

**EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO THE
NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE JOINT COMMITTEE ORDER 2005**

2005 No. 1552

1. This explanatory memorandum has been prepared by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and is laid before Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

This memorandum contains information for the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments.

2. **Description**

- 2.1 This Order establishes a joint committee under section 29 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (“the 2004 Act”) to be the local planning authority for the boroughs of Corby, Kettering and Wellingborough and the district of East Northamptonshire. The joint committee comprises the four district councils in addition to Northamptonshire County Council. The Order provides that the joint committee may exercise the functions of a local planning authority under Part 2 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 in relation to the preparation, submission and revision of those local development documents specified in a draft local development scheme submitted to the Secretary of State by the constituent authorities.

3. **Matters of special interest to the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments**

- 3.1 This is the first occasion on which the powers conferred by section 29 of the 2004 Act have been exercised.

4. **Legislative Background**

- 4.1 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 makes provision in section 29 for one or more local planning authorities to agree with one or more county councils to establish a joint committee. The Secretary of State may by order constitute a joint committee to be the local planning authority for the purposes of Part 2 of the 2004 Act for such areas and in relation to such matters as the constituent authorities agree.

5. Extent

- 5.1 This Order applies to the establishment of a joint committee in England.
- 5.2 More specifically this Order applies to the establishment of a joint committee for the boroughs of Corby, Kettering and Wellingborough and the district of East Northamptonshire.

6. European Convention on Human Rights

- 6.1 Not applicable

7. Policy background

- 7.1 Part 2 of the 2004 Act establishes a new local development planning system in England. Under the new system local planning authorities prepare local development documents, which consist of development plan documents and supplementary plan documents. Development plan documents, taken as a whole, together with the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) (the preparation of which is governed by the provisions in Part 1 of the 2004 Act), constitute the development plan for the area. The new system aims to promote greater integration between the various strategies produced by local authorities and other agencies and the land use planning system.
- 7.3 North Northamptonshire is made up of the local authorities of Corby, Kettering, Wellingborough and East Northamptonshire. It covers almost 1000 sq km and has a population of approximately 290,000. The RSS for the East Midlands (RSS 8) sets out that North Northamptonshire will be expected to deliver around 52,000 new homes and 43,800 new jobs over the period 2001-2021 together with an indicative 28,000 new homes up to 2031. This growth is to be focused on the towns of Corby, Kettering and Wellingborough.
- 7.4 The four local planning authorities together with the Northamptonshire County Council have requested that the Secretary of State establish a joint committee to enable the authorities to progress strategic planning issues. The joint committee will co-ordinate for North Northamptonshire the preparation of a joint local development framework and the preparation submission and revision of the local development documents specified in the draft local development

scheme submitted to the Secretary of State on 18 March 2005. The local development framework is the portfolio of local development documents that, together with the RSS, will provide the planning framework for the constituent authorities' areas. The local development scheme is a project plan for the preparation of the local development documents which comprise the local development framework.

7.5 The work of the joint committee will be supported by the North Northamptonshire Local Delivery Vehicle known as North Northants Together which comprises representation from the constituent authorities and other stakeholders, including the business community, healthcare and education providers, English Partnerships and Catalyst Corby.

7.6 The Order has been drafted to reflect the agreement between the constituent authorities to establish a joint committee. The area of the joint committee specified in the Order reflects the wording of the Agreement between the constituent authorities to establish a joint committee and the constituent authorities have been consulted on the draft Order at various stages of the drafting process.

8. Impact

8.1 A Regulatory Impact Assessment has not been prepared for this instrument as it has no impact on the costs of business, charities or voluntary bodies.

8.2 There is no new impact on the public sector.

9. Contact

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