



Northampton's Local Development Framework

Annual Monitoring Report 2006/07



NORTHAMPTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL

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1. **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The financial year of 2006/07 saw the completion of several projects within the required timescale:

- ❖ Joint Local Development Scheme being brought into effect by the statutory deadline of the 31st March. This was prepared by Northampton Borough, South Northamptonshire and Daventry District Councils
- ❖ Recommendations on saved policies being submitted to Government Office by the required deadline of 31st March
- ❖ First stakeholder consultation on Issues and Options to the Joint Core Strategy being held during the stated LDS timescale for consultation which is between March and September 2007

The year, and the subsequent spring and summer months, also saw some changes to the team which made an impact on the progress of the AMR and the LDF, to include:

- ❖ The appointment of 3 Planning Officers in the LDF team
- ❖ The appointment of a Community Involvement Officer
- ❖ The appointment of a Joint Planning Unit Manager
- ❖ The resignation of the Planning Policy and Conservation Manager
- ❖ The resignation of a Principal Planner in the LDF team

Corporately:

- ❖ The Audit Commission report was published in February 2007 which reported little improvement to Council services including the planning service
- ❖ The overall majority win by the Liberal Democrats in the May 2007 local elections
- ❖ The publication of a draft 3 year Corporate Plan
- ❖ The appointment of an Interim Chief Executive for the authority following the departure of the existing Chief Executive

2. INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 Section 35 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires every Local Planning Authority (LPA) to make an annual report to the Secretary of State containing information on the implementation of the Local Development Scheme (LDS) and the extent to which the policies set out in Local Development Documents (LDD) are being achieved. Regulation 48 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004 provides further details of this requirement.
- 2.2 This Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) is therefore both a statutory and a technical document. It will become the main mechanism in which the performance and effects of Local Development Frameworks (LDF) can be assessed. To achieve this, LPAs are required to take into account 4 broad principles:
- LPAs need to make the most of existing information to avoid unnecessary duplication
 - Approaches to monitoring should be consistent with those used to monitor spatial planning across England at national, regional and sub-regional levels
 - LPAs are required to apply the objectives-policies-targets-indicators approach
 - Monitoring is not just about collecting information and indicators. LPAs are required to take a more analytical and action-orientated approach which will provide the comprehensive evidence needed to prepare a local development document
- 2.3 This is Northampton Borough Council's third LDF Annual Monitoring Report. It outlines the latest development in the progress towards the preparation of the Local Development Framework and the impacts on the Local Development Scheme.

3. METHODOLOGY AND RESOURCE

a. 2005/06 Annual Monitoring Report

3.1 The 2005/06 AMR reported the methodology in which data sources were obtained. These, in summary, were:

- ❖ Monitoring reports utilising desktop surveys and on site surveys
- ❖ Technical Studies
- ❖ Internal and external networking
- ❖ Joint working with the adjoining authorities of South Northamptonshire and Daventry

b. Staffing Resource

3.2 In the financial year 2006/07, 3 new Planning Officers joined the Planning Policy (LDF) team. One member of staff commenced work in August 2006 and the remaining two started in November 2006. It had been agreed that an additional Research & Monitoring Officer was to be appointed to undertake the monitoring role fully, which would have assisted in completing the data required for the National Core Indicators. However, the Council had to make some budget cuts resulting in the decision not to proceed with this appointment for the time being. This has had an increasing impact on the workload of existing members of staff who had to undertake the shared responsibility of monitoring, in addition to their own work programme. This also meant that the information for the core indicators cannot be fully completed for the third year running.

3.3 The team was left with one Principal Planner (Strategic Planning) following the resignation of the Principal Officer who was responsible for preparing the Area Action Plans. This resulted in a delay to the progress of the Central Area Action Plan as scheduled in the Joint Local Development Scheme.

3.4 In addition, the Planning Policy and Conservation Manager also resigned which meant that the LDF team was left with one Principal Planner to temporarily lead the team with the assistance of the Corporate Manager. This has also affected the smooth progression of the LDF.

3.5 In the summer of 2007, 2 consultants were appointed; to manage the Planning and Conservation team and to assist with progressing the Central Area Action Plan. A Joint Planning Unit Manager was also appointed to manage the progression of the West Northamptonshire joint documents.

External Networking

3.6 The County Monitoring Group continues to meet when necessary. It is a useful organisation which allows dialogue and exchange of ideas on how the preparation of AMRs can be improved and how data can be collected more effectively. Efforts are continuing on identifying a more efficient system capable of capturing and utilising data.

- 3.7 Other forms of networking including the Northamptonshire Environmental Network have also been utilised to obtain information which would otherwise have been difficult to capture.

Joint Working: Monitoring

- 3.8 The Borough Council, alongside the adjoining authorities of Daventry and South Northamptonshire, and Northamptonshire County Council have been working in partnership with West Northamptonshire Development Corporation in monitoring housing delivery in the West Northamptonshire Area. This has been done on a quarterly basis since October 2006. The monitoring exercise has not been extended to other types of development within the financial year.

Joint Working: LDF preparation

- 3.9 The Borough Council and the adjoining authorities of Daventry and South Northamptonshire have continued to make good progress including producing the West Northamptonshire Joint Local Development Scheme on time.

4. CORPORATE DEVELOPMENTS

Audit Commission Report (Feb 2007)

- 4.1 The Audit Commission published its report in February 2007, presenting an analysis of the Council's progress on the implementation of its improvement and recovery plan, and comparison with the baseline position of the Comprehensive Performance Assessment.
- 4.2 The report concluded that NBC made little progress since 2004. It added that its weakest services, whilst showing some improvement, continue to be the worst in the country. It pointed towards some key services, like planning, which have deteriorated.
- 4.3 The Audit Commission concluded that improvement was undermined by:
- ❖ Weak political leadership
 - ❖ Inadequate and weak managerial leadership
- Other areas of weakness include:
- ❖ Slow progress in developing inclusive overall ambitions for the area
 - ❖ Little progress in visible and effective engagement with strategic partnerships at county and sub-regional level
 - ❖ Poor and weakening financial management and capacity
 - ❖ New management and new structures have resulted in little noticeable impact on services
- 4.4 A list of recommendations was given. These were to be implemented by the end of May 2007. Key recommendations include:
- ❖ Demonstrate stronger joint political leadership across all parties
 - ❖ Effective managerial leadership
 - ❖ Deliver sustained improvements in housing, planning and benefits services
 - ❖ Strengthen arrangements to secure continuous improvement of services
- 4.5 An Interim Chief Executive was appointed following the departure of the Borough's Chief Executive. It is anticipated that his appointment is to carry on until the autumn of 2007, when a new Chief Executive is appointed.

New Administration

- 4.6 The May 2007 election resulted in a majority win for the Liberal democrats. It is a change from the previous administration which did not have a majority win. It is anticipated that this would create a more positive outcome in terms of clear direction, effective decision making and positive progress, particularly in key areas of the Council's services such as Planning and Housing.

Northampton's Community Strategy and Community Vision

4.7 Northampton's Community Strategy was updated in 2004. It was first prepared in 2002.

4.8 A new Sustainable Community Strategy is currently being prepared. The Local Strategic Partnership has adopted a community vision for Northampton and has also agreed a series of proposals which will form the basis for the delivery plan for the partners. The Sustainable Community Strategy will be launched when a communication process has been agreed and adopted. This is expected at the next standing conference in the autumn of 2007.

4.9 The Community Vision below was adopted by the Local Strategic Partnership:

“Close your eyes and imagine where you want to be. Imagine the complete journey you need to take in order to get there. Now go pack... Your reservations have been made.”

Imagine Northampton in 2031! – A place of PRIDE, RESPECT, EXCITEMENT, VITALITY, FUN, and PASSION.

The spirit, commitment and determination of the people of Northampton will be there for everyone to see. Northampton will build upon its historic market town roots to become a 21st century city with diverse multi-cultural communities.

People who visit Northampton will look upon it as a place where they would want to live, work and bring up a family and those who live here will want to stay.

We will celebrate all that is good about Northampton and Northampton will be all these things because:

By 2011 it will....

- ***Be safer:***
People will use the city centre and move around all of Northampton at night without fear.
- ***Be cleaner:***
All of Northampton will be clean and litter-free. We will work together to build a community culture of no tolerance of those who litter and pollute our streets.
- ***Be healthier:*** *Our green spaces, the street-scape and urban design will help to make the healthiest environment so that people have good physical and mental health and live longer.*
- ***Be recognised for good quality, environmentally friendly housing:***
We will continue to promote good affordable, well-designed housing for all, with attention to the environment and the use of sustainable resources

- **Be well served by modern and efficient local government:**
Local councils will have defined their role as community leaders, working in partnership to deliver this vision for Northampton. Their decisions will be easy to understand, transparent and will involve local people.

By 2021 it will....

- **Be a city:**
With a population approaching 240,000 over the next 15 years, Northampton will become city sized and as such we will develop an infrastructure that ensures that during this rapid period of growth there are enough schools, health care services, emergency services, roads, affordable quality housing and green space to support the rest of our vision. There will be excellent public services, healthy, skilled and prosperous residents who are proud of where they live and aspire to improve their lifestyle and opportunities.
- **Be a place made up from caring communities:**
Communities will be developed and built upon respect and understanding of people of all ages, status and ethnicity. We will invest in, support and promote the family in all the forms that it takes so that there is the opportunity and desire to stay together, learn from and support each other.

And by 2031 it will...

- **Be defined by its excellent transport system**
People will be able to move about the city and all of Northampton easily, hopping on and off an environmentally friendly transport system. They will have more choice of how they travel. This will free us from our dependence upon our cars to move around Northampton. Pollution and congestion will be virtually eliminated.
- **Be a major regional cultural and economic centre:**
Northampton will be a centre for educational excellence – our schools will help develop good citizens and produce exceptional results. Our colleges and university will work with local businesses to increase the skills base develop and retain the jobs and workers of the future, improving the quality of life for all.

Our traditional architecture will be mixed with new urban design. The Cultural Mile will snake through the city, joined together by our integrated transport system. Included within the Cultural Mile will be a heritage trail that celebrates our boot and shoe past. We will take full advantage of all that the River Nene has to offer and develop a water-based experience for all ages. All of this plus a specialist niche shopping experience like no other makes Northampton a tourist destination of choice.

Northampton will be a place of quality and distinction!

5. **BEST VALUE PERFORMANCE INDICATORS**

5.1 Northampton has succeeded in achieving some of its targets, particularly in relation to building homes on previously developed land, getting the reviewed LDS brought into effect and preparing the LDF Annual Monitoring Report within the required timescale.

Reference	Brief description	Target 2006/07	Actual 2006/07	Target 2007/08
BVPI 106	% homes built on previously developed land	65%	80.69%	
BV 109a	Percentage of planning applications determined in line with Government's DC targets to determine: 60% of major applications in 13 weeks	60%	66.66%	
BV 109b	Percentage of planning applications determined in line with Government's DC targets to determine: 60% of minor applications in 8 weeks	60%	63.23%	
BV 109c	Percentage of planning applications determined in line with Government's DC targets to determine: 80% of other applications in 8 weeks	80%	75.50%	
BVPI 200a	Submission of Local Development Scheme (by March 2005) and thereafter kept under review	LDS reviewed and brought into effect by 31 st March 2007	Joint LDS brought into effect by the 31 st March	Joint LDS to be reviewed
BVPI 200b	LDS (achieve milestones as set out in approved programme)	Yes	No	
BVPI 200c	Preparation of LDF AMR by the 31st December	Yes	Yes	Yes
BVPI 219a	Conservation Area count	19	18	19
BVPI 219b	Number of up to date Conservation Area Character Appraisals	26% (5)	26% (5)	52% (10)
BVPI 219c	Up to date Conservation Area Management proposals	17% (3)	17% (3)	26% (5)

5.2 The amount of housing development on previously developed land remains high at 80.69%, and above BVPI target for the last 3 years.

5.3 With regard to the LDS, although the milestones contained in the first LDS have not been met, some of the milestones contained in the current Joint LDS are being progressed.

6. ADOPTED LOCAL PLAN

Saved Policies

- 6.1 The Northampton Adopted Local Plan of June 1997 was saved for a period of 3 years under the new Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. All 216 policies contained in the adopted plan were therefore saved until the autumn of 2007. The local plan for Northampton is the development plan on which adopted policies are a material consideration for development control purposes.
- 6.2 The Government published some guidelines and protocol on how local authorities should assess policies which they intend to save or remove. Request for saved policies were to be submitted to the Government by the end of March 2007. GOEM also provided both a protocol and a template on how each policy should be assessed.
- 6.3 Northampton Borough Council's Planning Policy Section prepared a report containing an assessment of each policy and recommendations in accordance with Government protocol. Colleagues in Conservation (NBC), Development Control (NBC) and the West Northamptonshire Development Corporation were consulted on the contents of the report.
- 6.4 Northampton Borough Council submitted its request to save the relevant policies by the required deadline of 31st March 2007. A total of 124 policies were recommended for retention and 92 for removal. The reasons for the recommendation to remove the policies include:
- ❖ Sites have been developed
 - ❖ The policies do not offer effective development control direction
 - ❖ The policies do not conform to national and/or regional policies
 - ❖ They were repetitive
 - ❖ Guidance available through national and regional policies and legal circulars

It is anticipated that a decision will be made by Government Office for the East Midlands by September 2007. Once the decision is made, the policies which have been saved will be advertised on the Council's website. Policies which have not been saved will become obsolete.

Monitoring

- 6.5 The Council currently monitors both housing and employment activities, and produces annual monitoring reports for both. This allows the team to monitor the progress of some key saved policies relating to development sites, including Policies:

H1: Sites for major new residential development

B1: Land allocations for business and industry: proposed business areas

B2: Land allocations for business and industry: existing business areas

There are, however, no existing provision to monitor the effectiveness of the rest of the saved policies.

It is anticipated that work will begin on monitoring the progress of retail activity, although this is reliant on the availability of additional resource and staff.

7. NORTHAMPTON'S LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

Background

7.1 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 introduces the new planning system of preparing Local Development Frameworks or LDFs. These will consist of:

a. Local Development Scheme

This outlines the Council's timetable for producing the relevant documents as part of the overall LDF covering a period of 3 years.

b. Local Development Documents, which are subdivided into:

- ❖ Development Plan Documents (comprising for example the Core Strategy and Area Action Plans)
- ❖ Supplementary Planning Documents

c. Statement of Community Involvement

This outlines the Council's procedures in relation to community engagement and consultation on the plan making exercises.

d. Annual Monitoring Report

This identifies the progress made on the LDS as well as the effectiveness of adopted policies and proposals.

Local Development Scheme (LDS)

7.2 Northampton's first LDS was brought into effect in May 2005. This LDS is still the document on which the effectiveness of the LDF will be based on for the AMR because the joint LDS, discussed below, was not approved until the 31st March 2007. An assessment against the Joint LDS for the financial year 2006/2007 cannot therefore be made.

7.3 This year, the three authorities of Northampton, South Northamptonshire and Daventry agreed to publish a joint LDS, which effectively replaces Northampton's first LDS. The draft Joint LDS was submitted to GOEM in December 2006 for approval. On the 19th January 2007, GOEM issued a holding direction on the draft joint LDS.

7.4 GOEM made it clear that the LDS needed to contain fewer documents. It should also provide more information on the resources that will be made available to deliver these documents.

7.5 The three Councils continued to work jointly with each other and with GOEM and successfully brought a further revised joint LDS into effect by the statutory deadline of the 31st March 2007. The number of documents to be published has

significantly reduced and the number of joint documents has increased. For Northampton, the following documents will be prepared by the Borough Council:

- ❖ Central Area Action Plan DPD
- ❖ Sixfields Area Action Plan DPD

The LDDs which will be prepared by the 3 authorities jointly are:

- ❖ West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy DPD
- ❖ Northampton Implementation Area DPD
- ❖ West Northamptonshire Rural Areas DPD
- ❖ West Northamptonshire Development Control Policies DPD
- ❖ West Northamptonshire Affordable Housing SPD

The relevant sections of the revised LDS are attached in Appendix 1. It should be noted that the Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy SPD was completed by both Daventry and South Northamptonshire Councils only.

Local Development Documents

7.6 The following documents have been assessed in connection with the milestones in the first LDS because the second LDS was brought into effect at the end of the financial year.

a. West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy

It was reported in last year's AMR that an Issues and Options consultation on the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy is expected to take place in the new calendar year.

As mentioned above, GOEM issued a holding direction on the joint LDS in January 2007. Due to legal reasons, it was agreed that the consultation on the Issues and Options paper was to be deferred until after the Local Elections in May 2007. A new timetable for its publication has been agreed in the second LDS.

This has not therefore met the milestones approved in the first LDS.

However, the Council is progressing towards meeting the first milestone in the joint LDS. Preparation of the Issues and Option consultation paper was scheduled for the months of March to September 2007.

In 2006 Daventry District, Northampton Borough and South Northamptonshire Councils commissioned independent consultants to undertake a study to look at the possible options for accommodating Northampton's growth to 2026 and to 2031. This "Northampton Longer Term Growth Options Study" was completed in March 2007.

The Northampton Longer Term Growth Options Study is part of the evidence base to inform plans for the future growth of Northampton. The key plans the

Study will inform are the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy and the Northampton Implementation Area Development Plan Document.

A stakeholder consultation was organized to kick start the process and this event was held on the 24th April 2007. Ideas obtained from the workshop were collated and used to inform the preparation of the Issues and Options consultation paper.

A draft Issues and Options paper has been prepared in the summer of 2007, for public consultation in September, in conformity with the schedule contained in the joint LDS.

b. Central Area Action Plan

It was reported last year that consultants BDP have been appointed to carry out a "Development, Design and Movement" study for the Central Area. The consultants were asked to identify the issues affecting the Central Area, such as existing provision, nature of users, infrastructure, retail patterns and assessments as well as assess potential development sites within the town centre. The study was completed in December 2006.

As part of progressing the Area Action Plan, the contents of this study were the subject of a public consultation in February 2007. Comments on this study will be used to inform the consultation plan for the Issues and Options stage of the Central Area Action Plan. A new timetable for this has been agreed in the joint LDS.

This has not therefore met the milestones approved in the first LDS.

Preparation of the Issues and Options consultation was scheduled to take place during the summer of 2007, in conformity with the joint LDS. This was delayed primarily because of the resignation of the Principal Planner who was leading and managing the preparation of the plan. An Interim Principal Planner was appointed to progress the Plan, and in the late summer of 2007, an Issues and Options consultation paper was completed and approved by the Council's Cabinet.

Public consultation on the Issues and Options for the Central Area will take place in September 2007, 2 months behind schedule.

c. Sixfields Area Action Plan

The Council was unable to progress this following the delay in preparing the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy and the joint LDS. A new timetable for its preparation has been agreed in the second LDS.

This has not therefore met the milestones approved in the first LDS.

In the joint LDS, commencement on the preparation for this Action Plan was timetabled for the months between March and July 2007. An internal scoping exercise, carried out by the LDF team, was done in May. This involved the

historic planning trail of Sixfields. Publication of the Issues and Option consultation paper is scheduled for the months of February to April 2008.

d. South West District Area Action Plan

The Council was unable to progress this following the delay in preparing the joint Core Strategy and the joint LDS. The three Councils decided to abandon preparation of this DPD following a review of its production of Development Plan Documents in the approved joint Local Development Scheme.

An outline planning application for housing, employment, community and education facilities, park and wide and country park has been submitted on the Upton Lodge site and its surrounding area. This application is being processed by both the West Northamptonshire Development Corporation and South Northamptonshire Council.

e. Kings Heath Area Action Plan

The Council was unable to progress this following the delay in preparing the joint Core Strategy and the joint LDS.

The three Councils decided to abandon preparation of this DPD following a review of its production of Development Plan Documents in the approved joint Local Development Scheme. In addition, a planning application has been submitted for the Dallington Grange site and this application is being determined by the West Northamptonshire Development Corporation. The application includes the proposal to develop 3,500 dwellings and 10ha of employment provision.

f. Development Control Policies

The Council was unable to progress this following the delay in preparing the joint Core Strategy and the joint LDS.

In preparing the joint LDS, the three Councils have agreed to produce a joint Development Control DPD. A new timetable for its preparation has been agreed in the second LDS. Commencement is not scheduled until April 2008.

g. Site Specific Allocations

The Council was unable to progress this following the delay to the preparation of the joint Core Strategy and the joint LDS.

In preparing the Joint LDS, the three Councils have agreed to produce a joint Northampton Implementation Area DPD which will consider, amongst others, site allocations. A new timetable for its preparation has been agreed in the second LDS. Commencement and preparation of the scoping report for sustainability appraisal were scheduled for the months between March and July 2007.

Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)

- 7.7 The Council's first SCI was adopted in March 2006. In the autumn of 2006, the Council published a leaflet "Consultation on planning applications: a guide for developers and applicants" which incorporates the principles of the adopted SCI for development control purposes. The leaflets have been distributed to all potential applicants who requested planning application packs. The leaflet and relevant forms are also available on the website.
- 7.8 The purpose of the SCI is to promote engagement with a wide variety of local people and to gather responses from people who could be affected by the development, key stakeholders and local politicians. Within the last financial year, at least 3 applicants carried out public consultation which complies with the spirit of the SCI. All applicants were involved in predominantly housing developments.
- 7.9 The Policy team is aiming to monitor the success of the SCI and to seek comments on how community engagement processes can be improved. The appointment of a full time Community Involvement Officer in February 2007 will assist in promoting and progressing effective consultation process further.

8. NORTHAMPTON'S CORE INDICATORS

8.1 The Government published its guidelines on LDF monitoring in March 2005. It outlines, amongst others, the information which needs to be included in the AMRs. These include the Core Indicators, which are:

Contextual Indicators

8.2 These establish the baseline position of the wider social, environmental and economic circumstances. The information given included those taken from Census 2001 (via the Office of National Statistics) and Northamptonshire Observatory.

Core Output Indicators

8.3 These are aimed at measuring quantifiable physical activities that are directly related to, and are a consequence of, the implementation of planning policies. A full list of core output indicators are given in the then ODPM Guidelines. In addition to this, local output indicators are also recommended for inclusion.

8.4 A housing trajectory is required as part of the plan, monitor and manage approach applicable to housing delivery. The trajectory shows both past and estimated future housing performance. In preparing the trajectory, local authorities are required to consider past rates of housing completions and conversions as well as projected completions and conversions to the end of the specified framework.

Significant Effects Indicators

8.5 These are linked to sustainability appraisal objectives and indicators. They consider what significant effects implementation of the policies is having on the social, environmental and economic objectives by which sustainability is defined and whether these effects are actually intended.

Northampton's Contextual Indicators

(i) Population

a. Total population (2005)

	Northampton	East Midlands
All people	195,000	4,306,300
Males	96,000	2,124,200
Females	98,900	2,182,100

Source: ONS midyear population statistics (NOMIS)

It should be noted that in the summer of 2007, the total population figure for Northampton, released by ONS, stands at 200,100.

b. Density

On average, the population density in Northampton is approximately 24 people per hectare, compared to 3.36 people per hectare in the whole of the MKSM area and 2.67 in the East Midlands (HMA report 2006).

Population by Age 2004

Age	Northampton (%)	East Midlands (%)
0-14	19	18
15-24	14	13
25-44	30	28
45-64	23	25
65-74	7	9
75+	7	8

Source: mid year population estimates

c. Ethnicity

Northampton has a predominantly white ethnic composition with a small proportion of ethnic minorities.

	White	Mixed-race	Asian/Asian British	Black/Black British	Chinese or others
Northampton	91.6%	1.7%	3.3%	2.4%	1.0%
East Midlands	93.5%	1.0%	4.0%	0.9%	0.5%

Source: Census 2001

The West Northamptonshire Strategic Housing Market Assessment, commissioned by the 3 Councils (Northampton, South Northamptonshire, Daventry) completed in July 2007, states that:

- ❖ Using the National Insurance register, for the period 2004/05 to 2006/06, 7,830 BME workers have been registered in Northamptonshire. The most significant number of registrations from overseas nationals was in Northampton, where 4,570 new registrations were made

The Northamptonshire Observatory states that in 2006/07, there were 4,230 registrations of foreign nationals applying for National Insurance. The top 5 registrations were: Poland, Republic of Lithuania, India, Republic of Latvia and the Slovak Republic.

d. Population forecast

The RSS projections give the following population forecast for Northampton:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Projection</u>
2021	249,905
2026	268,420

The Northamptonshire Demographic Sub-Group, which presents an annually updated population projections, provides the following forecast:

	2003	2008	2013	2018	2023	2028	Absolute change 2003-2028	% change 2003-2028
Northampton	195.2	195.3	196.5	198.8	201.6	204.1	8.9	5%
East Midlands	4,252.3	4,365.7	4,478.5	4,593.9	4,706.3	4,803.5	551.2	13%

Source: ONS 2003 based population forecast

(ii) Economic and Social Data

The following data was taken from NOMIS (official labour market statistics):

a. Working age population (2005)

	Northampton (no)	Northampton (%)	East Midlands (%)
All people – working age	125,200	64.2	61.8
Males – working age	64,800	67.4	65.5
Females – working age	60,400	61.1	58.2

Source: midyear population estimates

b. Economically active (Apr 2005-Mar 2006)

	Northampton (no)	Northampton (%)	East Midlands (%)
All people			
Economically active	104,400	81.6	80.1
In employment	99,100	77.6	76.4
Employees	87,100	68.6	66.6
Self employed	12,000	9.1	9.4
Unemployed	5,300	5.0	4.6
Males			
Economically active	57,100	87.9	84.7
In employment	52,800	81.7	80.4
Employees	43,200	67.1	66.5
Self employed	9,600	14.6	13.6
Unemployed	4,300	7.5	5.0
Females			
Economically active	47,300	75.0	75.3
In employment	46,300	73.4	72.0
Employees	43,900	70.1	66.7
Self employed	2,400	3.3	5.0
Unemployed	1,000	2.1	4.1

Source: annual population survey

c. Economically inactive (Apr 2005 – Mar 2006)

	Northampton (no)	Northampton (%)	East Midlands (%)
All people			
Economically inactive	22,800	18.4	19.9
Wanting a job	6,000	4.9	5.3
Not wanting a job	16,800	13.5	14.6
Males			
Economically inactive	7,700	12.1	15.3
Wanting a job	2,500	4.0	4.3
Not wanting a job	5,200	8.1	11.0
Females			
Economically inactive	15,100	25.0	24.7
Wanting a job	3,500	5.8	6.2
Not wanting a job	11,600	19.2	18.5

d. Employment by occupation (April 2005 – Mar 2006)

	Northampton (no)	Northampton (%)	East Midlands (%)
Soc 2000 major group 1-3	36,400	36.7	38.6
1. Managers and senior officials	12,900	13.0	15.2
2. Professional occupations	10,500	10.6	11.3
3. Associate professional & technical	13,000	13.1	12.1
Soc 2000 major group 4-5	22,900	23.1	23.1
4. Administrative & secretarial	9,900	10.0	11.1
5. Skilled trades occupations	12,900	13.1	12.0
Soc 200 major group 6-7	14,100	14.2	15.2
6. Personal service occupations	8,500	8.5	7.9
7. Sales and customer service occupations	5,600	5.7	7.3
Soc 2000 major group 8-9	25,800	26.1	22.9
8. Process plant & machine operatives	6,300	6.4	9.4
Elementary occupations	19,500	19.7	13.5

Source: annual population survey

e. Qualifications (Jan 2005 – Dec 2005)

	Northampton (no)	Northampton (%)	East Midlands (%)
NVQ4 & above	30,100	24.4	23.4
NVQ3 & above	50,700	41.0	42.2
NVQ2 & above	74,700	60.4	60.6
NVQ1 & above	94,100	76.0	76.9
Other qualifications	7,900	6.4	7.9
No qualifications	21,700	17.6	15.0

Source: annual population survey

f. Total Jobseeker's Allowance claimants (January 2007)

	Northampton (no)	Northampton (%)	East Midlands (%)
By age of claimant			
Aged 18-24	920	28.1	30.0
Aged 25-49	1,760	53.8	51.6
Aged 50 & over	525	16.1	17.4
By duration of claim			
Up to 6 months	2,120	64.7	66.6
Over 6 up to 12 months	590	18.0	17.7
Over 12 months	565	17.3	15.7

Source: claimant count – age and duration

g. Jobs density (2005)

	Northampton (jobs)	Northampton (density)	East Midlands (density)
Job density	138,000	1.10	0.80

Source: ONS job density (Nomis – Official Labour Market Statistics)

h. Employee jobs (2005)

	Northampton (employee jobs)	Northampton (%)	East Midlands (%)
Total employee jobs	124,100	-	-
Full time	84,900	68.4	66.5
Part time	39,300	31.6	33.5
Employee jobs by industry			
Manufacturing	12,900	10.4	16.3
Construction	7,000	5.6	5.0
Services	103,900	83.7	76.8
Distribution, hotels & restaurants	29,100	23.5	24.5
Transport & communications	9,600	7.8	5.4
Finance, IT, other business activities	30,400	24.5	16.0

Public admin, education & health	29,300	23.6	26.3
Other services	5,300	4.3	4.6
Tourism-related	7,000	5.6	7.6

Source: ONS annual business inquiry employee analysis (NOMIS)

i. VAT Registered businesses (2005)

	Northampton (no)	Northampton (%)	East Midlands (%)
Registration	555	10.2	9.4
Deregistrations	460	8.5	7.7
Stock (at the end of year)	5,425		

Source: DTI Small Business Survey - vat registrations/deregistrations by industry (NOMIS)

(iii) Housing

There are about 88,000 houses in total in Northampton Borough. This figure was based on the combination of the 2001 statistics and the total of housing completion monitored since 2001.

The average house price for Northampton is £147,700. The highest house price growth occurred in small pockets towards the north of the borough.

a. Average Overall House Price 2001Q1 – 2006Q1

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	Absolute change	% change
N'pton	84,900	98,510	118,020	133,640	146,540	147,720	62,820	74%
East Midlands	149,120	161,240	183,380	208,410	218,940	241,380	92,260	62%

Source: Land Registry
(draft HMA August 2006)

There are also a greater proportion of flats and terraced properties in Northampton compared to the adjoining districts of South Northamptonshire and Daventry.

(iv) Environment

The Borough currently accommodates the following built and natural environment:

Type	Quantity
Local Nature Reserves	6
Sites of Special Scientific Interest	1
County Wildlife Sites	59
Conservation Areas	18
Listed Buildings	438
Schedules Ancient Monuments	7
Historic battlefields	1

(v) Transport

In the summer of 2006, it was announced in the adopted Local Transport Plan 2006/7 – 2010/11 that funding, through the Community Infrastructure Fund, was approved for the following projects:

- **Sandy Lane Improvement**

Sandy Lane in the south west of Northampton. This will be improved to serve new developments in Upton and St Crispins. It will take traffic from Lodge Farm Industrial Estate away from the existing housing developments in New Duston on a new road. The existing road will be converted into a cycle lane for part of its route

- **Cross Valley Link Road**

The above scheme links in to the A45 and will eventually link to the Cross Valley Link Road. It will provide a comprehensive ring road to the south west of the town

These transport proposals will be taken into account when progressing the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy and other relevant DPDs.

Northampton's Core Output Indicators**Business Development**

Ref	Indicator	Amount
1a	Amount of land developed for employment by type	49,434.83 sq.m (11.8ha)
1b	Amount of land developed for employment, by type, which is in development and/or regeneration areas defined in the local development framework	No development or regeneration areas currently defined in LDF
1c	Percentage of 1a, by type, which is on previously developed land	9%
1d	Employment land supply by type	174.62ha (total)
1e	Losses of employment land in (i) development/regeneration areas and (ii) local authority areas	No dev/ regeneration areas currently defined in the LDF 1,097 sq.m or 0.038 ha
1f	Amount of employment land lost to residential development	1,097 sq.m or 0.038 ha

Housing

Ref	Indicator	Amount
2a	Housing trajectory showing:	
	(i) net additional dwellings over the previous 5 year period or since the start of the relevant development plan document period, whichever is the longer	6,550
	(ii) net additional dwellings for the current year	1,824
	(iii) projected net additional dwellings up to the end of the relevant development plan document period or over a 10 year period from its adoption, whichever is the longer	18,929
	(iv) the annual net additional dwelling requirement; and	1,450
	(v) annual average number of net additional dwellings needed to meet overall housing requirements, having regard to previous year's performances	1,684
2b	Percentage of new and converted dwellings on previously developed land	80.69%
2c	Percentage of new dwellings (10 dwellings or more) completed at:	
	(i) less than 30 dwellings per hectare	0%
	(ii) between 30 and 50 dwellings per hectare; and	30.74%
	(iii) above 50 dwellings per hectare	69.26%
2d	Affordable housing completions	480

Transport

Ref	Indicator	Amount
3a	Percentage of completed non-residential development complying with car parking standards set out in the local development framework	Data not available
3b	Percentage of new residential development within 30 minutes public transport time of a GP, hospital, primary and secondary school, employment and a major health centre	Data not available

Local Services

Ref	Indicator	Amount
4a	Amount of completed retail, office and leisure development	Retail: none Data not available for the rest
4b	Percentage of completed retail, office and leisure developments in the town centres	Retail: none Data not available for the rest
4c	Percentage of eligible open spaces managed to green flag award standard	None

Flood protection and water quality

Ref	Indicator	Amount
7	Number of planning permissions granted contrary to the advice of the Environment Agency on either flood defence grounds or water quality	None

Biodiversity

Ref	Indicator	Amount
8	Change in areas and populations of biodiversity importance, including:	
	(i) change in priority habitats and species (by type); and	Data not available
	(ii) change in areas designated for their intrinsic environmental value including sites of international, national, regional or sub-regional significance	No changes to last year

Renewable Energy

Ref	Indicator	Amount
9	Renewable energy capacity installed by type	Data not available

8.6 The Council has continued to utilise its scarce resources to obtain information and to monitor developments. Also, the Council will continue to work in partnership with key organisations aimed at providing specialist data which are difficult to obtain in-house. For example, on biodiversity issues:

- ❖ The Council is a partner of the Northamptonshire Environment Network (NEN) which meets every quarter to discuss issues affecting both the environment and sustainable development. At its meeting in July 2007, members have raised two priority areas for discussion and action and these include contributing towards the Annual Monitoring Reports. It is hoped that this will result in the supply of relevant data as required in the National Core Indicator. The Network also supports the establishment of a Biodiversity Record Centre in the County. This will supply the database for future AMRs
- ❖ A working sub-group was set up in the summer 07 to review and update the Northamptonshire Biodiversity Action Plan. The group will also be addressing the issue of changes in priority habitats and species as well as change in areas designated for intrinsic environmental value including sites of international, national or regional significance. This will cover each local authority in the County and will target individual local needs and priority areas on habitat and species change.

Housing Trajectory

Planning Policy Statement 3: Housing

8.7 Para 76 of PPS3 states that Local Planning Authorities must provide information on their housing performance. As part of preparing AMRs, local authorities should (extracts):

- ❖ monitor housing planning permissions granted, completions, whether on previously developed land or Greenfield
- ❖ report on progress against the housing and previously-developed land trajectories
- ❖ set out actions to be undertaken where actual performance does not reflect the housing and previously developed land trajectories and, where relevant, target, and is outside of the specified acceptable ranges
- ❖ consider delivery performance in the context of the objectives for the housing market area and region as a whole, as set out in the Regional Spatial Strategy

Trajectory analysis

8.8 Local authorities are required to produce a housing trajectory, which essentially supports the “plan, monitor and manage” approach to housing delivery by showing past and estimating future performance. In preparing the trajectory, local authorities are required to consider past rates of housing completions and conversions and projected completions and conversions at the end of the specified framework period or 10 years from the adoption of the relevant DPD, whichever is the longer.

- 8.9 The Council's housing trajectory data and illustrations are given at the end of this section. These were taken from the Annual Housing Monitoring Report for 2006/07 which is available on the Council's website. Also available on the website is the Council's information on the 5 year land supply. Both the housing monitoring and 5 year land supply reports are available on www.northampton.gov.uk.
- 8.10 For the period up to 2015/16, it is projected that the numbers of completed dwellings will exceed RSS requirement. At this rate, the RSS requirement for housing development to 2026 (currently given at 40,375) could be met. This is dependent upon further large sites coming forward to make up the shortfall of just over 13,000 dwellings from 2015/16 to the end of the plan period.
- 8.11 The trajectory incorporates sustainable urban extensions and large development sites in Upton, Dallington Grange and Wootton.
- 8.12 An alternative option to assist in meeting the required number of dwellings by 2026 would be to set a minimum standard for housing density. Higher density housing requirements would increase the number of housing provision.

Affordable housing

- 8.13 In last year's AMR, it was reported that the affordable housing completion stood at 245. The finalised figure as presented to CLG was 205.
- 8.14 The numbers of affordable housing completed during 2006/07 has increased in this financial year from 205 in 2005/06 to 480 in 2006/07. The target for 2006/07 was 331, which means that provision in the Borough exceeded its target by 139 affordable dwellings. The target for 2007/08 is set at 580.
- 8.15 The targets are based on the amount of social housing grants allocated to specific schemes. These grants are awarded by the Housing Corporation. The reasons why the provision for 2006/07 exceeded its target could be because of one or both of the following:
- ❖ The schemes completed ahead of schedule
 - ❖ There are schemes which are not grant funded and are not included in the figure
- 8.16 The total of 480 completed affordable dwellings can be sub divided into:
- ❖ 341 for social renting
 - ❖ 139 for shared ownership sale

FIGURE 1: HOUSING TRAJECTORY

	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15
Projections: Large sites >10 dwellings	-	-	-	-	-	-	1233	1405	1698	2510	2271	1191	1220	1040
Projections: Small sites <10 dwellings (average from UCS)							124	124	124	124	124	124	124	124
Total Past Completions	1,084	1,208	1,009	1,623	1,626	1824								
Total Projected Completions							1357	1529	1822	2634	2395	1315	1344	1164
Cumulative Completions	1084	2,292	3,301	4,924	6,550	8,374	9,731	11,260	13,082	15,716	18,111	19,426	20,770	21,934
PLAN - Strategic Allocation	1300	1300	1300	1300	1300	1450	1450	1450	1450	1450	1775	1775	1775	1775
Cumulative Strategic Allocation	1300	2600	3900	5200	6500	7950	9400	10850	12300	13750	15525	17300	19075	20850
MONITOR - No dwellings above or below cumulative allocation	-216	-308	-599	-276	50	424	331	410	782	1,966	2,586	2,126	1,695	1,084

	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25	25/26	TOTAL
Projections: Large sites >10 dwellings	1200	796	510	510	510	479	0	0	0	0	0	16573
Projections: Small sites <10 dwellings (average from UCS)	124	124	124	124	124	124	124	124	124	124	124	2356
Total Past Completions												8,374
Total Projected Completions	1324	920	634	634	634	603	124	124	124	124	124	18929
Cumulative Completions	23,258	24,178	24,812	25,446	26,080	26,683	26,807	26,931	27,055	27,179	27,303	
PLAN - Strategic Allocation	1775	1775	1775	1775	1775	1775	1775	1775	1775	1775	1775	
Cumulative Strategic Allocation	22625	24400	26175	27950	29725	31500	33275	35050	36825	38600	40375	
MONITOR - No dwellings above or below cumulative allocation	633	-222	-1,363	-2,504	-3,645	-4,817	-6,468	-8,119	-9,770	-11,421	-13,072	

* Total Past Completions for 06/07 includes 22 dwellings at Grange Park

Source: Northampton Borough Council

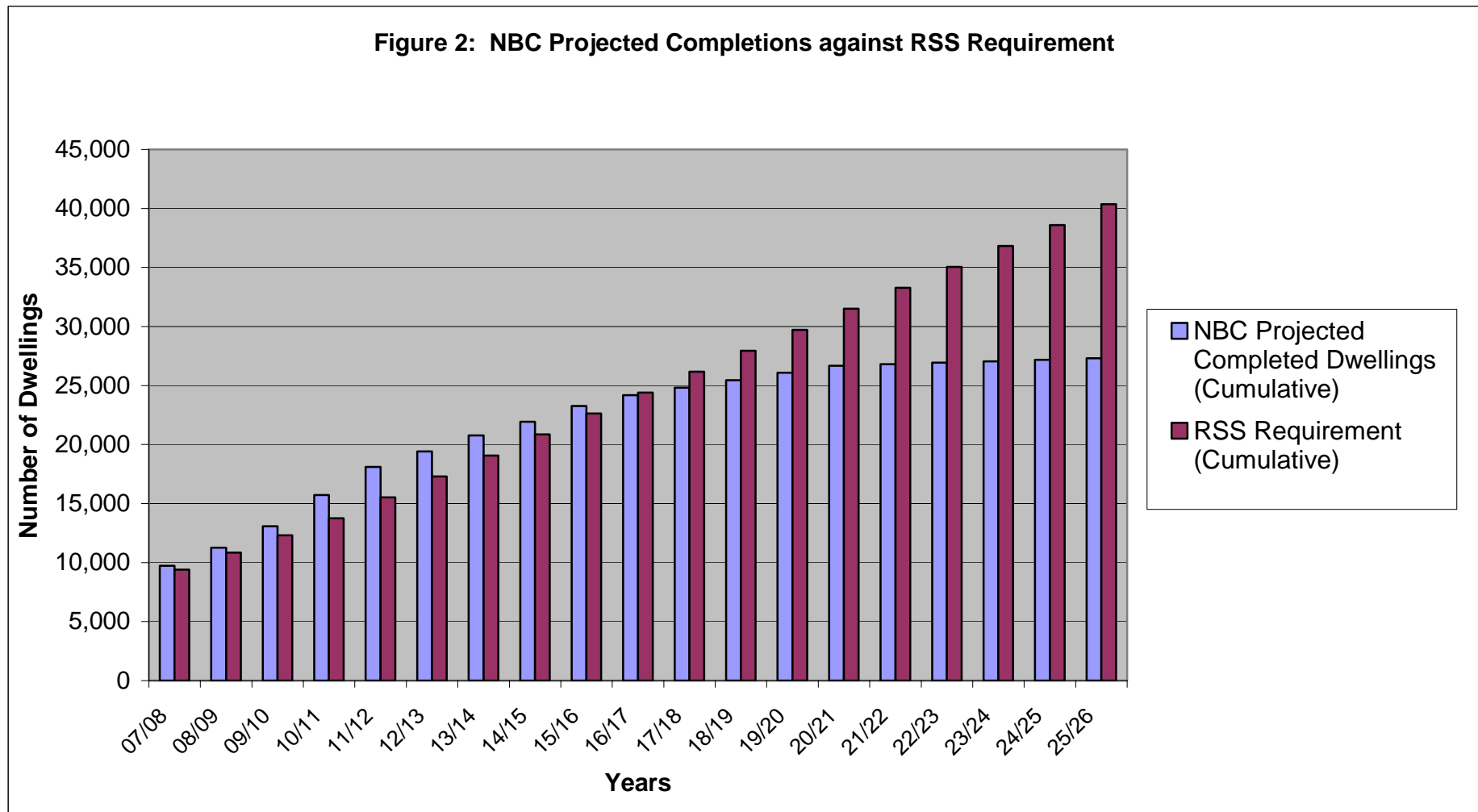


Figure 3: Housing Trajectory Base Data

	Planning Application Number	Notes	Apr-08	Apr-09	Apr-10	Apr-11	Apr-12	Apr-13	Apr-14	Apr-15	Apr-16	Apr-17	Apr-18	Apr-19	Apr-20	Apr-21	Apr-22	Apr-23	Apr-24	Apr-25	Apr-26	Total
Urban Extensions																						
Dallington Grange	07/0008/OUTWNN and N/2007/0154	Pending decision				200	200	350	350	350	350	350	350	350	350	300						3500
St Crispin's																						
		Existing sites																				
Site C			20																			20
Site E			48																			48
Site G			55	40																		95
Site J			58																			58
Former Main Block N/2004/1542			139	130																		269
Upton																						
		Existing sites																				
Site A			20																			20
Site B			75	49																		124
Site C			30																			30
Site D1			100	145	100																	345
Site D2			65	65	35																	165
Site E	N/2006/1504	FP	19	30																		49
Site F					50	50																100
Site G					50	50																100
Pineham																						
		Figures from South West District Review			205	210	210	21														646

	Planning Application Number	Notes	Apr-08	Apr-09	Apr-10	Apr-11	Apr-12	Apr-13	Apr-14	Apr-15	Apr-16	Apr-17	Apr-18	Apr-19	Apr-20	Apr-21	Apr-22	Apr-23	Apr-24	Apr-25	Apr-26	Total
Upton Lodge (excluding Norwood Farm)		Figures from Upton Lodge Planning Statement			200	220	222	190	190	190	190	186										1588
Upton Park		Figures from South West District Review									160	160	160	160	160	179						979
Grange Park	S/2002/1667/PR	Under Construction	37																			37
Whitehills	Allocated in Daventry Local Plan					150	150	150	150	150	150	100										1000
Wootton Fields	Allocated in South Northamptonshire Local Plan					100	100															200
Local Plan allocations																						
Tunnel Hill Cottages		Allocation			20																	20
Hardingstone Allotments		Allocation			40	40																80
Wootton Trading Estate	N/2006/0870	Allocation			30																	30
Planning briefs / masterplans																						
Princess Marina Hospital		Housing figure from SPG		90	154	154	152															550
Castle Station		Masterplan in preparation, figures from Stage 1 report					180	180	180													540
Freeschool Street	WN/2006/0033 and 0034	Pending decision, SPD says 250 dwellings			50	100	100															250

	Planning Application Number	Notes	Apr-08	Apr-09	Apr-10	Apr-11	Apr-12	Apr-13	Apr-14	Apr-15	Apr-16	Apr-17	Apr-18	Apr-19	Apr-20	Apr-21	Apr-22	Apr-23	Apr-24	Apr-25	Apr-26	Total
Emmanuel School	WN/2006/0029	Outline pending decision		50	65																	115
Strategic Sites - Pending decision																						
British Timken	WN/2006/0013	Pending decision		50	150	150	130															480
East of Upton Way/Sixfields	WN/2006/0020	Outline awaiting decision		90																		90
Harvey Reeves Road	WN/2006/0015	Outline pending decision			100																	100
Nunn Mills	WN/2006/0014	Pending decision			50	200	200	200	200	200	200											1250
Ransome Road	WN/2006/0016	Pending decision			50	100	100	100	150	150	150											800
Planning Permissions - Strategic Sites																						
Adnitt Road/Lea Road	WN/2006/0045	U/C	54																			54
Unit 5/5a Bective Road	WN/2006/0028	F/P - Not started		100	55																	155
Cotton End Southbridge West	N/2005/0446	U/C	34																			34
27-29 Guildhall Road	N/2004/1071	U/C	40																			40
Hawkins Shoe Factory, Overstone Road	N/2002/0083	F/P - Not started		52																		52
St Edmunds Hospital	N/2002/1414			60	25																	85
Southbridge East (East)	N/1999/1166	U/C	40	40																		80
Talavera Way	N/2004/0814	U/C	50	50																		100
33-39 Talbot Road	WN/2006/0026	U/C	52																			52
Rear of Wildacres, Wellingborough Road	N/2002/1094	PP lapses 22/04/08		41	55	55																151
Woolmonger Street	N/2005/0730	U/C	65																			65
Wootton Fields Site C	N/2005/0866		14																			14

	Planning Application Number	Notes	Apr-08	Apr-09	Apr-10	Apr-11	Apr-12	Apr-13	Apr-14	Apr-15	Apr-16	Apr-17	Apr-18	Apr-19	Apr-20	Apr-21	Apr-22	Apr-23	Apr-24	Apr-25	Apr-26	Total
Planning Permissions - Large windfalls																						
42 Abington Grove/1A Ashburnham Road	N/2006/0226	U/C	14																			14
Deenside, 57 Artizan Road	N/2004/1605			10																		10
Adj 2 Balmoral Road	N/2004/1112			20																		20
69-71 Booth Rise	N/2005/1521			10																		10
4-5 Cheyne Walk	N/2003/0730	U/C	24																			24
21 Craven Street	N/2004/0755			12																		12
1A Derby Road	N/2003/0573	FP	12																			12
5 Duke Street	N/2005/0566			10																		10
12 Duke Street	N/2003/1624			18																		18
4-12 Dunster Street	N/2001/1522	PP lapses 18/09/07	16																			16
Friars Avenue	N/2005/1470	U/C	2																			2
Former St Gregorys Lower School, Grange Road	N/2005/0507 (WN/2006/0195 submitted 15/12/06)	Outline Permission (Pending decision on Full application)		20	49																	69
Homelands, 174 Harborough Road	N/2004/0544	Lapses 24/06/09 Business on site			10																	10
52-56 Hazelwood Road	N/2004/1234			14																		14
Former Spencer Middle School, Lewis Road	N/2005/1639	Outline Permission		23																		23
561 Kettering Road North	N/2006/1286	FP 21/12/06		12																		12
82 High Street, Kingsthorpe	N/2004/1057			16																		16
56 Lorne Road	N/2005/1197	Lapses 05/12/08 Business on site		10																		10

	Planning Application Number	Notes	Apr-08	Apr-09	Apr-10	Apr-11	Apr-12	Apr-13	Apr-14	Apr-15	Apr-16	Apr-17	Apr-18	Apr-19	Apr-20	Apr-21	Apr-22	Apr-23	Apr-24	Apr-25	Apr-26	Total
Kingsthorpe Hall, Mill Lane	N/2002/1476	U/C	24																			24
Turners Phase 2 Newport Pagnell Road	WN/2006/0147	U/C	50	25																		75
68-76 Orchard Hill	N/2005/1164	Outline		11																		11
26 Regent Street	N/2005/0774	Lapses 25/11/08		15																		15
52-54 Regent Street	N/2004/1120	U/C	28																			28
44-50 St Andrews Road	N/2005/0797	Lapses 25/08/08		24																		24
166-170 St Andrews Road	N/2006/0039	Outline Permission			40																	40
18 St Edmunds Road	N/2005/1276	U/C	16																			16
Ridings Arcade, St Giles Street	N/2002/1540			39																		39
Trefoil House, St Katherine's Terrace	WN/2006/0066	FP 10/11/06			19																	19
18-20 St Michaels Road	N/2004/0683	Site below level of road		20																		20
St Paul's Lower School, Semilong Road	N/2006/0760	AIP			29																	29
Land to rear of 81 Station Road	N/2006/0804	FP 31/08/06	10																			10
2-10 Thenford Street	N/2005/0356	Outline Permission			27																	27
Wallbeck Close	N/2002/1666	Lapses 26/03/08	22																			22
21 Welland Way	N/2006/0272	AIP 10/05/06				12																12
23 Woolmonger Street	N/2005/0698	Lapses 25/08/08		14																		14
Former School Sites																						
Former Green Oaks Lower School, Bective Road	WN/2006/0031	Pending Decision (Valid 06/04/06)				26	100															126

	Planning Application Number	Notes	Apr-08	Apr-09	Apr-10	Apr-11	Apr-12	Apr-13	Apr-14	Apr-15	Apr-16	Apr-17	Apr-18	Apr-19	Apr-20	Apr-21	Apr-22	Apr-23	Apr-24	Apr-25	Apr-26	Total
Former Cherry Orchard Middle School, Birchfield Road East	WN/2006/0132	Pending Decision (Valid 06/07/06)				85	85															170
Former Blackthorn Middle School, Blackthorn Road	WN/2006/0030	Pending Decision (Valid 06/04/06)				28	100															128
Former Abington Vale Middle School, Bridgewater Drive	WN/2006/0022	Pending Decision (Valid 06/04/06)				50	50															100
Former Goldings Middle School, Crestwood Road	WN/2006/0131	Pending Decision (Valid 03/07/06)				50																50
Former Parklands Middle School, Devon Way	WN/2006/0154	Pending Decision (Valid 09/08/06)				92	92															184
Former Ecton Brook Middle School, Ecton Brook Road	WN/2006/0074	Pending Decision (Valid 25/02/06)				54																54
Former St Marys RC Middle School, Grange Road	WN/2006/0130	Pending Decision (Valid 03/07/06)				86																86
Kingsthorpe Middleschool	WN/2006/0156	Pending Decision (Valid 09/08/06)			40	100	100															240
Former Millway Primary School, Millway	WN/2006/0153	Pending Decision (Valid 04/08/06)				80																80
Former Ryelands Middle School, Prestbury Road	WN/2006/0032	Pending Decision (Valid 06/04/06)				68																68
			1233	1405	1698	2510	2271	1191	1220	1040	1200	796	510	510	510	479	0	0	0	0	0	16573

Northampton's Significant Effects Indicator

8.17 It was reported in last year's AMR that NBC appointed consultants to undertake sustainability appraisals on the Council's documents as well as those published jointly with South Northamptonshire Council and Daventry District Council. They had recommended some objectives for each of the topic/indicator which formed part of the appraisal process.

8.18 These indicators contribute towards the assessment of the significant social, environmental and economic effects of policies.

8.19 The sustainability appraisals objectives have changed. The new Sustainability Appraisal framework objectives have been used to scope the Joint Core Strategy for West Northamptonshire. These are:

Air quality and noise

- **SA1:** Reduce the need to travel, the potential increase in congestion and facilitate modal shift
- **SA2:** Avoid sensitive development within areas of high noise levels or poor air quality

Archaeology and cultural heritage

- **SA3:** Protect and where possible enhance the fabric and setting of designated and undesignated archaeological sites, monuments, structures and buildings, recorded Historic Parks and gardens, listed buildings and conservation areas

Biodiversity, flora and fauna

- **SA4:** Maintain and enhance the structure and function of habitats and the populations of species for which the sites have been designated
- **SA5:** Increase the land area of UK Biodiversity Action Plan habitats within the area
- **SA6:** Maintain and improve the conservation status of selected non-designated nature conservation sites

Crime and community safety

- **SA7:** Improve community safety, reduce crime and the fear of crime

Energy and climatic factors

- **SA8:** Support the provision of development projects and infrastructure which lead to energy efficient buildings, a reduction in carbon emissions and the provision of 'affordable warmth'

Health and well being

- **SA9:** Improve health and reduce health inequalities

Labour market and economy

- **SA10:** Create high quality employment opportunities and develop a strong culture of enterprise and innovation

Landscape and townscape

- **SA11:** Ensure that special and distinctive landscapes, and the features within them, are conserved and enhanced
- **SA12:** Enhance the form and design of the built environment

Material assets

- **SA13:** Ensure that the housing stock and associated infrastructure meets the needs of the local people
- **SA14:** To provide a strategic network of green infrastructure for West Northamptonshire

Population

- **SA15:** To develop and maintain a balanced and sustainable population structure with good access to services and facilities

Social deprivation

- **SA16:** To reduce spatial inequalities in social opportunities

Soils, geology and land use

- **SA17:** Reduce land contamination, safeguard soil and geological quality and quantity
- **SA18** Make the most efficient use of land

Waste

- **SA19:** Reduce waste generation and disposal, increase reuse and recycling and achieve the sustainable management of waste

Water

- **SA20:** Maintain and continue to improve the quality of ground and river water
- **SA21:** Reduce risk of flooding
- **SA22:** Improve efficiency of water use

Education and training

- **SA23:** Increased opportunities to participate in lifelong learning through the provision of appropriate infrastructure and facilitating access to opportunities

8.20 For the Central Area, the consultants produced a scoping report in January 2007. The report looked at various topic areas including:

- ❖ Air quality and noise
- ❖ Archaeology and cultural heritage
- ❖ Biodiversity, flora and fauna
- ❖ Crime and community safety
- ❖ Energy and climatic factors
- ❖ Health and well being
- ❖ Labour market and economy
- ❖ Landscape and townscape
- ❖ Material assets
- ❖ Population
- ❖ Social deprivation
- ❖ Soil, geology and land use
- ❖ Waste
- ❖ Water
- ❖ Education and training

8.21 The consultants will also be carrying out a sustainability appraisal on the discussion paper to the Issues and Options for the Central Area.

9. FUTURE ANNUAL MONITORING REPORTS

a. Corporate Restructuring

9.1 In the summer of 2007, the Council decided to reorganise the planning divisions following recommendations from both the Planning Monitoring Board and the Employee Opinion Survey. Currently, the divisions are managed as follows:

- ❖ Planning Policy and Conservation is managed by the Corporate Manager for Regeneration and Growth
- ❖ Development Control, Building Control and Enforcement is managed by the Corporate Manager for Planning, Environment and Leisure

Both existing Corporate Managers are not Chartered Town Planners.

The proposed restructuring would involve:

- ❖ Uniting the two sections so both sections can be managed by one Manager, and
- ❖ Appoint a new Corporate Manager for Planning Services who is a Chartered Town Planner

The Audit Commission considered it essential that the planning service be managed by a Chartered Town Planner.

b. Appointments

9.2 Several key appointments were being progressed successfully in the summer of 2007, including:

- ❖ Chief Executive
- ❖ Planning Policy and Conservation Manager
- ❖ Principal Planner

In the meantime, external consultants were appointed on a temporary basis to manage the Planning Policy team and to assist in progressing the Central Area and Sixfields Action Plans.

c. Future appointments

9.3 The proposed restructuring of the new Planning Service, as discussed above, will include the appointment of at least one dedicated Research Officer for the team.

If implemented, this appointment will ensure that the information required for the national core output indicators will be supplied for future AMRs.

d. LDF and Joint Planning

- 9.4 The successful appointment of a Joint Planning Unit Manager, responsible for managing the Joint Planning Team and progressing the Joint Core Strategy and other joint documents, meant that more commitment and direction could be given to joint planning work.
- 9.5 Good progress is being made with the LDDs, both those to be published jointly and by Northampton Borough Council, particularly in the summer and autumn of 2007. This progress will be reported extensively in the 2007/08 AMR.
- 9.6 In the meantime, a decision has been made, in discussion with GOEM, to revise the Joint Local Development Scheme. The new timetable will attempt to address and resolve the key issues behind the slippage to the original Joint LDS including resource implications and local authority protocol. The revised Joint LDS will be reported in the next Annual Monitoring Report.

e. Publications and consultations

- 9.7 The appointment of the Community Involvement Officer at Principal level has increased the LDF team's effectiveness in securing community engagement. Apart from providing continuity in terms of regular dialogue with the public, the LDF consultation database has also been significantly improved.
- 9.8 The Council has also purchased the Limehouse Publishing software in March 2007, which is aimed at increasing the effectiveness of publishing LDF documents and creating a more interactive e-consultation with the public. The software will also assist in producing an audit trail.

REFERENCES

Local Development Framework Monitoring: A Good Practice Guide (ODPM, March 2005)

Planning Policy Guidance 3: Housing (CLG, Nov 2006)

Guidance on Housing Trajectories (Government Office for the South East, September 2005)

Local Transport Plan 2006/7 – 2010/11

Audit Commission Report (February 2007)

Northampton Borough Council's draft Corporate Plan 2007-2011

Liberal Democrat Manifesto (May 2007)

LSP Vision to 2031

Northampton Adopted Local Plan June 1997

Scoping Report to the Central Area Action Plan (Environ, January 2007)

West Northamptonshire Strategic Housing Market Assessment (DTZ, July 2007)

ABBREVIATIONS

AAP	Area Action Plan
AIP	Approved in Principle
AMR	Annual Monitoring Report
ANGST	Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards
BME	Black and Minority Ethnic
BVPI	Best Value Practice Indicator
DCLG/CLG	Department of Communities and Local Government
DPD	Development Plan Document
GIS	Geographical Information System
GOEM	Government Office for the East Midlands
GOSE	Government Office for the South East
EMRA	East Midlands Regional Assembly
IMD	Indices of Multiple Deprivation
LDD	Local Development Document
LDF	Local Development Framework
LDS	Local Development Scheme
LDV	Local Delivery Vehicle
LNR	Local Nature Reserve
LPA	Local Planning Authority
LSP	Local Strategic Partnership
LTP	Local Transport Plan
MKSM SRS	Milton Keynes South Midlands Sub-Regional Strategy
NBC	Northampton Borough Council
NELA	Northampton Employment Land Assessment
NIA	Northampton Implementation Area
ODPM	Office of the Deputy Prime Minister
PUA	Principal Urban Area
PP	Planning Permission
RSS	Regional Spatial Strategy
SA	Sustainability Appraisal
SCI	Statement of Community Involvement
SEA	Strategic Environmental Appraisal
SOA	Super Output Area
SPA	Special Protection Area
SPD	Supplementary Planning Document
SPG	Supplementary Planning Guidance
SRS	Sub-Regional Strategy
SSSI	Sites of Special Scientific Interest
U/C	Under construction
WNDC	West Northamptonshire Development Corporation
WNSHMA	West Northamptonshire Strategic Housing Market Assessment

C	Commencement of Preparation of Supplementary Planning Document
D	Public consultation on draft SPD and SA Report
A	Adoption of document

Key East Midlands Regional Plan Milestones

a	Draft Regional Plan published for consultation	b	Publication of Panel Report	c	Issue of final Regional Plan
d	<u>Examination in Public</u>	e	Publication of Proposed Changes		

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