

CHAPTER 4: Daventry District Spatial Strategy

4.1 Daventry District

4.1.01 To help deliver the Vision and Objectives of this plan the following over-arching spatial policy should be followed in guiding development proposals across the District. This closely follows the spatial strategy identified in policy S1 of the WNJCS which, in respect of Daventry District, seeks to focus development in and adjoining the sub-regional centre of Daventry town and limit development in the rural areas with an emphasis on:

- enhancing and maintaining the distinctive character and vitality of rural communities;
- shortening journeys and facilitating access to jobs and services;
- strengthening rural enterprise and linkages between settlements and their hinterlands; and
- respecting the quality of tranquillity.

4.1.02 Policy S1 also seeks to prioritise making the best use of previously developed land and vacant and under-used buildings with a target of 30% of additional dwellings on previously developed land across West Northamptonshire. Therefore it is important to ensure that where possible development proposals contribute to meeting this target.

4.1.03 Further to policy S1, policy S3 of the WNJCS sets out the scale and distribution of housing development of about 42,620 net additional dwellings during the period 2011 to 2029 across West Northamptonshire. In respect of Daventry District it sets out that about 12,730 dwellings will be provided, distributed as follows;

Daventry Town – about 4,620 dwellings

Daventry Rural Areas – about 2,360 dwellings

Northampton Related Development area – about 5,750 dwellings

4.1.04 Policy S4 provides further guidance on the Northampton Related Development Area (NRDA). This is an area which predominantly covers Northampton but also includes Sustainable Urban Extensions within Daventry and South Northamptonshire Districts. Policy S4 confirms that Northampton's housing needs will be met primarily within Northampton's existing urban area and at the Sustainable Urban Extensions within

the NRDA and that further development will only be supported if it meets the vision, objectives and policies of the WNJCS.

- 4.1.05 As this is a Part 2 Local Plan it is crucial that this over-arching spatial strategy of the WNJCS is carried forward. With respect to the NRDA, it is important that Northampton's needs are met in a plan-led manner to avoid piecemeal development. As set out in para 5.12 of the WNJCS piecemeal development can increase the load on the current road and utilities infrastructure, without bringing forward the economies of scale that would make the provision of further infrastructure cost effective and therefore deliverable. Such a pattern of development in the District is not considered to be sustainable. It is not within the scope of the Part 2 Plan to plan for development that meet the needs of Northampton (outside the SUE's that have already been allocated). Work on the review of the WNJCS (Part 1 Plan) is underway, and it is important that this plan does not prevent additional development coming forward to meet Northampton's needs arising from that review, in the West Northamptonshire Strategic Plan.
- 4.1.06 Further to policy S1 of the WNJCS, policy S7 states that in order to maintain a broad balance between homes and jobs and to maintain a diverse economic base. provision will be made for a minimum net increase of 28,500 jobs during the period 2008 to 2029 across West Northamptonshire. Policy S8 sets out how these will be distributed across the three authorities. In Daventry the focus is on renewal and regeneration of exiting employment areas, provision in the central area, supporting growth at DIRFT and provision within Daventry North East SUE.
- 4.1.07 Linked to wider regeneration aims, it is important to make efficient use of land and prioritise the use of previously developed land which also reduces the need for development on greenfield sites and helps to protect the natural environment. Related to this it is important to ensure that buildings are used efficiently and brought into productive use that is appropriate to their location. As part of this process the Council will seek to work with owners of existing unused and under-used buildings to try to bring them back in productive use, using appropriate powers where necessary. The Council will set out its approach to this in a strategy.
- 4.1.08 The policy below therefore seeks to assist with delivering this spatial strategy by providing a more specific focus for the District.

The policy aims to address all of the objectives
The policy helps to deliver policies S1, S2, S3, S4, S5, E1, D1, BN5, R1 of the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy.

SP1 – Daventry District Spatial Strategy

To ensure a sustainable pattern of development to meet the overall spatial strategy of the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy, sustainable development in Daventry District will be guided by the following spatial principles:

- A. Focusing development at Daventry town to deliver its regeneration and reinforce its role as the sub-regional centre of West Northamptonshire and its ability to support the surrounding communities;
- B. Assisting with the delivery of ~~plan-led~~ development to meet Northampton's needs identified in the West Northamptonshire Joint Strategic Plan ~~where it is identified that this cannot be accommodated within the Northampton Related Development Area;~~
- C. Promoting a vibrant economy through encouraging the regeneration of Daventry Town Centre and protecting and enhancing a network of identified employment areas at the town and across the rural area;
- D. Supporting the development of Daventry District's learning infrastructure to raise educational achievement and the skills base of our communities;
- E. Protecting and enhancing existing services and facilities within the District's villages through allowing ~~limited~~ development to meet their identified housing needs;
- F. Ensuring that development promotes healthy and active lifestyles through encouraging the use of sustainable transport modes and protecting and enhancing a network of green infrastructure and open space;
- G. Protecting and enhancing the built and natural environment and the District's heritage assets, including protecting the Open Countryside;
- H. Prioritising Encouraging and making an efficient use of previously developed land, including ensuring that unused and vacant buildings are brought back into a use appropriate to their location.

4.2 Daventry Town

4.2.01 Policies S1 and S3 are taken forward in respect of Daventry town through a number of policies. Policy D1 focuses on the regeneration of the town. It sets out that housing

