



# LOCAL PLAN NEWSLETTER

JULY 2016 NUMBER 1

Welcome to the first edition of the Local Plan Newsletter, designed to keep you up to date with progress on Chelmsford City Council's new Local Plan. Further editions will be published at key stages in the process of preparing our new Local Plan.

## What is the Local Plan?

The new Local Plan will shape future growth and development of the City Council's area until 2036. The Council's current development plans cover the period until 2021, so the new Local Plan is needed to manage growth in the longer term.

The new Local Plan is about getting the right type of development in the right place, to meet the City's continuing growth. It will identify land for housing, schools, shops, community facilities and businesses, and will include locations for thousands of new houses and jobs by 2036. It will be a sustainable plan, with development in well-connected locations where walking, cycling and public transport will be promoted, and where the natural and historic environment will be protected as much as possible.

## Recent Consultation

We'd like to thank more than 1100 people and organisations who made comments on the first stage of the new Local Plan. This Issues and Options consultation focused on levels of new development needed and possible areas for growth. A Sustainability Appraisal assessed these issues to help identify all the likely significant effects. All comments made can be viewed in full on the Council's Consultation Portal: [www.chelmsford.gov.uk/planningpolicyconsult](http://www.chelmsford.gov.uk/planningpolicyconsult)

Comments have also been summarised in feedback reports, which can be viewed on the Local Plan website. The consultation documents can also still be viewed there: [www.chelmsford.gov.uk/new-local-plan](http://www.chelmsford.gov.uk/new-local-plan)

## Call for Sites

During the Issues and Options consultation, the Council invited landowners and developers to submit sites for consideration for potential development. Around 50 sites are being added to around 280 sites submitted following a similar invitation in 2014.

The submission of a site does not mean that it will be allocated for development in the Local Plan. The 'Call for Sites' is simply a way of helping us to establish what sites could potentially be made available for development in the future.

The new  
Local Plan  
will shape  
future growth

Getting the  
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## What happens now?

Work is continuing on the next stage of developing the new Local Plan, the Preferred Option. This will propose how and where growth could be distributed, including identification of specific sites. Consultation on this will take place in early 2017. If you have registered on the Council's Consultation Portal, we will automatically contact you when the consultation is launched.

The Preferred Option will also contain draft policies to be used for deciding planning applications.

All the consultation responses received so far will play a key part in choosing the Preferred Option. Other information we consider includes national policy, and a range of technical documents such as background studies, research, and surveys. This 'evidence base' is being developed and expanded all the time, and can be viewed on the Local Plan website:

[www.chelmsford.gov.uk/new-local-plan](http://www.chelmsford.gov.uk/new-local-plan)

## What are the stages in preparing the Local Plan?

Following consultation on the Preferred Option in early 2017, the feedback will be used to prepare the Draft Local Plan. Consultation on this is anticipated for Autumn 2017, and will focus on compliance with legal and national policy. Any further modifications needed will be made before submitting the final Local Plan to the Secretary of State for an Independent Examination, in Spring/Summer 2018.

The full timetable is set out in the Local Development Scheme, available on our website:

[www.chelmsford.gov.uk/local-development-scheme-lds](http://www.chelmsford.gov.uk/local-development-scheme-lds)

## How we will involve you

The City Council is committed to involving local communities and interested organisations in preparing the Local Plan, and also when it deals with planning applications. How we do this is outlined in the Council's Statement of Community Involvement (SCI):  
[www.chelmsford.gov.uk/sci](http://www.chelmsford.gov.uk/sci)

## Information

Planning and Housing Policy  
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Tel: 01245 606330  
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Register for alerts about future consultations, change your login details, or view consultation documents on the Consultation Portal:

[www.chelmsford.gov.uk/planningpolicy/consult](http://www.chelmsford.gov.uk/planningpolicy/consult)

Frequently Asked Questions on how to use the Consultation Portal:

[www.chelmsford.gov.uk/consultation-portal-faqs](http://www.chelmsford.gov.uk/consultation-portal-faqs)

Local Plan website:

[www.chelmsford.gov.uk/new-local-plan](http://www.chelmsford.gov.uk/new-local-plan)

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