

F3H Council's response to Q22 Joint Strategic Plan – July 2020

Inspectors' Question 22

The Plan at paragraphs 1.35-1.38 refers to the emerging South Essex Joint Strategic Plan (JSP). It identifies that the Council, together with the Basildon, Castle Point, Rochford, Southend-on-Sea and Thurrock authorities, together with Essex County Council, have set up joint working arrangements and are currently preparing a joint strategic plan. The Local Development Scheme sets out the anticipated timescale for its production. Can the Council confirm the purpose of this joint strategic plan, provide an update on the timeframe for its production, and clarify its status and relationship to the Brentwood Local Plan? Are key strategic matters being

- 1.1 The purpose of the South Essex Joint Strategic Plan (JSP or South Essex Plan) is to provide for sustainable growth up to 2038 and lay the foundations for further sustainable growth and investment to 2050. It will sit within the context of the South Essex 2050 Vision, providing the framework for the six South Essex local authorities to prepare or review their more detailed local plans. The timescales for progressing the JSP have been impacted by work to better understand what it is like to live in South Essex and aspirations for the future. This includes a recently launched consultation on the long-term future of the region (www.yoursayse2050.co.uk). We anticipate that a JSP issues consultation will be published in autumn 2020, followed by preferred options and submission (during 2021). The Brentwood LDS will need to be updated to reflect JSP timescales. The status of the JSP is to be a statutory development plan informing key planning decisions. The relationship to the Brentwood Local Plan will not be to replace it (or each of the other authority's local plans), but provide the overall spatial strategy, level and distribution of housing and employment land to be provided in individual local plans. Key strategic matters are being progressed through the JSP, such as development needs, infrastructure investment and broad strategic locations for growth. Updated evidence is being prepared in support of the JSP, such as a sustainability appraisal, and green and blue infrastructure assessment.