

LOCAL PLAN NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2018 NUMBER 5

Find out the latest on Chelmsford's new Local Plan...

What is the Local Plan?

The Local Plan identifies the number and locations for houses, jobs and businesses we are planning for, along with the infrastructure needed to support growth. This includes where children will go to school, where people will work and how they will get around.

The Local Plan also includes planning policies which will be used to determine planning applications, and settlement boundaries for our city, towns and villages beyond which development may be restricted.

Why have a new Local Plan?

Much of the development outlined in the current Local Plan (Local Development Framework adopted from 2008) is either complete or already underway. For example the Former Marconi site, Bond Street shopping, Beaulieu and Channels, and Chelmer Valley Park and Ride. To continue this success, it is important that we have an up-to-date plan to meet local development needs to 2036 and beyond. This will ensure that Chelmsford remains a vibrant and attractive place to live, work and socialise.

What stage are we at?

The Local Plan has now been submitted for Examination to the Secretary of State. The new Local Plan has been through three previous stages of consultation which many people and organisations have commented on. The first was the Issues and Options consultation in 2015/16, followed by the Preferred Options in Spring 2017 and most recently the Pre-Submission in January to March 2018. The responses received to these consultations have been carefully considered and used to progress the Local Plan to its final submission stage.

The responses received to the consultations have been summarised in the Regulation 22 Consultation Statement. This can be read on our website: www.chelmsford.gov.uk/new-local-plan

In preparing the Local Plan we have also used a wide range of technical studies covering subjects such as housing, traffic, landscape and sustainability and have been working with education, transport, health and utilities providers to understand the infrastructure needed. All these evidence base documents are also available on the Council's website.



Next Steps

What is an Examination?

The Local Plan will be examined by an independent Planning Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State whose role is to assess whether the plan has been prepared in accordance with the Duty to Co-operate, is legally compliant and consistent with national policy, known as the tests of 'soundness'.

The tests of 'soundness' are set out in national policy and are as follows:

Positively prepared – the plan should be prepared based on a strategy which seeks to meet objectively assessed development and infrastructure requirements, including unmet requirements from neighbouring authorities where it is reasonable to do so and consistent with achieving sustainable development;

Justified – the plan should be the most appropriate strategy, when considered against the reasonable alternatives, based on proportionate evidence;

Effective – the plan should be deliverable over its period and based on effective joint working on cross-boundary strategic priorities; and

Consistent with national policy – the plan should enable the delivery of sustainable development in accordance with the policies within the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, 2012).

Alongside the Local Plan, all comments received to the Pre-Submission Local Plan together with the evidence base have been submitted to the Planning Inspector holding the Examination.

The Programme Officer

An independent officer working on behalf of the Planning Inspector, known as a Programme Officer, will organise and manage the administrative and procedural matters of the Examination process. Andrea Copsey is the Programme Officer for Chelmsford's Local Plan Examination. Andrea will be the appropriate point of contact for any queries in relation to the Examination, and all correspondence with the Inspector should be addressed through her.

Andrea Copsey contact details:

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What is the timetable for the Local Plan?

The timetable for the Local Plan is set out in a project plan called the Local Development Scheme (LDS). The key stages are:

Submission for Independent Examination (Regulation 22)	29 June 2018
Independent Examination Hearing Sessions	Autumn 2018
Adoption	Late 2018 / Early 2019

Neighbourhood Plans:

Neighbourhood Plans are being prepared by the local community in some parishes. These can influence detailed policies and shape development proposals in their area. You can get involved - visit our website for more details

www.chelmsford.gov.uk/communityplans

Draft Planning Obligations SPD Consultation:

The Council is also reviewing the Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document to identify where planning obligations may be applicable to secure the infrastructure required to mitigate the impact of the development identified in the new Local Plan. A focused consultation on this document will commence in July 2018. More information will be published on the website.

You can also find more information and documents for downloading, at

www.chelmsford.gov.uk/new-local-plan

Email: planning.policy@chelmsford.gov.uk

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