a detailed and wide variety of policies to guide the decision making process for future Planning Applications across Daventry District (excluding those parts within the Northampton Related Development Area). It will provide policies for Daventry town, and will establish a Rural Settlement Hierarchy for settlements within the District. It will set out how important areas will be protected within those settlements as well as addressing development needs in those settlements.

| <b>Daventry District Settlements and Countryside Local Plan</b> |                       |                       |   |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|---|
| <b>Milestone in 2012 LDS</b>                                    | <b>Date Scheduled</b> | <b>Milestone Met?</b> | <b>Commentary</b>                                       |
| Commencement of Preparation (18)                                | June 2012             | Yes                   | <i>Commenced in-line with the revised June 2012 LDS</i> |
| Publication of Local Plan for Representations (19)              | October 2013          | No                    | <i>Work ongoing – see detailed notes below</i>          |
| Submission of Local Plan and SA Report (22)                     | April 2014            | No                    | <i>Work ongoing – see detailed notes below</i>          |

- 2.18 Work commenced on the Local Plan in June 2012 in accordance with the LDS milestone. Consultation on an Issues Paper commenced on the 19<sup>th</sup> October 2012 and ran until the 30<sup>th</sup> November 2012.
- 2.19 To maintain on-going dialogue with the local community during ongoing preparation of the plan Daventry District Council wrote to the town and parish councils (including parish meetings) in April 2013: providing an update on the wider planning context; giving feedback on the previous consultation exercise; seeking views on a draft list of services and facilities prepared for each village and their relative importance; and inviting initial suggestions of local matters that could be included as a potential annex to the Local Plan to address specific issues. Comments were invited until 31<sup>st</sup> May 2013.
- 2.20 The timetable for publication of the Local Plan for representations – scheduled to take place in October 2013 – and the anticipated submission of the Plan in April 2014 has been affected by the additional work requested in respect of the Joint Core Strategy Examination. In order to ensure consistency – in terms of matters such as the requirements for the provision of housing and plan periods covered by the two documents – progression of the Plan was delayed pending the adoption of the Joint Core Strategy Local Plan Part 1.

## South Northamptonshire Council

### South Northamptonshire Settlements and Countryside Local Plan Part 2

| <b>South Northamptonshire Settlements and Countryside Local Plan</b> |                       |                       |  |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|--|
| <b>Milestone in 2012 LDS</b>   | <b>Date Scheduled</b> | <b>Milestone Met?</b> | <b>Commentary</b>  |
| Commencement of Preparation (18)                                     | April 2012            | No                    | <i>Commencement on the document started in May 2012</i>                        |
| Publication of Local Plan for Representations (19)                   | January 2013          | No                    | <i>Work ongoing – see detailed notes below</i>                                 |
| Submission of Local Plan and SA Report (22)                          | September 2013        | No                    | <i>Documents not yet published for consultation – see detailed notes below</i> |
| Adoption of Local Plan (26)  | March 2014            | No                    | <i>See detailed notes below</i>  |

2.21 This Local Plan will build on the JCS and will include a detailed and wide variety of policies to guide the decision making process for future planning applications across South Northamptonshire (excluding those parts within the Northampton Related Development Area). It will establish a Rural Settlement Hierarchy for settlements within the District and consider amendments to the existing town and village confines and the identification of areas of important green space within those settlements as well as addressing development needs in those settlements. The Local Plan will include site-specific allocations and accompanying policies. Allocations will be included covering land uses, together with specific policies for the development, management and use of land and buildings and in the delivery of regeneration, growth, design, built and natural environment and heritage objectives, together with the protection of important landscapes.

2.22 Preparation of the Plan commenced in May 2012. Substantial work was undertaken during 2013 to continue preparation of the Local Plan, which led to the publication of an Issues Paper consultation in October 2013 (running until 24<sup>th</sup> January 2014). An extensive range of material was consulted upon, with specific Local Plan Topic Papers covering areas such as Village Confines and the Settlement Hierarchy and identifying specific issues for Brackley, Towcester, the Villages, and the Countryside – with specific response forms being available for each area. The consultation exercise also

included a 'Call for Sites' form to gain evidence (or update existing information) on sites that are being promoted and may be considered deliverable and developable as potential allocations within the Plan.

- 2.23 The timetable for publication of documents for consultation on the South Northamptonshire Settlements and Countryside Local Plan Part 2 – initially scheduled to take place in January 2013 – and the subsequent stages of submission and adoption have been affected by the additional work requested in respect of the Joint Core Strategy Examination. In order to ensure consistency – in terms of matters such as the requirements for the provision of housing and plan periods covered by the two documents – progression of the Plan was delayed pending the adoption of the Joint Core Strategy Local Plan Part 1.

### Summary of Progress and Issues

- 2.24 During the monitoring period of this JAMR substantial progress has been made as evidenced by the adoption of the Joint Core Strategy. Whilst work has continued on most of the Part 2 Local Plans, it has to be acknowledged that their progression to the formal stage of publication for representations has been affected by the need for certainty regarding the adoption of the Joint Core Strategy.
- 2.25 Following the adoption of the Joint Core Strategy the partnership has entered a period of review during which the Joint Planning Unit has been restructured with resources to support plan making now being more focused on the individual partner Councils. Although falling outside the monitoring period of this JAMR it is appropriate to provide an update on the partnership's approach to local planning following decisions made by the Joint Strategic Planning Committee in July 2015.
- 2.26 Following the Joint Committee meeting in July 2015 a review of partnership working arrangements is ongoing and there are no current plans to review or update the Joint LDS. The partner Councils have prepared Local Development Schemes for their own areas to ensure that the Part 2 Local Plans progress with the benefit of robust project planning and appropriate resource allocation.
- 2.27 At the meeting in July 2015 the Joint Committee confirmed that the proposed West Northamptonshire Gypsy, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople Allocations Local Plan will not be taken forward as a joint Local Plan and that issues relating to the accommodation needs for Travellers will be addressed by partner Councils in their own Local Plans. It should be noted however that cross-boundary cooperation on matters such as the evidence base will continue. The Committee also confirmed that the proposed Northampton Related Development Area Local Plan will be replaced by a Part 2 Local Plan prepared by Northampton Borough Council covering the Borough area only.
- 2.28 It is anticipated that the JAMR for 2015/16 will report on progress on the preparation of the Part 2 Local Plans as set out in the individual Local Development Schemes prepared by the partner Councils. A summary of the position regarding the preparation of individual LDS by the partner Councils as at 30<sup>th</sup> December 2015 is provided below:



- a. **Daventry District Council** – An LDS was approved on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2015 and sets out the timetable for the preparation of the Settlements and Countryside Local Plan (Part 2a) and a Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Local Plan (Part 2b).
- b. **Northampton Borough Council** – A new LDS for Northampton Borough was brought into effect on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2015. The Council will be preparing the Northampton Local Plan Part 2, and the Northampton Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Show People Allocations Local Plan.
- c. **South Northamptonshire Council** - An LDS for South Northamptonshire was approved in November 2015. This covers work on the preparation of the South Northamptonshire Local Plan (Part 2A) and a Gypsies, Travellers and Showpeople Local Plan (Part 2B).

## Section 3 - Analysis of Output Indicators for West Northamptonshire

### Introduction

- 3.1 This section looks at the key development outcomes for the 2014/15 monitoring period across West Northamptonshire. The section is broken into three elements under the following headings: Housing; Business Development and Town Centres; and Environment. These accord with the headings used in previous AMRs that were drawn from the now revoked 'Core Output Indicators' guidance. It is considered appropriate to continue using these headings to capture 'Key Outputs' in West Northamptonshire prior to implementing the Monitoring Framework as set out in the Joint Core Strategy in full following adoption of the Joint Core Strategy. Performance for a given indicator can therefore be compared directly against data reported in previous Joint AMRs unless an amendment to historic data is stated in this chapter.
- 3.2 As noted above the Joint AMR remains heavily orientated around the Core Output Indicators framework. Although these indicators are likely to be renamed and rephrased in subsequent years, the data they report upon constitute fundamental outputs of development in terms of providing new homes and jobs and protecting the natural environment. They are likely to remain reported in a similar format in future years to preserve accepted reporting conventions and maintain the comparability of information from previous years.
- 3.3 A small number of additional indicators have also been included where information can be uniformly reported for West Northamptonshire and where data was easily available. These have been selected where they form part of the monitoring framework for the now adopted Joint Core Strategy, and in turn may assist in policy development.
- 3.4 This Joint AMR does not report against any Significant Effects indicators as the Joint Core Strategy was not adopted until the final quarter of the monitoring period. However, this section finishes by listing the Objectives included in the Sustainability Assessment Adoption Statement for the Joint Core Strategy (December 2014). They provide a clear indication as to the Significant Effects that may be experienced through the implementation, or lack, of planning policy. Indicators associated with these objectives are contained in the final monitoring framework in Appendix 6 of the Joint Core Strategy, although the information may already be reported for Contextual or Output purposes.

## Business Development and Town Centres

**Table 3.1 - Total Amount of Additional Employment Floorspace by Type 2014/15**

| Indicator: Key Output Indicator BD1 | TOTAL AMOUNT OF ADDITIONAL EMPLOYMENT FLOORSPACE - BY TYPE (SQUARE METRES) |                  |                  |                  |               |                  |                   |
|-------------------------------------|--|------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------|------------------|-------------------|
|                                     | Data Type  | B1               | B2               | B8               | Mixed B Uses  | Sui Generis      | Total             |
| Daventry District                   | Gross (M <sup>2</sup> )  | 1,883.00         | 3,269.00         | 60,040.00        | 652.00        | 2,255.00         | 68,099.00         |
|                                     | Net (M <sup>2</sup> )  | 523.00           | 1,094.00         | 60,040.00        | 652.00        | 808.00           | 63,117.00         |
| Northampton Borough                 | Gross (M <sup>2</sup> )  | 5,408.00         | 9,022.00         | 35,523.00        | 0.00          | 0.00             | 49,953.00         |
|                                     | Net (M <sup>2</sup> )  | -7,690.70        | 2,176.90         | 33,042.00        | 0.00          | 0.00             | 27,528.20         |
| South Northants                     | Gross (M <sup>2</sup> )  | 4,872.00         | 2,794.67         | 1,923.43         | 0.00          | 8,375.10         | 17,965.20         |
|                                     | Net (M <sup>2</sup> )  | 2,911.60         | -39,511.96       | -41,331.57       | -3,014.10     | 8,375.10         | -72,570.93        |
| <b>West Northants Total</b>         | <b>Gross (M<sup>2</sup>)</b>   | <b>12,163.00</b> | <b>15,085.67</b> | <b>97,486.43</b> | <b>652.00</b> | <b>10,630.10</b> | <b>136,017.20</b> |

Note 1: B use figures for DDC and NBC do not include change in floorspace by permitted development (prior notification). This is different from the floorspace for SNC which includes prior notifications. Separate monitoring of prior notifications by NBC indicates a net loss of 2,941 m<sup>2</sup> of B1 floorspace.

- 3.5 Overall the delivery of new employment floorspace in West Northamptonshire during 2014/15 has continued to rise from the levels reported in the previous two JAMRs. The gross floorspace provision of over 136,000 m<sup>2</sup> is more than double that reported in 2013/14 which in itself was an increase on the previous year. The provision of gross employment floorspace has risen across all three local authority areas. The most significant increase is in Daventry District where the floorspace provision has risen sharply from just over 6,400 m<sup>2</sup>, to in excess of 68,000 m<sup>2</sup>. The majority of this increase is in B8 floorspace and reflects increased development activity at the DIRFT strategic distribution site. Northampton Borough has further increased delivery from just over 42,500 m<sup>2</sup> in 2013/14 to very nearly 50,000 m<sup>2</sup> in 2014/15.
- 3.6 This positive trend suggests that the sustained recovery of the national economy continues to be demonstrated by the increase in delivery of employment floorspace.
- 3.7 This positive picture is tempered to some extent when the losses of employment floorspace are considered. Whilst Daventry and Northampton continue to achieve significant net gains in employment floorspace, South

Northamptonshire has experienced a net loss of over 72,000 m<sup>2</sup>. The principal reason for this relates to the redevelopment of the following sites for housing, which were formerly in employment use (principally B2 and B8) :

- Former Brackley Sawmills, Northampton Road, Brackley;
- Former Bronnley Soap Works, Radstone Road, Brackley; and
- Former Chaplins Haulage Yard, Stratford Road, Brackley

3.8 These significant redevelopments have coincided with a relative lull in completions on large scale employment sites in South Northamptonshire. There are, however a number of large scale sites that are in progress which should deliver significant completions in 2015/16. For example, there are four sites under construction which will provide in excess of 33,000 m<sup>2</sup> of B8 floorspace, including Zone F at Grange Park. For this reason the net loss of floorspace recorded for 2013/14 is likely to be a one-off occurrence rather than a consistent trend.

3.9 For Northampton the figures for 2014/15 demonstrate that the commercial property market remains buoyant. Key developments include:

- The Northampton Waterside EZ – where over 24,000 m<sup>2</sup> of floorspace has been created.
- Innovation Centre: a University led project completed in February 2015 and will serve as an incubator for about 55 new businesses. It will create up to 180 new jobs and 2,438 m<sup>2</sup> of new floorspace.
- Cosworth: incorporating 5,800 m<sup>2</sup> of advanced manufacturing facility, which will create 70 new high skilled jobs and 15 apprenticeships, as well as establish a new Centre of Excellence for Advanced Manufacturing.
- Significant development at the strategic Brackmills and Swan Valley sites.

3.10 Losses of employment floorspace in Northampton are principally made up of the redevelopment of smaller general industry sites within the urban area together with the conversion of existing B1 offices to other uses, principally residential. This can be explained, at least in part by the impact of changes to permitted development rights which allow change of use from B1 to residential. At this stage it is considered that the level of take up of the new permitted development rights is not so significant as to be detrimental to the overall supply of offices, but this will continue to be monitored.

**Table 3.2 - Total Amount of Employment Floorspace (gross) on Previously Developed Land by Type**

| Indicator: Key Output Indicator BD2 | Total Percentage of Employment Floorspace (gross) on Previously Developed Land – by Use Class 2014/15 |                |               |               |               |               |
|-------------------------------------|---|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
|                                     | B1  | B2             | B8            | Mixed B Uses  | Sui Generis   | Total         |
| Daventry District                   | 100.00%   | 100.00%        | 0.00%         | 81.60%        | 35.83%        | 9.53%         |
| Northampton Borough                 | 42.55%  | 100.00%        | 24.85%        | none          | none          | 40.27%        |
| South Northamptonshire              | 100.00%   | 100.00%        | 54.90%        | none          | 4.48%         | 50.64%        |
| West Northamptonshire Average       | <b>74.46%</b>   | <b>100.00%</b> | <b>10.18%</b> | <b>81.60%</b> | <b>11.13%</b> | <b>26.27%</b> |

- 3.11 The overall proportion of development that has taken place on Previously Developed Land (PDL) has decreased significantly from over 64% in 2013/14 to just over 26% in 2014/15. This should be viewed in the context of significant increases in gross employment floorspace overall, much of which is in new B8 development on strategic greenfield sites such as DIRFT in Daventry, and Swan Valley in Northampton. It should be noted the majority of new B1 floorspace (74%) and all the new B2 floorspace has been delivered on PDL.

**Table 3.3 - Employment Land Available by Type (Hectares):**

| Indicator: Key Output Indicator BD3 | Employment Land Available – By Use Class (Hectares) |             |              |              |                     |
|-------------------------------------|---|-------------|--------------|--------------|---------------------|
|                                     | B1  | B2          | B8           | Mixed B Uses | Total               |
| Daventry District                   | 0.19  | 0.33        | 6.00         | 0.07         | 6.58                |
| Northampton Borough                 | 1.78  | 0.64        | 9.44         | 0.00         | 101.36 <sup>6</sup> |
| South Northamptonshire              | 27.69   | 0.80        | 4.67         | 20.70        | 53.86               |
| West Northamptonshire               | <b>29.66</b>  | <b>1.76</b> | <b>20.11</b> | <b>20.77</b> | <b>147.69</b>       |

<sup>6</sup> Total includes 89.5 ha of allocated land without planning permission where detailed floorspace provision is unknown at present.

- 3.12 Table 3.3 above sets out the total employment land available across West Northamptonshire. As with last year's AMR the figures are calculated by converting the gross floorspace available from square metres into hectares. In previous years the figures related to the gross land area of available sites. The amount of land available land has increased from 138ha to 147ha. The supply of land across West Northamptonshire therefore remains buoyant even though take up of available land increased during 2014/15 as demonstrated by the high level of completions recorded in Table 3.1.
- 3.13 More information on the land available is provided in the West Northamptonshire Employment Land Study (WNELS, February 2010) and the subsequent WNELS Review prepared in July 2012 which supported the preparation of the Joint Core Strategy<sup>7</sup>. The 2012 Review confirmed that the vast majority of the employment land portfolio remains 'fit for purpose' and for the most part has been resilient to the impacts of recession. The outlook for several sites in the existing portfolio is helped by initiatives such as the SEMLEP Northampton Waterside Enterprise Zone. It is encouraging to note that such activity, alongside applications for planning permission, has continued since publication of the original study. Examples include the development within the EZ noted above and other key developments such as the Innovation Centre and Cosworth in Northampton.

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<sup>7</sup> The West Northamptonshire Employment Land Study (2010) and WNELS Review 2012 is available at: <http://www.westnorthamptonshirejpu.org/connect.ti/website/view?objectId=2714704>

**Table 3.4 - Total Amount of Floorspace (m<sup>2</sup>) Developed for 'Town Centre Uses' in West Northamptonshire**

| Indicator: Key Output Indicator BD4 | TOTAL AMOUNT OF FLOORSPACE (m <sup>2</sup> ) DEVELOPED FOR 'TOWN CENTRE USES' IN WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE (BY DEFINED TOWN CENTRES AND OVERALL TREND) |   |       |       |          |          |           |            |           |
|-------------------------------------|--|---|-------|-------|----------|----------|-----------|------------|-----------|
|                                     | Data Type  | A1  | A2    | A3-A5 | B1a      | D1       | D2        | Mixed Uses | Total     |
| Daventry District <sup>\$</sup>     | In Defined Town Centres  | Not reported for a defined town centre area |       |       |          |          |           |            |           |
|                                     | Gross Total  | 3392.7                                      | 114.7 | 47    | 200      | 311      | 40        | 652        | 4,757     |
|                                     | Net Total  | 3358.7                                      | 89.7  | 0     | 40       | 311      | 40        | 652        | 4,491     |
| Northampton Borough                 | In Defined Town Centres  | Figures for 2014/15 are not available.      |       |       |          |          |           |            |           |
|                                     | Gross Total  |   |       |       |          |          |           |            |           |
|                                     | Net Total  |   |       |       |          |          |           |            |           |
| South Northamptonshire <sup>#</sup> | In Defined Town Centres  | Not reported for a defined town centre area |       |       |          |          |           |            |           |
|                                     | Gross Total  | 285.5                                       | 0     | 263   | 2,721    | 1,010.40 | 15,401.00 | 0          | 19,680.90 |
|                                     | Net Total  | 213.4                                       | -98   | 49    | 1,110.60 | 705.40   | 15,286.20 | -3,014.10  | 14,252.50 |
| West Northamptonshire Total         | These totals are for 2014/15 and so only include the figures for Daventry DC and South Northamptonshire.   |   |       |       |          |          |           |            |           |
|                                     | Gross Total  | 3,678                                       | 115   | 310   | 2,921    | 1,321    | 15,441    | 652        | 24,438    |

*\$ Data for Town Centre uses in Daventry District are reported for the whole settlement of Daventry rather than a defined Town Centre boundary.*

*#Data for Town Centre Uses in South Northamptonshire are reported for the whole district area of South Northamptonshire, not for any defined town centre areas.*

3.13 Unfortunately data on floorspace provision for town centre uses in Northampton Borough is not available for 2014/15. Reported figures for Daventry show an overall fall in the amount of new floorspace provided from over 11700 m<sup>2</sup> net in 2013/14 to 4500 m<sup>2</sup> net in 2014/15. This is principally due to a fall in the amount of floorspace developed for D1 and mixed uses. Conversely there has been a notable increase in the provision of A1 floorspace from 118 m<sup>2</sup> net in 13/14 to over 3350 m<sup>2</sup> net. In South Northants there has been a gain of over 14,250 m<sup>2</sup> net which is made up of a gain in all use classes apart from A2 and mixed uses. The losses in mixed uses here is all at one site, the Faccenda chicken processing factory in Brackley where a number of B use industrial buildings were demolished to make way for a redesigned lorry park.

3.14 As a measure to help report on the vitality of town centre uses across West Northamptonshire, the vacancy rates of units at ground level continue to be

reported in the Joint Annual Monitoring Report. Surveys are conducted independently by the Partner Local Planning Authorities but the methodologies are broadly consistent. Figures for Towcester and Brackley remain as reported in the previous AMR as no further data is available for 2014/15. Updated figures are presented for Northampton which show a small decrease in vacant units and a resultant reduction in the vacancy rate from just over 13% to just under 12%. For Daventry there is virtually no change, with the number of vacant units reduced by one and the percentage rate reducing from 5.9% to 5.4%.

**Table 3.5 - Vacancy Levels of Town Centre Units**

| Indicator: Local Output Indicator                 | Vacancy Rates of Units Within the Town Centre (Ground floor level only) |             |                    |                |                     |
|---|---|-------------|--------------------|----------------|---------------------|
|   | Date  | Total Units | Total Vacant Units | % Vacant Units | % Units in A1 Use   |
| <b>Daventry</b>                                   | Apr-15  | 222         | 12                 | 5.40%          | N/A                 |
| <b>Northampton</b>                                | Apr-15  | 567         | 68                 | 11.99%         | <a href="#">N/A</a> |
| <b>Towcester</b>                                  | Nov-11  | 75          | 1                  | 1.30%          | N/A                 |
| <b>Brackley</b>                                   | Nov-11  | 99          | 12                 | 12.10%         | N/A                 |
| <b>West Northamptonshire Total</b>                |   | <b>963</b>  | <b>93</b>          | <b>9.66%</b>   | <b>N/A</b>          |
| <b>East Midlands Regional Average<sup>~</sup></b> | <b>Oct-11</b>   | <b>N/A</b>  | <b>N/A</b>         | <b>9.80%</b>   | <b>N/A</b>          |
| <b>UK Average<sup>~</sup></b>                     | <b>Oct-11</b>   | <b>N/A</b>  | <b>N/A</b>         | <b>11.30%</b>  | <b>N/A</b>          |

*\*Based on Defined Town Centre Boundary used by Daventry Business Improvement District  
~Benchmark data for UK / Regional vacancy rates obtained from British Retail Consortium / Springboard quarterly surveys (see [http://www.brc.org.uk/brc\\_footfall\\_and\\_vacancies\\_monitor.asp](http://www.brc.org.uk/brc_footfall_and_vacancies_monitor.asp))*

## Housing

- 3.15 Paragraph 47 of the National Planning Policy Framework expects local authorities to produce a housing trajectory to illustrate the expected rate of housing delivery and support the implementation strategy for the full range of housing required over the Plan period. In the immediate term the housing trajectory will serve to ensure delivery of an appropriate five-year supply of housing land can be maintained. Previous housing trajectories assessed housing delivery against the former East Midlands Regional Plan targets for West Northamptonshire. This JAMR uses the housing trajectory set out in Appendix 3 part of the Joint Core Strategy as adopted in December 2014. The trajectory in Table 3.6 below sets out the planned delivery within the Joint Core Strategy and indicates how this will meet the Objectively Assessed Housing Need (OAHN) for West Northamptonshire in the Plan period to 2029.



- 3.16 The delivery of the scale of housing required to meet the assessed need was profiled to take account of the relatively low starting point as the housing market starts to recover following the economic recession. It also reflected the time required to bring major sites through from application to delivery. The housing trajectory has been informed by a robust investigation of the housing supply position across West Northamptonshire and is set out in the updated Housing Technical Paper (December 2013) which was prepared to support the Proposed Main Modifications to the Joint Core Strategy.

**Table 3.6 – West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy – Actual and Proposed Housing Delivery against Need**

| Year    | Trajectory Need (Dwellings) | Delivery Actual/ planned (Dwellings) | Difference delivery against Trajectory Need |  |
|---------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| 2011/12 | 872                         | 872                                  | 0   |  |
| 2012/13 | 840                         | 840                                  | 0   |  |
| 2013/14 | 1,434                       | 1,432                                | -2  |  |
| 2014/15 | 1,864                       | 1,599                                | -265  |  |
| 2015/16 | 2,239                       | 2,244                                | 5   |  |
| 2016/17 | 2,593                       | 2,766                                | 173   |  |
| 2017/18 | 2,928                       | 3,162                                | 234   |  |
| 2018/19 | 3,095                       | 3,246                                | 151   |  |
| 2019/20 | 3,349                       | 3,438                                | 89  |  |
| 2020/21 | 3,112                       | 3,186                                | 74  |  |
| 2021/22 | 2,931                       | 3,016                                | 85  |  |
| 2022/23 | 2,924                       | 3,003                                | 79  |  |
| 2023/24 | 2,656                       | 2,735                                | 79  |  |
| 2024/25 | 2,511                       | 2,590                                | 79  |  |
| 2025/26 | 2,276                       | 2,339                                | 63  |  |
| 2026/27 | 2,216                       | 2,231                                | 15  |  |
| 2027/28 | 2,031                       | 2,011                                | -20   |  |
| 2028/29 | 1,905                       | 1,849                                | -56   |  |
|         |                             |                                      |   |  |
| Total   | 41,776                      | 42,559                               | 783   |  |

**Shaded area represents Actual Delivery**

- 3.17 Table 3.6 above summarises the proposed housing trajectory to meet the housing need targets set out in the Joint Core Strategy. This trajectory requires a significant increase in dwelling delivery from a low point of 840 dwellings in 2012/13 to a high point of 3,349 dwellings in 2019/20. Actual dwelling delivery showed a modest increase in 2014/15 but was 265 dwellings short of the trajectory need target, unlike 2013/14's increase over the previous year when the total of 1432 dwellings delivered was only 2 dwellings below

the need target. A further increase in delivery is required for 2015/16 and the challenging nature of the trajectory is such that it will continue to be subject to close monitoring in future AMRs.

- 3.18 The Joint Core Strategy Monitoring Framework includes a trigger for dwelling delivery of +/- 25% difference against the trajectory on a rolling 3 year basis at which point a number of contingency actions will be considered. Looking back over the three year period from 2012/13 to 2014/15 the adopted trajectory anticipated the delivery of 4138 dwellings. Actual delivery during this period equates to 3871 dwellings which represents a shortfall of 6.5%. As such the shortfall is well below the 25% trigger and does not necessitate specific contingency action at this stage.
- 3.19 The following charts illustrate the trajectory for West Northamptonshire as a whole, by District, and for the Northampton Related Development Area. It should be noted that the “delivery” target is higher than the “need” target in South Northamptonshire. It should be noted that the resultant 5 year land supply calculations will be based upon the “need” trajectory.

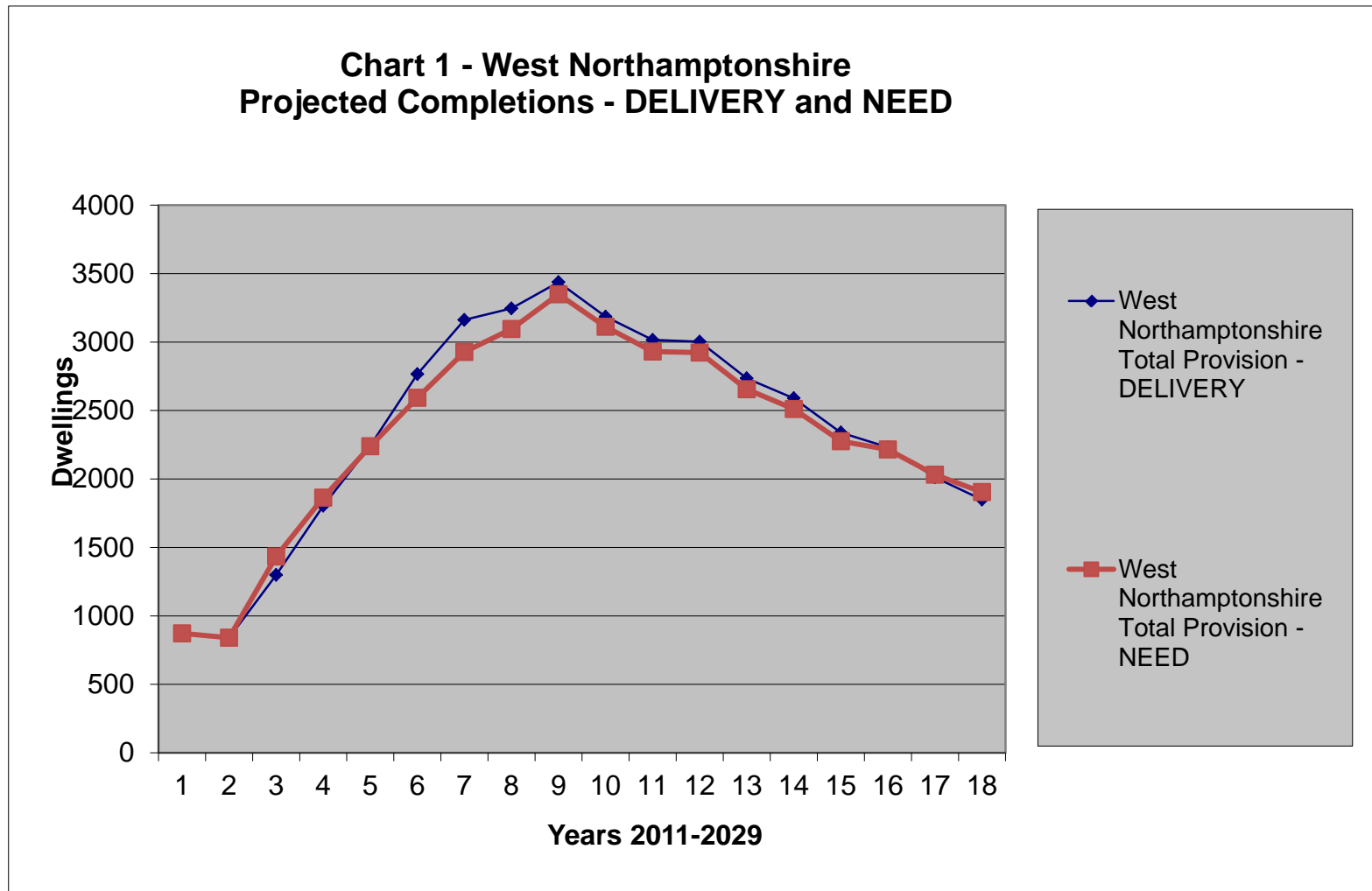


Chart 1 - West Northamptonshire Projected Completions – DELIVERY and NEED

Chart 2 - Completions by District – DELIVERY and NEED

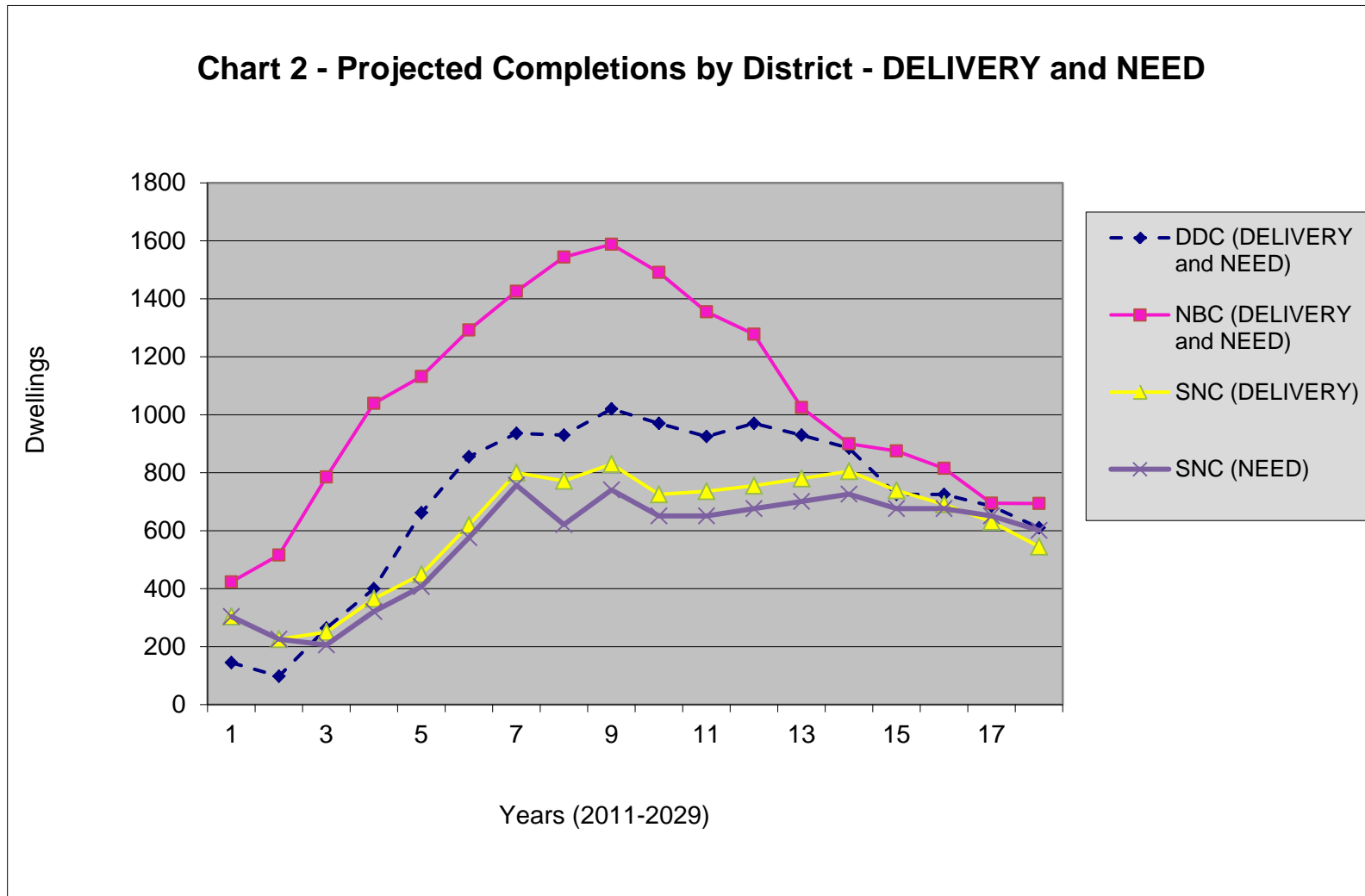
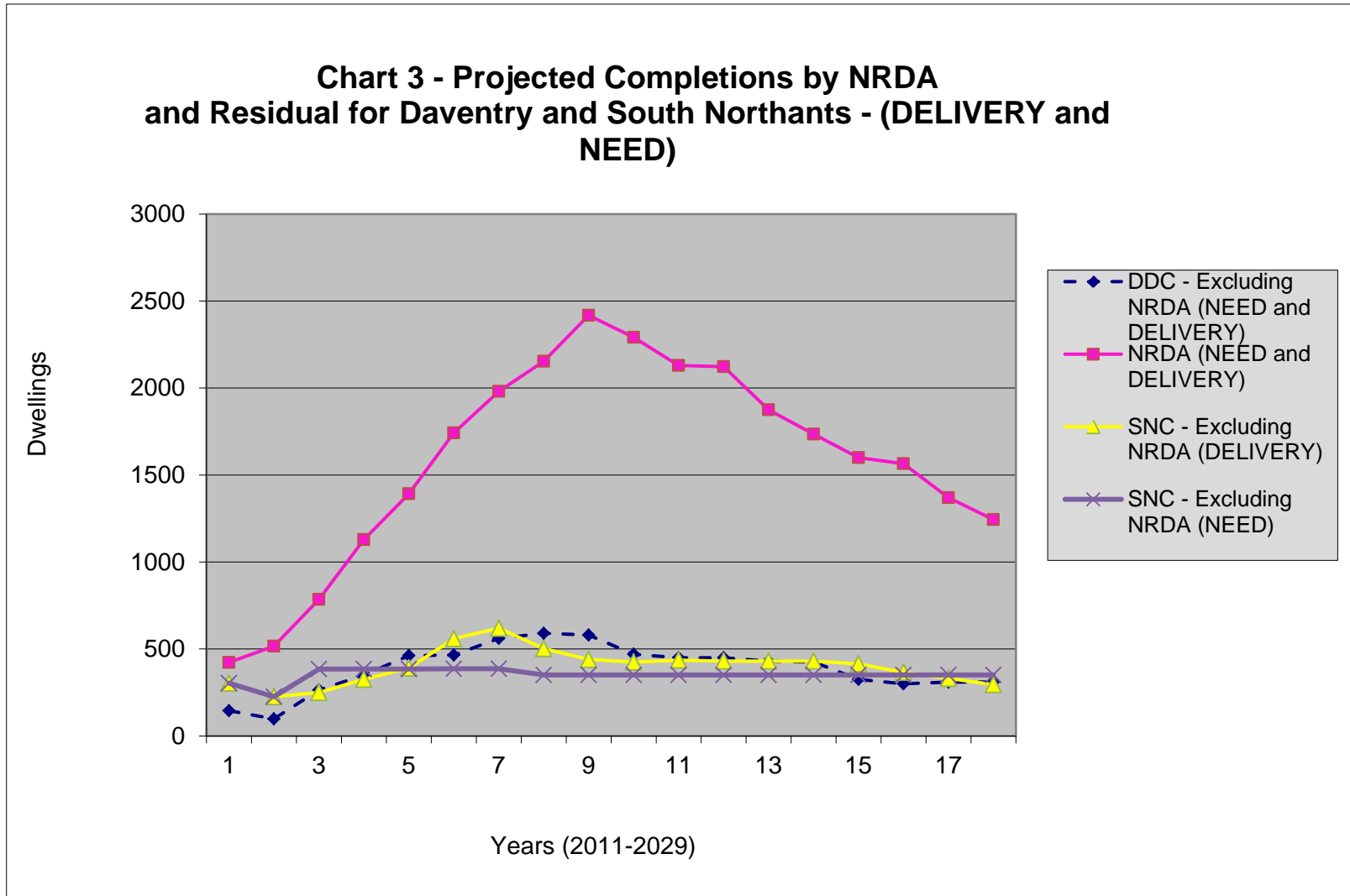


Chart 3 – Projected Completions by NRDA and Residual for Daventry and South Northants – (DELIVERY and NEED)



**Table 3.7 Housing Requirements 2011 – 2029**

| Indicator: Key Output Indicator H1                 | 'Plan Period Housing Delivery Indicative Phasing' – West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy Local Plan (Part 1) Adopted |                |                    |                    |                  |                    |
|--|---|----------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|
|  | Plan Period / Source  | Actual 2011-15 | Required 2015-2018 | Required 2018-2023 | Required 2023-29 | Total              |
| <b>Daventry District (excluding NRDA)</b>          | 2011-2029   | 887            | 1,458              | 2,540              | 2,100            | 6,985              |
| <b>Northampton Related Development Area (NRDA)</b> | 2011-2029   | 2,650          | 5,318              | 11,116             | 9,389            | 28,473             |
| <b>South Northants (excluding NRDA) - NEED</b>     | 2011-2029   | 1,206          | 1,251              | 1,755              | 2,106            | 6,318 <sup>8</sup> |
| <b>West Northants Total</b>                        | 2011-2029   | 4,743          | 8,027              | 15,411             | 13,595           | 41,776             |

3.20 The figures set out in Tables 3.7 above are drawn from the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy Local Plan (Part 1) Adopted Table 6. The JCS was adopted during the 2014/15 monitoring period and from now on the Housing Needs set out in Table 1 in Section 5 of that document, which refers to the paper 'West Northants JPU – Objectively Assessed Needs ((Dec 2013)' will be used as it is the most up to date and in line with the NPPF and other guidance.

<sup>8</sup> This figure relates to the Objectively Assessed Need, which is slightly lower than SNC's Delivery Target. Please note: it is the lower Objectively Assessed Need figure which is used for the calculation of 5 year land supply requirements. A further explanation of the methodology used in calculating the objective assessment of housing need is given in the [Housing Technical Paper Second Update](#).

**Table 3.8 - Net Additional Dwelling Provision**

| Indicator: Key Output Indicator H2 (a) and H2 (b)  | Net Additional Dwellings in Previous Years and Net Additional Dwellings in Monitoring Year (2014/15) |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |              |
|--|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------------|
|  | 2001/02  | 2002/03 | 2003/04 | 2004/05 | 2005/06 | 2006/07 | 2007/08 | 2008/09 | 2009/10 | 2010/11 | 2011/12 | 2012/13 | 2013/14 | 2014/15      |
| <b>Daventry District (excluding NRDA)</b>          | 417  | 435     | 266     | 247     | 360     | 295     | 319     | 183     | 174     | 158     | 145     | 98      | 265     | <b>379</b>   |
| <b>Northampton Related Development Area (NRDA)</b> | 1,084  | 1,208   | 1,009   | 1,623   | 1,626   | 1,824   | 1,020   | 707     | 348     | 323     | 423     | 516     | 834     | <b>877</b>   |
| <b>South Northamptonshire (Excluding NRDA)</b>     | 498  | 366     | 175     | 325     | 238     | 235     | 211     | 220     | 258     | 206     | 304     | 226     | 333     | <b>343</b>   |
| <b>West Northamptonshire Total</b>                 | 1,999  | 2,009   | 1,450   | 2,195   | 2,224   | 2,354   | 1,550   | 1,110   | 780     | 687     | 872     | 840     | 1,432   | <b>1,599</b> |

- 3.21 Net additional dwelling provision has increased by 167 units, or 11.66%, against the equivalent period for 2013/14. This is a smaller increase than that of 2013/14, but continues the upward trend since 2010/11, which represented the historic low for housing delivery across West Northamptonshire over the last decade. The delivery rate is still below the peak output of 2,354 units recorded in 2006/07 prior to the recession but is the best figure since then. Performance has not been even across West Northamptonshire; Daventry has shown the best increase at 43% whereas the Northampton Related Development Area and South Northamptonshire have shown increases in output of 5.16% and 3% respectively. This shows a slowing down of the rate of increase compared to that in 2013/14.
- 3.22 The impact of government mechanisms to promote housing development such as the 'Help to Buy' equity loan initiative was credited for a notable increase in housing transactions during 2013. The Bank of England revealed lending to first time buyers reached its highest level since 2007 in the final quarter of 2013. All of these trends accounted for an increase in housing completions for 2013/14. In 2014/15 the Bank reported that the availability of secured credit to households was broadly unchanged and that demand for secured lending fell significantly in the three months to early March 2015, by which time the amount of gross advances for house purchase was 3.8% lower compared with the first quarter of 2014 and the lowest since the second quarter of 2013. The number of 'Help to Buy' equity loan completions in 2014/15 continued to rise month on month compared to the same month in

2013/14 until Nov 2014 after which time the figures dropped slightly below those of the previous year. 81% of these loans were to first time buyers<sup>9</sup>

**Table 3.9 - Net Additional Pitches for Gypsy and Travellers**

| Indicator: Key Output Indicator H4 | Net Additional Pitches (Gypsy and Traveller) 2014/15 |           |          |          |
|------------------------------------|--|-----------|----------|----------|
|                                    | Data Type  | Permanent | Transit  | Total    |
| <b>Daventry District</b>           | Additional Pitches 14/15                             | 0         | 0        | 0        |
|                                    | Total Additional Since 2007                          |           |          | 3        |
| <b>Northampton Borough</b>         | Additional Pitches 14/15                             | 0         | 0        | 0        |
|                                    | Total Additional Since 2007                          |           |          | 0        |
| <b>South Northamptonshire</b>      | Additional Pitches 14/15                             | 0         | 0        | 0        |
|                                    | Total Additional Since 2007                          |           |          | 3        |
| <b>West Northamptonshire Total</b> | <b>Total Since 2007</b>                              | <b>0</b>  | <b>0</b> | <b>6</b> |

**Table 3.10 - Requirements for Gypsy and Traveller Pitches (2012/13 – 2032/33):**

| Travellers Accommodation Needs Study <sup>10</sup> (April 2013) except SNC, see below | Requirements for Gypsy and Traveller (including Travelling Showpeople) Pitches (2012/13 – 2032/33) |           |                          |                       |           |
|---|--|-----------|--------------------------|-----------------------|-----------|
|   | Data Type  | Permanent | Emergency Stopping Place | Travelling Showpeople | Total     |
| <b>Daventry District</b>  | Requirement  | 20        | 1                        | 2                     | 23        |
| <b>Northampton Borough</b>  | Requirement  | 35        | 1                        | 0                     | 36        |
| <b>South Northamptonshire<sup>11</sup></b>  | Requirement  | 19        | 1                        | 0                     | 20        |
| <b>West Northamptonshire</b>  | <b>Total</b>   | <b>74</b> | <b>3</b>                 | <b>2</b>              | <b>79</b> |

3.23 There was no change to the number of Gypsy and Traveller Sites in 2014/15. This means that the total increase in pitches across West Northamptonshire

<sup>9</sup>[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/483103/20151209\\_Help\\_to\\_Buy\\_Equity\\_Loan\\_and\\_Help\\_to\\_Buy\\_NewBuy\\_statistical\\_release.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/483103/20151209_Help_to_Buy_Equity_Loan_and_Help_to_Buy_NewBuy_statistical_release.pdf)

<sup>10</sup> RRR Consultancy Ltd (April 2013) West Northamptonshire Travellers Accommodation Needs Study

<sup>11</sup>[http://www.southnorthants.gov.uk/OXFORD\\_GT\\_EXEC\\_SUMMARY\\_FINAL\\_VERSION\\_29\\_JAN\\_2013.pdf](http://www.southnorthants.gov.uk/OXFORD_GT_EXEC_SUMMARY_FINAL_VERSION_29_JAN_2013.pdf)



since 2007 remains at 6. Work will continue to ensure the need identified in the Travellers Accommodation Needs Study (TANS) is met. As noted in Section 2 of the JAMR the proposed West Northamptonshire Gypsy, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople Allocations Local Plan will not be taken forward as a joint Local Plan and issues relating to the accommodation needs for Travellers will be addressed by partner Councils in their own separate Part 2 Local Plans.

**Table 3.11 - New and Converted Dwellings (Gross) on Previously Developed Land**

| Indicator: Key Output Indicator H3 | New and converted dwellings (gross) on Previously Developed Land (PDL) 2014/15 |                                |               |
|------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---------------|
|                                    | Total Dwellings (Gross)  | Total Dwellings on PDL (Gross) | % on PDL      |
| <b>Daventry District</b>           | 393  | 128                            | 32.57%        |
| <b>Northampton Borough</b>         | 892  | 438                            | 49.10%        |
| <b>South Northamptonshire</b>      | 367  | 20                             | 5.45%         |
| <b>West Northamptonshire</b>       | <b>1652</b>  | <b>586</b>                     | <b>35.47%</b> |

Source: WNJPU 2015

- 3.24 The overall proportion of housing development in West Northamptonshire taking place on previously developed land (PDL or *brownfield*) has again dropped by a quarter, i.e. 35.47% in 2014/15 compared to 47.69% in 2013/14.. However this varies across the individual Districts. Daventry District, having seen an increase in housing development on PDL from 62.07% to 89.34% in 2012/13, followed by a drop to 34.91% in 2013/14, has seen a much smaller drop to 32.57% while in South Northamptonshire there has been a very small increase from 4.90% to 5.45%. In Northampton Borough the proportion of development on PDL has also dropped, from 70.22% to 49.1%. The National Planning Policy Framework continues to advocate making effective use of previously developed land (see NPPF paragraph 17). On this basis the JCS continues to give priority to making best use of PDL and the adopted JCS proposes a target of 30% of additional dwellings to be provided on PDL or through conversions. The West Northamptonshire average exceeded this in 2014/15.
- 3.25 Whilst the level of development on PDL during 2014/15 in Northampton Borough and Daventry District remains above the proposed JCS target, it is anticipated that this will reduce over time as the new Sustainable Urban Extension allocations in the JCS which are largely on greenfield land (essential to support delivery of the housing requirement) start to deliver.

However, the JCS aims to develop policy that will continue to support the development of brownfield land, in the most sustainable urban locations, to ensure developable and deliverable sites are brought forward wherever possible.

**Table 3.12 - Gross Affordable Housing Completions**

| Indicator: Key Output Indicator H5              | Description: Gross Affordable Housing Completions 2001 to 2015 |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |            |
|---|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|------------|
|   | 2001/02  | 2002/03 | 2003/04 | 2004/05 | 2005/06 | 2006/07 | 2007/08 | 2008/09 | 2009/10 | 2010/11 | 2011/12 | 2012/13 | 2013/14 | 2014/15    |
| <b>Daventry District – Number Provided</b>      | 36   | 36      | 19      | 34      | 62      | 32      | 81      | 74      | 69      | 19      | 25      | 26      | 65      | <b>82</b>  |
| <b>Northampton Borough – Number Provided</b>    | 147  | 133     | 110     | 124     | 205     | 470     | 450     | 288     | 303     | 114     | 101     | 190     | 232     | <b>225</b> |
| <b>South Northamptonshire – Number Provided</b> | 67   | 46      | 23      | 114     | 34      | 81      | 24      | 47      | 7       | 41      | 115     | 33      | 66      | <b>36</b>  |
| <b>West Northamptonshire Total Provided</b>     | 250  | 215     | 152     | 272     | 301     | 583     | 555     | 409     | 379     | 174     | 241     | 249     | 363     | <b>343</b> |

Source: WNJPU 2015

- 3.26 There has been a decrease of 5.5% in total gross affordable housing completions for 2014/15, a drop of 20 units delivered compared to the number recorded in 2013/14. The numbers have decreased in Northampton by 3.0% and in South Northants by 45.4% but have increased in Daventry by 20.7% compared to the previous year
- 3.27 South Northamptonshire, which experienced a doubling in affordable housing delivery to 66 during 2013/14, has again undergone a sharp decline similar to, though only 2/3 the amount of that experienced between 2011/12 and 2012/13, bringing their total down to 36, only 3 more than the number in 2013/14. This is a drop of 45.4% compared to an increase of 3% in total housing completions in South Northamptonshire for the current year and means the percentage of affordable housing has fallen from nearly 20% in 2013/14 to 10.5%.
- 3.28 Daventry District has seen its affordable housing delivery increase by 26.1% in the past year with the largest number of units since 2001, with 17 more units being provided than last year giving a total delivery of 82 units. This brings the level of output to well above the average of 53.5 units over the last decade. High numbers of affordable dwelling completions from 2008-2010 primarily relate to the fulfilment of affordable housing obligations on major sites such as Middlemore, even during the recession. Further phases of development under construction on this scheme during 2012/15, which include affordable housing obligations, are bringing about this increase in

affordable housing delivery. There has also been a significant increase in sites in the supply pipeline particularly in rural areas that are likely to support delivery over the coming years.

- 3.29 Delivery in Northampton Borough has decreased by just over 3% compared to output for 2013/14, with 7 fewer units since last year. This compares with an overall increase in housing delivery in Northampton Borough of 5.2%. An output of 225 affordable homes during 2014/15 is 12.5% below the average of the 257.8 affordable units per annum delivered in the last decade (2005-15). As a proportion of the total housing provision in 2014/15, affordable housing accounts for 25.7% which is slightly less than the previous year.
- 3.30 It must be recognised that the delivery of affordable housing is likely to be challenging in future years having regard to the availability of funding to support delivery and viability considerations, particularly on the larger development sites. Affordable housing completions in Daventry have continued to increase and those in Northampton during 2014/15 have remained close to the number in 2013/14, which exceeded the previous year's figures by 22%.

## Environmental Quality

**Table 3.13 - Number of Planning Permissions Granted contrary to Environment Agency advice on Flooding and Water Quality**

| Indicator: Key Output Indicator E1 | Number of Planning Permissions granted contrary to Environment Agency advice on Flooding and Water Quality <sup>12</sup> 2014/15 |                       |          |
|------------------------------------|--|-----------------------|----------|
|                                    | Flooding Grounds   | Water Quality Grounds | Total    |
| Daventry District                  | 2  | 0                     | 0        |
| Northampton Borough                | 0  | 0                     | 0        |
| South Northants                    | 0  | 0                     | 0        |
| <b>West Northants Total</b>        | <b>0</b>   | <b>0</b>              | <b>0</b> |

Source: Environment Agency

- 3.31 It is expected that a positive approach to the sequential testing of sites and a strong policy framework across the Local Plans in West Northamptonshire will maintain the strong performance preventing permissions on sites with flooding or water quality issues. In a number of cases the Environment Agency may object to a proposed development on the grounds that could be at risk of flooding or is likely to increase flood risk elsewhere. However, initial objections can be overcome and may be withdrawn if appropriate information is provided or developers change their schemes to address flood risk concerns.
- 3.32 In 2014/15 the Environment Agency's monitoring data recorded two applications in Daventry District as having been granted contrary to EA advice on flooding grounds. The two applications in question are at Monksmoor in Daventry (DA/2014/0638 – 175 dwellings; and DA/2014/0672 – country park extension). Both were the subject of an objection from the EA, but this was qualified by reference to the objection being overcome if the applicant could demonstrate compliance with the site-wide Flood Risk Assessment. The applicant was advised of the objections, and associated caveat, and provided further information, which sought to demonstrate what the EA was seeking. The EA was provided with the additional information, and invited to provide further comments, but did not respond prior to the permissions being issued by the District Council.
- 3.33 The Monksmoor site as a whole was granted planning permission (in outline) on appeal, following a very lengthy (conjoined) inquiry. Drainage and flooding issues were considered fully by the Inspector who, ultimately, subject to the imposition of conditions, did not have overriding concerns in respect of those matters. In the subsequent reserved matters submissions, the developers have sought to demonstrate compliance with the overarching drainage/flood principles and Daventry District Council are satisfied that the additional

<sup>12</sup> This indicator only records cases where a planning application is approved with an objection raised by the Environment Agency following consultation still in place. Objections are almost always dealt with during the application process and either withdrawn following amendments to proposals or addressed through suitable planning conditions or obligations concerning known issues and thus they are not displayed.

information provided with these applications addressed the issues raised by the EA.

**Table 3.14 - Change in Areas of Biodiversity Importance**

| Indicator: Key Output Indicator E2 | Change in Areas of Biodiversity Importance 2014/15 |                 |   |  |  |
|------------------------------------|--|-----------------|---|--|--|
|                                    | Biodiversity Area                                  | Number of Sites | Change in Area Since 2013/14 (Hectares) | Total Area of Biodiversity Importance 13/14 (Hectares) | Total Area of Biodiversity Importance 14/15 (Hectares) |
| <b>Daventry District</b>           | Local Wildlife Sites                               | 191             | 4.37                                    | 1600.09  | 1604.46  |
| <b>Northampton Borough</b>         | Local Wildlife Sites                               | 48              | -5.09                                   | 410.41   | 405.32   |
| <b>South Northants</b>             | Local Wildlife Sites                               | 167             | -5.57                                   | 2417.28  | 2411.71  |
| <b>West Northants Total</b>        | <b>Additional Biodiversity</b>                     | 415             | -6.29                                   | 4427.78  | 4421.49  |

Source: Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire

- 3.34 2014/15 has again seen a small decrease in the total land area designated as Local Wildlife Sites although the area in Daventry has increased slightly. The loss of some sites in any given year is to be expected due to instances when privately owned sites become used for different purposes i.e. changing agricultural practices and the unavoidable reduction in management of environmental assets. The Wildlife Trust continue to actively seek opportunities to secure funding to bring new sites up to the standard required for listing as Local Wildlife Sites to ensure the landscape, flora and fauna of existing and potential wildlife sites are protected and enhanced. This supports the designation of new sites and expansion of areas already protected. Protecting and further enhancing these important natural assets form a key component of the Joint Core Strategy; and following its adoption in December 2014 this indicator will continue to be monitored according to Objective 14 of Monitoring Framework, Appendix 6.

**Table 3.15 - Local Wildlife Sites Surveyed and Under Active Management in the last 5 Years**

| Local Output Indicator (NI197) | Local Wildlife Sites Surveyed and Under Active Management In The Last 5 Years (2010-15) |              |              |  |              |              |
|--------------------------------|---|--------------|--------------|--|--------------|--------------|
|                                | Sites surveyed within last 5 years (10-15)  |              |              | Sites under active positive management within last 5 years (10-15) |              |              |
| Borough/<br>District location  | Number of sites (2014-15)   | % at 2013-14 | % at 2014-15 | Number of sites (2014-15)  | % at 2013-14 | % at 2014-15 |
| Daventry                       | 40  | 19           | 21           | 69   | 34           | 36           |
| Northampton                    | 21  | 32           | 43           | 14   | 23           | 29           |
| South Northants                | 37  | 24           | 22           | 50   | 28           | 30           |
| West Northants                 | 98  | 22.7%        | 24%          | 133  | 30.1%        | 33%          |

Source: Data supplied by the Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire.

3.35 The Wildlife Trust have continued their programme of surveying Local Wildlife Sites and seek to bring as many sites as possible under active management. 2014/15 has seen modest increases in the percentages of sites surveyed from 22.7% to 24%, and sites under active positive management from 30.1% to 33%.

**Table 3.16 - Conditions of SSSI Sites in West Northamptonshire (from Natural England)**

| Local Output Indicator  | Condition of SSSI Sites by Unit* in West Northamptonshire (from Natural England) 2014/15 |                     |                 |                      |
|-------------------------|--|---------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
|                         | Daventry District  | Northampton Borough | South Northants | West Northants Total |
| Total Units             | 14   | 1                   | 48              | 63                   |
| Total Area              | 536.28   | 112.96              | 1006.32         | 1655.56              |
| Favourable              | 6  | 1                   | 14              | 19                   |
| Unfavourable recovering | 5  | 0                   | 31              | 39                   |
| Unfavourable no change  | 3  | 0                   | 3               | 6                    |
| % favourable            | 42.9%  | 100.0%              | 29.2%           | 30.2%                |

Source: Natural England <http://www.sssi.naturalengland.org.uk/special/sssi/report.cfm?category=C,CF>  
 \*SSSI unit (definition from the Natural England website): SSSI units are divisions of SSSIs used to record management and condition details.

3.36 There has been some improvement in the condition of locations designated as Sites of Scientific Interest (SSSI) in West Northamptonshire compared to 2013/14., Although there is no change in Daventry and Northampton, South Northants has 1 site that has changed to a favourable condition, which has caused an increase in the percentage that are favourable for SNC from 24.5% to 29.2 %, resulting in a very slight increase in the percentage that are favourable for West Northamptonshire overall. This, combined with there being a small decrease in the number that are 'unfavourable recovering' and an slight increase in the number that are 'favourable' shows that the range of initiatives in place, such as the Nene Valley Nature Improvement Area, policies being developed for the Local Plans, plus positive output from the Biodiversity Partnership (including Local Wildlife Sites covering SSSI areas), is now slowly bringing further improvements.

**Table 3.17 - Renewable Power Generation Completed and Permitted (by Capacity (MW) and Type)**

| Indicator: Key Output Indicator E3               | Renewable Power Generation Completed and Permitted (by Capacity (MW) and Type*)(April 2015) |                      |              |                         |                                |                     |         |                               |       |
|--|---|----------------------|--------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|---------|-------------------------------|-------|
|  | Onshore Wind  | Solar Photo-Voltaics | Landfill Gas | Sewage Sludge Digestion | Municipal and Industrial Solid | Biomass - Co-firing | Biomass | Biomass - Anaerobic Digestion | Total |
| Permitted Installed Capacity (MW)                | 37.3  | 5.0                  | 0.0          | 0                       | 0                              | 0                   | 1.9     | 5.3                           | 49.5  |
| Completed Installed Capacity (MW)                | 38.7  | 54.2                 | 6.8          | 0                       | 0                              | 0                   | 0.0     | 0.0                           | 99.7  |
| West Northamptonshire Total Generation Potential | 76.0  | 59.2                 | 6.8          | 0                       | 0                              | 0                   | 1.9     | 5.3                           | 149.2 |

\*NB: This indicator records the total completed and permitted capacity, not just output from the 2014/15 Monitoring Period Source: DECC: <https://restats.decc.gov.uk/app/reporting/decc/monthlyextract>

Note 1: The DECC database has changed since the publication of the 2013/14 JAMR so that it no longer includes any applications for renewables of an installed capacity of less than 1 MW. The reported total potential generation for 2013/14 was 149MW made up of 55 approvals of which 12 were below 1MW accounting for a total potential generation of 5.17MW . As at April 2015 applications below 1MW are no longer monitored by DECC and this should be borne in mind when comparisons with the 2013/14 data are made. There were also some omissions in the data reported in 2013/14 and where necessary adjusted figures are referred to in the commentary below.

### Onshore Wind:

- 3.37 West Northamptonshire is continuing to develop capacity for renewable energy generation, although this is showing signs of slowing down. Although the permitted capacity has fallen by 54% of its 2013/14 value of 80.5MW to 37.3MW, the completed installed capacity has increased by 68% from the revised figure of 23.0MW (which replaced the published figure of 19.2MW) to 38.7MW. This means that the total potential generation capacity has decreased by 27% to 76MW (from a 2013/14 total of 103.5MW, revised from the published figure of 99.7MW). During 2014/15 four further sites were completed, 3 being in Daventry at Upper Boddington (1.5MW), Lilbourne (10MW), and at land between Watling Street and the M1, Celtic Way, Kilsby (4MW). In South Northants a site at land between Roade, Courteenhall, Hartwell and the M1 became operational in June 2014 (7.2MW) but permission for a site at Spring Farm to the North of Welsh Lane between Greatworth and Helmdon which would have had an installed capacity of 15MW was refused at appeal in December 2014. In Daventry construction began for 3 sites towards the end of the 2014/15 monitoring year, at Winwick (12.3MW, reduced from the original proposed 13.8MW due to a partial appeal result allowing 6 of 7 turbines applied for) and at Kelmars, and Watford Lodge (12.5MW each).

### Landfill Gas:

- 3.38 There has been a small decrease in the installed capacity for Landfill Gas during 2014/15 with 4 sites remaining active, giving a total capacity of 6.8MW.

### Biomass (Plant and Animal):

- 3.39 There are three sites, of which 2 were permitted before April 2014, (of 4.0 and 1.9MW) and one permitted in March 2015 (1.3MW) with a total generating capacity of 7.2MW. Of these, one (in Northampton) is described as 'Biomass' (1.9MW) and the other 2 are described as 'Anaerobic Digestion' (one each in Daventry (4.0 MW) and South Northants (1.3MW)). These 3 are all awaiting construction. It is important to note that, of the 6 records reported on in the 2013/14 JAMR, 4 are no longer being reported on by DECC as they refer to an installed capacity of less than 1MW. This means of 2 sites mentioned in last year's JAMR, one of 0.13MW that was under construction and another of 0.25MW that was reported as awaiting construction, are no longer monitored and account for 0.38MW out of an overall drop of 7.3MW

### Photovoltaics (Solar Panels):

- 3.40 During 2014/15, there were 11 PV solar panel schemes in West Northamptonshire of which 9 were operational (7 in South Northants, and 1 each in Daventry and Northampton) accounting for a 9.7 fold increase from a revised total of 28.53 in 2013/14 to a total of 54.2MW in 2014/15, and 2 were There were also 8 refusals (of which one was in Daventry and 7 were in South Northants, including one refused at appeal) and 2 schemes which were withdrawn, in South Northants. The number of sites has doubled from that in 2013/14 despite there being several sites that were included in last year's figures no longer being monitored due to each having a capacity of less than 1 MW. This indicates that the increased level of interest in this form of renewable energy observed in last year's JAMR is now producing operational



schemes although the number coming forward as approved or under construction has fallen by 82.5% compared to the previous year.

**Table 3.18 - Number of Grade I and Grade II\* Listed Buildings at Risk on English Heritage Register**

| Local Output Indicator      | Grade I and II* Listed Buildings showing the number and percentage 'At Risk', from English Heritage Register |           |       |                       |                    |
|-----------------------------|--|-----------|-------|-----------------------|--------------------|
|                             | Grade I  | Grade II* | Total | Grade I / II* at Risk | Percentage at Risk |
| <b>Daventry District</b>    | 41   | 96        | 137   | 11                    | 8%                 |
| <b>Northampton Borough</b>  | 16   | 27        | 43    | 2                     | 4.7%               |
| <b>South Northants</b>      | 41   | 92        | 133   | 5                     | 3.8%               |
| <b>West Northants Total</b> | 98   | 215       | 313   | 18                    | 5.8%               |

Source: <http://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/>, (all listed buildings)  
<https://content.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/har-2015-registers/em-har-register2015.pdf/> (buildings at risk register)

- 3.41 Assets in the built environment are of crucial importance to the character of settlements and specific places. The table above gives totals of all entries on the Heritage 'At Risk' Register which is published annually by English Heritage, as a percentage of all listed buildings in West Northamptonshire. The Register covers buildings/ structures designated as Grade I and Grade II\* only – not Grade II. In the 2015 Register two buildings designated as Grade I and Grade II\* (both being churches in Daventry district) have been added in West Northamptonshire. The overall percentage of buildings 'at risk' has increased from 4.4% to 5.8%. This is higher than the national percentage at 3.9% but less than the East Midlands at 6.9%.
- 3.42 In Daventry District, the Churches of All Saints at Norton and of St Mary, Woodford Halse, Woodford cum Membris have been added to the register of listed places of worship at risk, both listed as 'Poor'.
- 3.43 South Northamptonshire has no new entries on the register of buildings 'at risk'. Of the 5 buildings/structures which are on the Register, 4 have retained the same Priority category; the Church of St John the Baptist, Boddington has deteriorated slightly from category D ('Slow decay; solution agreed but not yet implemented.') to C ('Slow decay; no solution agreed').
- 3.44 Within Northampton Borough, the condition of Delapre Abbey remains listed as 'Poor'. However, its priority has changed from category B (immediate risk of further rapid deterioration or loss of fabric; solution agreed but not yet implemented) to category E ('Under repair or in fair to good repair, but no user identified...'). The listing also states 'Historic England grant-aided works for urgently necessary repairs to the roofs have been completed' and goes on to say that due to Heritage Lottery Funding 'works are underway to convert Delapre into a heritage attraction...' The Grade II\* Northampton & County Club in George Row is also described as being in 'Poor' condition, which has not changed from 2014.

- 3.45 It is not possible to provide a consistent indication of the number of Grade II listed buildings considered to be at risk from Local Authority heritage records for 2014/15.
- 3.46 With a large number of buildings designated (plus numerous conservation areas for parts of the built environment across the plan area) it is important that future policy and development seeks to protect and enhance these assets. During 2014-15 the WNJCS was adopted in which Policy BN5 (The Historic Environment and Landscape) is particularly relevant. In the West Northamptonshire Monitoring Framework (Appendix 6 of the WNJCS), Objective 16 (Heritage), an indicator has been set to measure the 'Percentage of designated heritage assets At Risk' with a target of a decrease in the percentage from the 2011 baseline of the English Heritage (*now Historic England*) Register. This will be reported in future JAMRs.
- 3.47 In JAMRs before 2013/14 it was possible to compare the performance of West Northamptonshire with East Midlands and National data. However, from 2013 English Heritage changed the way in which it reports the figures for 'buildings at risk' so that they now exclude 'places of worship'. In order to provide comparable data, some further analysis has been undertaken for West Northamptonshire using the National Heritage Register to exclude all Grade I and II\* Listed Buildings which are 'places of worship'. The results are presented in the table below.

**Table 3.19 - Grade I and Grade II\* Listed Buildings at Risk (excluding Places of Worship)**

|  | Grade I and II* Total | Grade I / II* at Risk | Percentage at Risk |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Daventry District</b>               | 72                    | 7                     | 9.7%               |
| <b>Northampton Borough</b>             | 22                    | 2                     | 9.1%               |
| <b>South Northamptonshire District</b> | 62                    | 3                     | 4.8%               |
| <b>West Northamptonshire Total</b>     | <b>156</b>            | <b>12</b>             | <b>7.7%</b>        |

Source: <https://content.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/har-2015-registers/em-har-register2015.pdf/> (buildings at risk register)

- 3.48 Nationally, 3.9% of Grade I and II\* listed buildings (excluding places of worship) are on the At Risk Register. In the East Midlands the percentage is 6.9%. West Northamptonshire is therefore slightly higher than the regional figure and is nearly double the national average.

## Significant Effects Indicators

- 3.49 All Local Plans due to be adopted as part of the Development Plan are subject to a Sustainability Appraisal. This is a systematic process, required by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and incorporating the requirements of the SEA European Union Directive<sup>13</sup>, aimed at appraising the social, environmental and economic effects of plan strategies and policies and ensuring that they accord with the objectives of sustainable development. Where 'Significant Effects' may arise, either through improvement in conditions or unintended consequences of policy, indicators should be identified in the Monitoring Framework of a Local Plan to report against this.
- 3.50 The Joint Strategic Planning Committee has addressed these requirements throughout preparation of the Joint Core Strategy. The objectives are now set in the Monitoring Framework in Appendix 6 of the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy which was adopted in December 2014. These provide a clear guide in terms of how policies should be formulated, and what indicators may be needed to highlight change. Future AMRs will identify where an indicator is also being used to report against a Sustainability Appraisal objective as part of the Monitoring Framework. The same approach will also be adopted for any indicators relating to other Local Plans (as adopted) such as the Northampton Central Area Action Plan.

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<sup>13</sup> More information on the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive can be obtained from <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eia/sea-legalcontext.htm>

**Table 3.20 - Sustainability Appraisal Objectives Assessed as part of Proposed Main Modifications to the Joint Core Strategy**

| <b>Sustainability Appraisal Objectives (From LUC December 2014)</b>  |
|--|
| <b>1. Air quality and noise</b>  |
| a) Reduce the need to travel and facilitate modal shift.   |
| b) Reduce/minimise the potential increase in congestion.   |
| c) Avoid sensitive development within areas of high noise levels or poor air quality   |
| <b>2. Archaeology and cultural heritage</b>  |
| a) Protect the fabric and setting of designated and undesignated archaeological sites, monuments, structures and buildings, registered Historic Parks and gardens, registered battlefields, listed buildings and conservation areas (or their settings). |
| <b>3. Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna</b>  |
| a) Maintain and enhance the structure and function of habitats and populations of species, including those specifically protected.   |
| b) Enhance and protect greenspace networks and habitat connectivity, including river and stream corridors, to assist in species migration and dispersal.   |
| c) Increase the land area of UK Biodiversity Action Plan habitats within the area.   |
| d) Maintain and improve the conservation status of selected non-designated nature conservation sites.  |
| <b>4. Crime and community safety</b>   |
| a) To improve community safety, reduce crime and the fear of crime.  |
| <b>5. Education and Training</b>   |
| a) Improve educational attainment and promote lifelong learning.   |
| b) Promote sustainable modes of travel to access education.  |
| <b>6. Energy and climatic factors</b>  |
| a) Continue to improve energy efficiency of dwellings.   |
| b) Continue to increase the provision of 'affordable warmth'.  |
| c) To decrease the dependency on oil for space heating.  |
| d) Increase the local renewable energy generating capacity.  |
| <b>7. Health and well being</b>  |
| a) To Improve health and reduce health inequalities.   |
| <b>8. Labour market and economy</b>  |
| a) To create high quality employment opportunities and develop a strong culture of enterprise and innovation.  |
| <b>9. Landscape and townscape</b>  |
| a) Ensure that the quality, character and local distinctiveness of the landscape, and the features within them are conserved and enhanced.   |
| b) Enhance the form and design of the built environment.   |
| <b>10. Material assets</b>   |
| a) To ensure that the housing stock meets the housing needs of the local people.   |
| <b>11. Population</b>  |
| a) To develop and maintain a balanced and sustainable population structure with good access to services and facilities.  |
| <b>12. Social deprivation</b>  |
| a) To reduce spatial inequalities in social opportunities.   |
| <b>13. Soil, geology and land use</b>  |

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| a) Reduce land contamination, and safeguard soil and geological quality and quantity.   |
| <b>14. Waste</b>  |
| a) To reduce waste generation and disposal, increase reuse and recycling and achieve the sustainable management of waste.   |
| <b>15. Water</b>  |
| a) Maintain and continue to improve the ecological and chemical quality of groundwater and surface waters.<br>b) Reduce risk of flooding.<br>c) Improve efficiency of water use.<br>d) Identify opportunities to implement strategic flood risk management options / measures to reflect the objectives in the River Nene and Great Ouse CFMPs. |

## Section 4 – Information from Partner Authorities and Community Infrastructure Levy Progress

### Daventry District

- 4.1 **Neighbourhood Development Areas:** During 2014/15 Neighbourhood Areas were designated for Badby, East Haddon, Flore, Guilsborough, Harlestone, Overstone and Woodford cum Membris. Pre-submission (Regulation 14) consultations have taken place in respect of proposed Neighbourhood Plans for Moulton, Spratton, and West Haddon.

### Northampton Borough

- 4.2 **Neighbourhood Planning in Northampton:** There are four designated Neighbourhood Areas in the Borough which comprise the Growing Together Neighbourhood Forum (covers Blackthorn, Goldings, Lings and Lumbertubs), Duston Parish, Spring Boroughs Voice and Wootton and East Hunsbury Parish. The Wootton and East Hunsbury project has been put on hold following a Community Governance Review, but progress is being made by the other three groups.
- 4.3 During 2014 /15 the Duston Neighbourhood Plan was subject to pre-submission (regulation 14) consultation and was submitted for examination in February 2015. Pre-submission consultation for the Spring Boroughs Neighbourhood Plan commenced in March 2015.
- 4.4 In May 2015 an Independent Examiner found that the Duston NP met the basic conditions and regulations, and should proceed to referendum, subject to modifications. The pre-submission consultation on the Growing Together Plan for Blackthorn ended in July 2015.
- 4.5 In September 2015 an Independent Examiner found that the Spring Boroughs NP met the basic conditions and regulations, and should proceed to referendum, subject to modifications
- 4.6 **Battle of Northampton 1460 Conservation Management Plan SPD:** The SPD was adopted in July 2014 and provides guidance on how development proposals should take account of issues related to the Battle of Northampton Registered Battlefield.
- 4.7 **Houses in Multiple Occupation (HiMO) Interim Planning Policy Statement (IPPS):** The IPPS was adopted in November 2014 and provides information and guidance for landlords and property owners on the process associated with seeking planning approval for change of use from dwellinghouses to houses in multiple occupation, as well as the Council's recommendations in terms of quantity, facilities and impacts on character and amenity.

### South Northamptonshire District

- 4.8 **Neighbourhood Planning:** There were no additional Neighbourhood Areas designated in 2014/15. Of the five existing Neighbourhood Areas Yardley

Gobion Parish Council resolved to cease work on their Neighbourhood Plan in May 2014. Work is progressing in the other designated areas but they have not yet reached the formal pre-submission consultation stage.

4.9 **Conservation Area Appraisals and Management Plans:** A total of 10 Appraisals were adopted in 2014/15 covering the following Conservation Areas:

- Aynho
- Bradden
- Cogenhoe
- Cosgrove
- Farthinghoe
- Grand Union Canal
- Little Houghton
- Maidford
- Milton Malsor
- Newbottle

### **Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)**

4.10 CIL is a statutory way of collecting developer contributions to help fund infrastructure projects such as transport schemes and community facilities, to support new development in the area. The West Northamptonshire partner local planning authorities are progressing work on CIL across the partnership. Each Borough and District Council will retain its individual identity as a charging and collecting authority and retain control over the spending of CIL receipts. The Joint Planning Unit has supported the partner authorities in the consideration of CIL and in compiling the evidence base to support a CIL rate or rates.

4.11 Significant progress has been made on the introduction of CIL across the partnership. The following key milestones were reached during the 2014-15 monitoring period:

- Draft Charging Schedules published for consultation from 26<sup>th</sup> June to 7<sup>th</sup> August 2014.
- Consultation on Modifications to the Draft Charging Schedule for South Northamptonshire from 30<sup>th</sup> January to 27 February 2015.
- Submission of the Draft Charging Schedules for independent examination of 30<sup>th</sup> January 2014.

4.12 In the reporting period up to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2015 the following progress has been made:

- The Examination hearings took place on 13<sup>th</sup> May and the Examiner's reports were published in June and July 2015;
- Daventry District Council's CIL Charging Schedule was approved on 30th July 2015 and was brought into effect on 1st September 2015;

- The CIL Charging Schedule for Northampton Borough was approved on 21st September 2015, and will be brought into effect until 1st April 2016;
- South Northamptonshire's CIL Charging Schedule was approved by Council on 21<sup>st</sup> October and charging is scheduled to commence on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016.

4.13 Following the approval of CIL and the commencement of charging by the partner Councils it is expected that future JAMRs will report on CIL receipts and expenditure in accordance with the requirements of the relevant regulations.<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> See [regulation 62 of the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010 \(as amended\)](#) and [regulation 34\(5\) of the Town and Country Planning \(Local Planning\) \(England\) Regulations 2012](#).



## Section 5 – Duty to Co-operate

### Introduction

- 5.1 Local Councils are expected to address strategic issues relevant to their areas through a “Duty to Co-operate” set out in the Localism Act 2011 and described in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) March 2012.
- 5.2 Section 110 of the Localism Act sets out the guidance for the Duty to Co-operate:
- Relates to sustainable development or use of land that would have a significant impact on at least two planning areas or on a planning matter that falls within the remit of a county council;
  - Requires that councils set out planning policies to address such issues;
  - Requires that councils and public bodies engage constructively, actively and on an on-going basis to develop strategic policies; and
  - Requires councils to consider joint approaches to plan making.
- 5.3 Paragraph 156 of the NPPF sets out the strategic issues where co-operation might be appropriate. Paragraphs 178-181 provides guidance on “planning strategically across local boundaries”, and highlights the importance of joint working on areas of common interest. The emphasis is on working collaboratively with other bodies to ensure that strategic priorities across boundaries are properly co-ordinated. Evidence will be required to demonstrate having successfully co-operated on issues with cross boundary impacts.
- 5.4 The Duty to Co-operate is a legal requirement of the plan preparation process and in order for the plan to be examined by the Planning Inspectorate (PINs) Councils need to demonstrate that the Duty has been undertaken appropriately. Regulations also state that councils should provide details of their co-operation with other local planning authorities, county councils and other prescribed bodies in the Authorities Monitoring Report.

### West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy

- 5.5 The Joint Core Strategy was adopted in December 2014 and compliance with the Duty was an essential prerequisite for the adoption of the Plan. Compliance with the Duty was tested through the Examination which considered the Duty to Cooperate Statement published by the JPU in December 2012.<sup>15</sup> In his report published in October 2014 the Examination Inspector concluded that he was satisfied that the duty to co-operate had been met.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>15</sup> West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy Duty to Co-operate Compliance Statement (December 2012) <http://www.westnorthamptonshirejpu.org/connect.ti/website/view?objectId=8964837>

<sup>16</sup> See para 7 of the Inspector’s Report at: <http://www.westnorthamptonshirejpu.org/connect.ti/website/Inspector's Report>

## Co-operation in 2014/15

- 5.6 Table 21 below summarises the key engagement activities undertaken by the Joint Planning Unit and the partner Councils with other local authorities and prescribed bodies.

**Table 5.1: Co-operation in 2014/15**

| <b>Local Authority / Organisation</b>  | <b>Summary of Engagement / Outcomes</b>   |
|--|---|
| Anglian Water                          | Active engagement on water planning issues affecting West Northamptonshire through meetings of the West Northamptonshire Water Planning Group   |
| Aylesbury Vale District Council (AVDC) | <p><b>Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan (VALP) Regulation 18 Consultation:</b> JPU supported the topics included in the scope, but also suggested that issues relating to landscape, biodiversity and green infrastructure should also be included.</p> <p>JPU welcomed the opportunity to continue to work closely to address the key issues with potential cross boundary implications including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Objectively assessed housing needs and the associated requirements for jobs,</li> <li>- Proposals for the expansion of Silverstone Circuit, and</li> <li>- The implications of growth at Towcester and Brackley and appropriate mitigation measures such as improvements to the A43 and the management of flood risk.</li> </ul> <p><b>Duty to Cooperate Meeting:</b> Meeting provided an update on the VALP, identified strategic issues requiring cooperation, and agreed the ongoing approach to the duty to cooperate.</p> <p><b>Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment (HEDNA)</b> – JPU responded to the draft brief for the HEDNA and attended stakeholder meeting to discuss emerging findings.</p> <p><b>VALP Draft Scope, Vision, Settlement Hierarchy &amp; SA Objectives</b> – Responded to consultation to confirm contentment with the draft proposals, but noted that the Vision still needs to be developed.</p> |
| Bedford Borough Council                | Consulted on Draft Parking Standards. No strategic issues were identified for the West Northamptonshire authorities.  |

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| Buckinghamshire<br>(County and<br>Districts)  | <p><b>Housing Market Areas and Functional Economic Market Areas</b> - Draft study brief circulated for comment. JPU responded to agree the approach and provided updated SHMA information. Final report circulated prior to publication. JPU were content with the overall findings and noted that the study reflected comments made on the methodology.</p> <p><b>Gypsy and Traveller Needs Assessment</b> – JPU provided information on needs and site provision across West Northamptonshire.</p> <p><b>Buckinghamshire Green Belt Assessment</b> - No strategic issues were identified for the West Northamptonshire authorities.</p>   |
| Central<br>Buckinghamshire<br>(Aylesbury Vale,<br>Chiltern and<br>Wycombe District<br>Councils) | Consulted on brief for Central Bucks HEDNA – Response queried the relationship of this study to the Aylesbury Vale HEDNA.   |
| Cherwell District<br>Council  | Responded to consultation on Proposed Modifications to the Submission Cherwell Local Plan. No objections were raised.   |
| Corby Borough<br>Council  | Consulted on CIL Draft Charging Schedule. No comments made by JPU.  |
| Environment Agency  | Ongoing engagement through the West Northants Water Planning Group.   |
| Highways Agency   | Ongoing engagement on strategic transport issues such as the Northampton Growth Management Scheme through the West Northants Transport Officers Group.  |
| Milton Keynes<br>Council  | <p><b>Plan: MK Issues and Options:</b> The JPU, NBC and SNC all responded to a series of issues papers published for consultation. Responses noted the need to complete strategic studies on Housing and Employment to ensure that housing and economic strategies are aligned. Support was provided for ongoing engagement across the wider area to ensure that there is a broad balance of homes and jobs created. Opportunities were identified to support green infrastructure links between MK and West Northants. Consideration needs to be given to enhancing existing links by public transport between MK and towns and villages in West Northamptonshire. Proposals for retail growth in MK should consider impacts on the vitality</p> |

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|   | <p>and viability of other centres including Northampton, Towcester and Brackley. The following areas were identified as requiring further cooperation:</p> <p>Housing Growth;<br/> Employment and Economic Growth<br/> Biodiversity/ Green Infrastructure; and<br/> Town Centres and Retail.</p> <p><b>Minerals Local Plan – Draft Plan Consultation –</b><br/> SNC raised concerns regarding the impact of Site A1 on Passenham Conservation Area.</p> |
| Northamptonshire County Council                           | <p>Responded to consultation on Proposed Modifications to the Minerals and Waste Local Plan.</p> <p>Regular liaison on strategic transport and flood risk issues through Transport Officers Group and the Northamptonshire Flood and Water Management Group.</p>  |
| Northamptonshire Enterprise Partnership (NEP)             | <p>Attended regular liaison meetings with NEP throughout the monitoring year. Contributed towards the preparation of a Strategic Housing Action Plan.</p>   |
| North Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit (NNJPU)        | <p><b>North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy – Pre Submission Plan</b> - JPU made no comments, but NBC sought changes to reflect the potential need to accommodate Northampton's Housing needs post 2029.</p>   |
| Rugby Borough Council                                     | <p><b>Rugby Local Plan and SHLAA Call for Sites</b> - JPU supported the key proposals in the consultation document, but expressed concern that housing should not be considered in isolation from employment and other issues. Requested to be kept informed in accordance with the duty to cooperate.</p>  |
| South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership (SEMLEP) | <p>Attended regular liaison meetings with SEMLEP and meetings of the Attended SEMLEP Planners Forum throughout the monitoring year.</p>   |
| Stratford-on-Avon District Council                        | <p>Responded to the <b>Core Strategy – Submission</b> consultation in July 2014 to support the plan as a whole and noting that objectively assessed housing needs were being met.</p>   |
| (Borough of) Wellingborough Council                       | <p><b>Wellingborough Local Plan – Regulation 18 Consultation</b> – JPU responded to support the issues identified in the scope , but also suggested that the plan period would need to extend to 2031 and that the</p>  |

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|  | <p>consideration of options should include the potential need for Northampton's growth post 2029.</p> <p><b>Wellingborough Local Plan – SA Scoping</b> - Detailed comments submitted by the JPU to provide updated national and local document references.</p> <p><b>Wellingborough Local Plan – Issues and Options</b> - NBC responded as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Recognition sought for cross boundary issues other than housing e.g. employment, infrastructure needs, retail and green infrastructure.</li><li>• Requesting to see of the most up to date population projections.</li><li>• Account to be taken of SPD's and evidence base documents either published or in preparation by NBC.</li><li>• Support sectoral employment targets and reduction of out commuting to larger employment centres such as Northampton.</li><li>• Reasonable alternatives for meeting future retail demand in town centres should be sought to prevent further out of centre growth.</li></ul> |
|--|--|

## Section 6 – Conclusion

- 6.1 This is the sixth Joint Authorities' Monitoring Report prepared for the West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Committee. It continues the joint monitoring position adopted by the three local authorities responsible for the West Northamptonshire Local Development Scheme. The monitoring period has seen significant progress on development plan preparation culminating in the adoption of the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2014. The resources of the partner Councils are now being focused on the preparation of the Part 2 Local Plans.
- 6.2 Following the adoption of the Joint Core Strategy the partnership has entered a period of review during which the Joint Planning Unit has been restructured with resources to support plan making now being more focused on the individual partner Councils. There are no current plans to review the Joint LDS and the partner Councils have prepared Local Development Schemes covering their own areas to ensure that Part 2 Local Plans have the benefit of appropriate project planning and resource allocation. It is anticipated that the JAMR for 2015/16 will report on progress on the preparation of the Part 2 Local Plans as set out in the individual Local Development Schemes prepared by the partner Councils.

### Key Development Outcomes for 2014/15

#### Business Development and Town Centres

- 6.3 Overall the delivery of new employment floorspace in West Northamptonshire during the 2014/15 has continued to rise from the levels reported in the previous two JAMRs. The gross floorspace provision of over 136,000 m<sup>2</sup> is more than double that reported in 2013/14 and has risen across all three local authority areas.
- 6.4 Daventry District has seen the most significant increase from just over 6,400 m<sup>2</sup> to in excess of 68,000 m<sup>2</sup>. The majority of this increase is in B8 floorspace and reflects increased development activity at the DIRFT strategic distribution site. Northampton Borough has further increased delivery from just over 42,500 m<sup>2</sup> in 2013/14 to over 50,000 m<sup>2</sup> in 2014/15. Significant developments in Northampton include additional floorspace provision with the Northampton Waterside EZ, the new Innovation Centre, an advanced manufacturing centre for Cosworth, and ongoing development at Brackmills and Swan Valley.
- 6.5 This positive picture is tempered to some extent by ongoing losses of certain types of floorspace, but Daventry and Northampton continue to achieve significant net gains in employment floorspace. Conversely South Northamptonshire experienced a significant net loss of 72,000 m<sup>2</sup>. This is largely due to the redevelopment of a small number of former employment sites to housing at Brackley and Roade, combined with a relative lull in completions on new employment sites. It is anticipated that this net loss is a one off situation, and is unlikely to be repeated in 2015/16 having regard to the development which is under construction on sites such as Grange Park.
- 6.6 The loss of B1 office space through change of use particularly to housing has continued across the area. This follows national changes to permitted

development rights which enable certain changes of use without the need for planning permission. The impact of these changes will be subject to ongoing monitoring.

- 6.7 The overall proportion of development that has taken place on Previously Developed Land (PDL) has decreased significantly from over 64% in 2013/14 to just over 26% in 2014/15. This should be viewed in the context of significant increases in gross employment floorspace overall, much of which is new B8 development on strategic greenfield sites such as DIRFT in Daventry, and Swan Valley in Northampton. It should be noted the majority of new B1 floorspace (74%) and all the new B2 floorspace has been delivered on PDL
- 6.8 In terms of the vitality of town centres both Daventry and Northampton have experienced a small reduction in vacancy rates. This is consistent with the national picture which suggests that vacancy rates are stabilising and marginally improving in town centres across the country.

## Housing

- 6.9 Net additional dwelling provision has increased by 167 units, or 11.66%, against the equivalent period for 2013/14. This is a smaller increase than that of 2013/14, but continues the upward trend since 2010/11, which represented the historic low for housing delivery across West Northamptonshire over the last decade. Performance has not been even across West Northamptonshire; Daventry has shown the best increase at 43% whereas the Northampton Related Development Area and South Northamptonshire have shown increases in output of 5.16% and 3% respectively.
- 6.10 Despite the continued increase in dwelling provision, delivery is slightly below the trajectory set out in the adopted Joint Core Strategy. The shortfall over a 3 year rolling period as at 31 March 2015 is 6.5% but this is well below the 25% trigger for contingency action set out in the JCS monitoring framework.
- 6.11 The overall proportion of housing development on PDL has reduced from 47.69% (2013/14) to 35.47% (2014/15). However this remains above the Joint Core Strategy target of 30%.
- 6.12 The increase in affordable housing delivery reported in 2013/14 has not been sustained, with a marginal reduction of 5.5% (20 units) compared to the number recorded for 2013/14. It must be recognised that the delivery of affordable housing will continue to be challenging having regard to the availability of funding to support delivery and viability considerations, particularly on the larger development sites.

## Environmental Quality

- 6.13 The protection of water quality and reduction in flood risk remain important priorities for the partner Councils. This is reflected by the vast majority of planning applications which are determined in accordance with advice received from the Environment Agency.

- 6.14 2014/15 has again seen a small decrease in the total land area designated as Local Wildlife Sites although the area in Daventry has increased slightly. Positive changes include small increases in the proportion of wildlife sites under active management, and in the percentage of SSSIs which are categorised as being in favourable condition.
- 6.15 The percentage of Grade I and II\* Listed Buildings at risk has increased slightly from 4.4% to 5.8%, due to the addition of two church buildings in Daventry District to the register. Within Northampton, whilst Delapre Abbey remains on the register its condition has improved and a major restoration project is now well advanced.

### **Overall Conclusions**

- 6.16 This AMR has continued to assess performance in terms of the 'Key Outputs' reported locally for 2014/15 with the addition of further indicators where data can be reported consistently or is collected by individual Partner Districts. This approach is successful in terms of updating the baseline position for delivery of the Joint Core Strategy. In particular, these outputs continue to reflect a steady and sustained economic recovery in West Northamptonshire as well as across the country as a whole. The Monitoring Framework and sustainability indicators developed as part of the Joint Core Strategy (JCS) will provide the basis for future Monitoring Reports. The adoption of the JCS at the end of 2014 means that the next JAMR for 2015/16 will see the transition from the current 'output indicator' approach towards the implementation of the JCS Monitoring Framework.