Dear Mr Cross,

Questions submitted to the meeting of the West Northamptonshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee on Thursday 16th July 2015

Thank you for the questions submitted on behalf of WASPRA at the above meeting of the Joint Strategic Planning Committee. As indicated at the meeting I am now able to offer the following written answers.

1st Question Submitted
What amendments have been made to the section on Northampton North of Whitehills and as a main respondent to the Inspectors hearings, why have we not been consulted nor notified regarding these changes?

Answer to the 1st Question
In relation to Policy N8 - Northampton North of Whitehills Sustainable Urban Extension no Proposed Main Modifications were submitted by the West Northamptonshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee and the Examination Inspector made no changes to Policy N8. As no changes were made further consultation was not required.

2nd Question Submitted
Do you agree with this statistic of 55%? If not, what is your calculation in your plans?

Answer to the 2nd Question
The West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy is based on the Modal Shift Targets set out initially in Northamptonshire County Council’s Transport Strategy for Growth and subsequently in the Local Transport Plan. These are: 5% Modal Shift away from Private Car Trips across existing developments and a 20% shift away from Private Car Trips from all new development. Analysis shows that it may be possible to achieve more. These targets are, therefore, viewed as minima in this plan, and all travel interventions should be designed to achieve the highest modal shift possible, with some new developments, particularly the Sustainable Urban Extensions, aspiring to achieve a modal split of no more than 40% of trips being made by car. This target, and progress towards it, will be reviewed jointly as part of the monitoring and implementation of the JCS and the Local Transport Plan.
The West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy is an adopted plan. This matter is covered in that document in the Connections chapter of the Plan: Policy C1 Changing Behaviour and Achieving Modal Shift sets out the policy position.

3rd Question Submitted
Will the existing JPU Committee or a newly structured joint working party keep up the necessary momentum for an effective orbital road system around our Town, completed before mass house building as recently suggested by Councillor Jim Harker? We know Highways are championing this project, but will individuals from each member Council be involved?

Answer to the 3rd Question
As the Highways Authority Northamptonshire County Council will have lead responsibility for progressing the Northampton North West Bypass and any further extensions that may be required in the future. The Joint Committee recognises that the issue of infrastructure planning and delivery requires an ongoing partnership approach. The West Northamptonshire Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) identifies strategic priorities for the delivery of key infrastructure needed to support the scale of growth put forward in the Joint Core Strategy. The Joint Committee confirmed that the IDP will remain as a function for the Joint Planning Unit for 2015/16. I would therefore expect the partnership, either through the Joint Committee or any replacement body that is agreed, to have an active involvement in infrastructure planning and delivery, including the development of the proposal referred to in your question.

Yours sincerely,

Councillor Alan Chantler
Chairman – West Northamptonshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee