

North Essex Authorities
c/o Gary Guiver
Planning Manager
Tendring District Council

Our reference Project reference: 10404
Date 25 April 2019

Dear Gary

North Essex Authorities Section 1 Local Plan Additional SA - update on approach

In response to your request for an update on the approach to the additional SA work, this note outlines the evolution of the method since the focussed consultation on the Method Scoping Statement during Dec 2018-February 2019.

In discussion with the NEAs and in light of comments received during that consultation and during 'drop-in' sessions with site promoters held jointly by LUC and the NEAs during January 2019, the method previously consulted upon has evolved as follows:

- Revised the site boundaries (SUE2 Land East of Braintree; VE1 Land at Kelvedon) and/or dwelling capacity options (ALTGC03 Monks Wood; SUE2 Land East of Braintree; SUE3 Land South East of Braintree; VE1 Land at Kelvedon) of sites subject to SA and added a new site (Land South of Haverhill SUE4), as requested by site promoters. A further, final round of revisions is planned following receipt of site information forms from promoters.
- Amended the Stage 1a/1b, GIS-based appraisal to require at least 50% of a site to fall within the walking catchment of services and facilities (accessibility tests), or at least 5% of site to fall within the zone of influence of environmental assets (environmental harm tests). Previously, accessibility and environmental harm scores were based on any intersection of a site with the relevant buffer, creating the potential for incorrect interpretation if more detailed information on the proportion of a site falling within the buffer was not read in conjunction with the headline sustainability score.
- Amended the Stage 1b standard assumptions about community and transport infrastructure likely to be supported by different scales of housing development to reflect feedback received from relevant stakeholders (e.g. a new primary healthcare 'spoke' is supported by developments of

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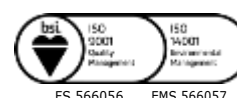
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4,500 dwellings per Mid Essex CCG; all strategic sites are able to support a local centre).

- Responded to requests for additional engagement by expanding the scope of the 'check and challenge workshop' to allow site promoters and community stakeholders to attend; this was previously intended to be limited to officers, statutory consultation bodies for the SA, and infrastructure providers. Following presentations on the background to the additional SA, the approach being taken, and the draft Stage 1a and 1b results, attendees were divided into groups and invited to discuss what principles should guide definition of the spatial strategy options to be subject to the Stage 2 SA work.
- Responded to requests for additional engagement by sending 'Site Information Forms' to site promoters to give them an opportunity to formally confirm key aspects of what is likely to be provided at each site.

Following completion of draft Stage 1a and 1b appraisals of site options, it is apparent that none of the 26 locations assessed is subject to any 'showstoppers' that obviously rule them out as potentially sustainable locations for large scale development. Also, when considering sustainability performance of sites in relation to the full range of SA objectives, no locations clearly perform much better or much worse than the other locations.

In order to provide additional information to try to narrow down the locations that should be taken forward to Stage 2 of the SA, it was therefore agreed with the NEAs to subject each of the 26 locations to a more detailed and qualitative appraisal than originally envisaged. This 'enhanced Stage 1' SA work is now underway and, together with 'principles' identified by discussion groups at the check and challenge workshop, will help to inform the selection of spatial strategy options to be subject to Stage 2 of the SA.

We have already provided to the NEAs with an updated timetable for the additional SA work and this reflects the evolving method outlined above.

Yours sincerely,

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