



NEA001

NORTH ESSEX AUTHORITIES
Joint Strategic (Section 1) Plan

Sent on behalf of Braintree District Council, Colchester Borough Council and
Tendring District Council

Date: 27th October 2017

Dear Mr Clews,

Examination of the Joint Strategic Section 1 Plan

Response to Inspector's Initial Observations and Questions

Thank you for your questions received by the Council on the 16th October. The responses to the points made are set out in this letter in the order that they were made.

The local authorities are reorganising the Examination evidence base web page, which will order documents in thematic groups and then in chronological order. This should make it easier for everyone to navigate the website and fully consider the evidence base.

Work on the Garden Communities is continuing and two new papers on Garden Communities and Stewardship are included in the evidence base, which collate information on the chronology of the local authorities' decision making process on Garden Communities as well as on how they will be managed and delivered. In addition, two concept frameworks, one on Colchester/Braintree Borders Garden Community and one on the Tendring/Colchester Borders Garden Community have just been completed and will also be added to the evidence base.

Two other documents are currently underway in relation to garden communities drawing together evidence that has informed the development of the local plans. These will be added to the website when finalised. These are;

- a North Essex Garden Communities Economic Narrative, which brings together the evidence already published on economic development into a single narrative document. This is expected to be completed in the second week of November
- a Rapid Transit study, which is looking at the opportunities for public transport movements across all three garden communities in the long term. A rapid transit study has been completed for the Tendring Colchester Borders Garden Community and forms part of the evidence base. The current study is looking at the other two garden communities. This is expected to be completed at the end of the year.

Paragraph 14

The authorities do not consider that the consultation document '*Planning for the right*

homes in the right places' has any relevance to the examination given the proposed transitional arrangements, which are set out within that document and the fact that at this stage the document is for consultation only and could change.

Clarification Points

Paras headed South East Local Enterprise Partnership

The LEP and SELEP in this paragraph to both refer to the South East Enterprise Partnership. It should however be noted that this introduction is an introduction to the Colchester Local Plan only and is not replicated in the Plans of Tendring and Braintree who have separate introduction sections.

Box headed Vision for North Essex

The third, fourth and fifth paragraphs in the vision refer only to garden communities.

SP1

We accept that this wording in SP1 may be unnecessary duplication of national policy and see no reason why it should not be removed if considered appropriate.

3.3

We agree with the minor wording changes you suggest in paragraph 3.3 to make it clear that there are two garden communities within the Braintree District area.

SP3

The local authorities agree it would be more appropriate to say 'requirement' within this table.

The Councils evidence base on OAN has a base date of 2013. The Councils have therefore set out within this table the total housing requirement to be met between 2013 and 2033. The word 'plan' will be removed from the table for clarity and a footnote will be added.

The Councils can confirm that they consider the Plan period to be 2017 – 2033.

SP4

The employment figures set out within the document reflect the evidence base work undertaken and the Councils do not consider that the guidance requires employment land evidence base to be backdated in the same way that housing figures are.

The Councils consider that the employment land requirements are difficult to predict accurately across a 15 year period. There are many external national and international factors which will influence both the local economic buoyancy and the particular sectors or types of business that will see growth or decline in the 15-year plan period. The types of business and the way that they work then has a large impact on the amount of employment floor space that they would require. The range of employment land figures set out in this policy is therefore a range which the Councils consider the most likely predictions will fall within. This flexibility will allow the Councils to react positively to future fluctuations in the employment market during the life of the Local Plan and will of course be kept up to date and reviewed through the Monitoring Report and Local Plan review mechanisms.

6.1

The Infrastructure Delivery Plans for the three authorities will be added to the evidence base to support the Section 1 examination. This includes a section that has been updated since the initial version was published on health facilities, following additional discussions with the relevant stakeholders.

SP5

The process followed to determine the “strategic priorities” was to:

- reflect the core planning principles contained in the NPPF
- reflect national and county infrastructure projects for the plan period
- reflect the objectives and priorities in the Essex Local Transport Plan
- ensure the Garden City principles as specified in the North Essex Garden Communities Charter are delivered
- reflect the infrastructure requirements arising from growth over the plan period as identified by infrastructure partners and the evidence base

SP7

The proposed timetable for the adoption of the three DPDs on the Garden Communities is set out in the submitted Local Development Schemes for Braintree, Colchester and Tendring Councils. Colchester and Tendring will be updating their LDSs at their November Local Plan Committee meetings and these revised documents will be subsequently added to the evidence base. Issues and Options consultation on each of the Garden Communities will take place from the 13th November 2017 to the 8th January 2018.

SP8, SP9 and SP10

A rapid public transit system is an urban public transit system using trains (including light rail), trams and guided bus. It can be defined as a series of high quality passenger transit corridors, developed to a common level of service and potentially marketed as a single service entity.

There is not to be a different form of public transport envisaged for the West of Braintree garden community than for the other two garden communities. This is a scribing error. Policy SP10 and each garden community policy should refer to a rapid public transit system. There will be a bespoke system for each of the garden communities under this overarching title.

Monitoring

On looking back at table 1 we agree that this would benefit from a series of rows identifying which objective and monitoring requirement is linked to each policy. A potential revised table is attached.

We hope this clearly answers all your points.

Yours Sincerely

North Essex Authorities

Attachment to 27.10.17 letter to Inspector
9.4 Table 1 Monitoring Requirements for Section1

Part One Objectives	Part One Policies	Targets	Key Indicators in Authority Monitoring Reports
Providing sufficient new homes Fostering economic development Providing new and improved infrastructure Addressing education and healthcare needs Ensuring high quality outcomes	SP1 Presumption in favour of Sustainable Development	Delivery of new development in accordance with the Development Plan	Record of planning decisions including appeals
	SP2 Spatial Strategy for North Essex	Deliver Garden Communities as the most sustainable options for large scale, long term growth	Local authority agreement and delivery of governance, community involvement, stewardship arrangements and funding arrangements for Garden Communities
	SP3 Meeting Housing Needs	Deliver new housing in line with spatial strategy and Objectively Assessed Need targets	Market and affordable housing completions per annum (net)
	SP4 Providing for Employment	Deliver new employment land in line with spatial strategy and evidence base targets	Amount of floorspace development for employment and leisure by type.
	SP5 Infrastructure and Connectivity	Delivery of identified infrastructure schemes including transport, education, community, healthcare, green/blue infrastructure and environmental protection Increase modal share of non-motorised transport.	Identify and monitor progress of strategic infrastructure projects Monitor modal splits and self-containment via Census and measure traffic levels on key routes
	SP5 Place Shaping Principles	Approved DPDS, masterplans & other planning & design guidance in place for each community prior to the commencement of development it relates to	Monitor availability of DPDS and other planning guidance relative to the submission & determination of planning applications for the development it relates to
	SP7 Garden Communities	Deliver Garden Communities as the most sustainable options for large scale, long term growth	Local authority agreement and delivery of governance, community involvement, stewardship arrangements and funding arrangements for Garden Communities
	SP8 Tendring Colchester Borders Garden Community	Deliver sustainable new communities in accordance with guidance as adopted	Delivery rates of all development including supporting infrastructure as documented in housing trajectories and other
	SP9 Colchester Braintree Borders		

	Garden Community		monitoring data
	SP10 West Braintree Garden Community		