



STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

Monday, 4 June 2020

PLANNING POLICY AND DELIVERY UPDATE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This report provides an update on the emerging Local Plan for the former Suffolk Coastal area, progress on Neighbourhood Plans and key elements of the current work programme, for information.

Is the report Open or Exempt?	Open
Wards Affected:	All
Cabinet Member:	Councillor David Ritchie Cabinet Member with responsibility for Planning and Coastal Management
Supporting Officer:	Desi Reed Planning Policy and Delivery Manager 01502 523055 desi.reed@east Suffolk.gov.uk

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report provides an update on the emerging Local Plan for the former Suffolk Coastal area in relation to the current Main Modifications consultation, progress on Neighbourhood Plan preparation and key elements of the current work programme.

2 LOCAL PLAN FOR THE FORMER SUFFOLK COASTAL AREA

- 2.1 As Members will be aware, the Suffolk Coastal Local Plan is currently being examined by an Independent Planning Inspector, Philip Lewis BA (Hons) MSc MRTPI. Following the public hearings which were held in August / September 2019, the Inspector has written to the Council advising what modifications are likely to be required for the plan to be found 'sound'.
- 2.2 The Examination is now at an advanced stage and before the Inspector can finalise his conclusions on the soundness of the Plan consultation is required on the schedule of Main Modifications to the Local Plan. This consultation is currently underway and is running from 2pm Friday 1st May to 5pm Friday 10th July (10 weeks).
- 2.3 It is also necessary to consult on an Addendum to the Sustainability Appraisal Report and an updated Habitats Regulations Assessment of the modifications and these have been published alongside the Main Modifications.
- 2.4 The Council has also published a number of proposed 'Additional Modifications' which it wishes to make to the plan prior to adoption. These 'Additional Modifications' do not materially alter the policies of the plan and are generally minor clarifications and corrections of factual errors. As these are the Council's changes the Inspector will not be considering comments made on the additional modifications.
- 2.5 A tracked change version of the Final Draft Local Plan, which incorporates all proposed modifications, has also been published for reference purposes.
- 2.6 Comments have also been invited on changes proposed to the Policies Maps to take account of 'Main Modifications' and 'Additional Modifications' and to make factual or presentational amendments. A schedule of these has been published together with revised Policies Maps incorporating the proposed changes.
- 2.7 In view of the current Covid-19 social distancing measures, the Council has set out measures to enable safe participation in the consultation and to ensure that those who wish to engage in the consultation are not disadvantaged. This includes holding the consultation for an extended period of ten weeks, additional promotion of the consultation through public notices in the press and putting measures in place relating to the provision of hard copies of documents. The Council would normally make hard copies of consultation documents available to view in libraries and in the Council's offices for those who are unable to view them online, however as this is not currently possible, hard copies are being provided free of charge on request to those who cannot access the documents on line. These measures are being kept under review.
- 2.8 It is important to note that this consultation is not an opportunity to re-state previous representations, as these have already been considered as part of the Examination or to raise new objections to the submitted Local Plan. This consultation is purely on the modifications.

- 2.9 At the end of the consultation period the Inspector will consider the feedback, any changes and whether the hearing needs to be re-opened. Assuming all goes well, the hearings will not be re-opened and the Inspector will finalise his Report. Based on current timings it is anticipated the Plan will be presented to the Full Council meeting in September 2020.
- 2.10 On adoption, this plan will supersede the Core Strategy and Development Management Policies 2013, Site Allocations and Area Specific Policies 2017, Felixstowe Peninsula Area Action Plan 2017 and the remaining 'saved' policies from 2001 Local Plan, (pre the 2004 Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act).

3 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN PROGRESS

- 3.1 A significant number of neighbourhood plans are currently being supported across the district, all at varying stages in the plan preparation process. Nine plans are currently made (adopted); 3 are at the examination stage; and two final draft plans have been completed for submission to the Council. A further 21 plans are being prepared by their communities, several of which are collaborations across several parishes.
- 3.2 Throughout the Covid-19 outbreak the Council has responded positively to continue to provide support to communities developing their plans. This includes progressing plans through statutory examination and consultation stages.

Made: Framlingham, Great Bealings, Kessingland, Leiston, Martlesham, Melton, Mutford, Rendlesham, Wenhaston with Mells Hamlet

Examination: Bredfield, Kesgrave, Reydon

Final draft plans completed for submission to the Council: Beccles, Southwold

Under development: Aldringham cum Thorpe, Barnby, Bungay, Carlton Colville, Corton, Earl Soham, Easton, Halesworth, Henstead with Hulver Street, Kelsale-cum-Carlton, 'Lound, Ashby, Herringfleet and Somerleyton', Lowestoft, 'Mettingham, Barsham, Shipmeadow, Ringsfield and Weston', Otley, Oulton Broad, Playford, Rushmere St Andrew, Saxmundham, 'Shadingfield, Sotterley, Willingham and Ellough', Wickham Market, Worlingham

4 OTHER KEY WORK

- 4.1 In addition to work on Local Plans and Neighbourhood Plans, there are a number of key projects in the current work programme (next 12 to 18 months) and that support the delivery of the East Suffolk Strategic Plan. Several of the projects have been delayed due to Covid 19 restrictions but also due to the need to not advance ahead of the outcome of the Suffolk Coastal Local Plan Examination and subsequent adoption, so the project milestones for each project are kept under constant review. The work programme includes:

Preparation of Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) across East Suffolk/area specific relating to: Affordable Housing, Development and Coastal Change, Historic

Environment, Sustainable Construction, North Lowestoft HAZ Design Guide, Recreational Disturbance Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy

Environmental Guidance Note

5 year housing land supply assessment

Housing Action Plan review

Small site development briefs

Master-planning for large sites

Review of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Charging Schedule

S106/CIL collection and spend

Preparation of the Infrastructure Funding Statement

Full implementation of Exacom software for S106/CIL including Public Facing Module

Review of the Statement of Community Involvement

Review of Local Development Scheme – initially update to the Suffolk Coastal LDS to reflect the delay in the adoption date for the Local Plan only, as requested by the Inspector. Then wider East Suffolk review in relation to future plan-making.

Cycling and Walking Strategy

Transport Mitigation Strategy – making a modal shift towards cycling, walking and public transport (Ipswich Strategic Planning Area focus)

Green Infrastructure Strategy

Review of the approach to supporting Neighbourhood Plan groups

Annual Authority Monitoring Report for East Suffolk - relating to progress on preparing and implementing the Local Plans

Planning input and support to a wide range of regeneration projects and external projects across East Suffolk

Developing digital approaches to delivering the service. In particular, increasing Open Data online, interactive mapping and consultation and engagement methods.

5 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

5.1 This report is for information only.

RECOMMENDATION

That the content of the report is noted and endorsed.