1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To agree the contents of the Site Specific Part 2 Local Plan – Publication Plan for consultation and to agree the methods of consultation.

2. INFORMATION

2.1 The Site Specific Part 2 Local Plan (SSP2) will form part of the statutory North Northamptonshire Development Plan. The Development Plan, as it relates to Kettering Borough, will consist of the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy (Part 1 Local Plan) adopted July 2016; the Kettering Borough Site Specific Part 2 Local Plan; the Kettering Town Centre Area Action Plan (July 2011); the Northamptonshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan Update (July 2017); the Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations policy; and any made Neighbourhood Plans.

2.2 The Joint Core Strategy (JCS) provides a set of strategic planning polices for Corby, Kettering and Wellingborough Borough Councils, and East Northamptonshire District Council. Whereas, the Site Specific Part 2 Local Plan (SSP2) will provide local planning policies to cover Kettering Borough, and will include the identification of sites for housing, employment, recreation and other land uses. The SSP2 should not repeat policies which are included in the JCS but will provide further local detail to policies in this document. The SSP2 should be read alongside the JCS.

2.3 Members will recall that a consultation on the Site Specific Part 2 Local Plan – Draft Plan took place between June to July 2018. Officers have subsequently reported the comments received to that consultation, along with officer responses and an extensive range of next steps, which were agreed at committees in November 2018 and January, February and June 2019.

2.4 The consultation responses, updated evidence base and sustainability appraisal have been used to prepare the SSP2 Publication Plan. The Publication Plan is the plan that the local planning authority will submit to the Secretary of State for Examination.
2.5 A copy of the Publication Plan is attached at Appendix 1. This document has been subject to Sustainability Appraisal, Habitat Regulations Assessment and Viability Assessment. These documents are currently being finalised and will accompany the plan when it goes out to consultation. There may be some further edits required to the document following the completion of these reports. Therefore, provided these amendments are of a minor nature, Members are asked to delegate final editing of the plan to the Interim Head of Development Services in consultation with the Chair of Planning Policy Committee. In addition, further edits will be required to; add in web links to documents identified within the plan, add pictures to the plan, make minor editorial changes and to create a front page for the document.

3. CONSULTATION AND CUSTOMER IMPACT

3.1 The consultation on the Publication Plan is a formal stage in the preparation of the Site Specific Part 2 Local Plan.

3.2 Regulation 19 of The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended) requires that before submitting a local plan to the Secretary of State, the Local Planning Authority must:

   a. Make a copy of the proposed submission documents and a statement of the representations procedure available in accordance with regulation 35; and

   b. Ensure that a statement of the representations procedure and a statement of the fact that the proposed submission documents are available for inspection and of the places and times at which they can be inspected, is sent to each of the general consultation bodies and each of the specific consultation bodies invited to make representations under regulation 18(1)

3.3 The proposed submissions documents are:

   a. The local plan which the local planning authority propose to submit to the Secretary of State,

   b. If the adoption of the local plan would result in changes to the adopted policies map, a submission policies map,

   c. The sustainability appraisal report of the local plan

   d. A statement setting out –

      i. Which bodies and persons were invited to make representations under regulation 18,
ii. How those bodies and persons were invited to make such representations,

iii. A summary of the main issues raised by those representations, and

iv. How those main issues have been addressed in the local plan, and

e. Such supporting documents as in the opinion of the local planning authority are relevant to the preparation of the local plan.

3.4 The regulations require that a 6-week consultation is undertaken, however because the consultation will begin in December it is proposed that the consultation will run for 8 weeks to take into account the 2-week Christmas period. It is proposed that the consultation will include:

- Letter/ email to consultees
- General press release informing of consultation
- Information on the Council’s website
- Information on the Council’s social media sites
- Reports to Kettering Town, A6 Towns and Rural Forums
- Information packs for Parish Councils, schools, community groups and for Ward Councillors
- Posters, for example, to be displayed on village notice boards, in libraries and community buildings
- Inspection copies of the plan available at the Council Offices and libraries
- Events in locations across the Borough, these will take place after the Christmas period. It is proposed that an event will be held at each of the fours towns (Kettering, Burton Latimer, Desborough and Rothwell); and at the villages of Geddington, Mawsley and Stoke Albany/Wilbarston.

3.5 The consultation, as proposed, will meet in full the requirements identified in the adopted Statement of Community Involvement. It is proposed the consultation be launched in the week commencing 16th December, and the various public meetings/events be held early in the New Year.

4. POLICY AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The SSP2 will form part of the North Northamptonshire Development Plan and will guide the provision of sustainable growth in Kettering Borough.

4.2 The cost of preparing the SSP2 will be met within the existing Development Services Planning Policy budget.
5. LEGAL AND EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The purpose of the SSP2 is to guide future development in Kettering Borough. The preparation of the SSP2 meets legal requirements and equality standards. The SSP2 has been subject to extensive consultation which has involved engagement with a wide range of people, including hard to reach groups.

6. CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The achievement of sustainable development is a key aim of national planning policy, the SSP2 has been prepared in the context of this aim. The SSP2 has been subject to sustainability appraisal throughout its preparation, this ensures the plan will help achieve relevant environmental, economic and social objectives. The SSP2 can help contribute towards a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions through reducing the need to travel and providing opportunities for people to use sustainable transport. Policies contained within the Part 2 Local Plan will secure that the development and use of land contributes to the mitigation of, and adaption to, climate change.

7. RECOMMENDATION

That Members agree the Site Specific Part 2 Local Plan for consultation, and the consultation strategy set out in section 3 of this report; and that final editing of the Site Specific Part 2 Local Plan be delegated to the Interim Head of Development Services in consultation with the Chair of Planning Policy Committee.
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Contact Officer Julia Baish – Development Team Leader