

24 March 2015

Ordinary Council

**Letter to Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government
re the Brentwood Local Development Plan**

Report of: *Gordon Glenday, Head of Planning*

Wards Affected: *All*

This report is: *Public*

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The public consultation on the Brentwood Local Development Plan (LDP) Strategic Growth Options has just been completed. A key element of the LDP is the assumption that around 3000 new homes will need to be provided on land currently designated as green belt. If it is proposed to de-designate parts of our green belt to meet future housing needs, Members will need assurances that this growth will be accompanied by the timely delivery of the necessary infrastructure to meet increasing demands for new physical and social infrastructure such as schools, roads, health-care and sports and leisure facilities.
- 1.2 It is therefore proposed to send a letter after the national elections to the incoming Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government seeking assurances that Brentwood's proposed housing growth can only be sustainable if the appropriate physical and social infrastructure is resourced and delivered in parallel with the housing development. The letter will be presented to Members at Full Council for consideration.

2. Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 That Members agree to send the letter to the in-coming Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government.**

3. Introduction and Background

- 3.1 The Brentwood Local Development Plan (LDP) has just completed the public consultation on its Strategic Growth Options. At the next stage of the LDP, members will need to consider which sites in the Borough should be taken forward for development to meet our need for growth over the next 15 years.

- 3.2 As highlighted in the Strategic Growth Options consultation, there is an expectation that around 3000 new homes will need to be provided on land currently designated as green belt. This is clearly an issue that Members and the local community will only consider doing very reluctantly.
- 3.3 If it is proposed to de-designate parts of our green belt to meet future housing needs, local people will need the reassurance that this growth will be accompanied by the timely delivery of the necessary infrastructure to meet this growth.
- 3.4 It is therefore proposed to send a letter to the in-coming Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government seeking assurances that Brentwood's proposed housing growth can only be sustainable if the appropriate physical and social infrastructure is resourced and delivered in parallel with the housing development. This letter, if agreed by Full Council, will be sent to the Secretary of State after the national elections in May 2015 so that the issue is considered at the highest level at the earliest stage by the MP responsible for local government over the next 5 years.

4. Issue, Options and Analysis of Options

- 4.1 Members are requested to approve the proposed letter to the in-coming Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. This letter will be presented at Full Council

5. Reasons for Recommendation

- 5.1 The letter to the Secretary of State for communities and Local Government will flag up Brentwood Borough Council's concerns that future housing growth needs to be accompanied by the funding and timely delivery of the appropriate physical and social infrastructure needed to facilitate the proposed growth

6. Consultation

- 6.1 The LDP is a key priority for the Council to develop a prosperous borough for the future.

7. References to Corporate Plan

- 7.1 The LDP is a key priority for the Council to develop a prosperous borough for the future.

8. Implications

Financial Implications

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- 8.1 There are currently no specific financial implications. However, the provision of essential new infrastructure will require considerable investment in order to deliver sustainable growth in Brentwood over the next 15 years of the LDP. The Council and partner agencies, including central government, will therefore need to identify and allocate the essential funding required for the delivery of the essential infrastructure.

Legal Implications

Name & Title: Philip Cunliffe-Jones, Solicitor

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- 8.2 There are no specific legal implications arising from this report. The proposed letter to the Secretary of State will not have any statutory weight as such but will record Brentwood Borough Council's concerns that additional housing development in the area needs to be accompanied by an appropriate increase in the provision of suitable physical and social infrastructure in order to deliver sustainable growth.

Other Implications (where significant) – i.e. Health and Safety, Asset Management, Equality and Diversity, Risk Management, Section 17 – Crime & Disorder, Sustainability, ICT.

None to report

- 9. Background Papers** (include their location and identify whether any are exempt or protected by copyright)

- 9.1 Strategic Growth Options Consultation (January 2015)

10. Appendices to this report

- Letter to Secretary of State – Brentwood Local Development Plan (Tabled at Meeting).

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