

## LOCAL PLAN COMMITTEE

2 NOVEMBER 2017

### REPORT OF THE HEAD OF PLANNING

#### **A.7 COMMENTS ON COLCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCIL'S PUBLICATION DRAFT LOCAL PLAN CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS**

(Report prepared by Gary Guiver)

#### **PART 1 – KEY INFORMATION**

##### **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

To seek the Local Plan Committee's endorsement of the officer responses to Colchester Borough Council's Publication Draft Local Plan.

##### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Colchester and Tendring have jointly agreed the content of Section 1 of their Local Plans. The Councils have individually agreed Section 2 of each Local Plan. The consultations on the Local Plans were carried out between 16<sup>th</sup> June and 11<sup>th</sup> August. In accordance, with the standard practice, officers have therefore provided comments to Colchester Borough Council (CBC) in consultation with the Chairman of the Local Plan Committee. Officers made these comments subject to the endorsement of this Local Plan Committee.

Officers were generally supportive of the proposals contained within CBC's emerging plan. Concerns were raised over transport within the Tendring/Colchester Borders Garden Community, opportunities were also identified for a rapid transport system. The provision of a rapid transport system, sports facilities and the protection of designated sites were all welcomed.

The full officer response can be found at Appendix One.

Operationally, it would be beneficial to both the Council and its stakeholders, if approved consultation responses could be provided by officers relating to local plan and planning policy matters. This delegation will be exercised on the principle that any matters requiring wider debate and attracting public interest will be reported to the Local Plan Committee.

##### **RECOMMENDATION**

**That the Local Plan Committee:**

- (a) endorses the response provided by officers in regards to Colchester Borough Council's Publication Draft Local Plan consultation documents, as set out in Part 3 and Appendix 1 of this report; and**
- (b) Delegation is authorised for the Head of Planning to formally respond to stakeholder consultations in connection with local plan and planning policy matters.**

## **PART 2 – IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION**

### **DELIVERING PRIORITIES**

The Local Plan helps to implement place shaping priorities in the Corporate Plan 2016-2020 for Tendring District Council through:

- Community Leadership by engagement with the community and effective partnership working with technical stakeholders including other Councils, developers and other interested parties;
- Health and Housing through policies that promote healthier lifestyles, a quality living environment, local regeneration and council house building; and
- Employment and Enjoyment through policies to support business growth and skill development and the protection and promotion of the natural and built environments.

Tendring's Local Plan is a project in the 2016-2020 Corporate Plan and is on target at the time of writing this report. The implication of a decision to support the recommendation in this report will demonstrate assistance in the delivery of the duty to cooperate.

Providing comments on Colchester's Local Plan helps with the delivery of the Local Plan for Tendring and contributes to Tendring's collaborative work with Braintree and Colchester Councils.

A key corporate project of the Corporate Plan is 'Working with other Councils'. This consultation allowed for detailed meaningful communication between different Council's. Two further Corporate Priorities are 'Local Plan Completion' and 'Strategic Planning'. This consultation and future communication between Councils will allow for joint working of mutually beneficial negotiations which will assist in the preparation and adoption of a sound Local Plan.

### **RESOURCES AND RISK**

Comments on other Local Planning Authorities Local Plans enable a clear demonstration of active and on-going collaboration in line with the duty to co-operate, the exercise of partnership and effective and efficient use of resources.

### **LEGAL**

The preparation of planning documents is regulated by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) and in line with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.

Section 33A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004) (as amended) places a duty upon local authorities and other public bodies to cooperate on strategic matters of cross-boundary significance, which includes housing supply. Before a Planning Inspector can begin the process of examining a Local Plan, they need to be satisfied, with evidence, that the local authority has done everything it can to ensure effective cooperation with neighbouring authorities and other partner

organisations and has sought to resolve, as far as is possible, any cross-boundary planning issues. This consultation helps to show that Tendring has complied with this Duty.

### **PART 3 – SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

#### **SUMMARY OF OFFICER SUBMITTED COMMENTS**

Whilst a full copy of TDC's response to CBC's consultation can be found at Appendix One of this report, a summary of our comments is given below:

- Tendring District Council has worked closely with CBC to ensure that the Duty to Cooperate has been fulfilled.
- Transportation is a key issue for Tendring District's residents, businesses and visitors, with the most heavily used routes (road and rail) providing access to and from the District being from the west at Colchester.
- The provision of a rapid transport system was welcomed within the Tendring Colchester Borders area.
- Whilst Tendring continues to invest in the Clacton area, it is important that growth to also continues in Colchester, allowing Tendring residents to access shops and services within relatively close proximity, rather than traveling to Chelmsford or Ipswich.
- Tendring welcomes the provision of sports facilities which can not be found in the District.
- CBC's commitment to tackling climate change and protecting designated sites in the District was also welcomed.

#### **OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

**Area or Ward affected:** All wards.

**Consultation/Public Engagement:** This response is part of public consultation process on the Local Plans for Colchester.

#### **APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 – Copy of TDC's response to Colchester Borough Local Plan consultation