



## STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

Monday, 13 December 2021

<b>Subject</b>	Planning Policy and Delivery Update
<b>Report of</b>	Councillor David Ritchie Cabinet Member with responsibility for Planning and Coastal Management
<b>Supporting Officer</b>	Desi Reed Planning Policy and Delivery Manager <a href="mailto:desi.reed@eastsuffolk.gov.uk">desi.reed@eastsuffolk.gov.uk</a> 01502 523055

Is the report Open or Exempt?	OPEN
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Category of Exempt Information and reason why it is <b>NOT</b> in the public interest to disclose the exempt information.	Not applicable
<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All Wards

### Purpose and high-level overview

**Purpose of Report:**

This report provides an update on key elements of the current work programme, including preparing Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs), strategies on specific topics such as cycling and walking, the delivery of infrastructure to support growth through CIL collection and spend, Neighbourhood Plans and housing delivery.

**Options:**

This report is for information only.

**Recommendation/s:**

That the content of the report be noted.

## Corporate Impact Assessment

**Governance:**

The Local Plan Working Group oversee the preparation of many of the documents referred to in this report.

**ESC policies and strategies that directly apply to the proposal:**

A range of Local Plan policies for East Suffolk.

**Environmental:**

No impact.

**Equalities and Diversity:**

This report is for information only, so no equality impact assessment is required. However, undertaking an assessment is an integral element for most of the projects in the work programme.

**Financial:**

The work of the Team is undertaken within existing budgets, with grant income generated through support provided on Neighbourhood Planning.

**Human Resources:**

No impact.

**ICT:**

No impact.

**Legal:**

No impact.

**Risk:**

The Policy and Delivery Team are fully staffed but the work programme is significant and crucial to the delivery of many aspects of the Strategic Plan. There is an acknowledgment that staff capacity, not just in the Planning Service, is on occasions stretched and with the work programme being important to the council discussions are taking place with senior officers and the Cabinet Member to ensure we have a resilient and quality team to deliver on our objectives.

<b>External Consultees:</b>	None
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## Strategic Plan Priorities

Select the priorities of the <a href="#">Strategic Plan</a> which are supported by this proposal: <i>(Select only one primary and as many secondary as appropriate)</i>		Primary priority	Secondary priorities
<b>T01</b>	<b>Growing our Economy</b>		
P01	Build the right environment for East Suffolk	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P02	Attract and stimulate inward investment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P03	Maximise and grow the unique selling points of East Suffolk	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P04	Business partnerships	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P05	Support and deliver infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>T02</b>	<b>Enabling our Communities</b>		
P06	Community Partnerships	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P07	Taking positive action on what matters most	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P08	Maximising health, well-being and safety in our District	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P09	Community Pride	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>T03</b>	<b>Maintaining Financial Sustainability</b>		
P10	Organisational design and streamlining services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P11	Making best use of and investing in our assets	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P12	Being commercially astute	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P13	Optimising our financial investments and grant opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P14	Review service delivery with partners	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>T04</b>	<b>Delivering Digital Transformation</b>		
P15	Digital by default	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P16	Lean and efficient streamlined services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P17	Effective use of data	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P18	Skills and training	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P19	District-wide digital infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>T05</b>	<b>Caring for our Environment</b>		
P20	Lead by example	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P21	Minimise waste, reuse materials, increase recycling	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P22	Renewable energy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P23	Protection, education and influence	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>XXX</b>	<b>Governance</b>		
XXX	How ESC governs itself as an authority	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### How does this proposal support the priorities selected?

The Planning Policy and Delivery work programme makes a significant contribution to the delivery of the Strategic Plan, cutting across all 5 themes. The primary priority and 11 secondary priorities identified reflect the wide range of projects in the work programme.

The primary priority of building the right environment for East Suffolk (P01) is underpinned by having up to date Local Plan coverage for the whole District, with the secondary priorities reflecting the delivery of the Local Plans through the current work programme. The Authority Monitoring Report provides an important role in reporting on progress in delivering the Local Plans.

For example, the preparation of the Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) and development briefs support the Economy theme including the delivery of the right supply of housing (P01) and maximising the unique selling points of

the district (P03). The preparation of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Charging Schedule, collection and spend of CIL also support the Economy theme, through investment in the district for healthy and sustainable economic growth (P01 and P05).

The support for Neighbourhood Planning, the Affordable Housing SPD and the Cycling and Walking Strategy all support the Enabling Communities theme, including taking positive action on what matters most (P07), community pride through a shared sense of purpose (P09) and maximising health and well-being (P08). The Health Environments SPD will also support the latter priority (P08).

The Sustainable Construction SPD will support the Caring for our Environment theme. It supports all 4 priorities of leading by example (P20), encouraging the reuse of materials (P21), supporting the growth of renewable energy (P22) and protecting, educating and influencing care for our environment (P23). The Cycling and Walking Strategy also has a key role to play in protecting our natural environment (P23).

## Background and Justification for Recommendation

1 Background facts	
1.1	This report provides an update on the current work programme including progress being made on the preparation of Neighbourhood Plans and housing delivery. With full and up to date Local Plan coverage for the whole District, the focus of the work of the Planning Policy and Delivery Team is primarily on the delivery of these plans.
1.2	There are a number of key projects in the current work programme (next 12 months) that support the delivery of the Local Plans and the East Suffolk Strategic Plan. These focus on providing guidance to support the implementation of planning policies through Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) including development briefs, strategies on specific topics such as cycling and walking, and projects that support the delivery of infrastructure to support growth through CIL collection and spend. The team also support a wide range of external projects plus corporate and regeneration projects across the District that are not reported to this committee.

2 Current position	
2.1	<b>Since the last report to the Strategic Planning Committee 5<sup>th</sup> October 2021 the following key milestones have been met:</b>
2.2	With respect to <a href="#">Neighbourhood Plans</a> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beccles Neighbourhood Plan – This was ‘made’ by the Council on 22<sup>nd</sup> September and now carries full weight in decision making.</li> <li>• Bungay Neighbourhood Plan - Completed their Regulation 14 pre-submission consultation (i.e. draft plan consultation led by the NP group) on 5<sup>th</sup> November. They will now consider any changes needed before formally submitting the plan to the Council.</li> <li>• Halesworth Neighbourhood Plan – Regulation 14 pre-submission consultation commenced on 5<sup>th</sup> November and will conclude on 17<sup>th</sup> December.</li> <li>• Lound with Ashby, Herringfleet and Somerleyton NP – Examination of the plan by an independent Examiner began on 27<sup>th</sup> October and is expected to conclude in December.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oulton Neighbourhood Plan - Regulation 14 pre-submission consultation concluded on 26<sup>th</sup> November.</li> <li>• Rushmere St Andrew NP – Regulation 14 pre-submission consultation concluded on 1<sup>st</sup> November.</li> <li>• Saxmundham Neighbourhood Plan – Regulation 14 pre-submission consultation began on 1<sup>st</sup> November and concludes on 22<sup>nd</sup> December.</li> <li>• Southwold NP – Examination of the plan ended on 20<sup>th</sup> October. The Examiner recommended that, subject to modifications, the plan proceeds to referendum. The Council issued its Decision Statement responding to the Examiner’s recommendations on 17<sup>th</sup> November.</li> <li>• Guidance on reviewing ‘made’ neighbourhood plans has been published on the Council’s website.</li> </ul>
2.3	Consultation on the <a href="#">draft Sustainable Construction Supplementary Planning Document</a> commenced on 1 November.
2.4	Consultation on the <a href="#">draft Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document</a> commenced on 1 November.
2.5	Consultation on the <a href="#">draft Cycling and Walking Strategy</a> commenced on 1 November.
2.6	Consultation on the <a href="#">draft Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule</a> for East Suffolk commenced on 11 November.
2.7	The annual <b>Authority Monitoring Report</b> , reporting on progress on delivering the Local Plans, is being reported as a separate item on this Strategic Planning Committee agenda, including a presentation.
2.8	The 5 year <a href="#">Housing Land Supply Statement</a> for the period 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2026 was completed and published in October. 6.52 years supply for the Suffolk Coastal Local Plan area of East Suffolk and 5.74 years supply for the Waveney Local Plan area of East Suffolk. (A short presentation on the land supply position is being made at this meeting as part of the above Annual Monitoring Report item)
2.9	<p><b>CIL Collection and Spend:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For the first 6 months of 2021-22 we received just over £3m in total CIL. The volume of CIL chargeable development continues to increase.</li> <li>• <b>Neighbourhood CIL (NCIL)</b> payments for October 2021, for the period 1 April to 30 September, were assessed and issued to the relevant Parish Councils by 28 October 2021. The sum allocated was £488K. <a href="#">CIL reporting » East Suffolk Council</a></li> <li>• A report summarising the position of CIL funded infrastructure projects and their delivery status can be downloaded from the CIL Spending webpage – see link to this report <a href="#">District-CIL-infrastructure-projects-2020-21.pdf</a></li> </ul>
2.10	<b>Housing Delivery</b> - The annual combined Local Plan anticipated housing delivery figure is 916 dwellings. For the first 6 months of this year (April to Sept) 255 dwellings have been delivered, of which 101 were affordable. At the end of September there were 1073 dwellings under construction so the slow start to the year is expected to pick up. The picture moving forward remains optimistic, given that Local Plan site allocations, including many of the major sites, are either under discussion with Planning Officers, undergoing developer/landowner led community consultation, are current planning applications or have already been consented.

### 3 How to address current situation

3.1	<b>During the next 3/4 months, some of the key project milestones will include:</b>
3.2	<p>With respect to <b>Neighbourhood Plans</b>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lound with Ashby, Herringfleet and Somerleyton NP – a referendum is expected in spring 2022.</li> <li>• Southwold Neighbourhood Plan – a referendum is expected early in 2022.</li> <li>• Wickham Market - Regulation 14 consultation carried out in Spring 2019, and now working towards Submission of the Final Draft to the Council.</li> <li>• Guidance for neighbourhood plan groups on delivering new housing through their plans will be published in spring 2022.</li> </ul>
3.3	Consultation on the <b>draft Sustainable Construction Supplementary Planning Document</b> will have ended on 13 December. All responses to the consultation will have been considered and a final version of the document prepared and presented to Cabinet for adoption.
3.4	Consultation on the <b>draft Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document</b> will have ended on 13 December. All responses to the consultation will have been considered and a final version of the document prepared and presented to Cabinet for adoption.
3.5	Consultation on the <b>draft Cycling and Walking Strategy</b> will have ended on 10 January 2022. All responses to the consultation will then be considered and subject to the number of responses received a final version of the strategy will have been prepared and presented to Cabinet for adoption in late spring.
3.6	Consultation on the <b>draft Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule</b> for East Suffolk will have ended on 23 December. Following consideration of all the responses the Charging Schedule will have been submitted to an Examiner for independent scrutiny to commence.
3.7	Work will have progressed on <b>development briefs</b> for sites allocated for housing in the Local Plans.
3.8	Work will have progressed on preparing a <b>draft Healthy Environments Supplementary Planning Document</b> .
3.9	Work will have commenced on preparing a Supplementary Planning Document to provide additional guidance on the implementation of the <b>Housing in Clusters in the Countryside (SCLP5.4) and Small Scale Residential Development in the Countryside (WLP8.7)</b> policies of the Local Plans.
3.10	The <b>Exacom data transparency project</b> (relating to the management of CIL, Section 106 and RAMS payments) continues to make steady progress with 35% of s106 agreements loaded into the system. The system is about to have a major technical update for all areas which will also go towards improving the way the data will be presented in the future once the project is completed and able to switch to live mode.
3.11	<b>Housing Delivery</b> - The East Suffolk <a href="#">Housing Action Plan</a> was published in August 2021 and reports on issues facing the development sector and progress in implementing actions to support the delivery of housing. One of the key issues that continues to affect the sector is the shortage and cost of building materials, in particular timber, steel, pitched roofing, plastics, paints and cement. The Major Sites team continue to support and steer master-planning work on key sites across the District, including North of Lowestoft, Beccles/Worlingham, South Saxmundham and North Felixstowe; with master-planning being a key policy driver to provide certainty and a coordinated approach to delivery.
3.12	<b>Planning White Paper update</b> – Members will recall that the Planning White Paper, that posed some fundamental changes to the planning system, was

	published for consultation last year. The analysis of the consultation response was expected this autumn, to be shortly followed by a new Planning Bill. Both are still awaited.
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#### 4 Reason/s for recommendation

4.1	This report is for information only.
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### Appendices

#### Appendices:

None
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#### Background reference papers:

None
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