

Future Rutland Conversation

Response to first draft of the Vision Statement

Introduction

The first draft of the Vision Statement contains a number of necessarily competing aspirations several of which are mutually incompatible with each other. These aspirations therefore need to be qualified to explain how the competing aspirations are to be reconciled in order to lead on to meaningful strategic objectives. The Vision and Strategic Objectives are mandatory components of the emerging Local Plan for Rutland. They lead on to a Spatial Strategy containing planning policy statements which must be clear and unambiguous so that future planning decisions can be made in accordance with the policy statements, without ambiguity.

It has to be recognised that;

- **Business interests** lie in expansion in order to maximise scale of activity and to maximise returns on investment, whether this be housing development, minerals extraction or any other business enterprise.
- **Environmental considerations** require moderation in scale and restraint in development, with compensating measures to protect biodiversity, pollution and consequentially to counter climate change

The Vision Statement will need to **formally acknowledge** these two potentially incompatible aims (business interests and the protection of the environment) **and will need to clarify how they are to be reconciled** in the Rutland Local Plan in order for meaningful policies to be developed and for acceptable and predictable implementation **decisions to be made by the Local Planning Authority** based on the policies.

The Vision Statement must clearly address the problem of how the competing aspirations are going to be reconciled by policy making in Rutland. A “motherhood and apple pie” series of statements meaning all things to all of the community without substance and without any guidance on how planning policies will be framed to control the SCALE and LOCATION of development will not serve the Future Rutland.

Examples and Suggested Modifications

Suggested **modifications** to the draft statements are **shown in red text**

1. A Special Place:

- i) (Statement) Plans to grow Rutland’s economy will build on the county’s strengths, promote collaboration and encourage greater investment. By doing this, Rutland will further enhance its status as a place where businesses **of all shapes and sizes, in every sector can start, grow** and succeed. (**The open ended statement highlighted in yellow above is most unwise and could be used to justify an unwarranted and excessive scale of development in Rutland**) (The following qualification is required. **Provided that they comply fully in the letter and the spirit with conditions set by environmental legislation and best practice, to protect the environment Also provided that they are of such a moderate scale as to be acceptable to the neighbouring community**)

- ii) (Statement) Communities and organisations (**INCLUDING ALL BUSINESS ORGANISATIONS AND QUARRIES**) in Rutland will embrace their environmental responsibilities. (How will this be achieved? Only through appropriate and clearly stated planning policies) Awareness and education will be at the heart of the county's climate response, **so that decision making officers within the Local Planning Authority and the community in general** of all ages are armed with the knowledge they need about recycling, biodiversity **gain, agriculture** and reducing their carbon footprint. More than this, the county of Rutland will fundamentally redefine its relationship with waste by reducing the amount that is consumed and thrown away. **(add The conditions for mineral extraction processes and operations will be re-defined, monitored and enforced effectively going forward)**

2. Sustainable Lives:

- i) **State also that Rutland will use all of its powers as a Local Planning Authority to ensure that all development of all kinds conforms strictly to the meaning and intent of environmental legislation.**
- ii) **Positive and demonstrable steps should be taken immediately to inculcate these principles and implement them in all planning decisions from now on.**
- iii) (Statement) Communities and organisations in Rutland will embrace their environmental responsibilities. Awareness and education will be at the heart of the county's climate response, so **that DECISION-MAKING OFFICERS WITHIN THE LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY and the community in general** of all ages are armed with the knowledge they need about recycling, biodiversity **gain, agriculture** and reducing their carbon footprint. More than this, the county of Rutland will fundamentally redefine its relationship with waste by reducing the amount that is consumed and thrown away.
- iv) **Rutland County Council will look to avail themselves of the expertise and experience of its own residents to provide guidance and leadership in technical areas such as Health & Social Care, Minerals Control and preparation of the Local Plan.** (Statement) Rutland will also continue to look beyond its borders, working with neighbouring counties to take advantage of opportunities and tackle big challenges together – contributing to the wider health and prosperity of our region. **However, in this area RCC will prepare and consult upon the standard and completeness of service level agreements to ensure that there are fully effective cost benefits for Rutland in doing so and that Rutland maintains full control of the service levels provided in Rutland and that all decisions arising from such collaboration are fully in accordance with RCC's stated new environmental credentials.**

3. Healthy and Well

i) **ADD THE FOLLOWING:**

RCC will ensure that a substantive Placed Based Health & Social Care Plan for Rutland will be presented for public consultation by January 2022

This will specify, inter alia

- **The place based clinical services to be provided in Rutland**
- **Where those services will be accessed by the community**
- **When those services will be operational**
- **The sources of budget funding required for these services.**

RCC will seek advice and support from professional expertise available within the Rutland community to achieve this objective.

4. Beyond the Vision

- #### i)
- (Statement) The aim is to make the Future Rutland Vision central to every plan and big decision that's made in the county – working **closely** together with **LOCAL PROFESSIONAL GROUPS** with local professional people to shape detailed action plans and bring about positive change. Progress against the Vision will be **reviewed at least once in every year, to ensure that the necessary momentum and sound progress is being maintained.**