

Minutes

Local Plan Sub-Committee

15th March 2018

Present:

Councillors	Present	Councillors	Present
D Bebb	Yes	Mrs J Money	Yes
Mrs L Bowers-Flint (Chairman)	Yes	Lady Newton	Apologies
G Butland	Apologies	Mrs W Scattergood	Apologies
T Cunningham	Yes	Mrs G Spray	Yes
D Hume	Yes	Miss M Thorogood	Yes

Councillors Barlow, Bowers and Schwier were also in attendance.

26 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

INFORMATION: There were no interests declared.

27 **MINUTES**

DECISION: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Local Plan Sub-Committee held on 6th November 2017 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

28 **QUESTION TIME**

INFORMATION: There was one statement made. Details of the person who spoke at the meeting are contained in the Appendix to these Minutes.

Principally, these Minutes record decisions taken only and, where appropriate, the reasons for the decisions.

29 **CHELMSFORD CITY COUNCIL PRE-SUBMISSION LOCAL PLAN - RESPONSE**

INFORMATION: Consideration was given to a report on Chelmsford City Council's Regulation 19 pre-submission Local Plan, Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulation Assessment which had been published for consultation, and Braintree District Council's proposed response, which was attached as an Appendix. As the closing date for the submission of comments was 14th March 2018, the Council had forwarded a draft response to Chelmsford City Council. The final response would be sent following the Sub-Committee's meeting.

The purpose of the consultation was to determine if the Plan was sound and had been positively prepared, and was justified, effective and consistent with national policy; and if it was legally compliant and met the requirements of the Duty to Co-operate.

The Plan sought to meet Chelmsford City Council's identified need for housing and employment for the period 2013 – 2036. The Plan had identified the provision of 21,893 net new homes over the period of the Plan, which was approximately 20% above the total objectively assessed housing need and 725 new jobs per year up to 2036. New housing and employment growth would be focussed on the most sustainable locations. Additional retail provision in Chelmsford City Centre, the urban area and at South Woodham Ferrers was proposed and nine new gypsy and traveller pitches and 24 travelling show-people pitches would also be required.

The closest growth proposals to the Braintree District were at Great Leighs which could provide 1050 new homes on three sites. The associated policies included details of infrastructure requirements such as a new primary school, highways improvements, and contributions towards the Chelmsford North-East Bypass. The provision of five travelling show-people plots was also proposed.

A strategic policy relating to other infrastructure requirements included provision for a Chelmsford North-East bypass; a new railway station at Beaulieu to the North of Chelmsford; additional park and ride facilities at West Chelmsford and North-East Chelmsford; improvements to Essex Regiment Way; bus priority schemes; rapid transit measures; and a new access to Broomfield Hospital. It was proposed that Chelmsford Race Course should continue to be developed as a major race course and equestrian centre, with supporting entertainment facilities.

It was reported that Braintree District Council continued to hold regular Duty to Co-operate meetings with Chelmsford City Council, including meetings between Councillors and it was considered that the City Council had met its obligation with regard to the Duty. Braintree District Council would continue to engage positively and pro-actively with the City Council as the Plan and the development proposed progressed.

Chelmsford City Council proposed to submit the draft Local Plan to The Planning Inspectorate in the Summer of 2018, which would be followed by an independent examination in the Autumn of 2018 and the adoption of the Plan in the Winter of 2018/19.

DECISION: That Braintree District Council's response to Chelmsford City Council's pre-submission Local Plan, as attached as an Appendix to the Agenda report, be approved and submitted to Chelmsford City Council.

30 **BRAINTREE DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN EXAMINATION - UPDATE**

INFORMATION: Consideration was given to a progress report on the examination of the draft Braintree District Local Plan.

The new Local Plan comprised two parts. Section 1 of the Plan included strategic policies which were shared with Colchester Borough Council and Tendring District Council and it included proposals for three garden communities at West of Braintree, Colchester/Braintree borders and Tendring/Colchester borders. Section 2 of the Plan contained policies and proposals which related specifically to the Braintree District.

The submission draft Local Plan had been submitted to the Government for examination in October 2017. The Planning Inspectorate had subsequently appointed Mr Roger Clews to examine Section 1 of the Plan at a joint oral examination, which had taken place at Weston Homes Community Stadium, Colchester over six days from 16th January 2018.

During the examination, it had been reported that a representation supporting an alternative development site at Pattiswick, which had been submitted during the consultation period by Lightwood Strategic had not been considered by the three Councils, or reported to the Inspector prior to the examination. Whilst Lightwood Strategic had been able to participate during the second week of the oral examination, they had not been able to attend in the first week, or to submit related statements. Following discussions with Lightwood Strategic and the North Essex Authorities, the Inspector had agreed to Lightwood Strategic's request to appear at an oral examination in order to address the issue of the 'Duty to Co-operate and legal compliance' and a further session of the oral examination had been arranged for 9th May 2018.

It was anticipated that the draft Local Plan would be subject to main modifications which had arisen since its submission for examination. These modifications would be subject to public consultation for at least six weeks and any responses submitted would be considered by the Inspector in the drafting of his final report.

The Planning Inspectorate had not indicated when the examination of Section 2 of the draft Local Plan would commence.

In discussing this Item, Councillor Mrs Bowers-Flint commended Ms Emma Goodings, Head of Planning Policy and Economic Development for the competent and professional manner in which she had participated in the oral examination.

DECISION: That the progress report on the examination of the draft Braintree District Local Plan be noted.

The meeting commenced at 6.00pm and closed at 6.30pm.

Councillor Mrs L Bowers-Flint
(Chairman)

APPENDIX

LOCAL PLAN SUB-COMMITTEE

15TH MARCH 2018

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Details of Questions Asked / Statements Made During Public Question Time

1 Statement Relating to Agenda Item 6 – Braintree District Local Plan Examination - Update

Statement by Mr Philip Jellard, Gulls Farm, Buckleys Lane, Coggeshall