THE STORY SO FAR

In January 2015 we consulted with the public on an Issues and Scoping document which set out the draft Local Plan. This showed we needed to build more homes than previously planned for, so the Council agreed to increase the total. The Plan is now being drafted to address your concerns.

The Plan is part of a wider area plan for rural Essex which is being prepared by Uttlesford District Council. We will work with partners such as Highways England and the NHS to ensure that healthy and sociable environments are created and that the Plan helps to protect against less sustainable development in other parts of the District.

The Plan is not just about new homes and jobs but about creating communities. Some areas are in need of community facilities and we want to get these right. We want to create communities where people and nature can flourish.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR AREA?

The Garden Communities are not. We will work with partners such as Highways England and the NHS to ensure that healthy and sociable environments are created and that the Plan helps to protect against less sustainable development in other parts of the District.

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WHAT IS A LOCAL PLAN?

A Local Plan is a strategy for future development of homes, employment, and businesses, within a planning area, to ensure that planning is done in a way that protects the environment, benefits the economy, and meets the needs of the local community.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

The Plan is in three phases:

- Preparation: the strategic site allocations and draft policies are reviewed
- Examination in Public: the "soundness" of the Plan in a series of hearings
- Adoption: the Plan will be adopted by the Council

Local Plans can only deal with non-strategic issues and sites. A Neighbourhood Plan can only deal with non-strategic issues and sites. It can allocate more land for employment than the Plan.
**WITHAM**

Witham is a main town, the second largest town in the Braintree District. It has a range of retail services and education in the town. Witham has a good road network with the A131 and the A120 linking it to the M11. The town has experienced growth in recent years due to new housing development.

Several sites have been proposed for consideration as housing and employment in the area around Witham and within Witham itself.

**HALSTEAD**

Halstead is identified as a Service Village in the emerging Local Plan. Land has been allocated for a variety of uses including business, employment and community uses.

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**SIBLE HEDINGHAM**

Sible Hedingham is a Service Village in the emerging Local Plan. Land has been allocated for a variety of uses including business, employment and community uses.

Several large sites have been proposed for consideration as housing and employment.

**EARLS COLNE**

Earls Colne is one of the larger Service Villages in the District and has a range of retail services and education in the town. Earls Colne is well connected by road and rail.

Several sites have been proposed for consideration as housing and employment.

**KELVEDON & FEERING**

Kelvedon and Feering are two villages whose growth is combined sustainable, subject to appropriate site selection.

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