

APPENDIX A - West Northamptonshire Local Plan – Draft Spatial Vision and Objectives

Draft Spatial Vision

*'In 2041 West Northamptonshire is playing a leading role in the economic success of the UK. We have a thriving **economy** with increased productivity. There has been significant growth in innovation and high value sectors such motor sport, high precision engineering, life sciences, food and drink, and finance, but we also have a balanced economy that provides jobs for all our residents.*

*Our **people** live in vibrant, active and sustainable communities with ready access to the services, facilities and infrastructure they need. Quality housing is available to meet the needs of everyone. Our residents have improved educational attainment and have the skill levels necessary to adapt to a changing economy. Health outcomes have improved for all and the take-up of active and healthy lifestyles is widespread. Everyone benefits from living in one of the best connected places in the UK.*

*Our **environment** has been enhanced by sustainable growth with a net gain in biodiversity, improved natural capital, and green space that is accessible to all. Our valued landscapes and built environments have been preserved and enhanced and high quality design has delivered neighbourhoods that people are proud to live in. Above all West Northamptonshire has led the way in the transition to a low carbon economy, has achieved net zero targets, is resilient and continues to adapt to climate change.'*

*A regenerated **Northampton** will be the key strategic centre at the heart of West Northamptonshire. Brownfield sites have been developed which support vibrant urban living and economic growth in a high-quality and attractive environment for residents, visitors and investors. As a leading centre for culture, commerce, leisure, education and health it will be a place where history, innovation and regeneration go hand in hand.*

*Whilst retaining its roots as an historic market town, **Daventry** will be a sub-regional centre of growing importance, with a successful town centre and strong commercial core. Local economic strengths in engineering and sustainable construction will have developed and innovative start-up businesses will thrive. Daventry will be well-connected, community focussed and benefit from an accessible green network integrated into the fabric of the town.*

*The market towns of **Brackley** and **Towcester** continue to prosper providing services, facilities and employment opportunities for the wider rural area. Whilst continuing to accommodate sustainable growth the distinctive character of the towns and their heritage and environmental assets will be protected and enhanced.*

*Our **rural areas** will provide a network of vibrant, well-connected villages supporting a wider choice of homes, employment opportunities, and services at a scale consistent with local needs. The countryside will support a thriving rural economy, with enhanced natural capital and distinctive local landscapes.'*

Draft Spatial Objectives

WNC's Corporate Plan has 6 priorities, 5 of which are directly relevant to the Strategic Plan. Objectives are grouped under each priority.

Priority - Green and Clean – Environment and Wellbeing

Objective 1 - Climate Change

To support the transition of West Northamptonshire to a net zero carbon area, and deliver effective adaptation to and mitigation for the impacts of climate change by:

- Securing radical reductions in carbon emissions
- Promoting sustainable design and construction in all new development
- Ensuring strategic development allocations are located and designed so as to be resilient to future climate change and the risk of flooding
- Encouraging renewable and low-carbon energy production in appropriate locations
- Ensuring new development promotes the use of sustainable travel modes

Objective 2 - Green Infrastructure and Natural Capital

To conserve natural habitats and species, provide net gains in biodiversity and enhance West Northamptonshire's network of natural capital and green infrastructure by improving existing areas and designing green and blue infrastructure into development.

Objective 3 - Landscape

To protect and enhance West Northamptonshire's distinctive landscape character especially those valued landscapes which have been designated as Special Landscape Areas.

Objective 4 – Heritage

To conserve and where possible enhance West Northamptonshire's heritage assets and their settings, recognising their contribution to local distinctiveness, a sense of place, quality of life and economic success.

Priority: Improved Life Chances – Health, Social Care and Families

Objective 5 – Education and Skills

To raise educational achievement and the skills base of our communities through supporting the development of our learning infrastructure and strengthening links between local businesses and local schools, Moulton and Northampton Colleges, the University of Northampton and Silverstone University Technical College

Objective 6 – Health and Well-being

To promote health and wellbeing through high quality development which supports independence, encourages active and healthy lifestyles, supports social interaction and creates inclusive and safe communities.

Objective 7 - Infrastructure and Development

To protect and enhance local services and to ensure social, physical, green and technological infrastructure is adequately provided to meet the needs of people and business in a timely and sustainable manner in response to regeneration and new development in West Northamptonshire.

Priority - Connected Communities – Transport and Connectivity

Objectives:

Objective 8 - Connections

To reduce the need to travel, shorten travel distances and prioritise sustainable travel as an attractive option across West Northamptonshire by maximising and promoting the use of alternative travel modes. To facilitate the uptake of ultra-low emission vehicles, combat congestion, reduce carbon emissions and address social exclusion for those who do not have access to a private car. To support the improvement of strategic public transport connections across the area.

Objective 9 - Protecting and Building Urban Communities

To ensure new development in urban areas actively supports and links new and existing communities physically and socially, to achieve social cohesion, maintain or improve the existing residential amenity and address the areas of deprivation.

Priority - Thriving Villages and Towns – Place Shaping and Homes

Objective 10: Supporting Town Centres

To support the regeneration of our Town Centres responding positively to their distinctive character, heritage and environmental assets to create attractive centres that are resilient and provide a range of functions such as leisure, culture, the visitor economy and high quality urban living.

Objective 11: Housing

To provide an appropriate range of housing in sustainable locations, of high quality environmental and design standards, including those relating to designing out crime, to meet the needs of all sections of our changing population, including affordable, housing for the younger generation and housing for older persons, vulnerable people and those with specialist housing needs.

Objective 12: Supporting Rural Communities

To protect and support rural communities to ensure they thrive and remain vital.

Priority – Economic Development – Growth and Prosperity

Objective 13: Economic Advantage

To strengthen and diversify West Northamptonshire's economy by taking advantage of our internationally well-placed location, strategic transport network and proximity to London and Birmingham. To maximise the opportunities for sustainable economic growth and investment offered by our strategic location in the Oxford to Cambridge Arc.

Objective 14: Specialist Business Development

To support and develop opportunities for specialist employment clusters and business development focused on a low carbon economy and new technologies.

Objective 15: Rural Diversification and Employment

To support rural diversification and rural employment opportunities, in particular those related to agriculture, horticulture, forestry, and other forms of economic development which are appropriate in scale and nature to their location.

Objective 16: The Visitor Economy

To facilitate tourism and leisure related growth creating a distinct offer within West Northamptonshire building on our rich heritage.