

COUNCIL

6 AUGUST 2019

REFERENCE FROM THE PLANNING POLICY & LOCAL PLAN COMMITTEE

A.2 SECTION 1 LOCAL PLAN EXAMINATION: ADDITIONAL SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL, EVIDENCE AND PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

(Report prepared by Ian Ford)

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To enable Council to consider the recommendations submitted by the Planning Policy & Local Plan Committee in respect of the proposed Additional Sustainability Appraisal, evidence and amendments relating to Section 1 of the Local Plan which it is further proposed should be submitted, together with the responses received from a proposed public consultation thereon, to the Planning Inspector.

BACKGROUND

On 16 July 2019 the Planning Policy & Local Plan Committee gave consideration to a comprehensive report (and appendices) of the Corporate Director (Planning and Regeneration) which sought:-

- a) the Committee's recommendation to Full Council that the Additional Sustainability Appraisal be approved and to inform the Committee of the findings of the additional evidence base having been prepared in response to the Planning Inspector's concerns about the new Garden Communities proposed as part of the Section 1 Local Plan for North Essex;
- b) the Committee's recommendation to Full Council that a series of proposed amendments to the Local Plan be submitted to the Inspector for consideration as minor and major modifications; and
- c) the Committee's recommendation to Full Council that a six weeks public consultation be undertaken on the Additional Sustainability Appraisal, additional evidence base and proposed amendments before they were submitted to the Secretary of State to then enable the Local Plan Inspector to resume and conclude their examination.

Having considered and discussed the contents of the Corporate Director's comprehensive report and appendices the Committee decided to recommend to Council that –

- a) *the additional evidence base summarised within Appendices 2 to 11 to the report of the Corporate Director (Planning and Regeneration) and available in full as background papers be accepted as part of the evidence base for Section 1 of the submitted Local Plan which contains strategic planning policies and proposals common to the North Essex Authorities of Braintree, Colchester and Tendring;*
- b) *the findings of the Additional Sustainability Appraisal work (summarised in Appendix 1 to the aforementioned report) which appraises the submitted Local Plan strategy for three cross-border Garden Communities and the reasonable alternatives to such strategy be approved;*
- c) *the Additional Sustainability Appraisal work and evidence base (including the*

additional evidence) be endorsed as supporting the existing spatial strategy for growth in the submitted Local Plan proposing three cross-border Garden Communities and that it is justified as being the most appropriate strategy;

- d) the schedule of proposed amendments to the submitted Local Plan (attached as appendix 12 to the above report) be approved;*
- e) a six-week public consultation on the schedule of proposed amendments, the Additional Sustainability Appraisal work and the additional evidence base be undertaken, starting on 19 August 2019 and ending on 30 September 2019;*
- f) following that period of public consultation, the above-mentioned documents along with any duly made representations received during the public consultation period, be submitted to the Secretary of State in order to enable the Local Plan Inspector to resume and complete the examination of the Section 1 Local Plan; and*
- g) the Local Plan Inspector be formally requested to recommend any further modifications to the Publication Draft Local Plan as necessary in order to make it 'sound'.*

RECOMMENDATION

That Council considers the recommendations submitted by the Planning Policy & Local Plan Committee and determines whether to approve them.

APPENDICES

Report of the Corporate Director (Planning and Regeneration) considered by the Planning Policy & Local Plan Committee on 16 July 2019

Appendices to that report namely:-

1. Additional Sustainability Appraisal of North Essex Local Plan Section 1: Summary of Draft Findings.'
2. Executive summary of 'North Essex Rapid Transit System for North Essex: From vision to plan'.
3. Conclusion and next steps from 'Mode Share Strategy for the North Essex Garden Communities'.
4. Summary of findings and conclusion from 'Build Out Rates in the Garden Communities'.
5. Executive summary of 'North Essex Local Plans (Section 1) Viability Assessment Update – Main Report'.
6. 'Employment Provision for the North Essex Garden Communities.
7. Tendring/Colchester Borders extract from 'North Essex Garden Communities Infrastructure Planning, Phasing and Delivery.

8. Summary of 'North Essex Authorities Infrastructure Order of Cost Estimate (41,000 homes)'.
9. Conclusions of 'HRA Report for North Essex Authorities Shared Strategic Section 1 Local Plan'.
10. 'North Essex Authorities' Position Statement on Delivery Mechanisms'.
11. 'North Essex Authorities' Position Statement on State Aid.
12. Proposed amendments to the Publication Draft Braintree, Colchester and Tendring Local Plans: Section One.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Full versions of the evidence base documents listed as Appendices 1 to 11 are hosted on the Braintree District Council website and can be accessed using the following link:
https://www.braintree.gov.uk/info/200643/section_1/1065/section_1_examination_publication_on_local_plan/9