

# report

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

date **20<sup>th</sup> October 2006** agenda item number

from: **JOINT OFFICER STEERING GROUP**

## **BIENNIAL REVIEW OF THE PROTOCOL FOR THE JOINT COMMITTEE**

### **Purpose of Report**

To seek the views of members on the recommendation to delay the review of the Protocol.

### **Background**

1. The Joint Committee was established by both Councils in 1998 and a Protocol was agreed setting out the role, responsibilities, area of responsibility and other matters with the requirement that the Protocol was reviewed biennially. These reviews have taken place in 2000, 2002 and 2004 and a copy the 2004 Protocol for the Joint Committee agreed by both Councils is appended.
2. The 2006 review is due but the Joint Officers Steering Group [JOSG] considers that there are very special reasons why the review should be delayed and the views of this Committee are being sought on this matter.

### **Delaying the Review**

3. JOSG has been keeping note of the work that has been undertaken this year on the new regional planning system - the Regional Spatial Strategy and the Sub-regional Strategies (see separate item to this Committee). With the demise of the Structure Plan/Local Plan system following the passing of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, brand new plan-making arrangements have been introduced with both Councils supporting the East Midlands Regional Assembly in elements of the emerging revision to the Regional Spatial Strategy [RSS] and in particular on the preparation of the sub-regional sections in the RSS.
4. The preparation of the Three Cities Sub-Regional Strategy [SRS] part of the draft RSS has involved both Councils in new organisational structures involving other City and County Councils in the Three Cities Sub-Area, with the District Councils in the Sub-Area and in the Housing Market Area covering Nottingham, and with other organisations and consultees. The Leaders and Chief Executives of the 3 Counties and Cities involved in the Sub-Area assisted in the steering process in the preparation for the SRS.

5. It is likely that there will be ongoing work at future stages in the RSS approval process and subsequently at the monitoring stage.
6. As some of this work does involve the District Councils, there is merit when considering any changes to the remit of this Committee the addition of District Council representatives for the South Nottinghamshire area (Ashfield, Broxtowe, Gedling, Rushcliffe and possibly Newark & Sherwood). For SRS purposes the Housing Market Area for the Nottingham area also includes Erewash Borough in Derbyshire.
7. A further initiative being pursued by both Councils with the Government at present is the setting up of a Conurbation Area Agreement [CAA]. At this stage the details of any CAA are embryonic but the steering arrangements may involve an executive body termed a Joint Committee, the powers of which have yet to be detailed. If the Government gives the go-ahead for a CAA and the various Local Authority partners are agreed to the process, the CAA could be established in the next 12 months and is likely to impinge upon the future role of this Committee probably in a very fundamental manner.
8. The CAA proposals, if accepted, will be taken through the same executive bodies of the two Councils that would be considering the biennial review of the protocol for this Committee and with the new sub-regional arrangements only just starting, it is being recommended that the biennial review be delayed until after wider decisions are taken in terms of local governance by the two Councils. It is also being recommended that the executive bodies of the two Councils are informed of this decision by this Committee.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

It is RECOMMENDED that:

- (a) the biennial review of the Protocol be delayed for the reasons set out in this Report; and
- (b) the two Councils are made aware of this decision.

## **Background Papers**

No background papers.

## **Contact Officers**

Richard Ling, Communities Department, Nottinghamshire County Council  
Matt Gregory, City Development Department, Nottingham City Council

Jc41

# APPENDIX

## 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 regional, sub-regional and strategic planning and on transport matters including the following:
  - (a) Preparation, review, modification and monitoring of the Nottinghamshire Structure Plan;
  - (b) Conformity of Local Development Documents, as agreed with the East Midlands Regional Assembly, 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 Strategies, relevant sub-regional studies, Regional Transport Strategy, the Integrated Regional Strategy and any other regional/sub-regional consultation/consultant studies insofar 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 Spatial Strategies and Sub-Regional Studies;
  - (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.