



STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

Monday, 14 September 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
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Wards Affected:	All
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Cabinet Member:	Councillor David Ritchie Cabinet Member with responsibility for Planning and Coastal Management
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Supporting Officer:	Desi Reed Planning Policy and Delivery Manager 01502 523055 desi.reed@east Suffolk.gov.uk
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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report provides an update on the emerging Local Plan for the former Suffolk Coastal area, 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 Final Draft Suffolk Coastal Local Plan was submitted to the Secretary of State, for Examination by an Independent Planning Inspector, on 29th March last year. Philip Lewis BA (Hons) MSc MRTPI was the Inspector appointed to undertake the Examination which included public hearings held in August / September 2019. The Examination commences when the plan is submitted and concludes on receipt of the Inspector's Report.
- 2.2 Public consultation took place on the Inspector's schedule of proposed Main Modifications to the Final Draft Local Plan, the associated Sustainability Appraisal and Habitat Regulations Assessment, plus the Council's Additional (non-material) Modifications and Policy Map revisions, for a period of 10 weeks from 1st May to 10th July 2020. 563 comments were received on the main modifications, along with 2 on the Sustainability Appraisal Report Addendum, 5 on the Habitats Regulations Assessment, 6 on the Additional Modifications and 6 on the Policies Maps, from a total of 245 respondents.
- 2.3 Following consideration of responses on the Main Modifications, Sustainability Appraisal and Habitat Regulations Assessment, the Inspector is now finalising his Report and at the time of writing this report, receipt is imminent.
- 2.4 Following receipt of the Inspector's Report, the next step will be for Cabinet to consider the Suffolk Coastal Local Plan, as modified, at its meeting on 17th September before it is considered for adoption by Full Council on 23rd September.
- 2.5 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) and three more are now close to being made.
- 3.2 Since the June Strategic Planning Committee meeting, Neighbourhood Plans for Kesgrave and Reydon have recently been through Examination successfully and the 'Decision Statements' have been issued recommending that these plans proceed to a referendum (when referendums are possible). This means that policies in these plans will now attract 'significant weight' in determining planning applications. The Neighbourhood Plan for Bredfield has also successfully been through Examination. The plan is being updated to reflect modifications from the Examiner before the Decision Statement can be issued. Once the Decision Statement is issued, this plan will also attract significant weight in determining planning applications.

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.
- 4.2 Since the last meeting in June, the North Lowestoft HAZ Design Guide has been adopted by Full Council, the Housing Action Plan has been published and consultation has been completed for the template to be used for preparing Residential Development Briefs.
- 4.3 With respect to progress on the work programme during the next 3 months, some of the key milestones will include:
- Response to the Planning White Paper – Planning for the Future (deadline 29 October)
 - Response to the Changes to the Current Planning System consultation (deadline 1 October)
 - The 5 year housing land supply assessment will be published and key findings will be reported to a future Strategic Planning Committee
 - Initial public consultation will take place on the Development and Coastal Change Supplementary Planning Document (a joint consultation with Great Yarmouth BC, North Norfolk DC and the Broads Authority)
 - The CIL spend bid round will have taken place from the end of September (moved from April/May 2020 due to Covid-19), informed by currently on-going discussions with infrastructure providers to understand the likely bid submissions. The September bids will have a heavy focus on spending on ‘essential’ infrastructure as set out in the Local Plans and in accordance with the CIL Spending Strategy approved by Cabinet in January 2020
 - The annual Infrastructure Funding Statement will have been discussed by the CIL (member) Working Group in September, considered by Cabinet in December and published by 31 December
 - The statutory Neighbourhood CIL payments for the period April 2020 to 30 September 2020 will have been made to parish councils in October. Officers will continue to work closely with a number of Parish and Town Councils to support their effective spending of Neighbourhood CIL on local projects
 - A draft of the new East Suffolk Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule will be well progressed having undertaken initial consultation with, developers, landowners, agents and others on technical viability considerations
 - Public consultation on a new Statement of Community Involvement will have commenced
 - Public consultation on the Recreational Disturbance Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy Supplementary Planning Document will have commenced
 - Public consultation on the Historic Environment Supplementary Planning Document will have commenced
 - Initial engagement on the Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document will have taken place

- Initial digital mapping public consultation on Cycling and Walking Strategy will have commenced
- Annual Authority Monitoring Report will be ready for the next Strategic Planning Committee in December

5 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

This report is for information only.

RECOMMENDATION

That the content of the report is noted and endorsed.

BACKGROUND PAPERS - None