

meeting **JOINT COMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC PLANNING & TRANSPORT**

date **14th OCTOBER 2005** agenda item number

from: **JOINT OFFICER STEERING GROUP**

report

Joint Structure Plan : Draft for Adoption

Purpose of Report

To seek the views of members on drafts of the Joint Structure Plan (JSP) Written Statement and Explanatory Memorandum following the receipt representations on the Proposed Modifications published in April 2005.

Background

1. The Draft JSP was placed on deposit in November 2003 and 124 bodies and individuals made representations on the Plan within the statutory objection period.
2. The independent Panel conducted an Examination-in-Public (EiP) in the summer of 2004, covering 11 broad matters and involving 66 organisations and individuals over 11 ½ days of discussion at the Galleries of Justice, Nottingham.
3. The Panel submitted their report in October 2004 making 31 recommendations to modify the Draft JSP. The Panel Report was considered by this Committee at its meeting on 12th November 2004.
4. Proposed Modifications to the Written Statement were placed on public deposit in April 2005 and comments requested by 27th May. This Committee considered a report summarising the main comments made at its meeting on 15th July 2005 (appended).

The Proposed Modifications

4. The two Councils must now consider the responses made to the Proposed Modifications and if they accept the officer recommendations not to make any further substantive changes to the Written Statement, the procedures leading to statutory adoption would then be implemented. If the two Councils considered that substantive changes should be made to the draft JSP as proposed to be modified, the adoption process would be delayed and a further set of Proposed Modifications agreed and published for formal representations to be made in a six-week period.
5. Officers have considered the representations made on the Proposed Modifications and a schedule of comments received and the response of the two Councils has been sent to members of this Committee under separate cover. In July, the Joint Committee were concerned with the Written Statement. Now, modifications have

being recommended to the lower case text in the Explanatory Memorandum in the light of representations made on the draft JSP of November 2003, Panel recommendations, representations on the Proposed Modifications and to update the JSP or correct factual errors.

The Adoption Process

6. Officers are recommending no substantive changes be made to the draft JSP as it was approved by both Councils in April of this year. Accordingly, if accepted by members of both Councils, the Plan would be approved for adoption, the statutory advertisements would be duly placed, and the Secretary of State would have a period of 3-weeks in which to intervene in the process. If no intervention was made, the JSP would be adopted and would then be subject to legal challenge in a six-week period following the date of adoption set down in the legal notices.
7. The appended report states in paragraph 6 that the main area of policy concern arising from the representations on the proposed modifications related to the non-acceptance by the two Councils to accept the Panel recommendation to move 500 houses from the East Bassetlaw area to the Newark area. Paragraph 10 of that report states that officer discussions were taking place with the two District Councils concerned on this matter.
8. Discussions have taken place and the position of the two Councils does not appear to have changed – Bassetlaw District supporting the non-acceptance of the Panel recommendation and Newark & Sherwood District wishing to see the recommendation accepted. The latter District has not provided any new information or arguments. More detailed work on the implications of the Panel's proposed distribution by officers of the Plan Making Authorities revises and reduces the extent of the population decline in the East Bassetlaw area from the levels reported to the two Councils previously but does not affect the thrust of the arguments put forward to support the Proposed Modifications earlier this year. It is therefore being recommended that the draft adopted Plan is not amended in this respect.
9. Members have been sent under separate cover a copy of the draft Adoption version of the Explanatory Memorandum with the changes to the Deposit Draft version identified in the text. A copy of the draft Written Statement has also been included. A copy of the revised draft Key Diagram will be displayed at the Joint Committee.
10. Members are being recommended to approve the draft Adoption documents.

RECOMMENDATION

11. It is RECOMMENDED that:
 - i) the draft Explanatory Memorandum, Written Statement and Key Diagram be approved; and
 - ii) that the Executive bodies of both Councils be informed of the views of this Committee.

Background Papers

Joint Structure Plan files relating to the EiP phase.

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