

24th November 2020

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| Report of | Assistant Director of Place and Client Services | Author | Rachel Forkin |
| Title | Response to Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan | | |
| Wards affected | Not applicable | | |

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have published a Pre-Submission Joint Local Plan under Regulation 19 of the Town and County Planning (Local Plan) Regulations 2012. The Joint Local Plan sets out the planning framework to guide development and facilitate growth in Babergh and Mid Suffolk Districts over the period 2018 to 2037.
- 1.2 As a neighbouring authority, Colchester Borough Council is identified as a Duty to Cooperate partner for strategic planning issues.

2. Recommended Decision

- 2.1 It is recommended that the CBC response to the Babergh and Mid Suffolk Pre-Submission Joint Local Plan is agreed and submitted prior to the consultation deadline of 24th December 2020.

3. Reason for Recommended Decision

- 3.1 Colchester Borough Council is a Duty to Cooperate partner and it is important that Duty to Cooperate requirements between the local authorities are met.

4. Alternative Options

- 4.1 The alternative would be not to respond to the Babergh and Mid Suffolk Pre-Submission Joint Local Plan or to conclude that the Duty to Co-operate had not been met.

5. Background Information

- 5.1 Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have published a Pre-Submission Joint Local Plan under Regulation 19 of the Town and County Planning (Local Plan) Regulations 2012. The Joint Local Plan sets out the planning framework to guide development and facilitate growth in Babergh and Mid Suffolk Districts over the period 2018 to 2037.
- 5.2 The Pre-Submission Joint Local Plan and accompanying and supporting documentation can be viewed online at: www.babergh.gov.uk/jointlocalplan. The deadline for responses is 24th December 2020.
- 5.3 Section 110 of the Localism Act introduced the Duty to Cooperate requirement for local authorities and the NPPF requires Local Planning Authorities to cooperate with each other on strategic matters that cross administrative boundaries. Colchester Borough Council is rightly identified as a key Duty to Cooperate partner for strategic planning issues including housing and strategic environmental issues.
- 5.4 Colchester Borough is outside of the Ipswich Housing Market Area and has not identified any unmet need to be met by these District Councils. No cross-border strategic sites have been proposed in the Joint Local Plan along the Babergh and Colchester border. The Spatial Approach, set out in Section 9 is supported.
- 5.5 It is proposed to submit the response set out below to the Babergh and Mid Suffolk Pre-Submission Joint Local Plan:

Response to the Babergh and Mid Suffolk Pre-Submission Joint Local Plan (Regulation 19) (November 2020)

Colchester Borough Council welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Babergh and Mid Suffolk Pre-Submission Joint Local Plan. As a neighbouring authority, CBC is rightly identified as a key Duty to Co-operate partner for strategic planning issues.

We have no specific comments on the Plan and the Borough Council considers that Duty to Co-operate requirements between the two authorities have been met.

6. Equality, Diversity and Human Rights implications

- 6.1 There are no Equality, Diversity and Human Rights implications in relation to this report.

7. Standard References

- 7.1 There are no particular references to the Strategic Plan; consultation or publicity considerations or financial; community safety; health and safety or risk management implications.

8. Environmental and Sustainability Implications

- 8.1 The purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development as defined in the National Planning Policy Framework. Achieving

sustainable development means that the planning system has three overarching objectives, which are interdependent and need to be pursued in mutually supportive ways. These are economic, social and environmental objectives.

- 8.2 The Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan sets out planning policies to ensure that new development is delivered in a sustainable way.