

Little Bromley Parish Council

Response to

Tendring District Local Plan Review 2025-2042 and Beyond Preferred Options Consultation Document January 2026

Little Bromley Parish Council submits this response in the strongest possible terms. We object to the policies, proposals and underlying assumptions of the *Tendring District Local Plan Review 2025–2042 and Beyond Preferred Options Consultation Document (January 2026)*. For clarity, we **oppose the document in its entirety** and question the legal and procedural basis for undertaking a full Local Plan review at this time.

The planning system exists to deliver **sustainable development**—development that is economically, socially and environmentally responsible. As the Document itself acknowledges, sustainable development requires:

- **An economic objective:** ensuring land is available in the right places to support growth, innovation and productivity.
- **A social objective:** providing the right homes in the right places to support strong, healthy, inclusive communities.
- **An environmental objective:** protecting and enhancing the natural, built and historic environment.

The proposals before us fail on **all three counts**.

1. A Failure of Economic and Social Sustainability

Tendring contains some of the most deprived communities in the entire country. Coastal areas such as Clacton are officially recognised as suffering the worst levels of poverty, economic stagnation and reduced life expectancy. Yet the Document proposes to **ignore these communities entirely**, instead diverting housing growth into speculative new settlements in open countryside.

This is not planning. It is abdication.

Economically and socially the district of Tendring has coastal areas that are officially recognised as suffering the very worst poverty, and yet they have been completely ignored.

The Chief Medical Officer, Professor Sir Chris Whitty, visited Clacton in 2021 and subsequently published his landmark *Coastal Communities Report*, calling for direct action to improve job opportunities and health outcomes in deprived coastal towns. Housing-led regeneration is a well-established planning principle. It is extraordinary—and deeply concerning—that TDC has chosen to disregard this evidence and these opportunities.

Instead of supporting regeneration where it is most needed, the Document proposes to **dump housing numbers into isolated new towns**, disconnected from existing communities, jobs, services and infrastructure. This is not sustainable development; it is a missed opportunity of generational scale.

2. A Failure of Environmental Sustainability

The proposal to create two large new towns in open countryside is environmentally indefensible. These locations have:

- No existing communities
- No shops, services or amenities
- No employment base
- No sustainable transport links

Creating large settlements “where nobody currently lives” would produce car-dependent commuter dormitories - “zombie towns” in every meaningful sense.

This is the opposite of sustainable development.

3. The Review Is Premature and Potentially Unsound

Tendring is currently facing the largest infrastructure proposals in its history: National Grid, Five Estuaries, North Falls and Tarchon are all proposing massive new developments in the form of substations, pylons, underground cabling, access roads and compounds. The scale and impact of these proposals is unprecedented.

Any Local Plan review undertaken **before** the outcomes of these Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects are known is inherently flawed. It cannot meaningfully assess cumulative impacts, infrastructure capacity, landscape harm or spatial strategy.

Proceeding now risks producing a Local Plan that is unsound on the grounds of **prematurity, inadequate evidence, and failure to consider reasonable alternatives.**

4. Objection to New Housing Allocations in or Around Little Bromley

Little Bromley is a small, dispersed rural parish with:

- No footpaths
- No street lighting
- No mains sewerage
- Limited potable water supply (half the village remains on wells)
- No village hall, school, shop, surgery or other amenities
- A road network already operating at capacity and unsafe for pedestrians

The proposal for a 17-home estate in a village centre of only 50 existing dwellings is wholly disproportionate and would irreversibly damage the rural character that residents overwhelmingly value.

Our emerging Neighbourhood Plan—developed with extensive community engagement—supports **small-scale, sensitively integrated development**, typically 1–2 dwellings per site, avoiding estate-style layouts and preserving the parish’s distinctive dispersed pattern.

The Document’s proposals directly contradict this evidence-based local policy work.

5. The Emerging Neighbourhood Plan Provides a Sound, Locally Supported Alternative

Little Bromley's Neighbourhood Plan supports sustainable, small-scale growth that:

- Maintains the dispersed, low-density settlement pattern
- Avoids estate-style layouts or clusters of more than two homes
- Protects open views, hedgerows and dark skies
- Prioritises affordable homes for local people, self-build, eco-homes and downsizing opportunities
- Uses materials and design that reflect rural character

This is a positive, constructive, community-led approach to growth. It aligns with national policy, protects local character, and meets identified local needs.

The Local Plan Review ignores this entirely.

6. A Rushed, Reactionary and Unnecessary Review

TDC's current Local Plan underwent years of consultation and remains legally in force until 2033. A change in national housing numbers does **not** justify discarding the entire plan and replacing it with a hurried, ill-conceived alternative.

The timing of this review—coinciding with the anticipated abolition of TDC as a local authority in April 2028—raises serious concerns about whether this process is being rushed for administrative convenience rather than sound planning reasons.

Conclusion

Little Bromley Parish Council therefore:

- **Objects to the entire Local Plan Review document**
- **Rejects the proposed new settlements**
- **Rejects any housing estates or large-scale housing allocations in or around Little Bromley**
- **Asserts that the review is premature, inadequately evidenced and environmentally unsound**
- **Urges TDC to focus on regeneration of deprived coastal communities**, where housing-led growth can deliver genuine social and economic benefit
- **Requests that the emerging Neighbourhood Plan be respected as the appropriate framework for development in Little Bromley**

This Local Plan Review represents a profound missed opportunity. It fails the district's most vulnerable communities, fails the environment, and fails the principles of sustainable development. It should not proceed in its current form.

Little Bromley Parish Council, Thursday, 19 March 2026

