

- Regulation 19 Consultation -

**Brentwood Local Plan**  
Pre-Submission

**Duty to Cooperate**  
**Position Statement**

February 2019



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## Introduction

- 1.1 Brentwood Borough Council has always understood the importance of cooperating with others on strategic planning matters. It has a history of working together with neighbouring authorities and stakeholders in plan making and this continues today. With Brentwood Borough being geographically placed adjoining the Greater London area and in the west of Essex, the challenges of facilitating strategic planning has been exacerbated with differing needs and often priorities of its adjacent neighbours.
- 1.2 This document provides a snapshot of how the Council is meeting the Local Plan development requirement for the duty to cooperate and moving toward the submission of its draft Local Plan to the Secretary of State. It provides an initial summary of the strands of work that the Council has undertaken for a number of years with adjoining boroughs and interested parties, and the more recent work with the South Essex boroughs, during the process of developing the Spatial Strategy and drafting the submission version of the Local Plan.
- 1.3 The Council is committed to cooperation with neighbouring authorities and key organisations on strategic planning issues. Since January 2018, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Basildon, Brentwood, Castle Point, Essex County, Rochford, Southend-on-Sea and Thurrock Councils, forming the Association of South Essex Local Authorities (ASELA), which agreed to jointly work on 'place vision' for the region. This new venture will continue to look across borough boundaries. This work is progressing at early stages and Brentwood Borough Council is committed to engaging with partners as discussions and evidence gathering progresses through the plan-making process.
- 1.4 In addition, the Council will continue to have regards to neighbouring authority plans, Essex County Council plans, and strategies of other relevant bodies.
- 1.5 In line with the new requirements of the Revised National Planning Policy Framework 2018<sup>1</sup> (Revised NPPF 2018), the Council will be using the work on duty to cooperate to draw up appropriate 'statement of common ground' between statutory bodies, key consultees and, where relevant, those with specific interest in bringing forward major sites to clarify the availability and achievability of development at these locations.
- 1.6 These statements will clarify the agreements and disagreements between the relevant authorities and organisations to assist the independent planning inspector to assess the draft local plan.
- 1.7 This work is ongoing and so this document will be further developed for the Submission of the Draft Local Plan to the Secretary of State for consideration by an independent planning inspector.

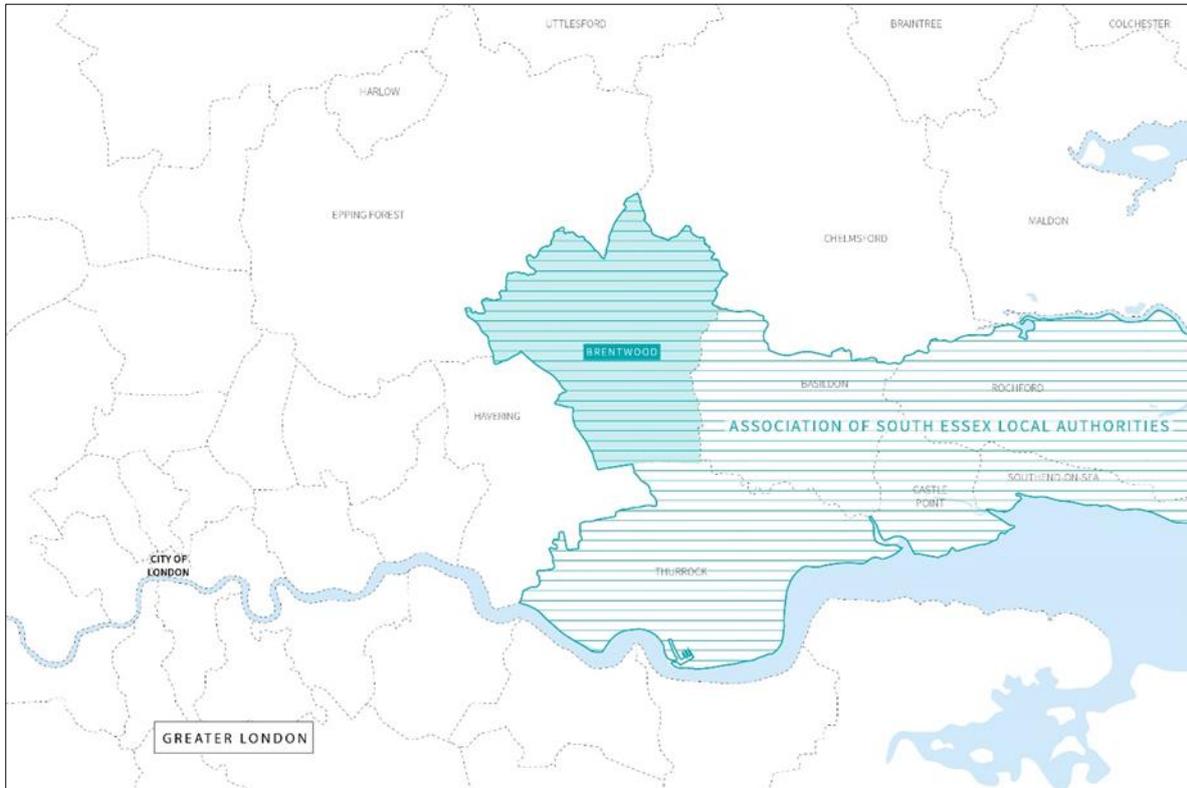
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<sup>1</sup> Paragraphs 35 and 137. National Planning Policy Framework. MHCLG. 2018

## Legal Context

- 1.8 Requires proactive constructive and active engagement at an early stage of preparing the plan, with local authorities and other prescribed bodies on “strategic matters that cross administrative boundaries”.
- 1.9 The neighbouring authorities and prescribed relevant bodies for the purposes of section 33A of the Act, as set out by the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.
- 1.10 Paragraphs 25 to 27 of the Revised NPPF 2018 set out how the Government expects local planning authorities, county councils and other prescribed bodies to cooperate with one another on strategic matters that cross administrative boundaries.
- 1.11 For the purposes of plan-making, the Revised NPPF 2018 defines strategic matters as follows, within paragraph 20:
- 1.12 “20. Strategic policies should set out an overall strategy for the pattern, scale and quality of development, and make sufficient provision for:
- a) housing (including affordable housing), employment, retail, leisure and other commercial development;
  - b) infrastructure for transport, telecommunications, security, waste management, water supply, wastewater, flood risk and coastal change management, and the provision of minerals and energy (including heat);
  - c) community facilities (such as health, education and cultural infrastructure); and
  - d) conservation and enhancement of the natural, built and historic environment, including landscapes and green infrastructure, and planning measures to address climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- It may be the case that not all strategic policies require a cross-boundary approach.”

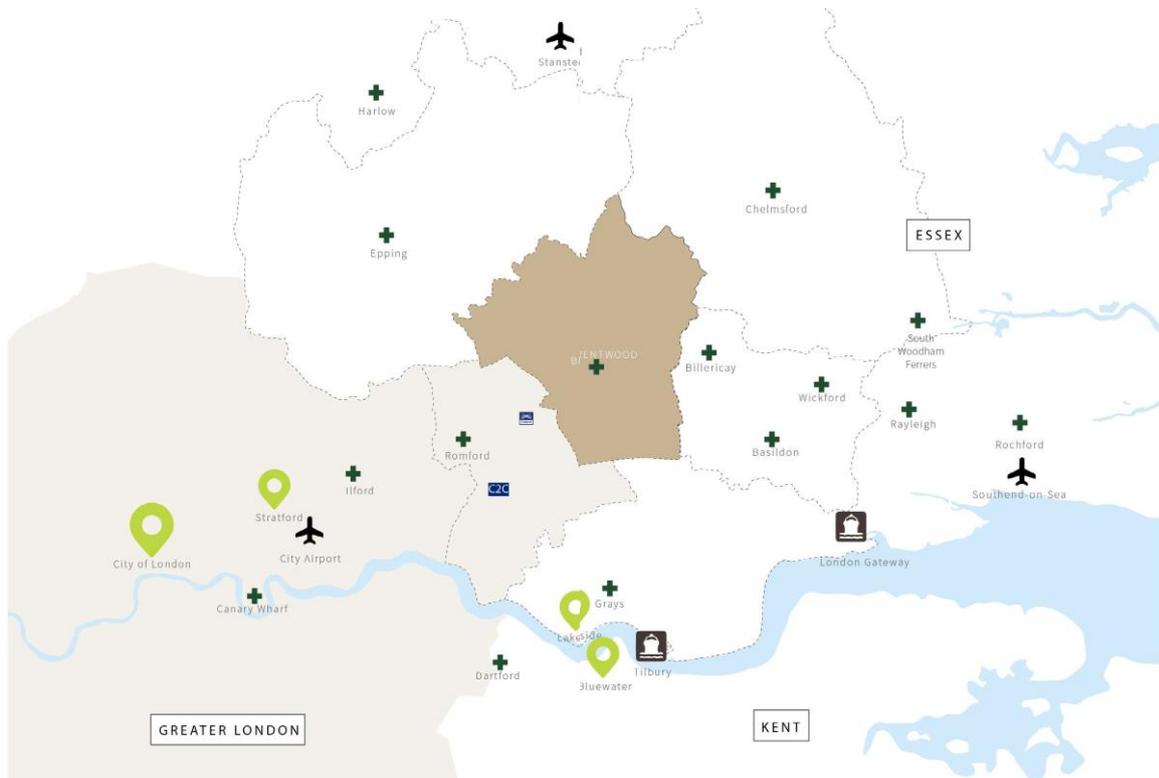
## Strategic Context for Brentwood Borough



**Figure 1: Brentwood Location**

- 1.13 Located in the south-west of the county of Essex and east of Greater London, Brentwood Borough is set within the Essex Countryside. The borough has easy access to the countryside as well as to London, along established road and rail networks. Our location offers the best of both worlds, making Brentwood an attractive place to live, work and visit.
- 1.14 Being set within London's Metropolitan Green Belt poses some development constraints. However, it also sets a foundation for a creative and innovative response to sustainable development where the principles of 'designing and building with nature' can be embedded to create and enhance neighbourhoods that deliver health and well-being for all.
- 1.15 The spatial strategy is informed by the following challenges and opportunities:
- a) Brentwood's principle character and settlement pattern as a 'Borough of Villages' are retained;
  - b) Limited availability of previously developed land (Brownfield), due to Brentwood's largely rural setting within the Green belt, which makes up 89% of the borough area;

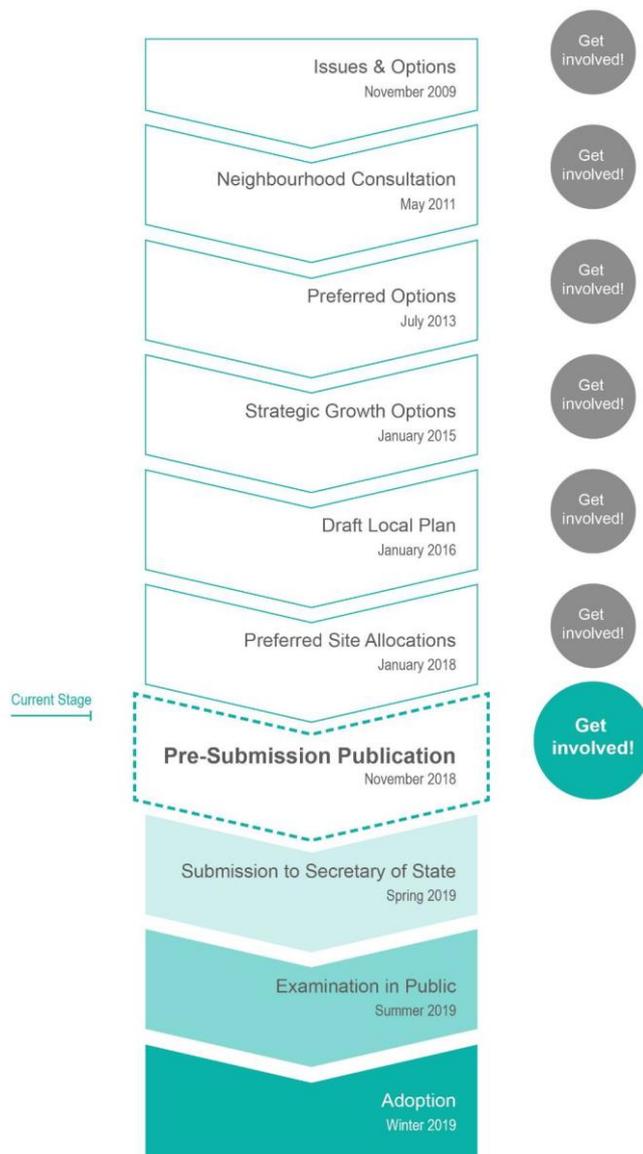
- c) Areas of landscape and environmental sensitivity, especially to the south of Brentwood and Shenfield;
- d) Growth options that meet sustainability criteria for accessibility to facilities and travel modes, and ensuring minimal impact on key environmental designations;
- e) Integrated and accessible transit routes that form key connections to London and the wider economic opportunities of South Essex; and
- f) Capacity of existing infrastructure and the need for new facilities.



**Figure 2: Brentwood Borough Context**

## Development of the draft local plan

1.16 The local plan has undergone a number of consultations in order to develop the plan. This is summarised in Figure 3: Consultation process so far, below.



**Figure 3: Consultation Process So Far**

## Self-contained Housing Market Area

- 1.17 The NPPF (2012) recommended that where a housing market area (HMA extends across more than one local authority, plan makers should assess housing need for the whole area rather than for each authority individually. Brentwood commissioned David Couttie Associates (DCA) to define their housing market area as part of a post NPPF SHMA and that work concluded in 2013 that Brentwood District was a self-contained Housing Market Area. DCA also recognised more limited housing market links with Brentwood’s Neighbours, in relation to migration and travel to work.
- 1.18 However, a number of 2016 consultation responses noted strong links to locations beyond the Borough including commuting flows into London. Some of these responses suggested that the data should be updated given the HMA findings predated the census.

- 1.19 The 2013 SHMA was prepared without full sight of the 2011 Census data – and critically the Census commuting and migration data. Instead DCA based their review on the Annual Population Survey and 2001 Census. The SHMA 2017 therefore re-tested these links in light of the published 2011 Census data. It also look at published housing market area data from neighbouring authorities, to seek to establish if the available evidence continues to identify that Brentwood forms its own self-contained housing market area.
- 1.20 With strong evidence of self-containment, (80% of local house moves were internal to Brentwood Borough for example), the conclusion that Brentwood is a self-contained Housing Market Area remains.
- 1.21 We have reviewed the neighbours' housing market evidence and a number confirm that while there are links Brentwood is contextually different.
- 1.22 There are four HMAs in the County:
- a) A four district HMA to middle and north (Braintree, Chelmsford, Colchester, Tendring). This HMA could include Maldon, but that district considered itself a separate HMA – a point accepted by their plan Inspector.
  - b) A South Essex (Thames Gateway) HMA
  - c) A West Essex (& Herts) HMA.
  - d) A Brentwood HMA.
- 1.23 To the south of the County is London. The GLA maintain that London's HMA includes all 33 boroughs, but does not extend beyond these, clarification of this is likely to be requested in the current London Plan examination process.
- 1.24 In conclusion the main message, explicit or implied, from each of these studies is that Brentwood is on the edge of a number of housing markets, but does not neatly form part of any HMA, endorsing Brentwood as a single district HMA.

## **Meeting Housing Need**

- 1.25 The early stages of the local plan assessed the local housing need and then due to the constraints identified in the evidence base in particular Green Belt, considered that it was unable to meet its local housing need within the borough. The objectively assessed need also rose considerably during this time. When the regional plans were in place, the target was less than 200 new homes per annum, this rose to an objectively assessed need in 2017 of 364 new homes per annum. The first version of the standard methodology introduced for calculating annual housing need was 454, later dropping to 350 new homes minimum per annum over the period 2019-2029 when taking the 2016 household projections into account.
- 1.26 The Council is also committed to provide a housing supply buffer. The buffer allows for an additional housing supply in the borough to be maintained throughout the Local Plan period and is an approach supported in national planning guidance. When taking the supply buffer into account, provision is made for a total of 7,752

new homes in the period 2016-2033; an annualised housing target of 456 new homes per year.

- 1.27 In response to previous Brentwood local plan consultations and with the on-going duty to cooperate meetings, adjoining planning authorities confirmed that they were unwilling and unable to take any of the Brentwood identified housing need. Brentwood Borough therefore redrafted and re-consulted on the local plan with this in mind, proposing to meet the identified housing and Gypsy and Traveller need within the borough, stating that the Council is committed to planning positively to increase the supply of new homes to meet the needs of the area, as well as providing adequate employment land to boost the supply of jobs in the area, ensuring a healthy local community. This in turn led to the consideration of the option of a new village, one that follows the Garden City ethos.

## Relevant Organisations

- 1.28 Brentwood Borough has ongoing dialogues with the neighbouring authorities, other public bodies and the prescribed relevant bodies for the purposes of section 33A of the Act, as set out by the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. This includes:

- Brentwood Parish Councils (Statutory) (Two are developing neighbourhood plans)
  
- Basildon Borough Council (Statutory)
- Chelmsford City Council (Statutory)
- Epping Forest District Council (Statutory)
- Essex County Council (Statutory)
- London Borough of Havering (Statutory)
- Thurrock Council (Statutory)
  
- The Environment Agency (Statutory)
- Historic England (Statutory)
- Natural England (Statutory)
  
- Highways England (Statutory)
- Mayor of London (Statutory)
- The Office of Road and Rail (Statutory)
- Transport for London (Statutory)
  
- Basildon and Brentwood Clinical Commissioning Group / NHS England (Statutory) STP Strategic Estates Forum meetings with NHS
  
- Civil Aviation Authority (Statutory)
- Homes England (previously Homes and Communities Agency) (Statutory)
  
- Marine Management Organisation (Statutory)

- South East Local Enterprise Partnership (Statutory)
- Local Police Body (Police Fire and Crime Commissioner) (Statutory)

### **Additional South Essex LPA Consultees**

- Castle Point Borough
- Rochford District Council
- Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

### **Other Organisations, including those for Development of Local Plan Infrastructure Development Plan**

- Emergency Services: Essex Fire and Rescue, Ambulance Services; Police  
Utilities: Anglian Water; Essex and Suffolk Water; Affinity Water; Thames Water, Gas, Electricity, ITC, Rail Companies, and Bus Companies.  
Sport England, Essex Wildlife Trust

### **Strategic Planning Context for Brentwood**

<b>Local Planning Authority</b>	<b>Current Adopted Plan</b>	<b>Next Steps as of 05/02/2019</b>
Essex County Council	Essex Minerals Local Plan (2014); Essex and Southend Waste Local Plan (2017)	N/A
Basildon Borough Council	Basildon District Local Plan Saved Policies (2007)	Draft Local Plan submission to Secretary of State for examination (March 2019)
Chelmsford City Council	Chelmsford Local Development framework (2011)	Draft Local Plan submitted to Secretary of State. Undergoing examination in public
Epping Forest District Council	Adopted Local Plan (1998) and adopted Alterations (2006)	Draft Local Plan (2011 – 2033) submitted to Secretary of State. Undergoing examination in public
London Borough of Havering	Havering Local Development Framework: Core Strategy and Development Control Policies (2008)	Draft Local Plan submitted to Secretary of State. Awaiting inspectors report.

Thurrock Council (unitary)	Thurrock Local Development Framework (2011); Core Strategy and Policies for management of Development (including Minerals and Waste policies).	Issues and Options (Stage 2) consultation (12/12/2018 – 08/03/2019)
Greater London Authority	Further Alterations to the London Plan (2016); New London Plan Consultation (2017)	Draft New London Plan submitted to Secretary of State. Undergoing examination in public.

## Organisational Involvement

### *The Environment Agency*

- 1.29 The Environment Agency has been involved with the preparation of the Water Cycle Study and the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment. This includes both river/channel flood issues and surface water flood issues. The EA has been engaged in the preparation of the Local Plan and supporting documents. Where specific flood protection measures are identified, the Council are working closely with the ES to develop these proposals.

### *Historic England*

- 1.30 Has been consulted during the preparation of the Local Plan, further work including conservation area appraisal work, the introduction of a new conservation area, and the development of the evidence base.

### *Natural England*

- 1.31 Has been involved with evidence base work, the preparation and refinement of the Sustainability Appraisal and Habitat Regulation Assessment work. In particular, working closely on the Essex Coast recreational disturbance avoidance and mitigation strategy (RAMS). There has also been work on the recreational disturbance and air quality impact on Epping Forest.

### *Highways England*

- 1.32 Has been consulted during the preparation of the Local Plan, responses have been received. Brentwood has both part of the M25 and the A12 within the borough boundary. The junction between these two strategic routes has improvement proposed. Brentwood borough actively take part in and respond to consultation regarding this as well as working with the Highways Authority in terms of assessment of impact of the Local Plan. Brentwood have been actively involved in

responding to the Lower Thames Crossing consultations. Highways England are also involved in the A127 Statement of Common Ground which seeks to influence coordinated planning and investment on this highway.

*Mayor of London and Transport for London*

- 1.33 Have been consulted during the preparation of the Local Plan. Responses have been received. Whilst not a borough of London, Brentwood is on the border of Greater London, has Transport for London bus services and a terminus for the new Elizabeth Line (CrossRail) within its boundary. Therefore, road and public transport services and facilities (stations, etc) have been on-going discussion points with the Greater London consultees throughout the Local Plan development.

*The Office of Road and Rail*

- 1.34 Has been consulted during the preparation of the Local Plan, response has been received.

*Basildon and Brentwood Clinical Commissioning Group / NHS England*

- 1.35 Has been consulted during the preparation of the Local Plan, responses have been received. Work with the group has been ongoing, particularly with reference to the Infrastructure Development Plan. Attendance of STP Strategic Estates Forum meetings with NHS

*Civil Aviation Authority*

- 1.36 Has been consulted during the preparation of the Local Plan.

*Homes England (previously Homes and Communities Agency)*

- 1.37 Has been consulted during the preparation of the Local Plan. The borough is in regular contact with Homes England as a facet of the development of the Dunton Hills Garden Village. Brentwood were successful in applying for funding to develop the master planning and deliverance work for the Garden Village.

*Marine Management Organisation*

- 1.38 Has been consulted during the preparation of the Local Plan. Brentwood has no marine environment within its boundary. However, recent work on the RAMS project has highlighted the need to assess new development in-combination potential impact on internationally important coastal biodiversity sites.

### *South East Local Enterprise Partnership*

- 1.39 Has been consulted during the preparation of the Local Plan. The borough is involved with the SELEP, as part of the federated Opportunity South Essex group and the Brentwood Business Partnership.

### *Local Police Body (Police and Crime Commissioner)*

- 1.40 Has been consulted during the preparation of the Local Plan and the Infrastructure Development Plan.

### *Parish Councils (Statutory)*

- 1.41 Brentwood Borough has nine Parish Councils, with three allocated Neighbourhood Plan areas of which two Parish Councils are actively developing neighbourhood plans supported by Brentwood Borough. The proposed Garden Village is within one of the neighbourhood plan areas and there is ongoing dialogue to develop both the neighbourhood plan and the Garden Village masterplan, with the role of the Parish Council in the governance of the Garden Village being discussed.

### *Essex-wide and sub-regional joint working*

- 1.42 Through the Essex Planning Officers Association, the Council continues to engage positively and constructively with other local planning authorities within the Count, including the sharing of best practice and evidence base. This has included the production of the Essex-wide Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment, which forms a key part of the Local Plan evidence base.

### *Adjoining Boroughs*

#### *Basildon Borough Council*

- 1.43 Work with Basildon Borough representatives on the Duty to Cooperate has been underway for many years. Initial Member and officer discussions have been moved forward with Brentwood Borough signing the Association of South Essex Local Authorities (ASELA) Memorandum of Understanding. This work is ongoing.

#### *Chelmsford City Council*

- 1.44 Work with Chelmsford City Council Borough representatives on the Duty to Cooperate has been underway for many years. Brentwood have actively engaged with officers at Chelmsford City Council. This work is ongoing.

#### *Epping Forest District Council (Statutory)*

- 1.45 Attendance of the Cooperation for Sustainable Development Board and observer status for the Epping Forest Special Area of Conservation Habitat Regulation Assessment meetings. Supporting the Habitat Regulation Assessment implications for Epping Forest on both recreational impact and air quality.

*London Borough of Havering*

- 1.46 There has been a series of meetings with Having officers to discuss cross boundary issues. More recently these have focused on the transportation issues that impact on the two boroughs, both the local and the strategic highway network. Brentwood Borough is a signatory to the Statement of Common Ground for the A127, as coordinated by the London Borough of Havering for their Local Plan Submission.

*Thurrock Council*

- 1.47 Work with Thurrock Council representatives on the Duty to Cooperate has been underway for many years. Initial Member and officer discussions have been moved forward with Brentwood Borough signing the Association of South Essex Local Authorities (ASELA) Memorandum of Understanding. This work is ongoing.

*South Essex Boroughs*

- Basildon,
  - Castle Point
  - Maldon
  - Rochford
  - Southend
  - Thurrock
- 1.48 In 2017, the local authorities in South Essex came together to consider the opportunities for more collaborative working which could achieve more than local strategic objectives alone. This group was joined in 2017/18, after a Memorandum of Understanding, by Brentwood Borough in order to produce a South Essex 2-50 Vision. The focus of which was to lobby for additional investment in infrastructure in the sub-region. The area includes two unitary authorities of Southend-on-Sea and Thurrock and works closely with Essex County Council. This partnership work is underpinned by a geographical relationship and core transportation routing. (Rail and Road).
- 1.49 The Association of South Essex Local Authorities (ASELA) is now embarking on a programme of work to position South Essex more favourably in terms of economic growth and infrastructure investment through place making. A number of work streams have been identified in order to research a cross border evidence base to underpin the development of a Joint Strategic Plan. These include Blue and Green Infrastructure; Economic and Retail Needs; Design; Housing; Transportation, etc This work is at an early stage and is following the programme of the Brentwood Local Plan.

- 1.50 Over the period of the development of the Local Plan, Brentwood has had ongoing discussions with adjoining boroughs at Member and at officer level in order to discuss strategic cross boundary matters. However, at this stage of the Brentwood Local Plan, there is little crossover between the housing market area of South Essex and Brentwood. A watching brief is being taken with regard to the market area with the implementation of development along this corridor.

#### *Essex County Council (ECC)*

- 1.51 Brentwood is working closely with ECC regarding the Local Plan development, in particular for traffic modelling; wider ECC involvement has included education provision; archaeological impact; waste and minerals advice; and flood protection and prevention both fluvial source and surface water impacts.
- 1.52 This has included regular officer meetings for policy development, transportation focused meetings and the joint South Essex meetings, with officer and with Members.

#### *Working with Developers /Site Promoters*

- 1.53 Agents Forum take place with the opportunity for open dialogue with agents/ developers representing sites of all scales, with updates on the Local Plan and feeding into the Infrastructure Delivery Plan.
- 1.54 Ongoing discussions with relevant landowners, site promoters and stakeholders for the long term planning and implementation of sites identified for allocation.
- 1.55 This work is continuing and aims to draft and agree Statements of Common Ground and / or Memoranda of Understanding to provide an overview of programming of strategic masterplans.

## **Strategic Issues**

- 1.56 The ongoing work on the strategic issues of the Local Plan are summarised below. There has been an ongoing development of the evidence base, in particular the drafting of the Infrastructure Delivery Plan. This has been further developed with appropriate stakeholder meetings with both statutory and non-statutory organisations. A brief summary of this is below.

#### *Housing and Gypsy and Travellers Sites*

- 1.57 With the benefit of the 2017 SHMA and evidence since, the conclusion is that Brentwood constitutes a self-contained HMA, therefore Brentwood Council is intending to meet its identified need for housing and for Gypsy and Traveller sites within the borough.

### *Green Belt Impacts*

- 1.58 Brentwood is 89% Green Belt, with a limited availability of previously developed land the spatial challenge of Green Belt release is a dominating factor of the Local Plan, Strategic Green Belt assessment work has been used to inform the Plan. However, other environmental constraints are considered throughout the Local Plan process and the Spatial Strategy for Brentwood Borough aims to maximise every opportunity to bring forward the brownfield land for development. The Council has considered the impact on strategic Green Belt gaps between towns and have limited development in anyone area to protect this, for example development around West Horndon is not proposed.

### *Flood*

- 1.59 The Council have updated the Water Cycle Study and the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment. The choice of development sites has been informed by sequential testing and ensuring where potential flood risk is identified on strategic sites, that there is opportunity and space to design appropriate new communities without exacerbating flood issues on site or elsewhere.

### *Green and Blue Infrastructure.*

- 1.60 The Council have worked with Essex County Council in drafting policies that reflect this evidence base, particularly to reflect the potential impact from surface water flooding. The commitment to the South Essex work will support the linkage of this infrastructure beyond borough boundaries.

### *Education*

- 1.61 Ongoing work with Essex County Council has identified the need for early years and nursery provision; primary school provision; secondary schools (with and without sixth forms); special schools; post-16 education and training, and adult community learning. Brentwood is continuing to work with Essex County Council in order to address this provision and this has been reflected in Local Plan policy requirement.

### *Health and Wellbeing*

- 1.62 At a local level, the Council has worked with the Basildon and Brentwood Clinical Commissioning Group, NHS Properties, and local GPs regarding the delivery of health infrastructure. The Council is a partner to the Essex Live Well campaign. This is designed to engage communities, families and individuals with the aim of providing information about all that is on offer in Essex to improve health and wellbeing in order to collectively find solutions which contribute towards wellbeing in order to reduce costs to the NHS, and on social care. With a growing population, and in particular with a growing population of older people this is particularly important.
- 1.63 The Council is therefore working closely with health partners to facilitate the delivery of health and wellbeing initiatives and infrastructure. This is further reflected in the inclusion of health and wellbeing across the policies within the Local Plan.

### *Transport and Travel*

- 1.64 Brentwood Borough is working in line with the County's broad vision on its adopted Local Transport Plan. Regular meetings with the County Council have moved this work forward. With strong commuting patterns out from the borough, primarily toward London but with top commuting destinations of Basildon, Havering, Chelmsford, Thurrock and Epping Forest and acknowledged congestion on the M25, A12 and A127 and the local road network within Brentwood town and Shenfield, particularly during school term times.
- 1.65 Improvements to Junction 28 of the M25 and widening of the A12 are proposed. The completion of the Elizabeth line will improve connection across London and beyond.
- 1.66 The proposed Lower Thames Crossing aims to improve connection across the Thames between Essex and Kent, initially reducing alternative strategic road use in the area. The routing has implications for South Essex, and Brentwood Borough in terms of proposals at M25 Junction 29.
- 1.67 The Brentwood Local Plan supports the aim of modal change from cars to walking and cycling and this is reflected in the Plan policies. Work on cross boundary links is continuing, particularly for the proposed strategic sites.

### *Other*

- 1.68 Other areas of strategic importance to the borough include the economic needs of employment and specifically the retail need of the borough shopping centres. The strategic impacts of these are being considered and are reflected in the Local Plan.

## **Brentwood Growth Areas**

- 1.69 Two key growth areas have been identified, considering our overarching aim to deliver sustainable development in transit corridors, through a process of sequential analysis and review of sites:
- a. In the Central Brentwood Growth Corridor, we aim to maximise every opportunity to bring forward brownfield land for development, where appropriate, in Brentwood and Shenfield. This will take account of the arrival of the Elizabeth Line, and reflect our commitment to deliver brownfield development, in consistency with the NPPF (2018). However, brownfield land is limited; and given the opportunity for new development to invest in infrastructure and facilities, we aim to grow the wider Brentwood Urban Area by providing urban extensions in places where development can be contained, and where Green Belt harm is minimized. This is in response to local housing needs and limited brownfield capacity, providing exceptional circumstances to consider limited use of Green Belt. In addition, opportunities to grow Ingatestone Village will be taken where contained sites can deliver an urban extension to the south, providing new housing and supporting employment.

- b. In the South Brentwood Growth Corridor, we aim to deliver a strategic allocation at Dunton Hills Garden Village, providing a new mixed-use, self-sustaining community in the south-east of the borough. A strategic allocation at M25 junction 29 (Brentwood Enterprise Park) will provide for most of the new employment land needed, bringing forward a modern business park village in the south-west of the borough with excellent access to the M25. This will also act as a focus for a wider M25/A127 employment cluster considering existing employment uses in the area. Brownfield opportunities will be taken to effectively meet local needs, such as a residential-led, mixed-use redevelopment of existing industrial land in West Horndon, creating a new village centre with supporting services and facilities close to the village rail station. Developing here provides an opportunity to address conflicts arising from heavy freight traffic passing through the village. Residential-led development in the area will help strengthen the village centre and improve service provision. Significant improvements to infrastructure and services will be required to support growth within the Corridor.
- c. Development in areas outside these growth areas corridors will be limited, to retain the local character of the Borough. Brownfield opportunities will be encouraged where appropriate schemes help meet local needs and ensure that our villages remain thriving communities, in line with policies in this Plan. Where appropriate, this includes the redevelopment of previously developed sites in Green Belt and infill while improving links to nearby villages.

### *Dunton Hills Garden Village*

- 1.70 The Council's strategy for growth has considered all potential brownfield sites and previously developed underutilised land within the main urban area, and this has formed the Central Brentwood Growth Corridor. With Green Belt constraints this has meant the Council has undergone a review of potential locations to determine the considered balance between minimising the impact on the Green Belt and ensuring chosen locations are more sustainable, accessible and least harmful to other key environmental designations.
- 1.71 Dunton Hills was selected as a strategic allocation (ref R01) to meet the majority of Brentwood's housing need, within the Plan period and beyond. Its size means supporting infrastructure can also be delivered, thereby relieving the impact on existing facilities that are at capacity. Providing a significant amount of development will help reduce pressure to alter the Green Belt boundaries again in the next Plan period.
- 1.72 Its location is ideally placed to align with the principles of Garden Communities. It is connected enough to make it a sustainable location; at the same time physically contained and surrounded by countryside to not only align to Brentwood's Borough of Villages character, but also continue to maintain characteristics of Green Belt openness.

## **Moving Forward**

This document provides a snapshot on the ongoing duty to cooperate process with statutory, non-statutory and interested organisations. T the next stage of the local plan development, Submission to the Secretary of State, Brentwood Borough will provide further detail and an update on the development of the Duty to Cooperate process and the Statements of Common Ground that are being worked toward.

## Appendices

### Appendix 1: Statement of Common Ground Procedure

Brentwood Borough will continue the conversations with relevant organisations in order to produce a number of Statement of Common Ground. This process will continue into the submission stage of the plan development in order to provide clarity on relevant issues for the independent planning inspector.

#### *Individual Organisation*

Continue Duty to Cooperate dialogue – verbal, meetings, e-communication  
Identify strategic issues with organisation  
Identify areas of agreement; identify issues of disagreement  
Draft SoCG  
Continue review process to submission (iterative process until no areas of disagreement),  
If remaining areas of disagreement, which may be feasible to amend on draft SoCG, continue review process to examination.  
Submit to Inspector for consideration

#### *Strategic Issue*

Consider whether appropriate to produce a joint SoCG on specific issue such as lobbying for investment in Transport (A127) with multiple organisations.

#### *Structure (example)*

Introduction (*context*)  
Background (*historic actions*)  
Common Grounds  
    Areas of Agreement  
    Areas of disagreement  
Signature endorsement

## Appendix 2: Sample of Duty to Cooperate Meetings

Date (where applicable)	Strategic Planning issues	Organisations worked with:	Summary of Joint working: project, evidence / agreements / actions	Any other comment
28/09/2017	South East Essex 2050 Programme	ECC/Thurrock Council/ Basildon Borough Council/ Castle Point Borough Council/ Rochford Borough Council/ Southend Council/	Pre work on South East Essex 2050 Programme	
13/09/2018 Ongoing	Transport: Cycling strategy	ECC	Telephone update on Brentwood cycling strategy, Kris Radley.	
16-07-2018	Thurrock GI Study	South Essex DtC group	Presentation on the work completed by consultants on the Thurrock GI Study	
25-09-2018	South Essex PPS	South Essex Group, with Kim, Stuart, and myself from Brentwood	Discussed ECC input into BBC Heath and Wellbeing policies	
07-12-2018	Local Plan Health Impact Assessment	Brentwood Health and Wellbeing Board	Overview of what an HIA is and how it was developed was presented to the group. Members to give feedback on the Local Plan policies as they relate to health and wellbeing. Any comments received will be considered and where appropriate changes made to the policies	
26/10/2017	South East Essex 2050 Programme	ECC/Thurrock Council/ Basildon Borough Council/ Castle Point Borough Council/ Rochford Borough Council/ Southend Council/	Pre work on South East Essex 2050 Programme	
02/11/2017	South East Essex 2050 Programme	ECC/Thurrock Council/ Basildon Borough Council/ Castle Point Borough Council/ Rochford Borough Council/ Southend Council/	Pre work on South East Essex 2050 Programme	
30/11/2017	South East Essex 2050 Programme	ECC/Thurrock Council/ Basildon Borough Council/ Castle Point Borough Council/ Rochford Borough Council/ Southend Council/	Pre work on South East Essex 2050 Programme	

07/12/2017	South East Essex 2050 Programme	ECC/Thurrock Council/ Basildon Borough Council/ Castle Point Borough Council/ Rochford Borough Council/ Southend Council/	Pre work on South East Essex 2050 Programme	
10/05/2018	South East Essex 2050 Programme	ECC/Thurrock Council/ Basildon Borough Council/ Castle Point Borough Council/ Rochford Borough Council/ Southend Council/	Pre work on South East Essex 2050 Programme	
26/07/2018	South East Essex 2050 Programme	ECC/Thurrock Council/ Basildon Borough Council/ Castle Point Borough Council/ Rochford Borough Council/ Southend Council/	Pre work on South East Essex 2050 Programme	
10/01/2018	Association of South Essex Local Authorities (ASELA) and South Essex Joint Strategic Plan (JSP)	Basildon, Castle Point, ECC, Rochford, Southend, Thurrock	Joint working across South Essex on a number of strategic workstreams, including work to adopt a Joint Strategic Plan across the area	MoU signed Statement of Common Ground signed
	Local Plan	MHCLG	Regular conversations with link officer, meeting on 26/06/2018 with Cllr McKinlay	
Weekly	Transport: Highways Modelling and Sustainable Transport	ECC, Highways England	Weekly teleconferences, and monthly technical meetings to progress the Brentwood Local Plan Transport Assessment and sustainable transport measures	
Sept 2017	West Horndon Station  A127 Corridor Statement of Common Ground	C2C Rail  South Essex Boroughs and LB Havering	Discussions with C2C Rail (as the franchise holder for the London, Tilbury and Southend Railway (to London Fenchurch Street)), regarding West Horndon Station improvements in light of growth in the area. To lobby for investment in A127 Corridor / South Essex transportation infrastructure	C2C confirmation of potential improvements and costs reflected in Transport Assessment and IDP

Sept 2017	HRA – RAMS (Coastal) MOU	Specific assessment work on coastal internationally important biodiversity sites	Joint working with Essex boroughs to identify Zones of Influence of recreational use of coast	
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