

Environment and Sustainability Committee

Thursday, 14 February 2013 at 10:30

County Hall, County Hall, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 7QP

AGENDA

1	Minutes of last meeting held on 17 January 2013	3 - 6
2	Apologies for Absence	
3	Declarations of Interests by Members and Officers:- (see note below) (a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (b) Private Interests (pecuniary and non-pecuniary)	
4	Local Improvement Scheme (LIS) Programme 2012-13 and 2013-14	7 - 24
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Notes

- (1) Councillors are advised to contact their Research Officer for details of any Group Meetings which are planned for this meeting.
- (2) Members of the public wishing to inspect "Background Papers" referred to in the reports on the agenda or Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act should contact:-

Customer Services Centre 0300 500 80 80

- (3) Persons making a declaration of interest should have regard to the Code of Conduct and the Council's Procedure Rules. Those declaring must indicate the nature of their interest and the reasons for the declaration.
 - Councillors or Officers requiring clarification on whether to make a declaration of interest are invited to contact Keith Ford (Tel. 0115 977 2590) or a colleague in Democratic Services prior to the meeting.
- (4) Councillors are reminded that Committee and Sub-Committee papers, with the exception of those which contain Exempt or Confidential Information, may be recycled.



minutes

Meeting ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Date Thursday 17 January 2013 (commencing at 10.30am)

membership

Persons absent are marked with 'A'

COUNCILLORS

Richard Butler (Chair)
John Hempsall (Vice-Chair)

Steve Carr A Bruce Laughton
Barrie Cooper Geoff Merry
Jim Creamer John Peck JP
Vince Dobson Keith Walker
Kevin Greaves

OTHER COUNCILLORS IN ATTENDANCE

Mel Shepherd MBE

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Keith Ford – Senior Democratic Services Officer
Sally Gill – Group Manager, Planning
Tim Gregory – Corporate Director, Environment & Resources
Jas Hundal – Service Director, Transport, Property and Environment
Helen Lester – Team Manager, Strategy & Development
Michelle Welsh – Labour Group Researcher

MINUTES

The minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 29 November 2012, having been circulated to all Members, were taken as read and were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

None.

MINERALS LOCAL PLAN – REVISED APPROACH

RESOLVED 2013/001

That the revised approach to the Minerals Local Plan and the preparation timetable be approved.

STRATEGIC PLANNING OBSERVATIONS

RESOLVED 2013/002

That the report be noted.

WASTE FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE TECHNICAL GUIDANCE ON IMPLEMENTING THE EU WASTE FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE

RESOLVED 2013/003

That the report be noted.

WASTE MINIMISATION AND COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES 2012-13

Jas Hundal and Helen Lester gave a presentation highlighting latest performance figures around recycling and illustrating a number of communication initiatives which had taken place in 2012 (and others which were planned for 2013) in order to promote the minimisation of waste.

RESOLVED 2013/004

That the contents of the report and the presentation be noted.

WORK PROGRAMME

During discussions, Members requested that the following further items about recycling and waste minimisation be added to the work programme:-

- Review of Household Waste Recycling Centres;
- Review of Waste Minimisation Initiatives across the County.

RESOLVED 2014/005

That the Committee's work programme be noted and updated as requested.

The meeting closed at 11.52 am.

CHAIRMAN



Report to Environment and Sustainability Committee

14th February 2013

Agenda Item: 4

REPORT OF SERVICE DIRECTOR HIGHWAYS

LOCAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEME (LIS) PROGRAMME 2012/13 AND 2013/14

Purpose of the Report

1. This report provides details on the current position of the Local Improvement Scheme (LIS). It outlines achievements in 2012/13 and provides details of the 2013/14 programme split for approval.

Information and Advice

2. The LIS initiative was developed by Nottinghamshire County Council in 2004 to promote a wide range of environmental improvements across the County for the benefit of local communities. The initiative has been an unrivalled success with a significant number of high profile developments being delivered across the County. The programme has been widely recognised and has earned the County Council credit as well as many accolades and awards locally, regionally and nationally.

2012/2013 Overview

- 3. 2012/13 has built on the success of previous years with schemes being delivered under the headings; Environmental Improvements, Heritage and Conservation and Local Identity which includes play areas, skateparks, noticeboards and signage. Funding from the allocated three million county capital block has been apportioned in accordance with the demand generated by the scheme suggestion process and where possible external match funding sought to add value to the programme. Photographs and further details of the schemes delivered over the past year can be found on the County Council website at www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/home/environment/lis. Highlights include restoration of Calverton folk museum, creation of a labyrinth at Rushcliffe Country Park, allotment improvements in Edwinstowe, a new war memorial in Mansfield and parking bay installation in Ashfield and Worksop.
 - v One of the major themes in this year's programme is the installation and upgrading of play parks. Many communities lack facilities for under 16's and LIS has worked with residents and user groups to develop parks that are user friendly for all age groups, from toddlers to teenagers. Among the areas to

benefit are Burton Joyce, Kimberley, Wysall, Mansfield Woodhouse, Walesby, Newstead and Farnsfield.

- v A number of bandstands have been restored and have become a major attraction for the public to hear local brass bands and music groups perform. A £50,000 modern-looking steel bandstand has been erected in Kingsway Park in Kirkby in Ashfield and Langold bandstand has been repaired with the installation of a new roof, power, steps and a ramp.
- LIS continues to repair and restore war memorials and we were privileged in 2012 to host Jim Flint, aged 99 the oldest and most decorated RAF war veteran, at the memorial to seven airmen in Halam, near Southwell. Jim was a Bomber Command pilot during the Second World War and said the county council's memorial to the seven airmen was a wonderful gesture. LIS has to date restored or erected 38 memorials at a cost of just over £525,000.
- v Children in Sutton on Trent now feel safer walking to school following a LIS scheme to install a footpath. Previously children were forced to walk on the road for a short distance of the route and the school had reported several accidents involving pupils.
- V Heritage schemes continue to attract media attention with some of Nottinghamshire's most iconic landmarks benefiting from LIS funding. The 200 year old North Leverton windmill has had beams and four sails replaced as well as the installation of new signage and an interpretation board detailing how the windmill works, what it produces and the role of the resident miller.
- v A 500 year old dovecote in Thoroton has been rethatched and one of the largest dovecotes in the country at Sibthorpe has seen its roof repaired and a clean up inside. Lychgates at Averham and Cossall have also been restored to former glory.
- 4. During 2013/14 around 200 schemes are expected to be delivered which will bring the total number of schemes completed since its inception in 2004 to almost 3500 by the close of 2013/14. The vast majority of these projects have been requested directly by local communities and in turn endorsed by County Electoral Division Members. The delivery of this number of schemes has been possible through a continued shared commitment to the programme from County Council Members and community groups who have given considerable support to the initiative.
- 5. The quality of our local environment is an important issue that can have knock on effects on several aspects of society. With a direct link between our local environment quality and the quality of life in communities, left unchecked, neglected neighbourhoods affect the perception of the local community which can lead to anti-social behaviour, disorder, vandalism and eventually in some cases crime. During 2012/13 all of the 54 electoral divisions have benefited from one or more schemes being delivered or developed for implementation in 2013/14. The scheme delivery for 2012/13 and the proposed delivery for 2013/14 within each district is shown below.

2012/2013	Environmental Improvements	Heritage & Conservation	Local Identity & Play	TOTAL
Ashfield	10	10	9	29
Bassetlaw	8	20	24	52
Broxtowe	12	6	6	24
Gedling	5	6	4	15
Mansfield	9	8	5	22
Newark &	9	16	35	60
Sherwood				
Rushcliffe	15	17	18	50
Countywide	-	1	2	3
TOTALS	68	84	103	255

2013/2014 (proposed)	Environmental Improvements	Heritage & Conservation	Local Identity & Play	TOTAL
Ashfield	3	12	6	21
Bassetlaw	11	13	15	39
Broxtowe	8	6	6	20
Gedling	7	5	10	22
Mansfield	7	13	10	30
Newark & Sherwood	6	13	13	32
Rushcliffe	4	6	22	32
Countywide	1	1	-	2
TOTALS	47	69	82	198

6. Given the local impetus behind all projects, they have been and are being well received and make a real difference to local communities. Consequently, significant positive publicity is generated in the local media. A number of schemes have caught the attention of TV and radio this year including the unveiling of the Olympic bench in Tollerton, two new trails in Newark – the Curiosities trail and the Victorian trail, a booklet commemorating the county's Victoria Cross holders, and perhaps the most unusual scheme of the year, a defibrillator installed in a phone box in Normanton on Soar in association with the Community Heartbeat Trust and BT.

Other schemes to receive publicity from the 2012/13 programme include:

- a) A community orchard, hedge and wildflower planting and an archaeological dig at Bleasby Glebe Field.
- b) The removal of Himalayan Balsam and Japanese Knotweed from the banks of the River Meden and Maun.
- c) £40,000 shop frontage improvements in Watnall Road in Hucknall which has been welcomed by retailers and shoppers alike.

- d) Memorial gates restored at the entrance to Yeoman Hill Park in Mansfield Woodhouse.
- e) The county's only outdoor Boccia court and multi use games area unveiled in Gamston.
- f) A garden paradise created at Conway Gardens sheltered housing complex in Retford LIS working in association with A1 Housing.
- g) Working in association with Burton Joyce and Bulcote History Society, LIS designed a leaflet detailing the best walks and pubs in the area incorporating the villages of Lowdham, Caythorpe, Lambley and Hoveringham.
- h) Skateparks continue to grab attention and this year has seen work carried out or new parks in Ravenshead, Stapleford, Awsworth, Clarborough, Blyth, Mansfield, and Radcliffe on Trent.
- i) LIS contributed to Bassetlaw District Council's efforts to plant 6,000 trees during the Queen's Jubilee year by funding efforts in the village of Gateford. Local schoolchildren joined forces with the local councillor for a morning's planting.
- j) Regular walkers and dog walkers along the Nottingham Canal in Trowell now have the pleasure of six newly installed benches along the 2 mile route.
- k) A Jubliee archway has been unveiled at the entrance to Brinsley Recreation Ground a local artist worked closely with local schoolchildren.
- I) The demand for allotments continues and LIS has created new sites at Calverton, Ruddington and Annesley.
- m) LIS contributed £25,000 towards repair work at Newark Castle.
- n) Bird and bat boxes have been installed in Prospect Hill Wood in Worksop.
- o) Working in conjunction with Pleasley Vale Residents' Association, a walled kitchen garden and orchard have been restored in the hamlet.

2012/2013 Environmental Improvement Schemes

7. A range of local schemes worth approximately £1.5m have been delivered within this heading including small environmental improvements in key community areas such as shopping parades or routes to local facilities, additional street lighting and the creation of car parking in dense residential areas. These projects have all been delivered by the County Council's Highways Operations.

- 8. New areas of work that have been developed during 2012/13 that will be prevalent in next year's programme include:
 - S Nottinghamshire's Famous Sons and Daughters, a web based interactive project showcasing hundreds of accomplished individuals who were born or lived in Nottinghamshire.
 - From the 'Trent to the Trenches' a project in collaboration with Nottingham City Council in the run up to commemorating the start of the First World War. This project will see over 100 volunteers from around the county pulling together to undertake research and assist in the development of the initiative.
 - S Nottinghamshire's Roll of Honour Working with an extensive network of trusted volunteers countywide to create a web based historical casualty record honouring all the county's war dead. Approximately 12,000 individuals are thought to have lost their lives from the towns and parishes of Nottinghamshire.
 - **S** Skate and BMX parks.

2012/2013 Heritage and Conservation Community Schemes

- 9. These community projects fall in to three main categories: projects that enhance the natural environment, heritage restoration projects and improvements to both physical and intellectual access to the County's environment. In addition to meeting local needs and aspirations, the projects help to increase the County's biodiversity and green spaces, protect and restore some of the most important heritage assets and enhance the County's tourism offer. The projects are largely delivered by the County Council's conservation specialists, supporting and working in partnership with local groups and organisations, District and Parish Councils. Physical and intellectual access improvements have been delivered through the creation of heritage trails, the provision of interpretation boards, pathway improvements across open spaces and the creation of outdoor classrooms.
- 10. The natural environment projects delivered in 2012/13 have ranged in size from planting native trees on local green spaces and the creation of community gardens and orchards to the restoration of pond networks and water meadows. A new area of work this year was the provision of support for volunteer groups to enhance biodiversity and reduce flood risk by removing invasive non-native species such as Himalayan Balsam along the County's rivers. Many conservation community schemes are developed and delivered through the efforts of volunteers and the invasive non-native species projects were no exception, benefiting from around 400 hours of volunteer effort.
- 11. This year's projects have also helped to restore a wide variety of the County's heritage assets, ranging from clocks to pinfolds and bandstands and from the restoration of listed community buildings to a contribution to the restoration works at Newark Castle. War memorials have again formed an important

element of the programme, with 7 memorials created or restored across the County.

2012/2013 Local Identity Schemes

- 12. Around a hundred local identity schemes have been completed this year. These schemes are very low cost and have offered an opportunity to every Parish Council, Parish Meeting or Town Council within Nottinghamshire to submit a request for either a notice board or seat to be provided within the local community. This initiative is extremely popular with seats and notice boards being supplied and installed. This work is undertaken by Malcolm Lane & Sons, a local firm having been successful in winning the tender process. In addition, a further strand to this programme has seen the successful scheme delivery and installation of 17 fingerposts and 65 village signs.
- 13. Working closely with end users of facilities and undertaking community consultation the LIS programme often enables horizons to be extended and schemes to be embraced and supported especially in terms of on-going maintenance. This has regularly acted as a catalysts to other community activities. Our play park schemes programme clearly demonstrates many of these elements, managing expectations, using quality design and materials combined with community engagement and well managed delivery.
- 14. Skateparks and BMX tracks are growing in popularity providing a healthy and creative outlet for many different user groups and spectators. The demand for these types of schemes continues to gather pace across the county and LIS has responded. They can bring all corners of the community together and create an opportunity for our youngsters to develop their social and life skills in an environment they feel comfortable in. A key part of our delivery involves working closely with the user groups and Parish / Borough Councils to ensure we design and deliver a scheme that the whole community can be proud of; this year has seen 6 bespoke facilities delivered with another 4 programmed for delivery by the end of the financial year. We deliver from small local facilities to high end specialist facilities and can specify a number of materials for construction that will meet most user / owners expectations. These schemes continue to attract external funding as well as the support and recognition from the user groups themselves. This year has seen volunteers groups give circa 1700 hours to this area of our programme..

2013/2014 programme

15. The LIS programme strives to improve local areas by making a positive impact with small scheme investments making a tremendous difference. This can also lead to many additional community benefits. The development of the programme commenced at the end of October following the scheme application closing date of the 29 September 2012. Applications were of a high quality and a good variety, reflecting the continuing popularity of the initiative. The programme will focus on schemes which are driven by local communities and

- strengthen local accountability. This is considered to be very much in step with the current localism agenda.
- 16. The proposed programme reflects the nature of requests received rather than following a prescribed split as recommended by the Members Reference Group, effective from the April 2010.
- 17. The review of the initiative was marked by a change in focus. LIS now concentrates on smaller community projects which 'add value' to the local environment. The funding is not intended to supplement that of routine maintenance work, which will continue to be funded from existing designated budgets, where criteria for maintenance work is met. The re-focussing of the programme to these new priority areas has led to the delivery of a significant number of smaller community projects.
- 18. The current scope of the LIS programme focuses, proceeds and functions on the following criteria, as agreed by The Members reference group.
 - a). The LIS programme's effective, flexible and unique formula will continue to support a wide range of projects under the broad headings of,
 - i. Better neighbourhoods (landscaping, footway improvements, conservation of local distinctiveness, and general refurbishments),
 - ii. Better countryside (safeguard biodiversity and strengthen rural character),
 - iii. Better business (regeneration of local shops and businesses),
 - iv. Better leisure and tourism (promote the attractiveness and accessibility of places of interest).
 - v. Better awareness (promotion of local 'pride of place').
 - b). Project selection has been re-prioritised to focus on a number of areas considered to have been under-represented to date. The areas that will be promoted are;
 - i. Rural initiatives (e.g. village distinctiveness / village gateway projects),
 - ii. Market Town projects that improve the centre's attractiveness and economic viability.
 - iii. Projects that develop greater local pride and responsibility for the environment. (e.g. conservation projects, heritage projects and the development of pocket parks),
 - iv. Projects that support wider local community involvement and accessibility, (e.g. skateparks, local identity, and play schemes),
 - v. Projects that encourage economic and cultural regeneration and tourism.
 - c). The LIS initiative will continue as a countywide programme to improve the environment of Nottinghamshire through the development of local improvement schemes that have been promoted by the community and are endorsed by local Members

19. In line with this direction the 2013/14 £3m programme (shown as appendix one), subject to scheme development and design will be split between the following headings:

Heritage and Conservation 25% Local Identity Projects & Play 45% Environmental Improvements 30%

20. Each of the schemes is subject to the necessary consultation, statutory undertakings and other issues arising from feasibility studies, detailed scheme investigation, design and consultation. These processes will inevitably require a number of changes to have to be made to the programme as detailed in the attached appendix. Schemes will be added to this programme as required to ensure spend of the programme's annual budget. These additional schemes will be brought back to Committee for formal approval. If delivery timescales necessitate the relevant emergency procedures will be used and any decisions taken will be reported back to Committee for information.

External Funding

21. At the inception of the initiative a key target was to draw in third party funding that otherwise would not have been invested in the County. External investment has been secured this year from Waste Recycling Environmental (WREN), English Heritage, Heritage Lottery Fund, SITA UK, Balfour Beatty Plc., District, Town and Parish Councils, Community Trusts and Private contributions. The external funding secured thus far is as detailed below.

Year	External Funding
2004/5	£1.1m
2005/6	£2.8m
2006/7	£.75m
2007/8	£3.0m
2008/9	£2.7m
2009/10	£1.3m
2010/2011	£1.4m
2011/2012	£.98m
2012/2013	£.83m
TOTAL	£14.86m

Every effort will continue to be made to draw in additional funding in the future. This will require the consideration of new funding sources such as accessing social funds as identified by private organisations.

Statutory and Policy Implications

22. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, personnel, crime and disorder and users. Where such implications are material they have been brought out in the text of the report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

23. It is RECOMMENDED that Committee approves the 2013/14 programme set out in paragraph 19 and detailed in the attached appendix.

COUNCILLOR RICHARD BUTLER

Cabinet Member for Environment & Sustainability

Legal Services' Comments (SLB 25/01/2013)

Environment and Sustainability Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of this report; it is responsible for the Local Improvement Scheme.

Financial Comments (TMR 28.01.13)

The financial implications are set out in the report.

Background Papers Available for Inspection

None

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

ΑII

Local Improvement Scheme (LIS) Proposed Programme 2013/2014 Heritage & Conservation

District	Ward	Location	Proposed Works
All		Nottinghamshire	Tree planting schemes (20 schemes)
All		Nottinghamshire	Roll of Honour
Ashfield	KIA South	Kirkby Heritage Centre, Kingsway	Signage
Ashfield	SIA North	Teversal, Silver Hill Pit Wood	Interpretation - (Silverhill Miner Statue)
Ashfield	SIA North	Sutton in Ashfield, Welford Close	Creation of wildlife area
Ashfield	SIA West	Huthwaite, Brierley Forest Park	Installation of 12 Fishing Pegs
Ashfield	Selston	Selston	Provision of a War Memorial
Ashfield	KIA North	Kirkby Hardwick, Phase 2	Archaeology
Bassetlaw	Worksop East	Worksop, Spur Crescent Allotment	Provision of a composting toilet
Bassetlaw	Worksop East	Worksop	Memorial plaque
Bassetlaw	Worksop West	The Old Abbey School, Priorswell Road (Grade II listed)	Various works - Security, lighting, signage, access improvements
Bassetlaw	Worksop West	Worksop Town Centre	Sculptures and interpretation
Bassetlaw	Worksop West	Worksop, Sandhill Lake, Sandy Lane	Access improvements, tree planting, nature trail
Bassetlaw	Tuxford	East Markham, Quakefield (adjacent Tennis Courts)	Transform derelict area into a community garden
Bassetlaw	Tuxford	Sturton le Steeple	Story boards x 4
Bassetlaw	Tuxford	Bothamsall, Meadow Lane	Restoration of Grade II Listed bridge
Bassetlaw	Tuxford	North Leverton Memorial Garden	Planting of raised beds
Bassetlaw	Worksop North	Shireoaks, Woodlands	Improved access
Bassetlaw	Worksop North	Worksop, Claylands Avenue Allotments	Installation of chain link fencing
Broxtowe	Kimberley & Trowell	Awsworth, St Peter's Church	Renovate War Memorial
Broxtowe	Kimberley & Trowell	Kimberley	Restore area of neglected grass land
Broxtowe	Bramcote & Stapleford	Bramcote Ridge	Restoration of grassland and hedgerow
Broxtowe	Bramcote & Stapleford	Bramcote, Bramcote Hills Park	Access improvements, boundary knee rail, seating, planting
Broxtowe	Beauvale	Brinsley Headstocks	Headstocks restoration & hedge laying
Broxtowe	Nuthall	Watnall, Trough Road, The Spinney	Pond restoration
Gedling	Carlton East	Arnold, Gedling House Woods	Ground clearance & planting

		Woodbaraugh Main Street 9	
Gedling	Calverton	Woodborough, Main Street & Lingwood Lane	Repairs to boundary wall
County	Carrotton	Lambley, Catfoot Lane - Valley Road	repaire to bearrain waii
Gedling	Calverton	Model Engineering Society	Restoration of miniature railway
			Improved parks literature, signage,
Gedling	Arnold South	Arnold, Arnot Hill Park	accessibility improvements
Gedling	Newstead	Papplewick Pumping Station	Improvements to the Amenity building
Ocuming	Newstead		Day Brook River - increase
Gedling	Arnold North	Ground	biodiversity/water quality
J		Mansfield, Quarry Lane - Drury Dam	and the same of th
Mansfield	Mansfield South	Viaduct	Restoration works
			Removal of 2 trees and planting of more
Mansfield	Mansfield South	Mansfield, Watson Avenue	suitable trees
Monofield	Manafield Courth	Mansfield, Sutton Road Primary	Mand coming 8 circular trac and
Mansfield	Mansfield South	School	Wood carving & circular tree seat Structural & geophysical survey of rock
Mansfield	Mansfield South	Mansfield, Rock Hill	house
		Mansfield Woodhouse, Millennium	Access improvements & habitat
Mansfield	Mansfield North	Green	enhancement
Mansfield	Mansfield North	Mansfield Woodhouse	Creation of community allotment site
Mansfield	Warsop	Warsop Vale (disused railway)	Restoration of grassland
			Pond dipping platform & environmental
Mansfield	Warsop	Warsop, The Carrs - Mill Pond	improvements
		Mansfield, Skegby Road (o/s John	
Mansfield	Mansfield West	Cockle Pub)	Interpretation
N 4 1 - 1 - 1	NA	Mana Calal Ladahara da Lara	On affect of a Managiral Bases Conday
Mansfield	Mansfield West	Mansfield, Ladybrook Lane	Creation of a Memorial Peace Garden
Mansfield	Mansfield East	Rainworth, Ransom Heath	Reinstate heathland
Iviaristiciu	Ivialishelu Last	Namworth, Namsom Fleath	remstate neathland
Mansfield	Mansfield East	Rainworth Bypass	Restoration of heathland
			Restoration of lowland heathland &
Mansfield	Mansfield East	Forest Town, Rushpool	interpretation
		Ollerton Nature Trail, 'The Story of	
N&S	Ollerton	the Sandlands'	Redevelop and improve nature trail
N&S	Ollerton	Ollerton, Whitewater Bridleway	Repairs to bridleway
			Updating - footways & replace street
N&S	Rufford	Edwinstowe Historic Village Trails	banners
			Coronation Jubilee Memorial Plaque &
N&S	Rufford	Bilsthorpe	community event
NOC	Daldarts	Daldadan Lalara Larati D	Decourfe on a state of the stat
N&S	Balderton	Balderton Lakes, London Road	Resurface pathways
N&S	Southwell & Caunton	Norwell Heritage Walks	Reprint of Norwell Buildings
	Farnsfield &		
N&S	Lowdham	Farnsfield	Interpretation board
NOO	Farnsfield &		
N&S	Lowdham	Caythorpe, Caythorpe Road	Planting of 14 trees
NIO C	Farnsfield &	Pleashy Primery Cahaal Main Chart	Development of sports & leisure
N&S	Lowdham	Bleasby Primary School, Main Street	facilities, fencing, wildlife garden

N&S	Farnsfield & Lowdham	Epperstone, Main Street	Improvements to embankment fronting Plantation Cottages
N&S	Collingham	Newark Air Museum	Creation of aviation memorials leaflet
N&S	Collingham	Collingham - land adjoining Play Park	Renovation of land - creation of green corridor
N&S	Collingham	Collingham, High Street	Interpretation, planters
N&S	Newark East	Newark, St Mary Magdalene Church	Spire/weathervane restoration
N&S	Newark East	Newark, Flemming Drive Allotments	Installation of security fencing
N&S	Blidworth	Blidworth	Commemorative book
Rushcliffe	Soar Valley	Sutton Bonington, St Michael's Churchyard	Village seat made from wood recycled from Cedar Tree
Rushcliffe	Soar Valley	Ratcliffe on Soar	Memorial for Queen's Diamond Jubilee
Rushcliffe	Radcliffe-on-Trent	East Bridgford, various locations	Archaeological dig
Rushcliffe	Cotgrave	Cotgrave Country Park, Horon Lake	Replace wooden platforms
Rushcliffe	Cotgrave	Langar cum Barnstone Community Field	Creation of sport & play facility and allotment - growing area
Rushcliffe	Ruddington	Ruddington Framework Knitters Museum, Chapel Street	3 Videos to help promote the museum
Rushcliffe	Ruddington	Bunny	Installation of coloured walks markers

Local Improvement Scheme (LIS) Proposed Programme 2013/2014 Local Identity & Play

District	Ward	Location	Proposed Works
		Annesley & Felley Recreation	
Ashfield	KIA South	Ground	Skatepark facility
Ashfield	SIA North	Skegby, Mansfield Rd/ Forest Rd	Metal planter
Ashfield	SIA North	Sutton in Ashfield, Stoneyford Road Play Area	Remove and replace play area
Ashfield	SIA West	Sutton in Ashfield, Brierley Forest Park	Creation of a mountain bike trail
Ashfield	Selston	Underwood Recreation Ground (Friezeland)	Improvements to Rec Ground
Ashfield	SIA East	Sutton in Ashfield, Cowpasture Lane	Replace existing play area
Ashfield	KIA North	Kirkby in Ashfield, Beacon Drive Play Area	BMX track
Ashfield	Hucknall	Hucknall, Holgate Field	BMX Track
Bassetlaw	Worksop East	Worksop, Manton Villas	Creation of play area
Bassetlaw	Worksop East	Worksop, Manton Pit Wood	Gateway feature
Bassetlaw	Worksop East	Worksop	Skatepark
Bassetlaw	Misterton	Mattersey Thorpe, Bader Rise	Improve play provision

	T		
Bassetlaw	Misterton	Sutton cum Lound, Village Play Area	Installation of 2 picnic benches
Bassetlaw	Misterton	Ranskill Village Play Area	Update play equipment
Bassetlaw	Misterton	Lound Play Area	Update young children's play area
Bassetlaw	Misterton	Hayton, south end of village	Gateway sign
Bassetlaw	Tuxford	Treswell & Cotham	4 x gateway signs
Bassetlaw	Tuxford	Dunham on Trent, Village Hall	Seat
Bassetlaw	Tuxford	East Markham	Village signs x 3
Bassetlaw	Tuxford	Elkesley Playground/Sports Field	Pathways, shelter, fencing, lighting, seating, fitness equipment, tree planting
Bassetlaw	Tuxford	Tuxford, Council Offices, Lincoln Road	Noticeboard
Bassetlaw	Harworth	Blyth, various locations	Reinstate finger posts
Bassetlaw	Harworth	Langold	Skatepark upgrade
Bassetlaw	Harworth	Blyth, Spital Road	Update play equipment
Bassetlaw	Worksop North	Rhodesia Play Area	Refurbishment of play area
Broxtowe	Kimberley & Trowell	Kimberley, Main Street/Station Road	Wrought iron fencing, access & gateway
Broxtowe	Kimberley & Trowell	Kimberley Play Area	Replace old play equipment
Broxtowe	Eastwood	Coronation Park (phase 2)	Skatepark facility (Phase 2)
	Bramcote &	Stapleford, Hickings Lane Recreation	, ,
Broxtowe	Stapleford	Ground	Footpath links & new play park
Broxtowe	Beauvale	Brinsley	Replacement notice boards x 6
Broxtowe	Chilwell & Toton	Toton, Manor Farm Recreation Ground	Provision of a skate/bmx facility
Broxtowe	Beeston South & Attenborough	Attenborough, Long Lane Recreation Ground	Installation of new play equipment
Gedling	Carlton East	Carlton, Burton Road Rec Ground (Jubilee Park)	Access improvements, noticeboard, bins & benches
Gedling	Carlton East	Colwick Recreation Ground	Skatepark facility (Phase 2)
Gedling	Carlton East	Burton Joyce Village Centre	Replacement noticeboard
Gedling	Carlton West	Carlton, Honeywood Gardens Estate,	Fencing for play area, dog bin & seating
Gedling	Calverton	Lambley playing field	Skatepark facility
Gedling	Calverton	Lambley, Spring Lane & Park Lane	Village signs x 2
Gedling	Calverton	Calverton, James Seely Park	Upgrade play equipment
Gedling	Arnold South	Gedling, King George V Park	Skate Park facility

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Gedling	Newstead	Newstead, Village Centre	MUGA Contribution
Gedling	Newstead	Newstead	Village signs x 2
Gedling	Newstead	Bestwood Village	Provision of Play equipment/Skate Park facility
		Mansfield, Delamere Drive (corner of	
Mansfield	Mansfield South	Forest Road Park)	Noticeboard
Mansfield	Mansfield South	Mansfield, Rock Hill	Notice board & seat
Mansfield	Mansfield South	Mansfield, St Lawrence's Church	Noticeboard
Mansfield	Mansfield North	Mansfield Woodhouse, Manor Complex Play Area	Create soft play area
		Mansfield Woodhouse, Worcester	Installation of 7 planters attached to
Mansfield	Mansfield North	Avenue	lighting columns
Mansfield	Mansfield West	Mansfield, Outside John Cockle Pub	Noticeboard
Mansfield	Mansfield West	Mansfield, New England Way	Wooden bench
Mansfield	Mansfield East	Forest Town, Queensway Park	Multi use games area
Mansfield	Mansfield East	Forest Town, Various locations	Noticeboards x 3
N&S	Ollerton	Ollerton	Skatepark facility (Phase 2)
		Kings Clipstone Village, Mansfield	Replacement of wooden bus shelter and
N&S	Rufford	Road	Noticeboard
N&S	Rufford	Edwinstowe	Provision of Skate Park
N&S	Rufford	Edwinstowe Bowling Green	7 benches
N&S	Balderton	Balderton, Hollowdyke Lane	Finger post - renew one finger
N&S	Southwell & Caunton	Wellow, Village Centre	Replacement bench
N&S	Southwell & Caunton	Carlton on Trent, north and south of	Gateway signs x 2
		Southwell, junc of Farthingate and	Outcway signs x 2
N&S	Southwell & Caunton	Church Street	Planters and litter bin
N&S	Farndon & Muskham	Farndon, Riverside Car Park	Installation of planters
N&S	Earndon & Muskham	North Muskham Playing Field	Provision of children's play/skate board area
N&S	Collingham	Collingham Cricket Club	6 picnic benches
Rushcliffe	Soar Valley	Normanton on Soar	Provision of Village signs
Rushcliffe	WB Central & South	Ladybay, Trent Boulevard, adj Bus Stop	Notice Board
		Radcliffe on Trent, Cromwell Road &	
Rushcliffe	Radcliffe-on-Trent	Saxondale Drive	Village entrance signs x 2
Rushcliffe	Radcliffe-on-Trent	Radcliffe on Trent - various locations	Planters x 4
Rushcliffe	Keyworth	Keyworth, Platt Lane	Refurbishment of Skatepark
Rushcliffe	Keyworth	Plumtree, opposite chip shop	Bench
Rushcliffe	Keyworth	Hickling, Walkers Green	Play equipment & benches

Rushcliffe	Keyworth	Keyworth	Activity park for 10 - 19 year olds
			Notice board near the entrance of the
Rushcliffe	Keyworth	Hickling, Hickling Road	Farm Shop
Rushcliffe	Keyworth	Willoughby on the Wolds, Willoughby road/Widmerpool Road junction	Repair damaged finger post
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Rushcliffe	Bingham	Thurgarton Village	Noticeboard
Rushcliffe	Bingham	Scarrington, nr Horse Shoe Pile	Seat & litter bin
Rushcliffe	Bingham	Whatton in the Vale	Village entry signs
Rushcliffe	Bingham	Shelton, St Mary & All Saints Church,	Provision of 2 door Noticeboard
Rushcliffe	Bingham	Scarrington, Village Centre Phone Box	Install Defibrillator
Rushcliffe	Bingham	Aslockton, Main Street	Replace finger posts
Rushcliffe	Cotgrave	Cropwell Bishop	Provision of litter bins x 5
Rushcliffe	Ruddington	Ruddington, Rushcliffe Country Park	Adult exercise equipment
Rushcliffe	Ruddington	Rushcliffe Country Park	Skatepark renovation

Local Improvement Scheme (LIS) Proposed Programme 2013/2014 Environmental Improvements

District	Ward	Location	Proposed Works
Ashfield	KIA South	Pinxton, Cliff Lane/Kirkby Lane	Improvements to footpath
Ashfield	KIA South	Kirkby Woodhouse, Main Road	Resurface footway and hedge trimming
Ashfield	KIA South	Kirkby in Ashfield, from 1 Kingsway to 122 Greenacres	Landscape Improvements
Ashfield	KIA South	Kirkby, Portland Park	Landscape improvements
Ashfield	SIA North	Sutton in Ashfield, Hill Crescent Recreation Ground	Landscape improvements
Ashfield	Selston	Selston, Nottingham Road (outside no. 254)	Access improvements
Bassetlaw	Worksop East	Worksop, Kilton, Youth & Community Centre	Renovation works
Bassetlaw	Worksop East	Worksop, Manton, Opposite Edinburgh Road Shops	Creation of parking spaces
Bassetlaw	Misterton	Misterton, Swallow Court	Tidy up including pathways, ground clearance and fencing
Bassetlaw	Misterton	Beckingham	Footway resurfacing
Bassetlaw	Misterton	Misterton, Grange Avenue	Footway resurfacing
Bassetlaw	Tuxford	Dunham on Trent, Cockett Hill	Footpaths & cutting back verge vegetation
Bassetlaw	Tuxford	Cresswell Craggs Heritage Centre	Road Signage
Bassetlaw	Retford East	Retford, Forest View	Footway resurfacing
Bassetlaw	Harworth	Harworth to Styrrup	Resurface footway

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Bassetlaw	Harworth	Bircotes, Scrooby Road	Shop front - installation of bollards
Bassetlaw	Worksop North	Worksop, Keswick Road	Creation of parking area
Bassetlaw	Worksop North	Worksop, Prince Charles Road	Creation of parking area
Broxtowe	Kimberley & Trowell	Kimberley, High Street	Environmental improvements to verge
Broxtowe	Kimberley & Trowell	Kimberley, between Swingate & Clive Crescent	Improvements to footpath 39
Broxtowe	Kimberley & Trowell	Kimberley, Knowle Lane	Creation of a car park
Broxtowe	Kimberley & Trowell	Kimberley Bowls Club	Replace back edging boards around the bowling green
Broxtowe	Eastwood	Eastwood, Lawrence Avenue (garage area nr to No. 19)	Installation of light column
Broxtowe	Bramcote & Stapleford	Stapleford, Broad Oak Drive	Dropped crossing point between Sainsbury's entrance & footpath links
Broxtowe	Bramcote & Stapleford	Stapleford, Wadsworth Road	Additional lighting column
Gedling	Carlton East	Gedling, Appletree Lane, Phoenix Estate	Repair footpath, provide litter bin, cut back foliage
Gedling	Carlton East	Burton Joyce, Church Road & Winifred Crescent	Increase & improve parking
Gedling	Carlton East	Burton Joyce Village Centre	Improvements to shopping forecourt
Gedling	Newstead	Newstead, Station Road	Provision for a footway
Gedling	Newstead	Papplewick, Moor Pond Wood	Resurface pathways
Gedling	Arnold North	Arnold Scout Group	Environmental improvements
Mansfield	Mansfield South	Mansfield, Greenwood Cottages	Installation of gates
Mansfield	Mansfield South	Mansfield, Kings Walk (between 14 - 46	Creation of pathways
Mansfield	Mansfield South	Mansfield Petanque	Installation of flood lighting
Mansfield	Mansfield West	Mansfield, New England Way	Tarmac around bench area
Mansfield	Mansfield West	Mansfield, Ladybrook Field	Tarmac area at the gate
Mansfield	Mansfield West	Mansfield, Rosemary Street	Clearance of planters & installation of
N&S		Upton Parish Church	hard paving Lighting column - organise responsibility for electric supply
N&S		Cromwell, Gt. North Road	Footway improvements
N&S		Rolleston, various locations	Footway improvements
N&S		Rolleston, Station Road	Parking bays
N&S	Newark West	Newark, Grange Road	Alleviate parking problems - 2 options
Rushcliffe	Soar Valley	East Leake, Meadow Park	Path widen to create cycle route
Rushcliffe	Soar Valley	Gotham Shopping Area	Provision of disabled access
Rushcliffe	Radcliffe-on-Trent	Radcliffe on Trent, Cliff Top Pathway	Fencing and repairs to steps to the Weir

		Upper Broughton Village Hall - Rose	
Rushcliffe	Keyworth	Cottage	Energy improvements
		Colston Bassettt, adjacent to the	
Rushcliffe	Cotgrave	Village Hall	Landscape works



Report to Environment and Sustainability Committee

14th February 2013

Agenda Item: 5

REPORT OF GROUP MANAGER, PLANNING

STRATEGIC PLANNING OBSERVATIONS ON AN OUTLINE PLANNING APPLICATION FOR A MIXED USE DEVELOPMENT, KIMBERLEY/EASTWOOD BYPASS, NUTHALL

Purpose of the Report

 To seek Committee approval for comments set out in this report to be sent to Broxtowe Borough Council (BBC) in response to the request for strategic planning observations on the above planning application for a mixed use development.

Information and Advice

- 2. An outline planning application (with all matters reserved, except for means of access) was submitted to Broxtowe BC on the 21st November 2012 for the construction of a mixed use development (outdoor multi-sport, lifestyle and recreation facility) incorporating 2 N° buildings (5655sqm and 4535sqm) (Class A1 (Sports retail) A3/D1/D2 or garden centre (with additional outdoor sales area and polytunnels/glass houses), a multi sports building (Class D2), sports facilities and open space, construction of new vehicular access, car parking and associated works, by GVA on behalf of Sportstock Ltd. A site plan is provided at Appendix 1.
- 3. Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC) has been consulted for strategic planning observations on the application and this report compiles responses from Departments involved in providing comments and observations on such matters. On the basis of Committee's decision, comments will be sent to Broxtowe Borough Council in their role as determining planning authority for this application.
- 4. The planning application is accompanied by an Environmental Statement, Design and Access Statement and a range of other supporting documents. This report is based on the information submitted with the application in the context of national, regional and local policy.
- 5. The application site lies within the Nottinghamshire Green Belt.

Description of the Proposed Development

- 6. Layout of the proposed development will be determined at reserved matters, and included the following:
 - Activity Park
 - 2 junior grass football pitches
 - All-weather 3G football centre
 - 4 tennis / netball courts
 - 1.2km closed circuit cycle track
 - Cycle practice area
 - Surfaced activity way
 - Multi-use community games area
 - Tree climbing experience (high ropes)
 - Adventure Golf area
 - Urban sports area "Passion" stadium
 - Childrens play areas
 - 2 N° buildings (5655sqm and 4535sqm) (Class A1 (Sports retail) A3/D1/D2 or garden centre (with additional outdoor sales area and polytunnels/glass houses)
- 7. It is envisaged that the proposed development will be laid out into 4 distinct zones, as follows:
 - The Hub or Heart of the Village, which occupies the north east of the site
 and comprises all of the proposed built development, the Village Square, a
 children's games / multi-sport area, associated car parking and delivery yard.
 A bus drop off point, with shelter and timetable information would also be
 situated in this zone, outside the Main Building
 - Activity Park, which occupies the north west of the site, and comprises an extensive area of parkland providing space for informal sport and recreation
 - **Team Sports**, which comprises all of the formal sports facilities, including football centre, pitches and tennis / netball courts in the south east of the site
 - **Adventure**, which includes the tree climbing experience, closed circuit cycle track and urban sports area in the south west of the site
- 8. The majority of the application site will be used for the purposes of outdoor sport and recreation (Use Class D2), comprising a range of formal and informal sports and recreational facilities.
- 9. The proposed built development comprises 3 principal buildings, with a total gross internal floorspace of approximately 12,174m², together with external sales areas and buildings. For the Main and Partner buildings a mix of uses is proposed within the confines of the total floorpsace envelope of each building.
- 10. The proposed main building and is to be operated as a Class A1 Decathlon sports store with a total gross external floorspace of 5,655m² (5,000m² net retail sales). The building would also include ancillary offices (back of house administrative function), meeting rooms etc. It is intended that Decathlon would operate the proposed main building. A range of uses is therefore proposed for the main building as follows:

- Sports retail; Restricted Class A1 store (5000m² net retail sales).
- Garden centre; Sui Generis store (5655m² gross internal) with associated open-air plant sales (8,680m² gross; 2,937m² net retail sales); or
- Non residential institution (Use class D1) or Assembly and Leisure (Use Class D2) (excluding gym or swimming pool)
- 11. These uses will also be extended to the partner building.
- 12. The 'Sport Box' has a total gross internal floorspace of 1,984m². This will incorporate a sports hall, visitor changing rooms (for indoor and outdoor sports), and football centre (all Use Class D2), together with ancillary café.
- 13. Vehicular access to and from the site is proposed to be provided via a new junction on the A610 centred on the existing underpass at the approximate midpoint along the site's northern boundary. This will comprise a left-in diverge arrangement, together with a two-stage signal controlled junction allowing traffic to turn right into the site and exit both right and left onto the A610.
- 14. On exiting the A610, incoming traffic will be routed along an internal access road to an at-grade car park in the north east corner of the site which will provide designated parking spaces. In addition, a separate overflow car park providing further spaces is proposed for use during large events (typically 4-6 times a year).
- 15. Pedestrian and cycle access is proposed via an existing right of passage running through the underpass beneath the A610. This would be upgraded as part of the proposed development to provide a minimum 3m wide footway / cycleway link to Kimberley Road, where there are existing bus services connecting to the NET stop at Phoenix Park. It will also connect to a further section of new off-road footway / cycleway proposed on the southern side of Nottingham Road, which links to the existing Nottinghamshire cycle network. Cycle parking spaces will be provided on the site.
- 16. Public transport access is proposed via a new bus service routing between the site and the NET terminus at Pheonix Park, via Nuthall.
- 17. It is proposed that the development will be open to the public 7 days a week from 07:00 to 23:00, with the retail operations restricted to the hours of 09:00 to 20:00.

Planning Policy Context

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

18. One of the core principles of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) is to support and deliver economic growth to ensure that the housing, business and other development needs of an area are met. The principles and policies contained in the NPPF also recognise the value of and the need to protect and enhance the natural, built and historic environment, biodiversity and also include the need to adapt to climate change.

- 19. A key aspect of the NPPF is that it includes a presumption in favour of sustainable development which means that, for decision-taking, local planning authorities should approve development proposals that accord with the development plan without delay or where a development plan is absent, silent or out of date, grant permission unless any adverse impacts of the proposal outweigh the benefits, or specific policies in the NPPF indicate that development should be restricted.
- 20. The NPPF also discusses the weight that can be given in planning determinations to policies emerging as the local authority's development plan is being brought forward. The weight given to these policies will be very dependant on; their stage of preparation, the extent to which there are unresolved objections and the degree of consistency with the NPPF.

East Midlands Regional Plan (RS)

- 21. On the 6th July 2010 the Secretary of State announced the revocation of Regional Strategies. However, following a legal challenge Regional Strategies (RS) have been reinstated and the RS therefore remains part of the statutory development plan for the purposes of determining planning applications within the Broxtowe Borough Council area. Nevertheless, the intention of the Government to abolish Regional Strategies, through the enactment of the Localism Bill, may be taken into account as a material consideration in the determination of planning applications. In any event, in cases where national and local planning policies align with RS policy on the issue, there is no material difference in the advice that results.
- 22. The RS is in line with National Planning Policy in terms of delivering sustainable development.
- 23. Policy 31 of the RS ensures that the Region's landscape be protected from inappropriate development and where possible enhanced. RS Policy Three Cities SRS 2 identifies that the principle of the Green Belt will be retained but a comprehensive review of the most sustainable locations for growth will be required.

Strategic Planning Issues

The Green Belt

- 24. The NPPF sets out a list of acceptable developments within the Green Belt, new development is not considered to be acceptable development in the Green Belt, unless (NPPF paragraph 89) it is for the provision of appropriate facilities for outdoor sport or outdoor recreation, and as such the onus lies with the applicant to demonstrate that there are very special circumstances to justify such inappropriate development in such a location.
- 25. The applicants set out in Section 5, paragraphs 5.61-5.90 of their Planning Statement (November 2012) the reasons why they consider their development does not harm the Green Belt and conclude that the health and well being benefits, delivery of economic growth and the provision of improvements to the

- local highway network of the proposal coupled with the that fact that there are no suitable alternative sites provides sufficient justification for the proposal to be granted planning permission.
- 26. The County Council consider that the proposed development constitutes inappropriate development within the Green Belt and is therefore contrary to paragraph 89 of the NPPF as such the County Council raises objections to the proposal on these grounds.

Retail

- 27. The NPPF sets out in Section 2 the Government's approach to retail/town centre development and encourages local planning authorities to place significant weight on the need to support economic growth and support the vitality and viability of town centres. As the above proposal lies outside of a defined town centre the applicants, in accordance with the sequential tests of the NPPF have submitted a Retail Planning Statement and a Town Centre Impact Assessment.
- 28. The Retail Planning Statement and a Town Centre Impact Assessments conclude that the proposed development would not negatively impact upon local town centres, provided suitable planning conditions are attached to the grant of any planning permission.
- 29. It is considered that the applicants have provided a sufficient assessment of alternative sites and have followed advice contained in NPPF. However, I would wish to see this evidence independently tested and therefore I do not currently support this element of the proposal.

Landscape

- 30. The application boundary runs through a Conservation Area concerns are raised over the detail contained within the submitted Heritage Impact Assessment and it is considered that further examination of the impacts of the proposal is carried out in relation to the Conservation Area, as set out in paragraph 128 of the NPPF.
- 31. In addition to this the whole of the application site lies within the former historic park and garden of Nuthall Temple, this is identified by the County Historic Environment Record (HER) and should be given consideration as an undesignated heritage asset, as set out in paragraph 135 of the NPPF.
- 32. It is considered that there is insufficient information to provide adequate assessment of the potential impacts on the character of the Conservation Area and the setting of the Listed Buildings in the vicinity of the site.
- 33. Detailed comments in relation to landscape issues for the County Council are set out in Appendix 2.

Rights of Way

- 34. The Countryside Access Team supports the principles and design ideas of the proposed development. There are no definitive rights of way crossing the site but it is always possible that public rights of way may exist which have not yet been recorded.
- 35. Detailed comments in relation to Rights of Way issues for the County Council are set out in Appendix 3.

Transport

36. County Council Highways are currently in discussion with the applicants Transport Consultants, however, the County Council will not be raising any highway objections to the proposal and that subject to a number of conditions will be recommending the application for approval.

Developer Contributions

37. There are no education implications resulting from this development.

Ecology

- 38. The County Council wish to raise objections on ecological ground to the proposal until the matters set out below are adequately addressed:
 - It is stated that no evidence of roosting bats was found during the daytime or evening surveys, but it is unclear if an emergence/re-entry survey or a climbing inspection was carried out; further details are therefore required. Furthermore, the Arboricultural Implications Assessment report also identifies trees with bat roosting potential, but these do not appear to correspond with those as shown on the Phase 1 map. This needs addressing, along with confirmation as to whether or not these trees are to be retained in accordance with the Tree Constraints Plan.
 - No evidence of reptiles was found on the site. However, it should be noted that
 the survey took place outside the optimum survey period (which is April/May
 and September), and no plan is provided showing where the reptile tins were
 placed (submission of the latter would be welcomed). Details to this effect
 would be welcomed.
 - It is stated that an Ecological Mitigation Plan and Arboricultural Method Statement will be prepared and implemented for the duration of the construction works. This should be made a **condition** of any permission granted, and should detail measures for the protection of retained features including hedgerows, woodland and individual trees.
 - A detailed lighting scheme should be prepared (as recommended in the ES), to ensure that impacts on foraging bats are avoided; this should be made a condition of any permission granted.

- A standard **condition** should be used to control vegetation clearance during the bird nesting season (which runs from March to August inclusive).
- A condition should be used to require the submission of a detailed landscaping scheme showing the location of these habitats, along with details of species mixes, establishment methods and aftercare maintenance regimes, with a commitment made to using native species appropriate to the local area and stock which is of native genetic origin (and ideally of local provenance). Further to this the production of a site Management Plan should also be conditioned, which sets out how created habitats will be maintained in the future (e.g. mowing regimes) to ensure that the biodiversity value of the site is maximised.
- In addition, it is noted that there is some blue line land immediately north of the A610, next to Temple Lake; the Phase 1 habitat maps suggests this is species-poor semi-improved grassland and bare ground. Works to enhance this area (e.g. by establishing a more species-rich grassland) would be welcomed, which would further help to offset the overall loss of habitat area arising from the development.
- 39. Detailed comments in relation to Ecology issues for the County Council are set out in Appendix 4.

Other Options Considered

40. This report considers all of the relevant issues in relation to the above planning applications which have led to the recommendations, as set out below. Alternative options considered could have been to express no or full support for the application.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

- 41. The County Council consider that the proposed development constitutes inappropriate development within the Green Belt and is therefore contrary to paragraph 89 of the NPPF and as such the County Council raises objections to the proposal on these grounds.
- 42. It is recommended that the County Council object to the proposal on the grounds that insufficient information has been submitted with the planning application to allow valid and robust conclusions to be drawn on the applications potential impact upon the landscape, historic environment and ecology of the County. These concerns can not be addressed until further information has been provided by the applicant.
- 43. If Broxtowe Borough Council is minded to approve the application, Nottinghamshire County Council request that the detailed concerns set out in this report and detailed in officer comments are addressed prior to planning

permission being granted and that planning permission is only granted subject to conditions and a Section 106 agreement requiring planning contributions in relation to highways.

Statutory and Policy Implications

44. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, the public sector equality duty, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

45. There are no direct financial implications.

Implications for Sustainability and the Environment

46. There are no direct implications for Sustainability and the Environment.

RECOMMENDATION/S

The County Council wish to raise objection to the proposal as the development constitutes inappropriate development within the Green Belt and as such in contrary to National Planning Policy and the County Council request that Broxtowe Borough Council be advised that Nottinghamshire County Council objects to the proposal as insufficient information has been submitted with the planning application to allow valid and robust conclusions to be drawn on the applications potential impact upon the landscape and visual impact and ecology of the County.

Sally Gill, Group Manager, Planning

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Nina Wilson, Principal Planner (Planning Policy) – 0115 977 3793

Constitutional Comments (SHB22.01.13)

47. Committee have power to decide the Recommendation.

Financial Comments (DJK 22.01.2013)

48. The contents of this report are duly noted; there are no financial implications.

Background Papers

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

The following link provides access to all the relevant planning application documents used to inform the above report:

http://planning.broxtowe.gov.uk/(S(eqcr1c55jaqjfg550qce0045))/ApplicationDetail.asp x?RefVal=12/00644/OUT

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

Councillor David Taylor - Beauvale

Councillor Steve Carr – Beeston North

Councillor Eric Kerry – Beeston South and Attenborough

Councillor Stan Hepinstall MBE and Councillor Brian Wombwell– Bramcote and Stapleford

Councillor John Doody and Councillor Richard Jackson – Chilwell and Toton

Councillor Keith Longdon – Eastwood

Councillor Ken Rigby – Kimberley and Trowell

Councillor Phillip Owen - Nuthall

Appendix 1 – Site Location Plan

Appendix 2 – Landscape Comments

Oxylane Sports Village Proposal – Ref: 12/00644/OUT

Thank you for opportunity to comment on the above proposal.

The Application Site.

The area of the majority of the application site lies adjacent to the Nuthall Conservation Area (C.A), whilst the element of the application site relating to cycle and pedestrian access cuts through the conservation area and runs adjacent to several listed buildings. This is not made clear within the design and access statement section on heritage and physical context which omits the access route section of the application boundary.

As the application boundary runs through the C.A I would raise the question as to whether a proper Heritage Impact Assessment should be considered. I would not consider the existing information to fulfil the requirement in line with the NPPF

NPPF 12 128. "In determining applications, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance. As a minimum the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted and the heritage assets assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary. Where a site on which development is proposed includes or has the potential to include heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation"

In addition to this the whole of the application site lies within the former historic park and garden of Nuthall Temple, this is identified by the County HER and should be given consideration as an undesignated heritage asset.

NPPF 12 135. "The effect of an application on the significance of a non-designated heritage asset should be taken into account in determining the application. In weighing applications that affect directly or indirectly non designated heritage assets, a balanced judgement will be required having regard to the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset".

Potential Impacts

The proposed pedestrian and cycle access follows the route of a largely unsurfaced farm track through pastoral land forming part of the historic park and garden. It joins Nottingham road within the historic core (As identified on Sanderson's Map, 1835) of Nuthall Village and is shown to then bear east to join an existing route that currently terminates outside the C.A.

A surfaced track through the existing green landscape and creation of a roadside cycle lane would undoubtedly have potential for adverse impact upon the character of the Conservation Area and the setting of the Listed Buildings in the vicinity. Hard surfacing, landscaping and any associated infrastructure such as signage, safety barriers, lighting etc could add additional clutter to the streetscene in the village core as well as urbanising the greener areas of the C.A.

There is not sufficient information to accurately judge to what extent this impact would be within the details of the Outline application.

The route would also run alongside the group of listed buildings that it currently provides access to (Home Farm) which appear on the County Council Heritage at Risk Register. The land shown in the application site is either currently or historically strongly associated with these buildings. In accordance with section 12 of the NPPF

NPPF 12 129. "Local planning authorities should identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset that may be affected by a proposal (including by development affecting the setting of a heritage asset) taking account of the available evidence and any necessary expertise. They should take this assessment into account when considering the impact of a proposal on a heritage asset, to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the proposal".

With this in mind the impact of any change to the land ownership/access rights should be considered as to whether this would have a negative impact on the future viability of these listed buildings, whilst due consideration should also be given to the material impact on the setting of the buildings.

Considering the absence of detail and heritage impact assessment I am concerned as to whether the impacts can be gauged.

The majority of the application site is located on a parcel of land to the south of the A610. Historically this parcel of land was part of the parkland associated to Nuthall Temple. There are surviving landscape forms which relate to this, for example, the line of trees running through the site and the Verge Wood are present on the 1835 Map. As part of an undesignated heritage asset the removal of such features should be given consideration in accordance with NPPF policy.

The proposed buildings reach a height of 9 metres and are of an industrial scale. I feel that there is potential impact on views in an out of the conservation area. Unfortunately there is not enough analysis of setting issues within the Heritage element of the D & A to fully explore this.

Recommendations

If as is indicated the cycle/pedestrian access is part of the application site then a proper heritage impact assessment should be requested with which the potential effects upon heritage assets can be fully considered and any appropriate mitigation presented, especially with regard to the Buildings at Risk. I also feel that the potential setting impact on views to and from the C.A

is of enough concern to warrant some consideration in this. Considering the nature of this application I wonder if it would be appropriate for English Heritage to have been consulted. It seems a little hard to judge from the information submitted but it seems that the access would appear to constitute a site in excess of 1000m sq within a conservation area. Certainly the area of the land owned by the applicant inside the C.A is in the region of 1000m sq.

Guidance states that English Heritage must be consulted on planning, listed building and conservation area applications when:

- "(b) Development which in the opinion of the local planning authority affects the character or appearance of a conservation area and which involves:
- (i) the erection of a new building or the extension of an existing building where the area of land in respect of which the application is made is more than 1,000 square metres;"

This is as set out in the 1990 Planning Act (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas).

I hope these comments are helpful, if you require any further information or clarification please contact me.

Kind Regards

David Littlewood Historic Buildings Conservation Officer Nottinghamshire County Council

Appendix 3 – Rights of Way Comments

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above application.

The Countryside Access Team very much supports the principles and design ideas of the proposed development. There are no definitive rights of way crossing the site but it is always possible that public rights of way may exist which have not yet been recorded.

Best wishes

Jenny Romero Rights of Way Officer (Broxtowe and Ashfield areas)

Appendix 4 – Ecology Comments

Thank you for consulting the Nature Conservation Unit of the Conservation Team on the above matter. We have the following comments regarding nature conservation issues, made with reference to Chapter 11 of the ES, the ES Non-technical Summary, the ES Appendix VIII and IX and associated plans:

Designated sites

The desktop study identified to presence of three SINCs adjacent to the development site, which have the potential to be affected by the development;

- Verge Wood SINC 2/317
- Temple Lakes Wood SINC 2/306
- Temple Lake SINC 1/31

The nearest SSSIs, Kimberley Railway Cutting SSSI and Sellers Wood SSSI, both lie approximately 1.4km away (to the north-west and north-east respectively). No impact on these sites can be expected.

Surveys

A desktop study has been completed, along with a Phase 1 Habitat Survey and a number of species surveys. The surveys were completed in Spring/Summer 2011, and as such can be considered to be up-to-date.

The Phase 1 Habitat Survey identified that the predominant habitat on site is species-poor semi-improved grassland extending to approximately 22ha, with semi-natural broad-leaved woodland along the western and southern site boundary (Verge Wood). Other habitats on site or in the immediate vicinity include plantation broad-leaved woodland, scrub, scattered broad-leaved trees and hedgerows, with lake and swamp habitat around Temple Lake to the north.

In terms of species, a number of surveys have been carried out:

Great crested newts

Reference is made to an 'evening survey assessment' of Temple Lake undertaken in May 2010. It is unclear what this survey entailed, and further details should be provided. However, it is noted that Temple Lake is stocked with coarse fish, which reduces the likelihood of great crested newts being present, and the development site itself is isolated from land to the north and east by the A610 and M1, which will be major barriers to the dispersal of amphibians.

Bats

Two bat activity surveys were carried out in July 2011. It would appear that the level of survey does not comply with current Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) guidelines (Bat Surveys Good Practice Guidelines -2^{nd} edition, as detailed in Table 7.2), so further

comment on this is required. The completed surveys found a relatively low level of bat activity, primarily associated with the woodland edge and Temple Lake.

Reference is also made to three mature oaks trees located in the centre of the site which offer 'minor' bat roost potential. Further details are required which properly categorise the value of these trees, with reference to Table 8.4 of the BCT guidelines. It is stated that no evidence of roosting bats was found during the daytime or evening surveys, but it is unclear if an emergence/re-entry survey or a climbing inspection was carried out; further details are therefore required. Furthermore, the Arboricultural Implications Assessment report also identifies trees with bat roosting potential, but these do not appear to correspond with those as shown on the Phase 1 map. This needs addressing, along with confirmation as to whether or not these trees are to be retained in accordance with the Tree Constraints Plan.

Reptiles

No evidence of reptiles was found on the site. However, it should be noted that the survey took place outside the optimum survey period (which is April/May and September), and no plan is provided showing where the reptile tins were placed (submission of the latter would be welcomed). Details to this effect would be welcomed.

Badgers

No evidence of badgers was found on the site or in the immediate vicinity.

Breeding birds

The breeding bird survey did not locate any notable species at the site or in the immediate surroundings. However, it should be noted that only two survey visits were undertaken (instead of three), with a visit in April/May being missed.

Impacts, mitigation and enhancement

Notwithstanding any further details which may be submitted in response to our comments above, it appears that the nature conservation value of the development site is low, and a range of mitigation measures are proposed. In particular:

- It is stated that an Ecological Mitigation Plan and Arboricultural Method Statement will be prepared and implemented for the duration of the construction works. This should be made a **condition** of any permission granted, and should detail measures for the protection of retained features including hedgerows, woodland and individual trees
- A detailed lighting scheme should be prepared (as recommended in the ES), to ensure that impacts on foraging bats are avoided; this should be made a **condition** of any permission granted.
- A standard **condition** should be used to control vegetation clearance during the bird nesting season (which runs from March to August inclusive).

In terms of mitigation for the loss of habitat on the development site, the ES states that new landscaping associated with the development will, as a minimum, create

approximately 2ha of woodland, 0.65ha of scrub, 3ha of grassland, 3ha of wildflower meadow and 250m of swale/ditch. On balance, this level of habitat creation appears sufficient to offset the net loss of habitat arising from the development. A **condition** should be used to require the submission of a detailed landscaping scheme showing the location of these habitats, along with details of species mixes, establishment methods and aftercare maintenance regimes, with a commitment made to using native species appropriate to the local area and stock which is of native genetic origin (and ideally of local provenance). Further to this the production of a site Management Plan should also be **conditioned**, which sets out how created habitats will be maintained in the future (e.g. mowing regimes) to ensure that the biodiversity value of the site is maximised.

In addition, it is noted that there is some blue line land immediately north of the A610, next to Temple Lake; the Phase 1 habitat maps suggests this is species-poor semi-improved grassland and bare ground. Works to enhance this area (e.g. by establishing a more species-rich grassland) would be welcomed, which would further help to offset the overall loss of habitat area arising from the development.

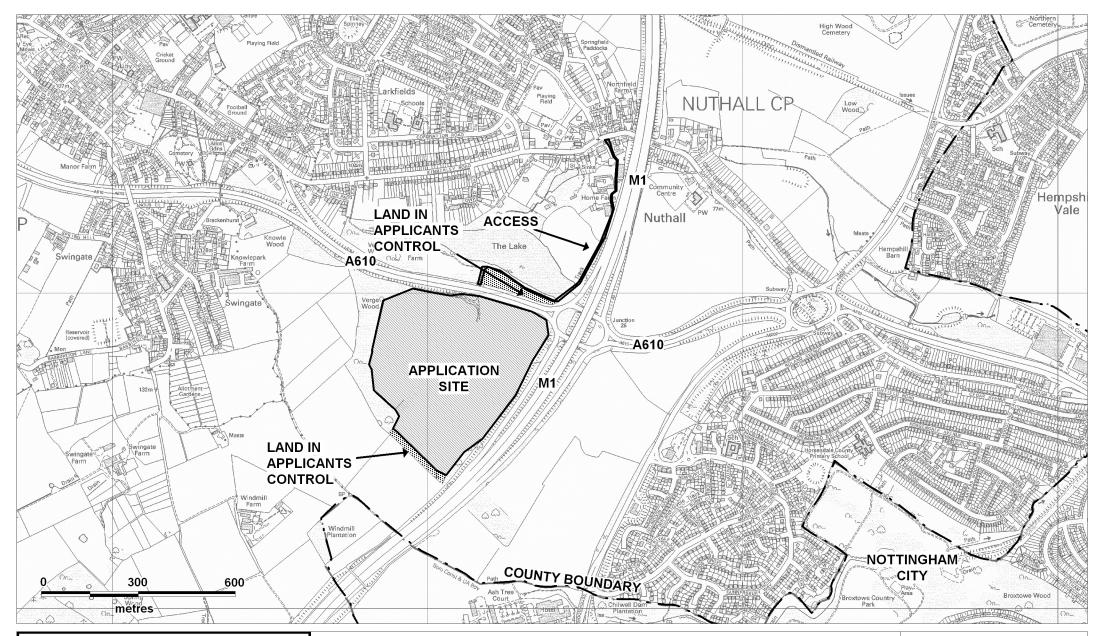
Other issues

It is apparent that a cyclepath will enter the site from the north (passing under the A610. The potential impacts of this cyclepath do not appear to have been considered, which needs addressing.

The development appears to provide a good opportunity to use green roof technology on the main buildings on the site. This would have wildlife value, and would also help the building integrate better into the surrounding landscape.

We trust you will find the above comments of use, but if you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Nick Crouch Senior Practitioner Nature Conservation





Outline Planning Application with all matters reserved for subsequent approval (except for means of access), for the construction of mixed use development (outdoor multi-sport, lifestyle and recreation facility).

[See application for full description]. New vehicular access, car parking and associated works.

Field at Grid Reference 451088 343782 Kimberley/Eastwood Bypass, Nuthall, Notts.

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Scale: 1: 12,000 Produced by: JW Date: JANUARY 2013



Report to Environment & Sustainability Committee

14 February 2013

Agenda Item: 6

REPORT OF GROUP MANAGER, PLANNING

STRATEGIC PLANNING OBSERVATIONS ON A FULL PLANNING APPLICATION FOR A SOLAR FARM, BILSTHORPE BUSINESS PARK

Purpose of the Report

 To seek Committee approval for comments set out in this report to be sent to Newark and Sherwood District Council (NSDC) in response to the request for strategic planning observations on the above planning application for a solar farm.

Information and Advice

- 2. A full planning application was submitted to Newark and Sherwood District Council on the 21st November 2012 for the installation of a Solar Farm at Bilsthorpe Business Park, Bilsthorpe. A site plan is provided at Appendix 1.
- 3. Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC) has been consulted for strategic planning observations on the application and this report compiles responses from Departments involved in providing comments and observations on such matters. On the basis of Committee's decision, comments will be sent to Newark and Sherwood District Council in their role as determining planning authority for this application.
- 4. The planning application is accompanied by an Environmental Statement, Design and Access Statement and a range of other supporting documents. This report is based on the information submitted with the application in the context of national, regional and local policy.

Description of the Proposed Development

- 5. The applicant is proposing to develop a Solar Photovoltaic Park on part of the former Bilsthorpe Colliery. The park is to utilise 22.8 hectares of the former colliery to provide a series of solar arrays to generate a combined installed capacity of 9.8MW. The proposed development will utilise renewable energy sources to generate electricity, which will be supplied to both domestic and commercial consumers via the local distribution network.
- 6. The principle elements of the proposed development are as follows:

- The Application is to be composed of a multi-hectare, fixed tilt, ground mounted PV solar
- array, which will deliver power to the local electrical grid;
- The key components include the solar modules, support frames for the modules, inverters and transformers;
- The array is to consist of a maximum of 41,040 (240 Watt) modules fixed to a fixed ground mounted steel racking system with a height of circa 3m.
- To achieve maximum solar gain the panels are laid out in east west rows with space of approximately 7 metres between each row to prevent overshadowing. The fixed modules will be tilted at a site-specific angle of 25 degrees based upon the topography of the site and mounted facing due south developed with non reflective material to remove glare.
- The maximum height of the mounted modules will be no higher than 2.25m from ground level to the top of the panel frame.
- The solar radiation is converted into electricity in each individual cell of the PV module and converted from Alternating Current (AC) to Direct Current (DC) in the inverter. The circuit is then connected to a transformer which enables the power generated from the solar array to be distributed over electrical lines at the correct voltage.
- The erection of a small sub-station measuring 5.2 metres wide, 8.3 metres deep and 3.92 metres high is to be included to export the electricity generated at the park;
- A new 2 metre high paladin security fence is to be erected around the perimeter of the site with associated landscaping, whilst CCTV will also be included on the fencing and on individual security pylons;
- Suitable access will be provided for light maintenance work, including cleaning;
- The land around the panels will be cultivated to enable access for educational purposes;
- 7. The Installation will be carried out utilising a variety of powered equipment, such as a crane, post pounders, forklifts and trenchers. The majority of the work will however involve manual labour utilising hand tools. The installation period is expected last between 12-16 weeks. It is anticipated that the construction period, including access routes, security fencing etc. will last for approximately 4 months with activities taking place between 07.30-19.30 hours Monday to Friday and 07.30-13.00 hours on Saturdays with no working on Sundays.
- 8. The solar panels are designed with an operational life of 25 years, whereby upon conclusion the solar panels will be dismantled and removed prior to the site being reinstated.

Planning Policy Context

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

9. One of the core principles of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) is to support and deliver economic growth to ensure that the housing, business and other development needs of an area are met. The principles and policies contained in the NPPF also recognise the value of and the need to protect and

- enhance the natural, built and historic environment, biodiversity and also include the need to adapt to climate change.
- 10. A key aspect of the NPPF is that it includes a presumption in favour of sustainable development which means that, for decision-taking, local planning authorities should approve development proposals that accord with the development plan without delay or where a development plan is absent, silent or out of date, grant permission unless any adverse impacts of the proposal outweigh the benefits, or specific policies in the NPPF indicate that development should be restricted.
- 11. The NPPF also discusses the weight that can be given in planning determinations to policies emerging as the local authority's development plan is being brought forward. The weight given to these policies will be very dependant on; their stage of preparation, the extent to which there are unresolved objections and the degree of consistency with the NPPF.
- 12. Planning plays a key role in helping shape places to secure radical reductions in green house gas emissions, minimising vulnerability and providing resilience to the impacts of climate change, and supporting the delivery of renewable and low carbon energy associated with infrastructure. This is central to the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. Local Planning Authorities are actively encouraged to support proposals for renewable energy.

East Midlands Regional Plan (RS)

- 13. On the 6th July 2010 the Secretary of State announced the revocation of Regional Strategies. However, following a legal challenge Regional Strategies (RS) have been reinstated and the RS therefore remains part of the statutory development plan for the purposes of determining planning applications within the Newark and Sherwood District Council area. Nevertheless, the intention of the Government to abolish Regional Strategies, through the enactment of the Localism Bill, may be taken into account as a material consideration in the determination of planning applications. In any event, in cases where national and local planning policies align with RS policy on the issue, there is no material difference in the advice that results.
- 14. The RS is in line with National Planning Policy in terms of delivering sustainable development.
- 15. Policy 1 of the RS seeks to maximise the role of renewable energy and acknowledges the importance of energy generation to the region. Policy 31 of the RS ensures that the Region's landscape be protected from inappropriate development and where possible enhanced.

Strategic Planning Issues

Landscape

16. The landscape and visual appraisal provided outlines a description of the existing site but does not satisfactorily undertake a full and rigorous assessment of the

proposed change against the baseline. However, it is accepted that despite the major intrusion of an energy farm into a restoration that was making a positive contribution to a post-industrial rural landscape, the site is only overlooked on one side, and that largely by users of footpaths. Mitigation work would reduce this visual impact significantly. On that basis, the County Council has no objection to the proposal to build a solar farm provided there is planting provided on the eastern boundary of the site.

17. Detailed landscape and visual comments are set out in Appendix 2.

Transport

- 18. The County Council raise concerns in that the Transport Statement, submitted in support of the above proposal, indicates that HGV routing from the A614 is via Mickledale Lane, Bilsthorpe. This is not considered to be acceptable for a development of this size as Mickledale Lane is predominantly residential and should be avoided. Therefore, it is essential that any vehicular traffic associated with this development gain access from the A614, Deerdale Lane (which runs parallel to Mickledale Lane) and Eakring Road in order to reach the site.
- 19. Subject to the above, there would be no highway objections to this proposal.
- 20. Detailed Highways comments are set out in Appendix 3.

Ecology

- 21. The County Council wish to raise objections to the proposal because:
 - a) the ecological information presented amounts only to an Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey; no proper assessment of impacts has been carried out, and no details of mitigation/compensation are provided.
 - b) no consultation with the Nottinghamshire Biological and Geological Records Centre has been carried out, and the presence of notable sites and species in the area around the site has been overlooked as a consequence.
 - c) a number of further surveys/assessments are required to support the application, especially in relation to potential impacts on great crested newts and reptiles
 - d) the loss of compensatory habitat delivered by an unrelated scheme has not been addressed
- 22. These issues all need addressing prior to the determination of this application as otherwise it will not be possible to properly assess the ecological impacts of the proposed scheme.
- 23. Detailed Ecology comments are set out in Appendix 4.

Historic Environment

24. It is considered that there is insufficient information provided in the reports so far presented in support of the proposal, to demonstrate that the proposals are

acceptable in terms of national and local planning policies regarding cultural heritage. Much more information is required with regards to the impacts on designated cultural heritage of the surrounding historic environment before it can be properly assessed within the requirements of the EIA regulations and the NPPF. Consultation with English Heritage is also required by merit of the impact on the setting of grade I listed church of St Margaret's Bilsthorpe.

25. Detailed Historic Environment comments are set out in Appendix 5.

Conclusions

26. The overall National Planning Policy context in relation to solar farms, as outlined above, is strongly supportive of the principle of solar farms and the wide benefits of deploying renewable energy technologies in tackling climate change, subject to the considerations set out above.

Other Options Considered

27. This report considers all of the relevant issues in relation to the above planning applications which have led to the recommendations, as set out below. Alternative options considered could have been to express no or full support for the application.

Reason for Recommendation

- 28. It is recommended that the development is supported in principle as it is recognised that significant weight is given to renewable energy at a National and strategic planning level.
- 29. There are concerns over the potential impact of the proposal on the ecology, historic environment and landscape of the County. These concerns can not be addressed until significant further work has been undertaken satisfactorily and relevant information has been provided by the applicants.

Statutory and Policy Implications

30. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, the public sector equality duty, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

31. There are no direct financial implications.

Implications for Sustainability and the Environment

32. There are no direct implications for Sustainability and the Environment

RECOMMENDATION

- 1) That Newark and Sherwood District Council be advised that the principle of such development in terms of strategic and National renewable energy policy is supported by Nottinghamshire County Council, subject to the issues raised above being satisfactorily addressed.
- 2) There are concerns over the potential impact of the proposal on the ecology, historic environment and landscape of the County. These concerns can not be addressed until significant further work has been undertaken satisfactorily and relevant information has been provided by the applicants.

Sally Gill, Group Manager, Planning

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Nina Wilson, Principal Planner (Planning Policy) – 0115 977 3793

Constitutional Comments (SHB.16.01.13)

33. Committee have power to decide the Recommendation.

Financial Comments (DJK 16.01.2013)

34. The contents of this report are duly noted; there are no financial implications.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

Councillor John Peck - Rufford

Appendix 1 – Site Location Plan

Appendix 2 – Detailed Landscape and Visual Impacts Comments

From: Amanda Blicq, Landscape & Reclamation, Highways, Trent Bridge House

To: Nina Wilson

Date: 27 December 2012 Your ref: 12/01594/FULM Our ref: G403 N & S Tel: 0115 9772164

Email: amanda.blicq@nottscc.gov.uk

PROPOSED SOLAR FARM, BILSTHORPE

Further to your email of 17 December, please find my comments outlined below. Documents perused were:

Landscape and Visual Appraisal September 2012 (Barton Willmore) Figures 1- 4, Site appraisal photographs A-H, Site context photographs 1-12, photomontages of existing and proposed views ref. 3 and 9.

Existing Site

The proposed site lies to the north of Bilsthorpe, on former colliery land now restored to agriculture. Although the site boundary takes in the complete area formerly granted planning approval for wind turbines, this comment relates solely to the application for the solar farm, located south of the former mineral line.

The Landscape and Visual Appraisal is fairly comprehensive although I would disagree with the comment (clause 1.4) that the aim of the document is solely to assess landscape characteristics and the landscape and visual quality of the site. The purpose of the assessment should be to establish the baseline and then assess the impact of the proposals.

The application site falls wholly within policy zone MN 27 of the Greater Nottingham Landscape Character Assessment, (GNLCA 2010), Kirklington Village Farmlands, an area of poor landscape condition, low sensitivity and with a policy aim of 'Create'. The policy further outlines the key aims of landscape development ie. creation of new hedgerows and restoration of existing, management and planting of woodlands. The policy also states that new areas of planting should be used to minimise the impact of industry.

Impact on Landscape Character

The appraisal reproduces extensive passages of descriptive information contained within existing literature eg. GNLCA (referred to above), and long descriptions of the site as seen from various viewpoints but does not appear to undertake a systematic or objective assessment of the impact of the proposals on the existing landscape character. The existing landscape is described in Policy Zone 27 as

' gently undulating rounded topography...frequently wooded skylines, numerous small linear blocks of woodland', but also as having an 'incoherent pattern of elements'.

With non-agricultural land uses disrupting the underlying field pattern. The former restoration

of the application site, with linear woodlands and restored grassland has gone some way towards creating a new rural landscape in keeping with the policy guidelines, but the proposed construction of serried rows of solar panels across a vast swathe (28 hectares) of open farmland can only be described as incongruous against the existing landscape elements, and undoing the previous step towards increasing landscape coherence. The site is already designated as having low sensitivity (GNLCA 2010); however, given that the site comprises a piece of landscape restoration in a generally poor landscape, locally at least the impact of the proposals is seen as medium adverse, given that the open field areas will be lost. On the basis of this the overall impact on landscape character is **slight adverse**.

Visual Impact

Figure 4 shows the locations of the viewpoints used to assess visual impact; it is usual to construct and demonstrate the extent of a Zone of Visual Influence (ZVI) to identify the key viewpoints.

The sensitivity of receptors at each viewpoint is assessed and shown in the table on pages 26 and 27, but again the assessment stops short of according an 'impact' or score to each viewpoint by working through the sensitivity of the receptor and the magnitude of projected change. However, generally the text associated with each viewpoint demonstrates a neutral or slight impact. Two exceptions are viewpoints 4 and 9, points located on the ridge to the east of the site, where both the photographs and the text show there will be views into the solar farm from public footpaths. Users of footpaths are generally considered to be of high-medium sensitivity; given the proximity of footpath EKFP1 & 2 to the site boundary (150 metres), and the falling ground which will give direct views into the former colliery site, the magnitude of change is considered high adverse. This gives an overall visual impact for users of this footpath between points 4 and 3, a distance of some 350 metres, of moderate-substantial adverse. There will be a similar impact on users of footpath EKFP1 walking down from Eakring village, in full view of the site.

(Without knowing the focal length of the camera used for the photomontage, it is difficult to judge the true visual impact of the site).

To a great extent, existing woodland and topography screens views of the site from surrounding residences, highways and other rights of way. The most severe deterioration in visual amenity will occur on the high ground to the immediate east of the site. The photographs do however suggest that there is scope for additional planting of woodland belts on the eastern site boundary; this would mitigate the adverse impact on views to a large extent.

Summary

The landscape and visual appraisal provided outlines a description of the existing site but does not satisfactorily undertake a full and rigorous assessment of the proposed change against the baseline. However, it is accepted that despite the major intrusion of an energy farm into a restoration that was making a positive contribution to a post-industrial rural landscape, the site is only overlooked on one side, and that largely by users of footpaths. Mitigation work would reduce this visual impact significantly. On that basis, I have no objection to the proposal to build a solar farm provided there is planting provided on the eastern boundary of the site.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Regards Amanda Blicq Principal Landscape Architect Landscape and Reclamation

Appendix 3 – Detailed Highways Comments

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT

HIGHWAY REPORT ON PROPOSALS FOR DEVELOPMENT

DISTRICT: Newark Date received 18/12/2012

OFFICER: Clare Walker by D.C. 10/12/2012

PROPOSAL: Solar Farm D.C. No. N/12/01594/FULM

LOCATION: Bilsthorpe Business Park Eakring Road Bilsthorpe Nottinghamshire

APPLICANT: Re-Fin Solar Ltd - Bilsthorpe Solar Farm

This application proposes to use the existing access into Bilsthorpe Business Park, which is suitable to accommodate the additional construction traffic associated with this development.

The construction period is 5 days per week over approx. 4 months.

My only concern is that the Transport Statement indicates that HGV routing from the A614 is via Mickledale Lane, Bilsthorpe. This is not acceptable for a development of this size as Mickledale Lane is predominantly residential and should be avoided. Therefore, it is essential that any vehicular traffic associated with this development gain access from the A614, Deerdale Lane (which runs parallel to Mickledale Lane) and Eakring Road in order to reach the site.

Subject to the above, there would be no highway objections to this proposal.

Stella Euerby Development Control Officer

Appendix 4 – Detailed Ecology Comments

Re: Solar Farm – Bilsthorpe Business Park, Eakring Road, Bilsthorpe

Thank you for consulting the Nature Conservation Unit of the Conservation Team on this matter. We have the following comments regarding nature conservation issues, which are made with reference to the Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey report dated August 2012, the Planning Statement dated November 2012, and an undated/unnamed site layout plan:

Surveys

A walkover survey of the application site was undertaken on 30th July and 22nd August 2012, which was supported by a desk-based study; however it should be noted that no consultation with the Nottinghamshire Biological and Geological Records Centre (NBGRC) was carried out, meaning that the information gathered cannot be considered to be complete, and as a result the existence of Local Wildlife Sites (SINCs) in the vicinity of the proposed development site has not been identified, and nor has the presence of great crested newts just outside the site boundary to the south (for example).

The habitat survey itself is also considered to be inadequate in terms of supporting an application of this type and scale. Regarding habitats, the survey report states that the main area of the site consists of agriculturally improved grassland, and that new plantation woodland was located immediately around the periphery to the west and south of the proposed development area. However, this new plantation woodland also occurs along the northern edge of the western part of the solar farm, as a spur running north-south across the area, and along the eastern flank of the solar farm none of which are mentioned, which is notable as it is apparent from the site layout that areas of this plantation woodland will be lost, but this is not identified in the ecology report. Furthermore, the Planning Statement erroneously states, in Paragraph 7.22 that "the proposed development does not require the removal of any trees and is located sufficient distance from the trees to ensure that no development will take place within the root protection area of any of the trees, therefore ensuring no physical damage to the health of the trees during construction due to the nature of the development and the distance from the trees there are no issues with regards to long term compatibility between the solar panels and the trees". This is clearly not the case, and requires addressing.

Regarding species, reference is made in paragraph 4.12 to a bat survey which recorded four common pipistrelle bats, but no further details are provided – these need to be submitted. The report also states in 4.13 that the presence of terrestrial-based great crested newts cannot be discounted and they are "taken forward in this assessment", but no further information is provided (which is a notable omission given the known presence of this species in the immediate vicinity). Furthermore, no reference is made to the possible presence of reptiles, despite the presence of apparently suitable habitat.

In order to be able to fully assess the potential impact of the development on these protected species, it is necessary for these surveys/assessments be completed prior to the determination of this application. It should be noted that Government Circular 01/2005: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation – statutory obligations and their impact within the planning system (which remains in force since adoption of the NPPF) states, in paragraph 99, that:

"It is essential that the presence or otherwise of a protected species, and the extent that they may be affected by the proposed development, is established before planning permission is granted, otherwise all material considerations may not have been addressed in making the decision. The need to ensure ecological surveys are carried out should therefore only be left to coverage under planning conditions in exceptional circumstances..."

Impact and habitat loss

The Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey report undertakes a preliminary assessment of impacts in section 6, but a full assessment of impacts arising from the scheme is required, along with details of mitigation and compensation and an identification of any residual ecological impacts. This should include potential indirect impacts, including those occurring during the construction period.

Details of measures to enhance the site for biodiversity should also be provided, for example seeding the grassland areas between the solar arrays with a wildflower mix.

Other issues

It should be noted that habitat compensation works to provide replacement breeding habitat for little ringed plovers displaced by the recently constructed Bilsthorpe Highways depot where put in place within the area covered by the solar farm. It appears that the area where this compensatory habitat was created will be lost as a result of this development, so alternative measures would need to be secured. It will also be necessary to check if these works were secured by a Section 106 agreement.

Summary

In summary I am unable to support this planning application because:

- e) the ecological information presented amounts only to an Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey; no proper assessment of impacts has been carried out, and no details of mitigation/compensation are provided.
- f) no consultation with the Nottinghamshire Biological and Geological Records Centre has been carried out, and the presence of notable sites and species in the area around the site has been overlooked as a consequence.
- g) a number of further surveys/assessments are required to support the application, especially in relation to potential impacts on great crested newts and reptiles
- h) the loss of compensatory habitat delivered by an unrelated scheme has not been addressed

These issues all need addressing prior to the determination of this application as otherwise it will not be possible to properly assess the ecological impacts of the proposed scheme.

We trust you will find the above comments of use, but if you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Nick Crouch Senior Practitioner Nature Conservation

Appendix 5 – Detailed Historic Environment Comments

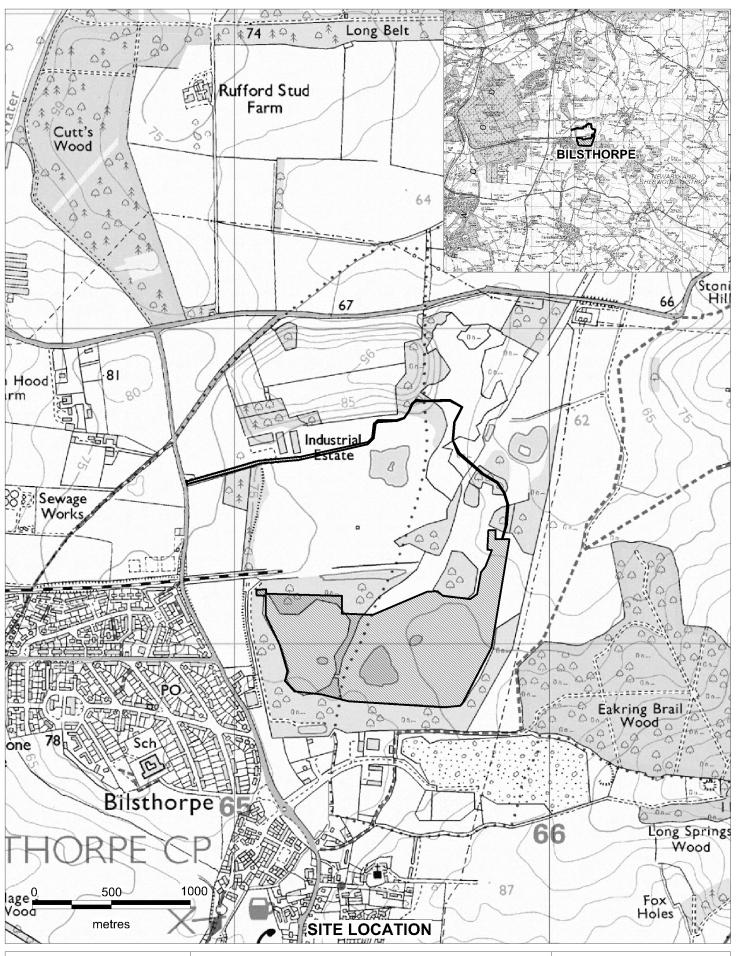
Nina.

My comments from a cultural heritage viewpoint.

- 1. This application should be subject of a full EIA. The scale of the development area and the close proximity of sensitive designated heritage assets (Bilsthorpe conservation area within 800m and grade I listed parish church) indicate that this is a sensitive historic environment. The proposal would generate significant environmental effects through its impact on the protected setting of these (and other) designated heritage assets within the zone of visual influence of the proposals. As such the proposals do fall within Schedule 2 of the EIA Regulations and Barton Willmore's letter of 21st November 2012 is inaccurate in stating otherwise.
- 2. The proposal site is within 2km of two conservation areas and a high number of listed buildings, including at least one of national significance (grade I listed). This is acknowledged in the Barton Willmore Landscape Appraisal report of Sept 2012. There will be a visual impact on the setting of these designated heritage assets, it is clear from the viewpoint photomontages that the grade I listed church of St Margaret's and the conservation are of Bilsthorpe are within the 'zone of visual influence' of the proposed solar farm. The landscape and visual appraisal does not contain a proper assessment of the impacts of the proposals on these designated heritage assets.
- 3. As such, there is insufficient information submitted by the applicant to fulfil the requirements of paragraph 128 of the NPPF.
- 4. My own assessment of the potential impacts of the proposed solar farm (in accordance with para 129 of the NPPF) indicate that there is great deal of potential for damage to the setting of the designated conservation areas, listed buildings and registered parkland (of Rufford Abbey).
- 5. I have no information, or record of a consultation, regarding the '5 wind turbines' referred to by Barton Willmore in their Planning Statement (para 3.2) as granted at appeal. Clearly the solar farm and turbines must be considered in terms of their potential 'cumulative impact' in accordance with the English Heritage Setting of Heritage Assets guidance of Oct 2011. However, I could find no cross reference (other than in paragraph 3.2 of the Planning Statement) in any of the environmental impact documents, such as the Landscape and Visual Appraisal.

There is insufficient information provided in the reports so far presented to demonstrate that the proposals are acceptable in terms of national and local planning policies regarding cultural heritage. Much more information is required with regards to the impacts on designated cultural heritage of the surrounding historic environment before it can be properly assessed within the requirements of the EIA regulations and the NPPF. Consultation with English Heritage is also required by merit of the impact on the setting of grade I listed church of St Margaret's Bilsthorpe.

Jason Mordan Senior Practitioner Historic Buildings





Proposed Solar Farm, Bilsthorpe Business Park, Eakring Road, Bilsthorpe, Notts.

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Report to Environment & Sustainability Committee

14 February 2013

Agenda Item: 7

REPORT OF GROUP MANAGER, PLANNING STRATEGIC PLANNING OBSERVATIONS

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide a summary of the current status of planning consultations received, and being dealt with, by the County Council from Nottinghamshire District and Borough Councils and central government.

Information and Advice

- 2. Policy, Planning and Corporate Services has received 12 planning consultations during the period 3rd December 2012 to 19th December 2012.
- 3. Appendix A contains a list of all the planning consultations received during the above period.

Other Options Considered

4. There are no alternative options to consider as the report is for information only.

Reason for Recommendation

5. This report is for information only.

Statutory and Policy Implications

6. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

RECOMMENDATION

1) This report is for information only.

Sally Gill

Planning Group Manager

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Nina Wilson, Principal Planning Officer, Planning Policy Team, ext 73793

Background Papers

Individual Consultations and their responses.

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Constitutional Comments

7. As this report is for noting only constitutional comments are not required.

Financial Comments ()

8. There are no direct financial implications arising from the contents of this report.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

Appendix A – Nottinghamshire County Council: Planning Consultations Received – December 2012

Date Received	ID	Address	Details	Officer Dealing	Response Type	Notes
3.12.12	Melton Borough Council		Melton Local Development Framework – Core Strategy (Publication) Development Plan Document – Submission and Examination	NW	Ö	On-going
4.12.12	Ashfield District Council V/2012/0556	Land to the North of Mansfield Road, Skegby	Outline application for residential development	NW	0	Letter sent 17 December
5.12.12	Gedling Borough Council 2012/1322	Arnold Seely Church of England Primary School, Burntstump Hill	Erection of timber canopy and 51 sqm decking area to existing school building to provide outdoor learning environment	KH	0	Letter sent 19 December
6.12.12	Gedling Borough Council 2012/1437	54 Nottingham Road, Ravenshead	Alterations and extension to house	KH	0	Letter sent 3 January
11.12.12	Ashfield District Council V/12/2012	Land at Annesley Road, Hucknall	Erection of warehouse for B1, B2 and B8, Sui Generis and Open Storage Uses	NW	0	Letter sent 18 December
12.12.12	Ashfield District Council V/2012/0568	Unit F1a Oddicroft Lane, Sutton in Ashfield	Erection of Industrial/Distribution Warehouse with Office Accommodation	NW	0	Letter sent 18 December
12.12.12	Newark & Sherwood District Council 12/01594/FULM	Bilsthorpe Business Park, Eakring Road, Bilsthorpe	Solar Farm	NW	С	Going to Environment and Sustainability Committee 14 th February 2013

17.12.12	Gedling Borough Council 2012/1418	Police Headquarters, Sherwood Lodge	Two temporary 10m long steel storage containers on the headquarters site will be retained on a permanent basis	KH	0	On-going
Date	ID	Address	Details	Officer	Response	Notes
Received				Dealing	Type	
17.12.12	Rushcliffe Borough Council 12/02117/ADVICE	Hill House Farm, 235 Melton Road, Edwalton	Residential Development	NW	0	Letter sent 21 December
18.12.12	Rushcliffe Borough Council 12/02070/HYBRID	Stanford Hall, Melton Road, Stanford on Soar	Full Planning Permission for the redevelopment of Stanford Hall and ancillary buildings into a Defence rehabilitation establishment (class C2/D1)	NW	0	On-going
18.12.12	Ashfield District Council V/2012/0574	Crown Aerosols UK Ltd, Oddicroft Lane, Sutton in Ashfield	Erection of Demountable Building	NW	0	On-going
19.12.12	Gedling Borough Council 2012/1445	421 Mapperley Plains, Nottingham	Proposed alteration and extension of existing garage to form new dwelling	KH	0	On-going

Response type

- C Committee
- O Officer



Report to Environment and Sustainability Committee

14 February 2013

Agenda Item: 8

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR FOR TRANSPORT, PROPERTY AND ENVIRONMENT

PERFORMANCE REPORT - WASTE MANAGEMENT

Purpose of the Report

1. This report provides information to the Committee on the performance of the Waste Management Group (WMG) in performing its role as statutory Waste Disposal Authority (WDA) for Nottinghamshire.

Information and Advice

- 2. Waste management is a service area within the County Council which is used by every one of the County's 780,000 residents. The WMG manages around 390,000 tonnes of Local Authority Collected Waste every year, of which around 80,000 tonnes is delivered to the network of 14 Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC) and 310,000 tonnes is collected from residential properties and businesses by the seven District and Borough Councils in Nottinghamshire in their role as statutory Waste Collection Authorities (WCA).
- 3. The service has an annual value of circa £30m.

Summary of Performance

- 4. **Appendix 1** shows current levels of performance for the service area, including a flow diagram that indicates how current performance measures link together, which summarises the overall effectiveness and efficiency of the service area.
- 5. Overall the service is performing well, with recycling and landfill diversion holding up well in the current difficult economic climate.
- 6. In particular exceptional recycling levels, averaging over 80%, and extremely high customer satisfaction scores at the Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC) reflect the quality of the service provided through the PFI contract with Veolia Environmental Services (VES).
- 7. The service continues to work with a range of providers to minimise the amount of waste sent to landfill, and protect the authority from the impacts of landfill tax, which is currently increasing at £8/tonne/annum (equating to an additional annual budget requirement of £1.2m). Overall waste arisings so far in 2012/13 are

static, even taking account of a significant increase in green waste tonnages resulting from the wet summer, and relatively warm winter.

Analysis

- 8. Despite the prevailing difficult economic conditions, and the extended down time at the Eastcroft Energy from Waste (EfW) plant due to failures at the City Councils EnviroEnergy (EE) district heating facility during August and September 2012, the strategic plan action to "Reduce reliance on landfill for waste disposal" continues to be achieved (SBA11).
- 9. The two supporting performance indicators to SBA11, SBP14 "Residual household waste (per household)" and SBP15 "Municipal waste landfilled" are both on course to be met in 2012/13. As stated in paragraph 7 above, although overall tonnages are relatively static, the higher proportion of green waste in that tonnage is driving down the residual waste figure.
- 10. The Council maintains exceptionally high levels of customer satisfaction through the HWRC service (98% very satisfied/satisfied on-site, 93% off site) and is working with corporate communications and VES to improve signage and information at the sites, and with VES to extend the range of reuse and recycling facilities available, including expanding the Nottinghamshire Community RePaint scheme to Beeston and Newark HWRC.
- 11. A number of performance indicators are also detailed in the flow diagram in *Appendix 1* to help the Committee assess the overall effectiveness of the service.

Other Options Considered

12. None – this is an information report.

Reasons for Recommendations

13. Waste management is a significant area of spend for the Council, and has a major impact on the environmental and economic well being of the County. It is essential therefore that the Environment and Sustainability Committee is fully briefed on issues which impact on the delivery of the service.

Statutory and Policy Implications

14. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

15. The monitoring of service performance will ensure that the circa £30m spent on waste management in Nottinghamshire every year will be used efficiently and effectively.

Implications for Service Users

16. The continued investment in waste management will ensure that quality standards are maintained and appropriate services provided to meet local needs.

Recommendation

1. That Committee note the contents of the report.

Mick Allen Group Manager, Waste and Energy Management

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Mick Allen, Group Manager, Waste and Energy Management

Constitutional Comments

17. This report is for noting only.

Financial Comments

18. This report is for noting only. There are no direct financial implications contained in the report.

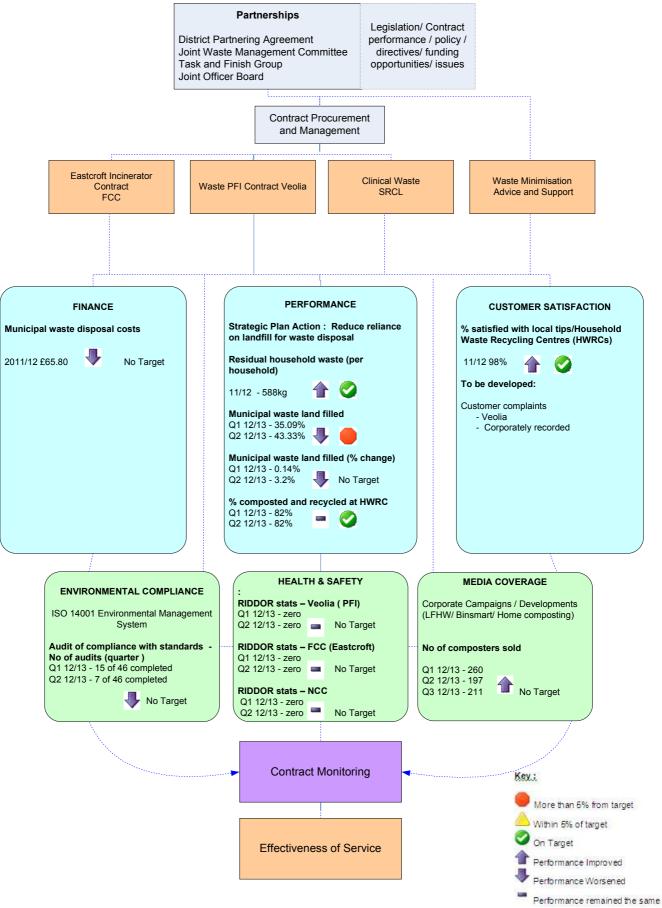
Background Papers

None.

Electoral Divisions

ΑII

Waste Management Committee Report Quarter 3 2012/13



Waste Management Committee Report Quarter 3 2012/13



FINANCIAL

Indicator	Maximise or Minimise	Actual Vs Target			Tre	nd Cha	art		Improvements
Municipal waste disposal costs	Aim to Minimise	Actual £65.80 Target No target	£70.00	1.00	£62.00	£65.80	nedis	—— Target (Years)	The Council is working with Veolia on a number of waste minimisation projects (such as Love Food Hate Waste) in order to ensure as little waste as possible is generated in the County, and developing a Revised Project Plan to the PFI waste contract to minimise the amount of waste sent to landfill to protect the council from exposure to landfill tax increases.

PERFORMANCE

Indicator	Maximise or Minimise	Actual Vs Target	Trend Chart	Improvements
Municipal waste land filled	Aim to Minimise	Actual 43.33% Target 39.00%	75.00% 25.00% 25.00% 25.00% 25.00%	Figure is actual qtr. 2 figure, waste landfilled was higher than usual this qtr. due to the extended shut down at Eastcroft ERF. This should correct itself however in Qtr3 and Qtr4 when the facility becomes re-operational



500.0kg

Indicator	Maximise or Minimise	Actual Vs Target	Trend Chart	Improvements
Municipal waste land filled (percentage change) (KPI)	Aim to Maximise	Actual -3.2 Target	6.0	Performance for Q2 was down 3.15%, due to maintenance carried out at the Eastcroft facility during Qtr 2 and 3 and the knock on effects of prolonged break downs and unavailability at the Enviroenergy district heat facility. This will have an impact on the levels of waste that is land filled, however this should recover once the facility is back to full operation during late Qtr 3 and 4.

Revised Project Plan to the PFI waste

exposure to landfill tax increases.

contract to minimise the amount of waste sent to landfill to protect the council from

CUSTOMER SATISFACTION

Indicator	Maximise or Minimise	Actual Vs Target			Tre	nd Cha	art		Improvements
% satisfied with local tips/Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs)	Aim to Maximise	Actual 98% Target 90%	90% 80% 70% 60% 50% 40% 30% 20% 10%	9896	98%	98%	98%	—— Target (Years)	The Council is working with Veolia to improve signage and information through the HWRC service to make the sites even more accessible for customers, and is seeking to extend the range of reuse and recycling facilities available at the sites (paint reuse service extensions, cooking oil bank installation). Given the current exceptional levels of customer satisfaction, off-site satisfaction surveys are currently being piloted to capture resident's views away from the sites, including the views of non-users.



14 February 2013

Agenda Item: 9

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR FOR TRANSPORT, PROPERTY AND ENVIRONMENT

PERFORMANCE REPORT - ENERGY AND CARBON MANAGEMENT

Purpose of the Report

1. This report provides information to the Committee on the performance of the energy and carbon management service.

Information and Advice

- 2. The energy and carbon management function provides a service on behalf of the Council's corporate estate, including schools, to ensure supply of electricity, gas and wood fuel is available at competitive rates; to promote and support investment in energy efficiency measures; to support investment in renewable energy technologies; to ensure compliance with energy-related legislation and to manage consumption data to enable effective monitoring, forecasting and reporting.
- 3. Performance measurement on energy and carbon management has been subject to changing central government requirements and legislation although the County Council is currently obliged to report its annual carbon emissions under the Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency Scheme (CRCEES).
- 4. Environment and Sustainability Committee should note that a detailed report on energy costs and procurement is scheduled to be presented to Finance and Property Committee on 25 February 2013.

Summary of Performance

- 5. CRCEES outcomes are only reported annually therefore no quarterly update on this is available for 2012/13. However attached is an appendix and flow chart containing both a summary of 2011/12 CRCEES data, and more importantly performance information covering Quarter 3 of 2012/13 in relation to other (not directly CRCEES related) elements of the service.
- 6. This indicates that overall performance for the service is still good, with a wide range of renewable technology initiatives being installed across the corporate estate, high take up of the Local Authority Energy Finance (LAEF) funding scheme, and a resultant drop in energy use and carbon emissions. Together with the increase in income generation from Feed in Tariffs (FiTs) and the Renewable Heat Incentive

(RHI) the service is contributing significantly to the efficient use of resources for the council against a backdrop of rapidly rising energy/fuel prices.

7. In order to maximise the opportunities offered by both the RHI and FiTs the council has already commenced a major Biomass Boiler replacement programme, and is seeking to extend it's investment in Photovoltaic panels with a further tranche of PV installations on council properties. A report to Finance and Property Committee seeking approval to this latter programme is currently being prepared.

Analysis

- 8. The scale of the reduction in CRCEES emissions from buildings reported to Committee in the performance report in September 2012 was largely due to the mild winter of 2011-12, compared to the fairly severe winter of 2010-11. At the time of drafting this report the winter of 2012-13 has also been relatively mild (even accounting for the short cold snap in January) and sustaining these reductions seems a realistic proposition particularly given the building rationalisation and improvements recently made under the Council's Ways of Working programme, combined with the renewable energy investment measures mentioned above.
- 9. Emissions for street lighting, signs and signals are less subject to weather patterns. Action to improve performance in this area primarily rests with Highways, where in addition to the part-night lighting programme officers are actively exploring opportunities for investment in low energy equipment.
- 10. Committee should be aware that although CRCEES cost for 2012/13 are being effectively managed and should be similar if not lower than costs incurred in 2011/12, the rate per tonne charge is set to increase from £12/tonne in 2012/13 and 2013/14, to £16/tonne in 2014/15. Other changes to the scheme may however help mitigate the council's financial risk under the scheme. These changes are currently subject to consultation.

Other Options Considered

11. None – this is a noting report.

Reasons for Recommendations

12. Energy and carbon management is a significant area of spend for the Council, and has a major impact on the environmental and economic well being of the County. It is essential therefore that the Environment and Sustainability Committee is fully briefed on issues which impact on the delivery of the service.

Statutory and Policy Implications

13. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below.

Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Implications for Service Users

14. Performance in this service area has a major impact on schools in Nottinghamshire, with the vast majority of non fee paying schools buying electricity and gas through the Council's contracts. For schools and non school sites alike, good energy management and sensible investment can help limit the impacts of the predicted upward trend in energy costs and even yield budget savings, in addition to the environmental benefits accrued from reducing carbon emissions and pollution associated with the use of fossil fuels.

Recommendation

15. That Committee note the contents of the report.

Mick Allen Group Manager, Waste and Energy Management

For any enquiries about this report please contact:
Mick Allen, Group Manager, Waste and Energy Management

Constitutional Comments

16. This report is for noting only.

Financial Comments

17. This report is for noting only. There are no direct financial implications contained in the report.

Background Papers

None

Electoral Divisions

ΑII

Energy and Carbon Management Committee Report – Quarter 3 2012/13



Finance

Indicator	Maximise or Minimise	Actual Vs Target	Trend Chart	Improvements
		Actual	£45,000 £47,051	
		£47,051	£40,000	
	Maria a sanat		£35,000	Annual income to date from Feed in Tariff
Engues / Managament		Target	£30,000 - £25,000 -	payments for solar Photo Volaic Cells (PVs)
Energy Management - Cumulative Income	Aim to Maximise			installed under SunVolt programme amount to £47,051 (9.65% RoI so far), with
Generation to NCC	7		£15,000	additional avoidance of c£11,000 worth of
			£10,000	electricity costs and carbon savings of 100
			£5,000	tonnes.
		?	EO Transia tra	

Indicator	Maximise or Minimise	Actual Vs Target	Trend Chart	Improvements
		Actual		
		9.65%		Annual income to date from Feed in Tariff
Energy Management - Cumulative Income Generation to NCC - Return	Aim to Maximise	Target		payments for solar Photo Volaic Cells (PVs) installed under SunVolt programme amount to £47,051 (9.65% RoI so far), with
on Investment		No target		additional avoidance of c£11,000 worth of electricity costs and carbon savings of 100 tonnes.

Indicator	Maximise or Minimise	Actual Vs Target	Trend Chart	Improvements
Energy Management - Cumulative Income Generation to NCC - Energy Cost Savings	Aim to Maximise	Actual £11,000 Target No Target		Annual income to date from Feed in Tariff payments for solar Photo Volaic Cells (PVs) installed under SunVolt programme amount to £47,051 (9.65% RoI so far), with additional avoidance of c£11,000 worth of electricity costs and carbon savings of 100 tonnes.

Indicator	Maximise or Minimise	Actual Vs Target	Trend Chart	Improvements
Effectiveness of our Energy efficiency recycling fund (Salix) - annual energy savings	Aim to Maximise	£91,300 Target	£90,000 £80,000 £70,000 £60,000 £40,000 £30,000 £20,000 £10,000 £10,000 £10,000 £10,000	So far this year the energy efficiency recycling fund has committed £327,000 to a range of measures in Council buildings and schools, which equates to annual energy savings worth £91,300 and annual carbon savings of 587 tonnes (an additional CRCEES saving of £7044)

Indicator	Maximise or Minimise	Actual Vs Target	Trend Chart	Improvements
		Actual 10.88% Target		The total tonnes are 91968 which is a reduction of 10.88% against last years figure of 103,198 tonnes. The Council has a number of key programmes in place to tackle its carbon emissions. These include: - a £1.2 million revolving loan fund for increase in care of figures are to the council of the council
CO2 emissions - annual reductions	Aim to Maximise	2%	9% 90.00%	investment in energy efficiency measures, which up to the end of March 2012, had invested almost £1.2 million in the Council's schools and other buildings, saving 1,778 tonnes of carbon dioxide per year a four-year programme of street lighting energy saving measure, currently being implemented, aimed at saving 26% of street lighting energy usage (compared with 2009/10 usage) a wood heat programme, which by April 2012 had resulted in 62 Council sites with biomass boilers replacing fossil fuel heating systems, resulting in annual savings of around 6,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide. The Council will also be limiting its carbon emissions through its programme of property rationalisation and the creation of more energy efficient working environments.

Indicator	Maximise or Minimise	Actual Vs Target	Trend Chart	Improvements
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No Target	

Customer Satisfaction

Indicator	Maximise or Minimise	Actual Vs Target	Trend Chart	Improvements
Energy Management - Services for School - Buy back levels	Aim to Maximise	Actual 99% Target		All but a very few county schools and academies continue to stay on the Council's participation agreement for the supply of electricity and gas under the Council's contracts. The service was present at both of the Council's recent services for schools marketplace events



14th February 2013

Agenda Item: 10

REPORT OF GROUP MANAGER, PLANNING

REPORT ON THE CONSULTATIONS FOR NORTHAMPTONSHIRE LOCAL AGGREGATES ASSESSMENT AND THE WASTE AND MINERALS LOCAL PLAN

Purpose of the Report

 To set out the County Council's response to the consultation on the Northamptonshire Draft Minerals and Waste Local Plan and the Local Aggregate Assessment.

Information and Advice

- 2. Northamptonshire County Council is undertaking a partial review of the Minerals and Waste Development Framework. As part of this review the individual Development Plan Documents from the Development Framework will be combined into one document to form the Minerals and Waste Local Plan. The consultation on this commenced on 17 January 2013 for a period of eight weeks with the closing date for feedback being 14 March 2013. As this is a partial review, comments are only invited on changed parts of the plan.
- 3. Northamptonshire County Council are also consulting on a draft Local Aggregates Assessment with the same closing date for comments. This document details the current and future situation in Northamptonshire in terms of aggregate supply and demand including sales data, imports and exports and aggregate apportionment levels to 2031 based on rolling average of ten years sales data.
- 4. As a Minerals and Waste authority within the East Midlands it is important that Nottinghamshire County Council responds to this consultation to ensure that there is a consistent approach to policy formulation and future minerals apportionment.
- 5. The draft Minerals and Waste Local Plan (2011 to 2031) identifies what minerals and waste related development should go where, why it should go there, and how by doing so, it can make other land use and infrastructure systems function better. It considers the impact and design of new minerals and waste development, and focuses on how this development can best relate to the surrounding land use and link with the wider community.

- 6. It is also intended to act as a driver for new investment and identifies how investment in minerals and waste development can be optimised for everyone's benefit. It focuses and integrates minerals and waste development activity and investment with other development and investment in the county.
- 7. The majority of existing policies are being retained or merged although there are some detailed changes to policies on site restoration, environmental protection, sustainability, transport, and climate change to reflect the introduction of the National Planning Policy Framework. There are no changes to the spatial approach for either minerals or waste development but the minerals apportionment figures have been revised (see more detailed discussion below). Future waste forecasts have also been updated to take account of the continuing impacts of the recession. There is, however, still an assumption of long-term growth and the draft plan identifies a need for additional waste treatment and disposal capacity over the plan period.
- 8. A specific issue for Northamptonshire is the disposal of hazardous and low level radioactive waste. The existing site at King's Cliffe is one of the few sites available nationally for these categories of waste. The plan's approach is therefore to seek to safeguard this capacity for essential use by encouraging other areas to make adequate provision for any waste which can be managed safely at other, less-specialist, facilities. Hazardous and low level radioactive waste from Nottinghamshire is disposed of at Kings Cliffe.
- 9. Northamptonshire's overall approach to future waste management provision aims to be net self-sufficient. This means that they will provide for the equivalent of their own waste arisings, thereby allowing a degree of flexibility in waste movements between local authority areas. This is the same as the approach set out within Nottinghamshire's draft Waste Core Strategy.
- 10. The main mineral resources in Northamptonshire are sand and gravel and limestone.
- 11. The draft Local Aggregates Assessment sets out the aggregate apportionment levels to 2031 and is consistent with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and new guidance: 'Guidance on the Managed Aggregate Supply System' (DCLG, 2012) which has been published to assist Mineral Planning Authorities (MPA's) in planning for a steady and balanced supply of aggregates. The new guidance requires each Minerals Planning Authority to calculate their own apportionments on the basis of average aggregate sales over a ten year rolling period and other relevant local information. These new guidelines have marked a shift away from the previous 'historic shares' sub-regional approach to apportionment creation where a nationally prescribed regional apportionment figure was sub-divided proportionality within the region.
- 12. The sand and gravel apportionment based on the 10 year (2001-11) average sales methodology is 0.52 million tonnes. This is considerably lower than the existing adopted figure of 0.97 million tonnes and the draft 2009 apportionment figure of 0.78 million tonnes agreed by the East Midlands Aggregate Working Party (EMAWP). However Northamptonshire consider this to be the most

- appropriate figure given the falling sand and gravel production over the last 10 years and the lack of new sand and gravel capacity in the future.
- 13. Northamptonshire County Council considers the existing limestone (crushed rock) apportionment figure of 0.39 is appropriate to maintain in the new plan. This is higher than the draft 2009 apportionment figure of 0.3 million tonnes agreed by the EMAWP and the 10 year average sales methodology of 0.35 million tonnes. It is considered suitable to maintain the higher apportionment figure as limestone production has been increasing over recent years despite the recession.
- 14. The Northamptonshire draft Local Aggregates Assessment will be submitted to the Aggregates Working Party (RAWP), an advisory body made up of Minerals Planning Authorities across the East Midlands and which Nottinghamshire County Council is a member of, for consideration and scrutiny. The working party has a role to monitor the operation of the managed aggregate supply system through providing technical advice, particularly on the apportionment of supply provision.

Proposed Response

- 15. Merging the existing minerals and waste policy documents into a single Minerals and Waste local Plan will bring them into line with the latest guidance on plan preparation. There are no significant impacts for Nottinghamshire arising from these proposals and the commitment to net self-sufficiency for waste management and approach towards future minerals provision is supported.
- 16. Nottinghamshire County Council considers that the method utilised by Northamptonshire County Council to arrive at the future apportionment for sand and gravel and crushed rock is the most appropriate and realistic and is consistent with current national guidance contained within the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the DCLG document 'Guidance on the Managed Aggregate Supply System'.
- 17. The disposal of hazardous and low level radioactive waste from Nottinghamshire in Northamptonshire (Kings Cliffe) is included in the Nottinghamshire and Nottingham Waste Core Strategy. The County Council needs to be aware of Northamptonshire's proposals in this regard. Dialogue between the two authorities demonstrates that they are fulfilling the Duty to Co-operate as set out in the Localism Act and the National Planning Policy Framework.

Other Options Considered

18. As the consultation requires representations to be made on Northamptonshire's draft Minerals and Waste Local Plan and draft Local Aggregates Assessment the only other option is not to make representations.

Reason for Recommendation

19. To provide a considered response to Northamptonshire and the Aggregates Working Party.

Statutory and Policy Implications

20. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, the public sector equality duty, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

21. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

Implications for Sustainability and the Environment

22. The failure to consider the representations of the County Council on Minerals and Waste matters of a neighbouring authority could lead to unsustainable development taking place. The minerals and waste planning interests of the County Council could also be compromised.

RECOMMENDATION

1) That Committee approve the above response to Northamptonshire's draft Minerals and Waste Local Plan and draft Local Aggregates Assessment.

Sally Gill Planning Group Manager

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Lisa Bell, Team Leader – Planning Policy, ext 74547

Constitutional Comments

23. Committee have power to decide the recommendation (SHB 23.01.13)

Financial Comments

24. The financial implications are set out in paragraph 19 of the report (TMR 22.01.13)

Background Papers

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.



14th February 2013

Agenda Item: 11

REPORT OF GROUP MANAGER, PLANNING

REPORT ON THE REVIEW OF PLANNING PRACTICE GUIDANCE

Purpose of the Report

 To set out the County Council's response to the consultation on the report submitted by Lord Matthew Taylor of Goss Moor to the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) on the external review of Government Planning Practice Guidance.

Information and Advice

- 2. In October 2012 the Government announced a review of planning practice guidance led by Lord Taylor of Goss Moor, intending to streamline the existing 7,000 pages of guidance to make the planning system swifter and more accessible. It was made clear at this time that this review would not involve any changes to national policy set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).
- 3. On the 21st December 2012 the Government published a short consultation on the recommendations contained within the review. The review group's report makes recommendations as to the scope and form of practice guidance that should be provided in future by Government to support effective planning; what new or updated practice guidance should be published, with clear priorities; and what guidance should be cancelled. Responses to DCLG are due by the 15th February 2013.
- 4. The report makes recommendations as to the scope and form of practice guidance that should be provided in future, what new or updated practice should be published and what guidance should be cancelled. The documents have been categorised into three groups:
 - <u>Cancellation:</u> These documents should be cancelled as soon as practical.
 There are 103 documents in this group including a number of letters to Chief Planning Officers and Circulars dating back to 1963;
 - <u>Withdrawn:</u> Documents in this group deal with important subject areas that need to be covered in future guidance but in a different form. These documents should be withdrawn but relevant material incorporated into revised guidance. There are 28 documents in this group including Urban

- Design in the Planning System (2000) and Planning Obligations Practice Guidance (2008);
- <u>Keep:</u> Documents here include material critical to the effective working of the planning system. Whilst these are to be kept the report states that they should be reformed into a web based resource. There are 106 documents in this group and include a number of Planning Inspectorate guidance notes.

A list of the documents and the manner in which each should be dealt can be viewed using the following link:

https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/review-of-planning-practice-guidance

- 5. The report concludes that the existing guidance should be cut down to that which is essential and clearly defined. Essential paragraphs, processes and pointers in each of the guidance notes should be identified and the guidance should be cut down to suit those elements. The report acknowledges that, whilst the guidance is essential to all involved in the planning process, there are limitations as to what the guidance can achieve; it cannot replace local judgment and the application of professional expertise.
- 6. Recommendations on how to ensure that new guidance is clearer and more succinct include:
 - Practice guidance should be a web based, live resource, hosted on a single site as a coherent and up to date guidance suite;
 - The web site should be centred on the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and provide guidance that is not lengthy but provides essential information and processes;
 - There should be an annual review to ensure that guidance remains relevant;
 - Advice from the Planning Inspectorate should be included within a new single coherent guidance resource to ensure consistency;
 - Other Government departments may publish guidance but it should only constitute formal Government Planning Practice Guidance once it is admitted to the website:
 - There should be signposts to best practice by others but this should not endorse specific documents;
 - DCLG should consider sponsoring or encouraging an awards scheme as the best way Government can support the dissemination of up to date best practice.
- 7. The review also identified the need for new guidance on key topics to support the Localism Act and the National Planning Policy Framework including:
 - The duty to co-operate;
 - Local green space designation;
 - Neighbourhood planning.
- 8. The consultation on the review sets out a series of 9 questions to which responses are welcomed. The County Council's response is set out in Appendix A.

Other Options Considered

9. As the consultation requires representations to be made on the review of planning practice guidance the only other option was not to make representations however, the Committee can consider whether any amendments to the response as set out in the appendix are necessary.

Reason for Recommendation

10. To provide a considered response to DCLG.

Statutory and Policy Implications

11. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, the public sector equality duty, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

12. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

Implications for Sustainability and the Environment

13. The failure to consider the representations of the County Council on strategic planning and highways matters could lead to unsustainable development taking place. The minerals and waste planning interests of the County Council could also be compromised by the lack of a suitable guidance.

RECOMMENDATION

1) That Committee approve the above response to DCLG's questions on the Government's review of planning practice guidance.

Sally Gill Planning Group Manager

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Lisa Bell, Team Leader – Planning Policy, ext 74547

Constitutional Comments (SLB 04/02/2013)

14. Environment and Sustainability Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of this report. It is responsible for approving consultation responses in relation to environment and sustainability including minerals and waste planning.

Financial Comments (DJK 04.02.2013)

15. The contents of this report are duly noted; there are no financial implications.

Background Papers

https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/review-of-planning-practice-guidance

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected All.

APPENDIX A

Questions and Responses to the Review of Planning Practice Guidance Consultation

- Q1) Do you agree with the recommendation of the Review Group Overall?
 - <u>Proposed Response:</u> Nottinghamshire County Council supports the recommendation by the review group to DCLG which will ensure that all planning guidance is clear, coherent, up-to-date and easily accessible in future. It will be important that a full consultation is undertaken when any new replacement guidance documents are issued.
- Q2) Do you agree with the proposed recommendations for a much reduced set of essential practice guidance in the format recommended? (Recommendations 1, 2, 3, 5, 6)
 - <u>Proposed Response:</u> Nottinghamshire County Council agrees with the group's recommendation for a reduced set of essential practice guidance. The Council feels that this will provide a clear, open and transparent system for all users. A web based, live resource for the guidance is particularly welcomed as long as it is kept under annual monitoring and review.
- Q3) Do you agree that the standards for future Government Planning Practice Guidance should be implemented by the Chief Planner in DCLG, but with decisions on what to include within guidance still taken by Ministers? (Recommendation 4)
 - <u>Proposed Response:</u> The Council believes that this recommendation will assist in shortening the length of time it takes for new/updated guidance to be released.
- Q4) While access to all planning guidance online will be free of charge, do you think it would be appropriate to offer planning professionals an additional service involving immediate notification of every revision to the guidance, and to make a small charge for this service? (Recommendation 6)
 - <u>Proposed Response:</u> Nottinghamshire County Council welcomes the recommendation to access the on-line guidance free of charge, however the Council do not believe that charging for notifications of updates to the guidance is appropriate and would be inappropriate to use Council's budgets for information which is required to deliver the planning service. The Council also feel that without the notifications, out-of-date guidance and information could be used when producing local plans and making decisions on future developments.
- Q5) Do you agree that the new web based resource should be clearly identified as the unique source of Government Planning Practice Guidance? (Recommendations 7-9)

<u>Proposed Response:</u> The Council agrees that the Planning Inspectorate guidance should be incorporated into the new web based resource to allow for a single point of access. By 'signposting' good practice the Government is providing endorsement of certain items, this could result in resources being diverted to maintaining signposting and also who will set the standards for such signposting? This could potentially divert resources away from updating guidance in the first place, which is the whole point of this exercise.

Q6) Do you agree with the recommended timescales for cancellation of guidance and new/revised guidance being put in place? (Recommendations 10-13)

<u>Proposed Response:</u> Nottinghamshire County Council feels that the new guidance website should be implemented as soon as practicably possible (allowing for appropriate consultation exercises where necessary). The urgency to complete this process is welcomed. The recommendation allowing users of the new resource to provide comments on its weaknesses and suggest improvements is particularly welcomed.

Q7) Do you agree with the recommended priority list for new/revised guidance? (Recommendations 14-16)

<u>Proposed Response:</u> Nottinghamshire County Council believe that the proposed retained companion guide to PPS10 (and the proposed new National Waste Management Plan) should be included as a high priority to ensure consistency throughout the planning process.

- Q8) Do you agree with the recommended priority list for new/revised guidance? (Recommendations 17-18)
 - <u>Proposed Response:</u> Nottinghamshire County Council agree with the recommended priority list for new/revised guidance.
- Q9) Are there any further points you would like to make in response to the Review Group's Report? Do you have additional ideas to improve and/or streamline planning practice guidance?

<u>Proposed Response:</u> Nottinghamshire County Council support the majority of the recommendations in the review and welcome the streamlined approach to future planning guidance.



14th February 2013

Agenda Item: 12

REPORT OF GROUP MANAGER, PLANNING

UPDATE ON THE SUBMISSION OF THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AND NOTTINGHAM WASTE CORE STRATEGY TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Purpose of the Report

 To provide an update to Committee on the formal submission of the Nottinghamshire and Nottingham Waste Core Strategy to the Secretary of State for Examination.

Information and Advice

- 2. Preparation of the Waste Core Strategy has gone through three informal consultation stages on Issues and Options (2006), Further Issues and Options (2010) and the Preferred Approach (2011). The Draft Waste Core Strategy (Proposed Submission Document) was then published for a formal period of public representations between 5 March and 30 April 2012. This 'publication' stage coincided with the introduction of the new National Planning Policy Framework and the Councils subsequently prepared a Schedule of Proposed Changes to the Waste Core Strategy which took account of both the representations received and significant national policy changes. A further 6 week period for formal representations on these changes finished on 12th November 2012.
- 3. Approval was obtained from Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County Councils in December to submit the draft Waste Core Strategy to the Secretary of State, along with the Schedule of Proposed Changes, additional minor modifications and responses to consultations. These formed part of a bundle of submission documents which included the Sustainability Appraisal, Habitats Regulation Assessment screening, Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and other relevant evidence, statements and background papers.
- 4. The draft Waste Core Strategy was formally submitted to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for independent examination on 14th January 2013 and the Planning Inspectorate have now appointed Inspector Susan Holland to conduct the examination. To assist the Inspector, the Councils have appointed Mandy Chatterton as the Programme Officer for the Waste Core Strategy examination.

- 5. The Inspector has been in contact with the Programme Officer and suggested that the pre-hearing meeting will be held during week commencing 4th March 2013 with the hearing likely to be either week commencing 6th or 13th May 2013.
- 6. Following the Examination, the Inspector will publish a report which will set out whether or not the Plan is sound. Where it is not considered to be sound she will suggest any further changes, agreed at the hearing, which should be made to make it so. These will subsequently need to be approved by both Councils before the Plan can be adopted formally. It is anticipated that, if the plan is found sound, the Councils will adopt the Waste Core Strategy in Autumn 2013.

Other Options Considered

7. There are no alternative options to consider as the report is for information only.

Reason for Recommendation

8. This report is for information only.

Statutory and Policy Implications

9. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, the public sector equality duty, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

10. A reserve of £325,000 has been established to cover the costs of the Examination of the plan by the independent Inspector. It is still unclear as to the total cost of the examination as this will be dependent upon the number of 'sitting' days for the formal hearing, this may become clear once the pre-hearing meeting has taken place.

Implications for Sustainability and the Environment

11. The production of the Waste Core Strategy is a statutory function of the County Council.

RECOMMENDATION

1) That Committee note the current position with regards to the formal submission of the Nottinghamshire and Nottingham Waste Core Strategy.

Sally Gill

Planning Group Manager

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Lisa Bell, Team Leader – Planning Policy, ext 74547

Constitutional Comments (SLB 24/01/2013)

12. This report is for noting only.

Financial Comments (DJK 28.01.2013)

13. The contents of this report are duly noted; there are no financial implications.

Background Papers

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

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14 February 2013

Agenda Item: 13

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR FOR TRANSPORT, PROPERTY AND ENVIRONMENT

INVESTMENT IN PHOTOVOLTAIC PANELS FOR CORPORATE BUILDINGS

Purpose of the Report

1. This report outlines the success of the current SunVolt Photovoltaic (PV) panel investment programme, and seeks approval to establish an annual programme of further PV installations across the corporate estate (excluding schools) as a spend to save initiative.

Information and Advice

- 2. The Council's SunVolt scheme was approved by Capital Asset Management Group (CAMG) on 12 September 2011, and Cabinet on 7 December 2011 subsequently agreed to invest £800,000 in PVs on the Council's non-school buildings.
- 3. Cabinet requested that a further report be brought forward 12 months after the installations were complete to review the outcomes from the project, and consider the case for further expansion. This report sets out the business case for a rolling programme of further PV installations.

Analysis

- 4. To date around £620,000 of the £800,000 has been invested in over 1,300 panels. In a full year these are expected to generate just under 250,000 kWh of electricity, saving around £15,000 in electricity costs at current prices, and yielding around £55,000 p.a. in Feed in Tariff (Fits) payments. The panels will also save over 100 tonnes of CO₂ p.a. and represent an annual return on investment of around 10%.
- 5. Attached is a summary business case for further investment in PVs which details the sites undertaken through the original SunVolt project, and the outcomes to date. It should be noted that most of the installations have yet to be in place for 12 months therefore the returns indicated are conservative.
- 6. The Chairman of the Environment and Sustainability Committee has secured the support of lead Members to the expansion of the programme, and therefore an indicative ongoing annual capital allocation of £250k has been

identified in the County Council budget for 2013-14 to 2016-17. This budget will be considered at the Council meeting on 28 February 2013.

7. It should be noted that the Gas and Electricity Markets Authority (Ofgem) are constantly reviewing the eligibility criteria and rates for FiTs payments, and with the ongoing review of council services and property provision it will be essential for any new PV installations to continue to offer value for money within these changing parameters. Each installation will be subject to an appropriate assessment and a summary of installations undertaken and returns expected/achieved will be reported to Committee on an annual basis

Other Options Considered

8. The do-nothing option has been discounted for the reasons detailed in the report.

Reasons for Recommendations

9. Energy and carbon management is a significant area of spend for the Council, and has a major impact on the environmental and economic well being of the County. It is essential therefore that the County Council continues to invest in appropriate technologies which both maximise income generation opportunities, and minimise the councils costs and environmental impact.

Statutory and Policy Implications

10. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Implications for Service Users

11. Good energy management and sensible investment can help limit the impacts of the predicted upward trend in energy costs and even yield budget savings, in addition to the environmental benefits accrued from reducing carbon emissions and pollution associated with the use of fossil fuels both of which help ensure the health and wellbeing of service users by minimising the impact on council budgets, and protecting the environment.

Recommendation

12. That Committee recommend to Council that the £250k annual investment in Photovoltaic panels identified in the County Council budget for the period 2013-14 to 2016-17 be approved.

Mick Allen

Group Manager, Waste and Energy Management

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Mick Allen, Group Manager, Waste and Energy Management

Constitutional Comments

13. Environment and Sustainability Committee has authority to note the report and approve the recommendation set out in this report by virtue of its terms of reference. (NAB 5.2.13)

Financial Comments

14. The financial implications are set out in paragraphs 4 and 6 of the report. (TMR 5.02.13)

Background Papers

15. Report to Cabinet dated 7 December 2011 entitled The Sun Volt Programme

Electoral Divisions

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SunVolt Programme Outline Business Case

On the 7th December 2011 Cabinet approved an investment of £800,000 in the SunVolt programme to install photovoltaic (PV) panels on the roofs of various Council properties

The first phase of installations was complete by July 2012.

Table 1: Sites details

	Effective		
Site Name	Registration Date	Cost	
Eastwood Young Peoples Centre	08/12/2011	£	64,339
Bilsthorpe Highways Depot	24/02/2012	£	104,703
Lawn View House	02/03/2012	£	96,505
Butlers Hill Children's Centre	02/03/2012	£	64,740
Fulwood Place Unit 1	29/03/2012	£	49,652
Fulwood Place Unit 2	29/03/2012	£	49,652
Fulwood View Unit 1	29/03/2012	£	52,555
Fulwood View Unit 2	29/03/2012	£	51,555
Glaisdale Parkway Library Annexe	30/07/2012	£	110,000
Worksop Library	25/07/2012	£	37,700

To date a total of £617,061 has been invested in the programme and £47,051 has been received as income from the investment. In addition to this, the panels have offset over £11,000 of electricity that the Council would otherwise have had to pay for, bringing the total financial benefit of the project to £59,530, or a return on investment of 9.65% so far. It should be noted that as yet many of the installations have not been in operation for a whole year, so the actual annual return will be higher than this. In addition to the financial benefits the programme has also prevented the generation of nearly 100 tonnes of carbon dioxide.

Although the FIT payment rates are falling for new installations the cost of PV panels are also falling. It is expected that a similar ROI can be maintained for future installations.

Table 2: Return on Investment.

Spend	£617,061
Total income to date (FIT & export income)	£48,450
Total Offset Electricity Saving	£11,080
Total	£59,530
Return on Investment	9.65%

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14 February 2013

Agenda Item: 14

REPORT OF CORPORATE DIRECTOR, POLICY, PLANNING AND CORPORATE SERVICES

WORK PROGRAMME

Purpose of the Report

1. To consider the Committee's work programme for 2012/13.

Information and Advice

- 2. The County Council requires each committee to maintain a work programme. The work programme will assist the management of the committee's agenda, the scheduling of the committee's business and forward planning. The work programme will be updated and reviewed at each pre-agenda meeting and committee meeting. Any member of the committee is able to suggest items for possible inclusion.
- 3. The attached work programme has been drafted in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, and includes items which can be anticipated at the present time. Other items will be added to the programme as they are identified.
- 4. As part of the transparency introduced by the new committee arrangements, each committee is expected to review day to day operational decisions made by officers using their delegated powers. The Committee may wish to commission periodic reports on such decisions where relevant.

Other Options Considered

5. None.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

6. To assist the committee in preparing its work programme.

Statutory and Policy Implications

7. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below.

Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

RECOMMENDATION/S

1) That the Committee's work programme be noted, and consideration be given to any changes which the Committee wishes to make.

Jayne Francis-Ward Corporate Director, Policy, Planning and Corporate Services

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Keith Ford, Senior Democratic Services Officer on 0115 9772590

Constitutional Comments (HD)

8. The Committee has authority to consider the matters set out in this report by virtue of its terms of reference.

Financial Comments (PS)

9. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

Background Papers

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

 New Governance Arrangements report to County Council – 29 March 2012 and minutes of that meeting (published)

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

ΑII

ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE - WORK PROGRAMME

Report Title	Brief summary of agenda item	For Decision or Information ?	Lead Officer	Report Author
14 th March 2013		<u>imormation :</u>		
Strategic Planning Observations	Summary of applications received.	Decision.	Sally Gill	
Nottinghamshire Switch 'n' Save Scheme	Overview of recently launched scheme.	Information	Jas Hundal	Mick Allen
18 th April 2013				
Strategic Planning Observations	Summary of applications received.	Decision.	Sally Gill	
Items to be scheduled for fu	ture meetings (dates to be confirmed)			
Photovoltaic forms of renewable energy	Further discussion of relevant issues following initial consideration of renewable energy at the Committee meeting of 29 November 2012.	Information	Jas Hundal	Mick Allen
Review of Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs)	Strategic and operational study into effectiveness of HWRC.	Information	Jas Hundal	
Review of Waste Minimisation and Recycling Initiatives	Consideration of options to progress recycling and waste minimisation across the County.	Information	Jas Hundal	

Dates and Deadlines for Environment & Sustainability Committee

Report deadline	Date of pre-agenda	Agenda publication	Date of Committee
20 December – 10am	7 January 2013 – 2pm	9 January 2012	17 January 2013
28 January - 10am	31 January 2013 – 2pm	6 February 2013	14 February 2013
20 February 2013 - 10am	25 February 2013 – 2pm	6 March 2013	14 March 2013
25 March 2013 – 10am	28 March 2013 – 2pm	10 April 2013	18 April 2013

^{*}Early due to Bank Holidays