

18 November 2015

Ordinary Council

Local Development Plan Update

Report of: *Gordon Glenday, Head of Planning*

Wards Affected: *All*

This report is: *Public*

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 As part of preparing its new Local Plan, the Council has consulted the public and stakeholders at several stages. The most recent consultation took place between January-February 2015 when the Strategic Growth Options document was published. Initial consultation findings were presented to Ordinary Council on 24 March 2015.
- 1.2 Further analysis work has since taken place and this is now almost complete. A summary of findings are to be presented to Members as part of this item, in order to share information as it becomes available.
- 1.3 The presentation will also include an update on Local Plan progress and other related documents, which in time will comprise the Council's Local Development Plan.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That Members receive the summarised Strategic Growth Options consultation findings and await more detailed analysis as part of Local Plan preparation in January 2016.**

3. Introduction and Background

- 3.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) requires local planning authorities to produce a Local Plan for their area (Paragraph 153). Brentwood Borough Council is in the process of producing a new Local Plan and has undertaken various stages of consultation as part of the plan making process.

- 3.2 The most recent consultation was on Strategic Growth Options (January 2015). The consultation document provided an overview of the main issues to be considered as part of the Plan and set out all potential sites put forward to the Council to date for housing, employment and retail.
- 3.3 Public consultation as part of the plan making process provides opportunities for the public and stakeholders to submit their views, which are taken into consideration when preparing the Local Plan.
- 3.4 All representations made in response to the Strategic Growth Options consultation have now been input onto the Council's planning consultation software. Representations are being analysed and a response to each comment provided.
- 3.5 Comments and the Council's response will be presented to Members in due course alongside a recommendation to approve the next version of the plan for public consultation; the Draft Plan. All comments made in response to the Preferred Options consultation (2013) will also be presented. Consideration of all comments in a transparent manner will ensure these inform preparation of the Plan.

4. Issue, Options and Analysis of Options

- 4.1 Initial Strategic Growth Options consultation findings were presented to Ordinary Council on 24 March 2015. Now that more detailed analysis has taken place an updated presentation of findings can be given.
- 4.2 A summary of responses received to the Strategic Growth Options Consultation is to be presented as part of this item to Ordinary Council on 18 November 2015. This presentation will also include an update on Local Plan progress and next steps.
- 4.3 The Strategic Growth Options consultation received 9,504 comments from 1,005 people. In broad terms, 53% of responses were to make comment in response to a question, 25% objected, and 22% supported. However, these are not always an accurate reflection of what an individual representation is stating because most of the questions were open-ended.
- 4.4 In terms of how comments were submitted, 48% (4,562) were via email, 43% (4,074) were in writing (completed paper forms or letters), and 9% (866) were made online. This means that over half of comments received were submitted electronically (57%), which will have saved time and resource when analysing. However, a significant proportion were made in writing.

4.5 As analysis of comments is still ongoing these numbers may be subject to change. However, given analysis is now reaching final stages any change will not be significant.

4.6 In terms of Local Plan update and next steps, the presentation will include information about the series of workshops being held with Parish Councils, technical studies, related documents and anticipated timeframes. Local Plan stages are anticipated as follows:

- Draft Plan consultation: January 2016
- Pre-Submission Plan consultation: Summer 2016
- Submit Plan: Winter 2016
- Examination in Public: Early 2017
- Adopt Plan: Summer 2017

5. Reasons for Recommendation

5.1 The presentation of summarised findings enables information to be shared as soon as possible about some of the responses received and key themes that the Council will need to consider as part of the plan making process. It also provides an opportunity to update on Local Plan preparation and other related documents, which in time will comprise the Council's Local Development Plan.

5.2 It is important to note that while summarised findings give an indication of comments received, these do not provide the full and final view. Comments will require further analysis and will be presented as part of a Consultation Statement to Members in due course.

6. Consultation

6.1 Consultation on the Strategic Growth Options took place for six weeks from Tuesday 6 January 2015 to Tuesday 17 February 2015, in line with regulations and the Council's adopted Statement of Community Involvement.

6.2 Further opportunity for public consultation will be taken at future stages of the plan-making process, namely the Draft Plan and Pre-Submission Plan.

7. References to Corporate Plan

- 7.1 The Strategic Growth Options consultation forms part of the preparation of the Brentwood Local Development Plan, a key priority in the Council's Corporate Plan as part of 'A Prosperous Borough'.

8. Implications

Financial Implications

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- 8.1 The cost of carrying out the Strategic Growth Options consultation, including input and analysis of comments received, has been accounted for within the Planning Policy budget.

Legal Implications

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- 8.2 This is a necessary consultation within the statutory requirements and the Council's adopted Statement of Community Involvement.

Other Implications

- 8.3 Following analysis of all comments received, a Consultation Statement will be prepared. This statement will be brought to Members for consideration in due course and will inform preparation of the Local Plan. In addition, a Consultation Statement for the Local Plan Preferred Options Consultation (July 2013) will also be considered by Members and inform the next stage of plan preparation.

9. Background Papers

- 9.1 Strategic Growth Options Consultation (January 2015)
9.2 Local Development Scheme (July 2015)

10. Appendices to this report

N/A

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