

Brentwood Borough Council Response to the Southend-on-Sea New Local Plan 2018-2038 Refining Options (September 2021)

1. Thank you for inviting Brentwood Borough Council (Brentwood) to provide comments as part of Southend-on-Sea Borough Council's (Southend) consultation on its Refining Options document. Brentwood forms part of the Association of South Essex Authorities (ASELA) along with Southend. South Essex shares several strategic issues, such as housing growth and infrastructure. 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 planning practice guidance.
2. Please note that we have limited comments to high level strategic issues. Comments on the Southend Refining Options are limited given the early stage of the plan-making process and regular engagement through the duty to cooperate and joint working of ASELA.
3. This is an officer response and may be subject to change following approval from Members, as has been agreed.

Development Requirements: Meeting Housing Needs

4. The Southend Refining Options consultation document identifies a local need for 23,620 new homes by 2040, equating to 1,181 homes per year. It is clear from the consultation document that Southend is unable to meet its full objectively assessed needs within its own boundary due to a physical shortfall of land. Brentwood encourages Southend to make every reasonable effort to meet as much of the borough's own housing need before relying on duty to cooperate and the South Essex Joint Strategic Plan to meet unmet need.
5. Southend has formally asked if Brentwood is able to take any of Southend's unmet housing need. Brentwood is a Green Belt authority and has had to propose the release of sites within the Green Belt to meet local housing needs. Therefore, Brentwood is unable to take any of Southend's unmet need beyond

wider discussions through ASELA about how to meet growth needs across South Essex. This should also include the nuances of building

6. Southend has proposed several strategic options in an effort to meet as much of the housing need as possible. One approach proposed is a new neighbourhood in partnership with Rochford District Council. Provision of local development needs through new settlements is supported by Brentwood, such as Dunton Hills Garden Village. We plan for Dunton Hills to be the first garden community delivered in South Essex and so would be keen to work through ASELA with partners to apply learning experiences of bringing forward new settlements. Joint working within ASELA has been set-up to discuss cross-boundary issues such as unmet need.

Duty to Co-operate

7. The Council acknowledges receipt of the letter from Southend regarding the duty to cooperate and unmet housing need. As stated above, Brentwood is unable to accommodate Southend's unmet housing need but will continue to engage with ASELA partners to explore opportunities for new settlements across South Essex.
8. Brentwood welcomes the opportunity to continue to work with Southend in progressing plan-making in both local areas on an ongoing basis, specifically as part of joint work on strategic planning in South Essex, and in line with the requirements of the duty to cooperate.
