



Brentwood Borough Council response to: Castle Point Local Plan Public Consultation 2018 July 2018

Principle

1. Thank you for inviting Brentwood Borough Council to provide comments as part of Castle Point Borough Council's consultation on its Local Plan Public Consultation 2018. We support the steps that Castle Point Borough Council has made to proceed with preparation of a Local Plan. There are several strategic issues, such as housing and infrastructure, which can be considered at levels greater than a single local planning authority area and which concern both Boroughs. It is important that such issues are addressed through collaborative working and meaningful discussions in accordance with legislation, the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), and the Planning Practice Guidance.
2. Please note that we have limited our response to high level comments addressing the strategic planning matters which affect both our areas.

Vision

3. Brentwood Borough Council supports the Vision for the Future within both the Draft Local Plan 2014 and the New Local Plan 2016, which will be carried forward within the current 2018 Local Plan document. The Council also supports the aspiration shown in the Objectives of the New Local Plan.

Housing Need

4. Brentwood Borough Council notes the proposal for the Castle Point Local Plan to have a 15-year period, but that housing related policies will have a 5-10-year timeframe, by which time the South Essex Joint Strategic Plan (JSP) will supersede these policies. The objectively assessed housing need for Castle Point Borough has been identified as 353 new homes per annum according to the South Essex Strategic Housing Market Assessment Addendum (SHMA) (May 2017). It is unclear from the consultation documents provided as to which of the sites from the 2014 and 2016 draft Local Plan documents are preferred site allocations, the number of dwellings proposed for each site, the timeframe these sites are expected to come forward, the Borough's strategy for growth, and whether local objectively assessed needs will be met over the 5-10-year period established for housing policies.
5. It is noted that a housing topic paper and supporting evidence is expected to be published towards the end of 2018, subject to approval. We welcome the additional work being proposed on the development of a strategy to deliver new homes. According to the Castle Point Local Development Scheme, the Local Plan will proceed directly to Regulation 19 consultation in January 2019. We suggest that further

opportunity be provided for comment on the Castle Plan strategy for growth once further work has been published and proposals are made.

Duty to Cooperate

6. As part of our joint working and combined commitment through the Association of South Essex Local Authorities (ASELA), Brentwood Borough Council will continue to work with Castle Point Borough Council on the strategic aims of the area through preparation of the JSP. We welcome the opportunity to continue to work closely with Castle Point Borough Council through the duty to cooperate for both the preparation of our individual local plans and the development of the JSP.
