Appendix 1: South Northamptonshire Local Plan Part 2A: FAQs

What is the Local Plan?

The Local Plan is a District wide plan which will help shape future development for the next 15-years. It sets out the opportunities and policies on what will or will not be permitted and where, including new homes and businesses.

Why are we producing a Local Plan?

The Council has a statutory duty to produce a Local Plan. Currently, there is the already adopted Part 1 Local Plan (the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy). This Plan sets out the vision, objectives and strategic policies for delivering growth for the District. It also sets out the figures to guide the scale of new development as well as identifying locations for larger scale (strategic) growth for new housing and employment. It also contains a number of policies to help assess planning applications in the future. The Part 1 Local Plan does not consider important detailed issues including local growth needs or village confines.

What type of things will the new Local Plan cover?

The new Local Plan Part 2 will set out the vision and objectives for the District, allocate non-strategic sites for housing, employment, retail, leisure and other forms of development and will set out development management policies for the district up to 2029. As well as setting out where new development will go, the Plan will also set out policies which seek to protect and preserve open space, green infrastructure, historic heritage and environmental assets.

The document is too complicated, why can’t it be in plain English?

We have tried to make this consultation on the Local Plan Part 2A as simple as possible. The evidence that underpins the approaches within the plan is in most cases very technical as we need to consider complex inter-related issues.

We have set out all the key information in the Options consultation document and questions report with additional information contained within the consultation background document and other supporting documents. This will enable people to drill down into the detail if they wish.

What progress has been made so far in developing a new Local Plan?

An issues consultation was held in January 2014. This marked the start of the formal process when the public, town and parish councils, statutory consultees and the development industry were asked for their views on the issues that should be covered in the Local Plan Part 2A. The consultation also provided an opportunity for possible development sites to be suggested to the Council.

This consultation represents the next stage of the Plan making process and is the ‘Options stage’. This is the second stage of consultation. This is an informal
consultation and we would like to hear any ideas you have about the potential for growth in South Northamptonshire before we move towards more formal plan drafting, starting with ‘preferred options’ later in 2016. This consultation will concentrate on a number of key areas of the Plan where important decisions will need to be taken. These are:

- Options on the vision and objectives for the Plan
- Options for the Development Strategy (including Settlement Hierarchy)
- Options for the scale and type of housing development at Parish and Settlement level
- Options for environmental designations including:
  - Green spaces
  - Special landscape areas
  - Green wedges
- Options on the location of new employment sites
- Options for policies on town centres and economic development
- Options for community / leisure development
- Views on the site(s) suggested so far to meet the required growth
- Views on updating village and town confines
- Options for policies required to manage development in a sustainable way
- A further ‘call for sites’ to allow interested parties to put forward any other ‘reasonable’ options for non-strategic sites that they think should be considered as the plan evolves.

Can I get involved in preparing the new Local Plan?

The Options document will be consulted on between 04 April and 12noon on 10 June 2016 and during this time, you will have the opportunity to provide comments. At this stage, we are particularly keen to hear your views on how we approach decisions about the scale and type of new development as well as the general directions for any growth. We want your help to make sure that the new Local Plan starts by looking at the right options. This will help us to assess the future needs and opportunities of the area.

We strongly encourage response to be made on-line via the Council’s interactive consultation system

Please view and comment online at [http://consult.southnorthants.gov.uk](http://consult.southnorthants.gov.uk)

Documents can be viewed on-line by following the links from our website [www.southnorthants.gov.uk/planningpolicy](http://www.southnorthants.gov.uk/planningpolicy)

Alternatively you can comment by

- Email: planning.policy@southnorthants.gov.uk
What happens after the public consultation period?

Your comments will be recorded and where appropriate the comments will help to inform the preferred options document which will set out the preferred sites for new development such as housing, employment and other land uses as well as setting out detailed development management policies for determining planning applications.

What is the timetable for preparing the new Local Plan?

The plan will be drafted and consulted on later in 2016. A further public consultation will take place in 2017 and relevant modifications will be made before submitting the draft plan for examination by an independent inspector in 2017. Examination in public and adoption will take place in 2018.

A more detailed timetable can be viewed at: www.southnorthants.gov.uk/planningpolicy