

report

meeting **JOINT COMMITTEE ON PLANNING & TRANSPORT**

date **12th November 2004** agenda item number

from: **JOINT OFFICER STEERING GROUP**

REVIEW OF THE PROTOCOL FOR THE JOINT COMMITTEE

Purpose of Report

A review of the Protocol for the Joint Committee is required every two years and the review is now due. This report concludes that few changes to the protocol are necessary.

Background

1. The Protocol for the Joint Committee as approved by the two Councils in 2002 is appended to this report. The Protocol is reviewed on a two-yearly basis as required by the procedures laid down by the two Councils.

The Review

2. The Joint Officer Steering Group has reviewed the Protocol. It is considered that the current Protocol as amended is working well but does require alterations to take into account the new procedures and systems now being introduced under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act, 2004. The provisions of the Act, secondary legislation and advice are the subject of a summary report to this Committee.
3. If Committee agrees to the recommendation, the report would be taken to the relevant executive bodies of the two Councils for formal approval and ratification.
4. The change in the planning system requires amendment to the Protocol as follows (amended text shown in bold type) -
 - i) paragraph 4 should be amended to state "*The Joint Committee will be responsible for providing advice on **regional, sub-regional and strategic planning and on transport matters including the following . . .***
 - (b) **Conformity of Local Development Documents, as agreed with the East Midlands Regional Assembly, and the strategic planning and transport comments**
 - (h) **Regional Spatial Strategies, relevant Sub-Regional Studies, Regional Transport Strategy, the Integrated Regional Strategy and any regional/sub-regional consultation/consultant studies insofar as they impact upon Greater Nottingham. .**
 - ii) paragraph 5 should be amended to state "(d) **wider aspects of Regional Spatial Strategies and Sub-Regional Studies . . .**"
5. The Joint Officer Steering Group considers that no other changes to the Protocol are necessary at this stage.

RECOMMENDATION

6. It is RECOMMENDED that:
- (a) the Protocol as approved in 2002 is amended as set out in this report as the basis for the working of this Committee and attendant officer arrangements for the next two years; and
 - (b) the recommendation of this Committee is communicated to the executive bodies of the two Councils for formal ratification.

Background Papers

None

Contact Officers

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PROTOCOL FOR THE OPERATION OF A JOINT COMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC PLANNING AND TRANSPORT IN GREATER NOTTINGHAM

1. Nottinghamshire County Council and Nottingham City Council (Unitary) established a Joint Committee between the two Authorities to advise on strategic planning and transport matters in Greater Nottingham in April 1998.
2. The protocol agreed between the two Authorities on the establishment and operation of the Joint Committee (agreed February 2000) requires a two yearly review, to ensure it remains relevant to the needs of the Joint Committee.

Role

3. The role of the Joint Committee remains the same, and is:

The role of the Joint Committee is to advise the County Council and City Council on strategic planning and transport matters taking account of the best interests of the whole of Greater Nottingham.

Responsibilities

4. The Joint Committee will be responsible for providing advice on strategic planning and transport matters including the following:
 - (a) Preparation, review, modification and monitoring of the Nottinghamshire Structure Plan;
 - (b) Conformity of Local Plans and strategic planning and transport comments on Draft Development Plans prepared by other Local Planning Authorities;
 - (c) Co-ordination of policies and management for minerals and waste matters;
 - (d) Greater Nottingham Local Transport Plan;
 - (e) Strategic issues arising from the management of the Traffic Control Centre;
 - (f) Strategic issues arising from Public Transport Operations, including Bus Quality Partnerships and the development of the Nottingham Express Transit;
 - (g) Greater Nottingham Rail Development Plan;
 - (h) Regional Spatial Development Strategy, Regional Transport Strategy, and Integrated Regional Strategy in so far as they impact upon Greater Nottingham;
 - (i) Strategic issues arising from the District Council air quality review and assessment.

5. To assist the Joint Committee in carrying out the responsibilities in paragraph 3 above, they shall be entitled to receive information and to comment where they deem appropriate on other relevant matters including:
 - (a) Structure Plan policies and strategy for the rest of the County;
 - (b) Local Transport Plan for the rest of the County;
 - (c) Planning applications within Greater Nottingham subject to the statutory timetable;
 - (d) Wider aspects of Regional Strategy and Regional Planning Guidance;
 - (e) Major development proposals in areas surrounding Greater Nottingham;
 - (f) Significant developments in the highway and transport networks;
 - (g) Major strategic initiatives of either Authority in Greater Nottingham e.g. LA21;
 - (h) Economic strategies for Greater Nottingham;
 - (i) Government legislation, regulations and guidance affecting strategic planning and transport matters.

Area of Responsibility

6. The Joint Committee will be responsible for advising on strategic planning and transport matters across the whole area known as South Nottinghamshire in the Nottinghamshire Structure Plan Review 1996. This area will be known as Greater Nottingham and its boundaries are illustrated on the attached Map 1.

Relationship to Parent Authorities

7. The views of the Joint Committee will be communicated to the appropriate executive body or bodies of the County and City Councils as soon as possible following a resolution by the Joint Committee. Where the Joint Committee has expressed a view on particular matters that is the subject of a report to any of the parent executive bodies, the recommendation of the Joint Committee will be included in the report.

Membership

8. The Joint Committee will be composed of four (4) members from each authority.
9. With the agreement of the Chair and Vice Chair, other members may be co-opted onto the Committee from time to time to assist the Joint Committee in carrying out the responsibilities in paragraphs 4 and 5 above. Such members will not have voting rights.

Chair and Vice Chair

10. The Chair and Vice Chair will be appointed in alternate years by each authority. The Vice Chair will always be appointed by the authority not holding the Chair.

Frequency of Meetings

11. The Joint Committee will meet at least 4 times a year.

Organisation and Conduct of Meetings

12. Notice of meetings, circulation of papers, conduct of business at meetings and voting arrangements will follow the Standing Orders of the authority which holds the Chair, or such Standing Orders which may be approved by the parent authorities. Meetings will be open to members of the public.

Officer Support

13. The secretariat of the Joint Committee will alternate annually between the two authorities with the Chair. The costs of operating the Joint Committee will be met by the Council providing the secretariat services. The work of the Joint Committee will be serviced by a Joint Officer Steering Group which will assist the Chair and Vice Chair in setting agendas and brief them prior to meetings. They will also be responsible for communicating the views of the Joint Committee.

Disagreement Between the two Authorities

14. Where the members of the Joint Committee cannot arrive at a view on a particular issue which enjoys the support of the majority of members, that issue should be referred back to the relevant executive bodies of the two Councils.
15. Participation in the Joint Committee will not deter either Authority from expressing a dissenting opinion on any specific issue. The right to make representations at a formal deposit stage, at the Examination in Public, at a Public Local Inquiry or at any consultation stage in the formal development plan making process, will not in any way be curtailed by membership of the Joint Committee.

Review

16. The role and operation of the Joint Committee will be kept under review, with a further complete review of its responsibilities and workings to be carried out not later than two years from the adoption of this revised protocol.