



**FINANCE, ASSETS, INVESTMENT AND RECOVERY COMMITTEE**  
**13 SEPTEMBER 2023**

<b>REPORT TITLE:</b>	<b>Response to the Basildon Borough Council Local Plan Issues and Options Consultation 2027-2042</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>Phil Drane, Director – Place</b>

**REPORT SUMMARY**

This report seeks approval on a formal response from Brentwood Borough Council (submitted as an officer's response pending approval from the committee) to the Basildon Local Plan, Issues & Options consultation (Regulation 18). The consultation ran from 27 June to 5 September 2023.

The officer response conveys broad support of Basildon Borough Council's aims in preparing a new Local Plan. The Basildon Plan is currently at the beginning stages of the plan-making process with no specific details on the strategic approach for the area. The consultation is focused more on seeking options on what the strategic strategy should be.

The consultation document highlights the fact that as of now the standard method indicates that Basildon Borough Council has a housing need of 1,041 new home per annum, resulting in 20,820 new homes over the plan period. The consultation document seeks opinions on what is an appropriate level of housing to be delivered and makes reference that the plan could provide less housing depending on the outcome of the pending NPPF revision. The consultation document also refers to Basildon's gypsy and traveller's needs currently being 85 pitches and 3 travelling showpeople plots for those that meet the planning definition and an additional 93 pitches and 86 traveling showpeople plots for those that do not meet the definition. The officer response highlights the importance of Basildon Borough Council making every effort possible to meet these needs in full.

**RECOMMENDATION**

- R1. Approve the response to the Basildon Local Plan Issues & Options consultation (Regulation 18), as set out in Appendix A.**

## **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

### **1.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION**

1.1 Basildon Borough Council is currently working towards a new Local Plan, with a possible plan period of 2027 to 2042 (with the possibility of this being extended subject to this consultation outcome). The consultation document was an 'Issues & Options' Plan, which is at the very beginning stages of the Plan making process. The Issues & Options consultation document was out for consultation from 27 June to 5 September 2023. Basildon Council agreed to accept an officer's response to the consultation pending approval from the committee.

1.2 Brentwood Borough Council is duty bound to undergo the duty to cooperate with neighbouring authorities on preparation of their local plans. In addition to being a neighbouring authority, both Basildon and Brentwood are members of the Association of South Essex Local Authorities (ASELA), and therefore ongoing joint working and discussion on cross-boundary planning matters, such as unmet housing needs, is discussed as part of the preparation of the South Essex Joint Strategic Framework.

#### **Issues, Options and Analysis of Options:**

1.3 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) requires each local planning authority to produce a local plan. This should set out strategic priorities for the area and plan positively for development and infrastructure needs, in line with national policy and guidance.

1.4 Local plans should include strategic policies to deliver:

- a) Home and employment needed in the area;
- b) Provision for retail, leisure and other commercial development;
- c) Provision of infrastructure for transport, telecommunications, water supply, waste water, flood risk and coastal change management, and the provision of minerals and energy (including heat);
- d) Provision of health, security, community and cultural infrastructure and other local facilities; and
- e) Climate change mitigation and adaption, conservation and enhancement of the natural and historical environment, including landscape.

1.5 The Basildon Local Plan is at the very beginning stages of the plan-making process. The document sets out what the vision of the Plan is and the key

strategic priorities, however the consultation was focused on obtaining comments / views on how to achieve these strategic priorities.

- 1.6 The document does not identify any growth areas, rather the consultation focused on where consultees would support growth within the borough. No specific reference is made to the amount of housing the Plan will aim to deliver, however does highlight the fact that the current housing needs as identified by the standard method is 1,041 new home per annum, resulting in 20, 820 new homes over the plan period (assuming a 15-year Plan). The recent National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) did suggest that the requirement to meet the figures as identified by the standard method may be lifted, however the revision to the NPPF has yet to be published. The consultation document makes reference to the housing figures potentially being lower than those identified by the current standard method.

### **Officer Consultation Response**

- 1.7 The officer's response conveyed general support to Basildon Borough Council progress with a new Local Plan, however, did stress the need for Basildon to make every effort to meet its housing needs in full, including the needs for gypsy and traveller accommodation.
- 1.8 The consultation document also raised the questions as to if a 15-year Plan period, which is the minimum requirement as set out in the NPPF was sufficient. Based on Brentwood's experience, the officer's response suggested that Basildon Borough Council consider extending the plan period to safeguard against any unforeseen delays.

## **2.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 2.1 On 3 March 2022, Basildon's Full Council decided to withdraw their submitted Local Plan (plan period 2014-2023). In accordance with regulation 27 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012, as amended Basildon Council published a statement on their website and notified consultees of this decision.
- 2.2 The resolution to withdraw was under the provisions of Section 22 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, which provides for a local planning authority to withdraw a local development document at any time up to its adoption.
- 2.3 Basildon Council were instructed by the Secretary of State to commence work on a new Local Plan immediately. This consultation is the first step in Basildon Council preparing a new Local Plan. Much of the evidence base

which was prepared for the previous iteration of the withdrawn plan will need to be updated.

### **3.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

3.1 To comply with the duty to cooperate it is important that the council engage with Basildon's Local Plan process.

### **4.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

4.1 None

### **5.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION**

5.1 Brentwood Borough Council is required to engage through the duty to cooperate with neighbouring authorities on preparation of their local plans.

5.2 Basildon Borough is within the neighbouring South Essex housing market area, and both Brentwood and Basildon are members of the Association of South Essex Local Authorities (ASELA). There has been ongoing joint working and discussion on cross-boundary planning matters, such as unmet housing need, through the ASELA partnership and part of the preparation of the South Essex Joint Strategic Framework.

5.3 The Basildon Local Plan Issues and Options consultation was open from 27 June until 5 September 2023. Local planning authorities have a statutory obligation to allow consultees a minimum of six weeks to respond as part of the plan-making process.

5.4 It is considered appropriate that Brentwood Borough Council express broad support for Basildon Borough Council's efforts to develop a local plan in accordance with national policy and guidance, and the commitment to continue collaboration through the duty to cooperate on strategic planning matters that affect South Essex.

### **6.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

**Name & Title: Tim Willis, Director – Resources (Section 151 Officer)**  
**Tel & Email: 01277 312500 / tim.willis@brentwood.rochford.gov.uk**

6.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

## **7.0 LEGAL/GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS**

**Name & Title: Claire Mayhew, Acting Joint Director – People & Governance (Monitoring Officer)**

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- 7.1 The Localism Act 2011 places a legal duty on local planning authorities and other defined local bodies to engage constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis to maximise the effectiveness of Local Plan preparation in the context of strategic cross boundary matters. It is currently not a duty to agree, but local planning authorities must make every effort to secure the necessary cooperation before they submit their Local Plan for examination. The cooperation should produce effective and deliverable policies on strategic cross boundary issues.

## **8.0 EQUALITY & HEALTH IMPLICATIONS**

**Name & Title: Kim Anderson, Corporate Manager - Communities, Leisure and Health**

**Tel & Email: 01277 312500 [kim.anderson@brentwood.gov.uk](mailto:kim.anderson@brentwood.gov.uk)**

- 8.1 The Public Sector Equality Duty applies to the Council when it makes decisions. The duty requires us to have regard to the need to:
- a) Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other behaviour prohibited by the Act. In summary, the Act makes discrimination etc. on the grounds of a protected characteristic unlawful;
  - b) Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not; and
  - c) Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not including tackling prejudice and promoting understanding.
- 8.2 The protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, marriage and civil partnership, race, religion or belief, gender, and sexual orientation. The Act states that 'marriage and civil partnership' is not a relevant protected characteristic for (b) or (c) although it is relevant for (a).
- 8.3 The proposals in this report will not have a disproportionately adverse impact on any people with a particular characteristic.

## 9.0 ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

**Name & Title:** Phil Drane, Director - Place

**Tel & Email:** 01277 312500 / phil.drane@brentwood.rochford.gov.uk

- 9.1 There are no direct economic or climate change implications currently, although the Basildon local plan should be prepared in accordance with ASELA joint working, helping to deliver economic growth across South Essex. As the Basildon plan progresses specific employment land and policy proposals will be made and it will be important that the council engage to maximise economic growth across South Essex.

### REPORT AUTHOR:

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## APPENDICES

- Appendix A: Brentwood Borough Council response to the Basildon Borough Council Local Plan Issues and Options Consultation 2027-2042 (August 2023)

## BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Basildon Borough Council Local Plan Issue and Options Consultation: Issues and Options Consultation (June 2023) - Basildon

## SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
N/A	-