



Colchester Borough Local Plan

Consultation Statement Addendum

October 2019

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Introduction

The purpose of this addendum is to update the Colchester Borough Council Consultation Statement for the Local Plan to include the consultation activities undertaken in the period between submission of the Local Plan in October 2017 and the conclusion of the Technical Section 1 Examination Consultation in September 2019.

This addendum will provide an overview of the consultation process including a list of the people and organisations who were specifically invited to make a representation. There is a note at the end to describe the consultation methods used during the production of the Additional Sustainability Appraisal.

Background

The Colchester Local Plan was subject of a number of public consultations leading up to submission to the Secretary of State (SoS) for examination in October 2017. This included consultations held in accordance with regulations 16 and 18 of the Town and Country Planning 2012 Regulations.

An Inspector appointed by the SoS requested a two week period of examination hearing sessions held in January 2018 followed by an additional week in May 2018. Following these sessions, the Inspector wrote to the Council outlining his interim findings (letters dated 8 and 28 June 2018 reference IED11, available [online](#)). The Inspector suggested that additional evidence would be required to make the plan sound and that this evidence would be subject to public consultation.

The table below is a summary of the public consultation stages completed so far. Having completed the Technical Section 1 Examination Consultation, the development plan is awaiting scheduling of further hearing sessions.

Development Plan Stage	Timescale
Local Plan Issues and Options January 2015 Public Consultation	16 January to 27 February 2015
Local Plan Preferred Options 2016 Public Consultation	9 July to 16 September 2016
Local Plan Publication Draft 2017 Public Consultation	16 June to 11 August 2017
Submission to Secretary of State	October 2017
Section 1 Examination Hearing Sessions week 1-2	January 2018
Section 1 Examination Hearing Sessions week 3	May 2018
Technical Section 1 Examination Consultation	19 th August to 30 th September 2019
Section 1 Examination Hearing Sessions week 4+	TBC
Inspector's Reporting	TBC
Section 2 Examination	TBC

Technical Section 1 Examination Consultation

Title of the consultation, consultation period and relevant planning regulations

This addendum covers the consultation for Technical Section 1 Examination which is the additional evidence requested by the Inspector in his letter IED11. The requested additional evidence was published in June 2019 and subject to a six public consultation from 19 August to 30 September 2019.

Unlike the previous stages of plan preparation, this stage is not specifically covered by the Town and Country Planning 2012 Regulations, however for practical purposes the consultation was held in conformity with regulation 18. This consultation is also not covered by the Statement of Community Involvement (2018) however it was, regardless, undertaken with general conformity with the statement.

In every practical sense, the Council has undertaken a consultation that is consistent in quality with previous consultations for regulations 16, 18 and 19.

Key aspects of the consultation and where appropriate main changes arising from the previous consultation

In his Section 1 post hearing letter 8th June 2018, the Inspector reasoned that the Sustainability Appraisal, employment, viability, delivery and Rapid Transit System evidence were inadequate to justify the three proposed Garden Communities. In response the North Essex Authorities (NEAs) commissioned a series of additional evidence documents that were published in June 2019 as itemised below.

To reflect the changes made resulting from the hearing sessions, a document tabling suggested amendments to the Local Plan was also published for consultation. This summarises the proposed main changes to the Section 1 Local Plan compared to the regulation 18 submission.

An update to the Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) was also necessary to ensure it is compatible with the CJEU ruling in People over Wind, Peter Sweetman v Coillte Teoranta.

Documents included in the consultation:

- Suggested Amendments to the Publication Draft Braintree, Colchester & Tendring Local Plans: Section One - July 2019
- Habitats Regulation Assessment: NEA Strategic Section 1 Update
- Modal Share Strategy for the North Essex Garden Communities
- North Essex Garden Communities: Infrastructure Planning, Phasing and Delivery
- North Essex Authorities: Infrastructure Order of Costs Estimate
- North Essex Authorities: Build Out Rates at the Garden Communities
- North Essex Authorities: Delivery Mechanisms Position Statement
- North Essex Authorities: Section 1 Viability Assessment Update
- North Essex Authorities: State Aid Position Statement
- North Essex Garden Communities: Employment Provision
- North Essex Rapid Transit System: From Vision to Plan
- Additional Sustainability Appraisal*

*The Additional Sustainability Appraisal comprises of the following sections:

- Executive Summary
- Non-Technical Summary
- Main Report
- Appendix 1 - Method Scoping Statement Consultation Responses
- Appendix 2 - Workshop Record
- Appendix 3 - Evidence Review on Urban Form
- Appendix 4 - Site Information Forms
- Appendix 5 - Detailed Results of Stage 1 SA of Alternative Strategic Sites
- Appendix 6 - Identification of Spatial Strategy Alternatives
- Appendix 7 - Detailed Results of Stage 2 SA of Alternative Spatial Strategies
- Appendix 8 - Reasons for Rejection or Endorsement of Alternative Spatial Strategies

Which bodies and persons the Local Planning Authority invited to make representations

An email or letter informing consultees of consultation dates, consultation material, how to view and how to respond was sent to:

- All statutory consultees (see Appendix A of the Colchester Borough Local Plan Consultation Statement October 2017)
- Consultees on the Local Plan consultation list (to over 2,700 individuals or organisations)
- All Parish Councils
- All examination participants (as updated)

The general public and interested parties were alerted through the following methods:

- The Council's website
- Social Media (at least 12 specific posts encouraging people to take part in the consultation).
- There were articles in the Colchester Gazette from Councillors highlighting the consultation
- Numerous media articles leading up to the consultation.
- Information available at the Colchester Town Library
- A Local Plan leaflet was sent to every household in the district – 82,637 copies printed and distributed.

Copies of the above have been reproduced in Appendices of this addendum.

All additional evidence documents were available for viewing at the Council Offices and Colchester Town Library. Documents were made available on the Council's website in PDF format and also available through Braintree Council's online consultation portal.

No consultation events were held on this occasion, although Officers were available to assist stakeholders wishing to make a response at the Council Offices and over the phone.

How those bodies and persons were invited to make representations

Similar to the regulation 18 process, a letter or email was sent to statutory and non-statutory individuals and organisations using the Council's database of registered interested parties. Where an email address is available, this was used as the preferred method. Letters were sent to consultees without an email address or where the attempts to send an email failed.

Consultation responses were encouraged through the consultation portal accessible on the Braintree Council's website (based on the Objective platform), however comments in any format were acceptable through email or post. Any non-electronic responses were transposed into Objective by the NEAs. The deadline for responses was Monday 30th September at 5pm.

The list of statutory undertakers contacted has not changed and can be view in Appendix 1 of the Colchester Borough Local Plan Consultation Statement – October 2017.

The number of representations made and a summary of the main issues raised by the representations made

A total of circa 1000 responses were received across the documents (as counted by the number of consultation points) by around 800 individual and organisations, including statutory consultees.

In addition to this, 2 petitions were received which were included in the submitted documents but counted as part of a response.

All responses were processed and submitted to the Inspector by 10th October – on this occasion, no summaries of the consultation was possible. The document which garnered the most comments were the Additional Sustainability Appraisal, followed by the North Essex Rapid Transit System.

How any representations made have been taken into account in the plan preparation process

There has not been a requirement to take account of the representation in the plan preparation process on this occasion, as the regulation 19 Publication Draft Local Plan is subject to examination. Only the Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State may recommend changes to the plan in his report.

Note on the consultation undertaken for the SA

A separate public consultation was held for the Method Scoping Statement (methodology) for the Additional Sustainability Appraisal between 14 December 2018 and 1 February 2019, during the period when the Local Plan examination was suspended. The statutory undertakers, Natural England, Historic England and the Environment Agency were specifically contacted, as were all examination participants (as updated). This public consultation was open for comment from anyone.

One engagement event was held during the method scoping statement at Colchester Stadium. Representatives from LUC (the Councils consultants) and the NEAs were present at the event and appointments were made with 13 stakeholders/organisations/individuals. The consultation response led to changes in the methodology of the SA as summarised at paragraph 2.87 to 2.92 of the Additional SA Main Report.

Another engagement event was held at Colchester Stadium on Friday 29 March 2019. This event was open to all examination participants (as updated) however each stakeholder was allowed 2 delegates and RSVPs were required. The purpose of this event was to hold a 'Check and Challenge' workshop where the participants were presented the findings of Stage 1 SA assessment, followed by a Q&A session with LUC and the NEAs. This event led to further changes to the methodology of the SA. A workshop record containing the presentation slides and the workshop note is available at Appendix 2 of the Additional SA.

A limited consultation was undertaken with each site promotor via email pursuant to the completion of Site Information Proformas. These responses were published, following moderation by the NEAs to summarise the information, as Appendix 4 Additional SA.

Appendices

1 - Statutory Consultees Letter and Email



Planning and Housing

Rowan House, 33 Sheepen Road,
Colchester, CO3 3WG

Contact: Planning Policy Team

Telephone: 01206 282473/6

Email: localplan@colchester.gov.uk

NAME
ADDRESS
POST CODE

Dear stakeholder,

Re: Commencement of North Essex Local Plan Technical Consultation

You are receiving this letter because you have indicated a desire to be notified of future progress of the Local Plan including the North Essex shared Section 1 Local Plan Examination.

Background to the consultation

The Section 1 Local Plan Examination began in October 2017, and hearing sessions were held in January and May 2018. All the Examination documents are available on the joint Examination web page of the Braintree District Council website (https://www.braintree.gov.uk/info/200643/section_1).

After considering all the evidence and representations and the discussion at the hearing sessions, the Inspector wrote to the North Essex Authorities (NEAs) on 8 June 2018 (see Examination document IED/011). In his letter the Inspector identified those aspects of the Section 1 Local Plan and its evidence base which he considered required significant further work on the part of the NEAs. In that context the Inspector set out options for the NEAs to consider in determining its next steps in their Local Plan preparation.

Of these options the NEAs chose to pause the Examination and carry out the necessary further work on the evidence base and Sustainability Appraisal, and to bring forward any resulting revised strategic proposals, for the Section 1 Local Plan examination to consider. On 10 December 2018 the Inspector announced a pause in the Examination to enable this further work to take place (see Examination document IED/015).

North Essex Local Plan Technical Consultation

The NEAs are now carrying out a public consultation on the Additional Sustainability Appraisal, additional evidence base documents and the suggested amendments to the Section 1 Local Plan. These are the documents which have been prepared in response to the Inspector's 8 June 2018 letter (see Examination document IED/011). The consultation will run from 19

August to 30 September 2019. Anyone may submit comments, whether or not they have previously been involved in the Section 1 Local Plan Examination.



What will happen after the consultation?

After the public consultation has finished, the Examination of the Section 1 Local Plan will resume. The additional documents produced by the NEAs and all the comments that have been made on them will be forwarded to the Inspector who will consider them alongside all the other evidence and representations already submitted on the Section 1 Local Plan.

Following this the Inspector will arrange further hearing sessions as part of the Examination. They will focus mainly on those aspects of the Section 1 Local Plan and its evidence base which the Inspector identified as requiring significant further work and any matters raised by the representations arising from this consultation. However, they may include other topics as necessary to inform his assessment of the soundness and legal compliance of the Section 1 Local Plan, as determined by the Inspector.

Those submitting comments during the public consultation will be able to indicate if they wish to take part in the further hearing sessions. The Inspector may invite others to take part if doing so would assist him in assessing the soundness and legal compliance of the Section 1 Local Plan.

The Inspector will fix the dates for the further hearing sessions after he has received and considered the additional documents produced by the NEAs and the comments made on them. As was the case for the previous hearing sessions, the Inspector will prepare a list of matters, issues and questions to focus discussion at the hearings, along with a guidance note to explain the procedure and the arrangements for submitting hearing statements.

At the end of the Examination the Inspector will produce a report for the NEAs setting out his conclusions and recommendations, including any recommended main modifications to the Section 1 Local Plan. Any main modifications which the Inspector may consider recommending will be the subject of further public consultation before the completion of his report.

Where can you find out more about the consultation?

The NEAs have created a dedicated online consultation portal which can be accessed via the following address: <https://www.braintree.gov.uk/NEAtechS1>. On the portal you can find out more information about the documents subject to the North Essex Local Plan Technical Consultation and how to make representations to the NEAs on them.

The NEAs have also placed hard copies of the consultation documents in Colchester Library to ensure that those without internet access can respond to the consultation.

Please ensure you read the NEAs' Guidance Notes and the Inspector's Explanatory Note before responding to the consultation.

Please note that you do not need to respond to each local authority – a single response either through the online consultation portal or via other means to one local authority (Braintree District Council, Tendring District Council or Colchester Borough Council) will be sufficient to ensure your consultation is properly submitted.

If you have any further questions about the consultation including how to respond, please get in touch using the contact details set out at the beginning of this letter.

Yours faithfully,

Planning Policy Team, Colchester Borough Council

Dear Stakeholder,

You are receiving this email because you have indicated a desire to be notified of future progress of the Local Plan including the North Essex shared Section 1 Local Plan Examination.

Background to the consultation

The Section 1 Local Plan Examination began in October 2017, and hearing sessions were held in January and May 2018. All the Examination documents are available on the [Examination web page](#).

After considering all the evidence and representations and the discussion at the hearing sessions, the Inspector wrote to the North Essex Authorities (NEAs) on 8 June 2018 (see Examination document IED/011). In his letter the Inspector identified those aspects of the Section 1 Local Plan and its evidence base which he considered required significant further work on the part of the NEAs. In that context the Inspector set out options for the NEAs to consider in determining its next steps in their Local Plan preparation.

Of these options the NEAs chose to pause the Examination and carry out the necessary further work on the evidence base and Sustainability Appraisal, and to bring forward any resulting revised strategic proposals, for the Section 1 Local Plan examination to consider. On 10 December 2018 the Inspector announced a pause in the Examination to enable this further work to take place (see Examination document IED/015).

North Essex Local Plan Technical Consultation

The NEAs are now carrying out a public consultation on the Additional Sustainability Appraisal, additional evidence base documents and the suggested amendments to the Section 1 Local Plan. These are the documents which have been prepared in response to the Inspector's 8 June 2018 letter (see Examination document IED/011). The consultation will run from 19 August to 30 September 2019. Anyone may submit comments, whether or not they have previously been involved in the Section 1 Local Plan Examination.

What will happen after the consultation?

After the public consultation has finished, the Examination of the Section 1 Local Plan will resume. The additional documents produced by the NEAs and all the comments that have been made on them will be forwarded to the Inspector who will consider them alongside all the other evidence and representations already submitted on the Section 1 Local Plan.

Following this the Inspector will arrange further hearing sessions as part of the Examination. They will focus mainly on those aspects of the Section 1 Local Plan and its evidence base which the Inspector identified as requiring significant further work and any matters raised by the representations arising from this consultation. However, they may include other topics as necessary to inform his assessment of the soundness and legal compliance of the Section 1 Local Plan, as determined by the Inspector.

Those submitting comments during the public consultation will be able to indicate if they wish to take part in the further hearing sessions. The Inspector may invite others to take part if doing so would assist him in assessing the soundness and legal compliance of the Section 1 Local Plan.

The Inspector will fix the dates for the further hearing sessions after he has received and considered the additional documents produced by the NEAs and the comments made on them. As was the case for the previous hearing sessions, the Inspector will prepare a list of

matters, issues and questions to focus discussion at the hearings, along with a guidance note to explain the procedure and the arrangements for submitting hearing statements.

At the end of the Examination the Inspector will produce a report for the NEAs setting out his conclusions and recommendations, including any recommended main modifications to the Section 1 Local Plan. Any main modifications which the Inspector may consider recommending will be the subject of further public consultation before the completion of his report.

Where can you find out more about the consultation?

The NEAs have created a dedicated online consultation portal which can be accessed via the following address: www.braintree.gov.uk/NEAtechS1. On the portal you can find out more information about the documents subject to the North Essex Local Plan Technical Consultation and how to make representations to the NEAs on them.

The NEAs have also placed copies of the consultation documents in the main libraries within their districts to ensure that those without internet access can respond to the consultation.

Please ensure you read the NEAs' Guidance Notes and the Inspector's Explanatory Note before responding to the consultation. Please note that you do not need to respond to each local authority – a single response either through the online consultation portal or via other means to one local authority (Braintree District Council, Tendring District Council or Colchester Borough Council) will be sufficient to ensure your consultation is properly submitted.

If you would rather not receive emails on the progress of the Local Plan, please let us know by responding to this email and we will update your preferences on our stakeholder database.



2 - Local Plan Leaflet Summer 2019

THE LOCAL PLAN

AUGUST / SEPTEMBER 2019



SEE INSIDE:

- What is a Local Plan?
- The story so far...
- Why garden communities?
- Have your say



More information at: www.braintree.gov.uk/NEAtechS1 or
www.colchester.gov.uk/local-plan

THE LOCAL PLAN

WHAT IS A LOCAL PLAN?

A Local Plan is the basis for the future development of homes, employment, business and much more. Planning applications, whatever their size and proposed use, are assessed against the policies contained in the Local Plan.

Having a Local Plan is really important because it sets the direction for future development but it also it gives us more power to stop inappropriate development.

Local Plans are not just about new homes but must ensure that housing growth is supported by infrastructure, jobs and community facilities.

The three councils have been working together to provide more evidence for the Planning Inspector to address his concerns. The Local Plan process was officially paused while this additional evidence was collected.

The additional evidence was published online in June 2019. The evidence has been considered by Colchester Borough Council's Local Plan Committee in July 2019. The committee agreed to consult on the additional evidence.

The evidence was also approved by elected members at Braintree and Tendring District Councils.

The evidence is now out to public consultation **until 5pm Monday 30th September 2019.**

Everyone who has previously made representations on the Section 1 Plan has been informed of the consultation. However, we have also produced this document in order to highlight the consultation to all residents in the district.

After the consultation has closed the Planning Inspector intends to hold further hearing sessions as part of his examination of the soundness and legal compliance of the Section 1 Plan.

Those responding to the consultation are invited to indicate whether they wish to appear at further hearing sessions.

Take a look at **page 4** for more details of the consultation.

Section 2 relates to sites for development, housing, employment, regeneration solely in the Colchester borough. The examination for Section 2 will follow.

THE STORY SO FAR:

Every council has to plan for additional new homes.

Colchester Borough Council, Braintree District Council and Tendring District Council have been working together since 2015 to make sure development is beneficial for North Essex. This resulted in a draft strategic Section 1 Local Plan which is shared by all three councils within their Local Plans. The Section 1 Local Plan includes policies on cross boundary issues including infrastructure and housing. It also includes proposals for three new garden communities.

The Local Plan has undergone a number of rounds of public consultation and was submitted to the Secretary of State in October 2017. A Planning Inspector was appointed to carry out an independent examination to look at Section 1 of the Local Plans and examination sessions were held in January 2018 and May 2018.

Following the hearings, the Planning Inspector wrote to the councils to say he agreed with the councils' figures for housing growth up until 2033.

This means at least 2,186 homes need to be built across North Essex each year.

That means:

- 920 each year in the Colchester Borough
- 716 each year in the Braintree District
- 550 each year in the Tendring District

The Planning Inspector also said that while he commended the councils' ambitions for high-quality, strategic-scale development in North Essex he raised concerns with some elements of the Local Plan specifically around the garden communities. He suggested further steps that he considered necessary in order for the Section 1 part of the plan to be made sound and legally-compliant.

You can read all correspondence with the Planning Inspector at our joint online site:

www.braintree.gov.uk/lpexamination



WHY GARDEN COMMUNITIES?

Colchester, Braintree and Tendring have a legal requirement to provide for more than 2,000 homes each year. There are limited 'brownfield' sites available, so the options are effectively either allowing towns and villages to continue to expand, which is not particularly sustainable and has a big impact on services and infrastructure or look at creating new communities.

It is less sustainable to keep adding large scale housing developments on the edges of our urban areas. These are for the most part small market towns and villages with limited capacity in terms of shops, services and transport links and they are not capable of dealing with unlimited population increases.

The garden communities, which would be built over 40-50 years, are the long-term strategy of the three North Essex councils, in partnership with Essex County Council, to help meet the future growth of the area in a more strategic way.

The three garden communities (Colchester/Braintree borders up to 24,000 homes, Tendring/Colchester borders up to 9,000 homes and West of Braintree up to 13,500 homes) are an opportunity to plan for infrastructure in a more joined up, considered and comprehensive way.

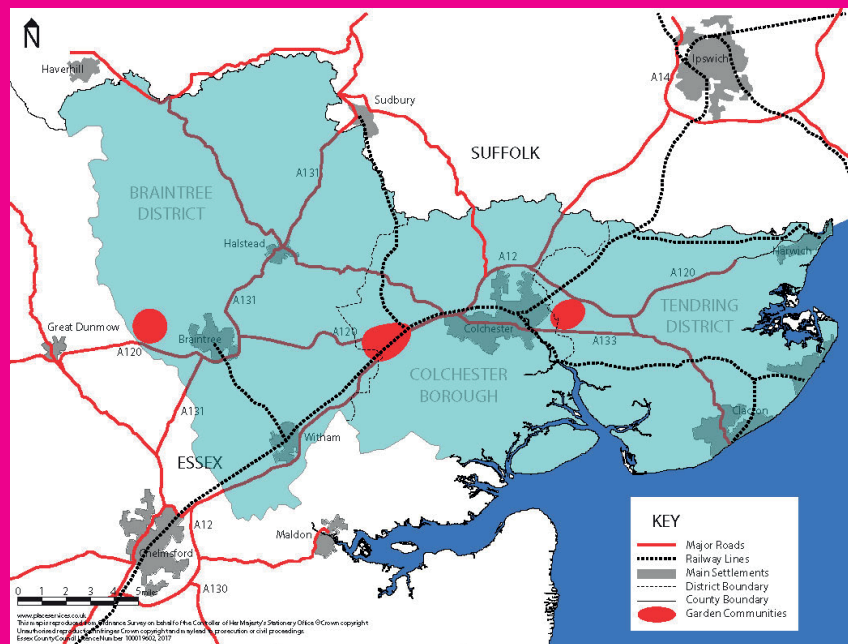
Residents are rightly concerned about their access to education, health care and transport. The garden communities offer the chance to plan all this in from the start, an active, inclusive whole community built with today's modern requirements in mind. This would mean essential facilities are available as communities grow rather than delivered late, in a piecemeal way, or never provided.

If the garden communities are not progressed, then those homes – both now but more crucially in

future years – will need to be built elsewhere within North Essex. This will most likely be by expanding our towns and villages.

The garden communities make a relatively small contribution to the current Local Plan but every five years the Local Plan must be rolled forward and more homes need to be provided. The continued expansion of our existing towns and villages is unsustainable and by making decisions now we are securing the long term growth of the district for the benefit of all residents.

MAP OF PROPOSED GARDEN COMMUNITIES



WHAT CONSULTATIONS HAVE ALREADY TAKEN PLACE?

The Local Plan has been a chance for the whole community to talk about the housing, employment and infrastructure we need.

These are the consultations carried out:

2014 Call for Sites

2015 Issues and Options consultation – 650 responses back

2016

Draft Local Plan consultation – 3,000 responses back.

2017

Publication Draft Local Plan consultation – Over 5,000 responses including petitions.

2017/18

Issues and Options consultation for each of the garden communities – more than 700 responses back.

THE CONSULTATION

TECHNICAL SECTION 1 EXAMINATION 2019

This consultation is on the additional evidence requested by the Planning Inspector. Detailed proposals will come later, reflecting the needs of each garden community.

WE ARE CONSULTING ON THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS:

Additional Sustainability Appraisal

This is an assessment of the environmental effects, and social and economic issues of policies, proposals and alternative strategies, used to inform the preparation of Local Plans.

Habitats Regulations Assessment North Essex Authorities Strategic S1 Local Plan

This is an assessment of the likely effects of development proposed in the Local Plan on wildlife sites of European importance for example the Blackwater Estuary.

Modal Share Strategy for the North Essex Garden Communities

This is a document looking at the way people can be influenced to travel using alternatives to the car.

Infrastructure Order of Costs Estimate

A review of the cost of infrastructure works associated with the development of homes and jobs across the three new garden communities in North Essex.

Build Out Rates at the Garden Communities

This document reviews evidence and publications which explore how to boost housing buildings rates and evidence on high build out rates which have been achieved in other parts of the country.

Delivery Mechanisms Position Statement

This is a document looking at the available delivery mechanisms for the garden communities.

Section 1 Viability Assessment Update

This is a document which tests the economic viability of garden community proposals taking into consideration updated cost and value assumptions and including the costs of the Rapid Transit Study.

State Aid Position Statement

A brief summary of the application of state aid law to the North Essex garden community proposals.

Employment Provision for the North Essex Garden Communities

This is a document which sets out the amount of employment land required at each garden community.

Infrastructure Planning, Phasing and Delivery

This report demonstrates the phased manner in which infrastructure will be delivered alongside new homes at the garden communities.

North Essex Rapid Transit System: from Vision to Delivery

This explains how a high quality, frequent and rapid public transport system could be created.


Proposed Amendments to the Section 1 Plan

The North Essex Authorities have also compiled a table of proposed amendments to the Section 1 Plan which aim to address certain issues identified by the Planning Inspector, partners and consultees.

All these documents can be viewed online at

 www.braintree.gov.uk/NEAtechS1

You can have your say by registering on our joint online portal and giving your comments on the documents.


 www.braintree.gov.uk/consultnea

Find out more visit

 www.braintree.gov.uk/NEAtechS1
www.colchester.gov.uk/local-plan

Get in touch with the team:

 planning.policy@colchester.gov.uk

 01206 282476/473/975

Planning Policy
Colchester Borough Council
Rowan House,
33 Sheepen Road
Colchester
CO3 3WG

The evidence is now out to public consultation until 5pm on Monday 30th September 2019.

NEED THIS DOCUMENT IN A DIFFERENT FORMAT? PLEASE CALL 01206 282476/473/975

3 - Response Form

GUIDANCE NOTES & RESPONSE FORM

- to accompany the North Essex Local Plan Examination Technical Consultation 2019

Tendring
District Council



Local Plan
COLCHESTER BOROUGH



Please read these guidance notes before completing the response form

Introduction

Braintree District Council, Colchester Borough Council and Tendring District Council (the North Essex Authorities) have prepared a shared strategic Section 1 of their Local Plans in order to comprehensively plan for the future of North Essex. This shared section contains a commitment to meet the sub-region's housing, jobs and infrastructure requirements through the planning and delivery of three new Garden Communities at Colchester Braintree Borders, Tendring Colchester Borders and West of Braintree.

The North Essex Authorities' Section 1 was submitted to the Secretary of State in October 2017 and an Examination in Public was carried out at the beginning of 2018. Following the appointed Planning Inspector's post hearing session findings (see 8th June letter) the Authorities have been working on the following documents to address the issues raised by the Inspector:

- ◆ Revised evidence base - 10 documents
- ◆ Additional Sustainability Appraisal
- ◆ Suggested amendments to Section 1

These documents have now been approved by the North Essex Authorities for public consultation between 19th August and 30th September. All consultation responses will be sent to the Inspector for his consideration prior to his making a decision to resume the Examination in Public.

If you would like assistance in completing your representation or have any other questions about the Publication Draft Local Plan please contact the Planning Policy Team by email planningpolicy@braintree.gov.uk or by phone on 01376 552525 and ask for Planning Policy.



Part A - Personal Details

Please note that it is not possible for representations to be considered anonymously. Representations will be published on the North Essex Councils' consultation portal and forwarded to the Inspector. Address and contact details will be removed from published responses. (Village/town will be shown).

The Authorities reserve the right not to publish any representations which they considers offensive or defamatory.

Please supply a postal address and email address if you have one. Future contact preferences can be indicated at the end of the form.

If an agent or consultant has been engaged to act on your behalf please fill in both sets of details in full. Correspondence will be sent primarily to the agent.

Part B - Representation

Comments are invited on:

1. Revised Evidence Base Documents

There are ten Evidence base documents - please specify to which document your response refers.

2. Additional Sustainability Appraisal

This is an assessment of the environmental effects, and social and economic issues of policies, proposals and alternative strategies, used to inform the preparation of Local Plans.

3. Suggested Amendments to the North Essex Authorities' Shared Section 1

The North Essex Authorities have compiled a table of proposed amendments to the Section 1 Plan which aim to address certain issues identified by the Planning Inspector, partners and consultees.

For each response please specify the document and/or section you are commenting on and provide a summary (this will ensure an accurate summary is provided to the Inspector).

Responses on multiple documents and points are welcome - however please use a separate form for each evidence base document in order that your response can be processed against the correct document.

Please explain the reasoning behind any suggested amendments or text

Duplicate responses are unnecessary. You need only respond using the North Essex Authorities' online system for this consultation or to localplan@braintree.gov.uk. All representations received by the three authorities relating to shared Section 1 of the Plans will be processed centrally.

If you require more space to comment please attach additional sheets to this response form and ensure they are clearly labeled with your name.

For internal Use only	ID:		Rep No:	

RESPONSE FORM

North Essex Local Plan Examination Technical Consultation 2019

Please see guidance notes

Responses are encouraged via the council's online consultation system available on the website, see www.braintree.gov.uk/NEAtechS1 However, this form can be returned electronically to localplan@braintree.gov.uk or in hard copy if necessary to:

Planning Policy, Braintree district Council, Causeway House, Bocking End, braintree, CM7 9HB

The consultation runs for 6 weeks until 5pm on Monday, 30th September 2019.

This form has two parts: Part A - Personal Details and Part B - Your comments

PART A

1. Personal Details

Title	<input type="text"/>
First Name	<input type="text"/>
Last Name	<input type="text"/>
Organisation (Where relevant)	<input type="text"/>
Address Line 1	<input type="text"/>
Address Line 2	<input type="text"/>
Address Line 3	<input type="text"/>
Post Code	<input type="text"/>
E-mail Address	<input type="text"/>
Telephone Number	<input type="text"/>

2. Agent's Details (if applicable)

Title	<input type="text"/>
First Name	<input type="text"/>
Last Name	<input type="text"/>
Organisation	<input type="text"/>
Address Line 1	<input type="text"/>
Address Line 2	<input type="text"/>
Address Line 3	<input type="text"/>
Post Code	<input type="text"/>
E-mail Address	<input type="text"/>
Telephone Number	<input type="text"/>

REPRESENTATION FORM

1. Revised Evidence Base:

Do you have any comments to make on the additional evidence base documents that have been prepared by the North Essex Authorities in response to the Inspector's interim findings? Please specify which document your comments relate to by choosing one of the following:

North Essex Rapid Transit System: from Vision to Delivery

Modal Share Strategy for the North Essex Garden Communities

Employment Provision for the North Essex Garden Communities

North Essex Authorities: Build Out Rates at the Garden Communities

Habitats Regulations Assessment North Essex Authorities Strategic Section 1 Local

Plans North Essex Authorities: Delivery Mechanisms Position Statement

North Essex Authorities: State Aid Position Statement

North Essex Authorities: Viability Evidence

North Essex Authorities: Infrastructure Order of Costs

North Essex Garden Communities: Infrastructure Planning, Phasing and Delivery

If you are commenting on a specific part of a document please specify which paragraph or section:

If you require more space to comment please attach additional sheets to this response form and ensure they are clearly labeled with your name and the document(s) you are commenting on.

Continue onto next page

**If your representation is more than 400 words, please provide a brief summary here:
(this will ensure an accurate summary is provided to the Inspector):**

2. Additional Sustainability Appraisal

Do you have any comments to make on the Additional Sustainability Appraisal which has been prepared by independent consultants in response to the Inspector's interim findings?

If you are commenting on a specific part of the document please specify which paragraph or section.

If your representation is more than 400 words, please provide a brief summary here (this will ensure an accurate summary is provided to the Inspector):

3. Suggested amendments to the North Essex Authorities' shared Section 1 of their Local Plans

Do you have any comments to make on the suggested amendments to the North Essex Authorities' shared Section 1 of their Local Plans?

Please note where the suggested amendments materially affect the plan's policies, they can only be made if the Inspector considers they are necessary to make the plan sound and/or legally compliant.

Please ensure your comments relate to specific suggested amendments and that your response clearly specifies which suggested amendments you are commenting on.

If you propose any changes to the suggested amendments or to the text of the shared Section 1 Plan you should explain why they are needed to make the plan sound and/or legally compliant.

To which Suggested Amendment/text does your comment relate?

Comments:

4. Further details

Do you wish to participate at future oral hearing session(s) of the Section 1 Local Plan Examination?

Yes No

If you wish to appear at future oral hearing session(s), please outline why you consider this to be necessary.

Please note the Inspector will determine the most appropriate procedure to adopt to hear those who have indicated that they wish to participate in future hearing session(s)

Have you made representations to the North Essex Authorities earlier in the process of preparing the shared Section 1 of their Local Plans?

Yes No

If you answered 'yes', at which stage have you made representations?

Issues and Options/Issues and Scoping
 Preferred Options
 Pre-submission Draft
 Additional Sustainability appraisal Methodology

Do you wish to be notified?

When the Inspectors Report is published?

When document is adopted?

Would you like to be added to our mailing lists:

Braintree District Council

Colchester Borough Council

Tendring District Council

Return by 5pm 30th September 2019

Localplan@braintree.gov.uk

Braintree District Council, Causeway House, Bocking End, Braintree. CM7 9HB
responses will not be accepted after this date.

4 - Email Signature from NEA Councils



5 - Social Media Posts



Enjoy Colchester



Published by Hootsuite [?] · 19 August ·

We want your views on the additional evidence being submitted to the Planning Inspector to support the development of three garden communities in North Essex. For more info see <https://www.colchester.gov.uk/info/cbc-article/...>

Submit your views by 5pm on Sept 30 here www.braintree.gov.uk/NEAtechS1



1,098

People reached

22

Engagements

[Boost Post](#)



2

3 shares



Enjoy Colchester



Published by Hootsuite [?] · 25 August · 🌐

Garden Communities are purpose built developments that would provide homes, jobs and infrastructure supporting North Essex's growth in a more holistic way. Have your say on the additional evidence being submitted to the Planning Inspector here www.braintree.gov.uk/NEAtechS1



969

People reached

19

Engagements

[Boost Post](#)



Enjoy Colchester



Published by Hootsuite [?] · 27 August · 🌐

Have you had your say yet on the evidence we are submitting to the Planning Inspector on plans supporting the three Garden Communities proposed for North Essex? If not make sure you make your views known here www.braintree.gov.uk/NEAtechS1



843

People reached

14

Engagements

Boost Post

3 shares



Enjoy Colchester



Published by Hootsuite [?] · 31 August ·

We are submitting more evidence to the Planning Inspector supporting the development of three Garden Communities in North Essex. Make sure you have your say on them to help inform his decision here www.braintree.gov.uk/NEAtchS1



983

People reached

55

Engagements

[Boost Post](#)

8 comments 5 shares



Enjoy Colchester



Published by Hootsuite [?] · 2 September ·

Make sure your view on the additional evidence we are submitting to the Planning Inspector supporting the development of three new garden communities in North Essex is heard by taking part in the consultation at www.braintree.gov.uk/NEAtechS1



630

People reached

7

Engagements

[Boost Post](#)



1

1 share



Enjoy Colchester



Published by Hootsuite [?] · 8 September ·

The new evidence being submitted to the Planning Inspector around the 3 new garden communities in North Essex includes information on a new rapid transport link that would help reduce congestion and improve air quality. Have your say at www.braintree.gov.uk/NEAtechS1



728

People reached

8

Engagements

[Boost Post](#)

1 share



Enjoy Colchester



Published by Hootsuite [?] · 10 September ·

You have until 5pm on 30 Sept to have your say on the new evidence being provided to the Planning Inspector supporting the development of three new garden communities in Braintree, Colchester and Tendring. Make sure your views are heard by going to www.braintree.gov.uk/NEAtechS1



551

People reached

3

Engagements

Boost Post



Enjoy Colchester



Published by Hootsuite [?] · 13 September · 🌐

We are half way through the consultation to get your views on the new evidence being sent to the Planning Inspector on the 3 purpose built garden community developments in North Essex. Don't miss out on having your say at www.braintree.gov.uk/NEAtchS1



661

People reached

9

Engagements

[Boost Post](#)

2 shares



Enjoy Colchester



Published by Hootsuite [?] · 16 September · 🌐

Have you had your say on the new evidence we are submitting to the Planning Inspector supporting 3 new Garden Communities in North Essex? If not – don't miss out. #haveyoursay by visiting www.braintree.gov.uk/NEAtechS1



692
People reached

15
Engagements

[Boost Post](#)

1

2 shares



Enjoy Colchester



Published by Hootsuite [?] · 21 September at 08:30 · 🌐

The proposed NE Garden Communities would be built over 40-50 yrs providing a large amount of the homes needed in that time, reducing the need to expand existing towns and villages. Have your say on the evidence going to the Planning Inspector at www.braintree.gov.uk/NEAtechS1



929

People reached

37

Engagements

Boost Post



1

2 comments 2 shares



Enjoy Colchester



Published by Hootsuite [?] · 23 September at 17:01 · 🌐

One week left to [#haveyoursay](#) on the evidence we are submitting to the Planning Inspector supporting 3 new garden communities in North Essex. You have until 5pm on Monday 30 September to make your comments in the consultation www.braintree.gov.uk/NEAtchS1



1,998

People reached

168

Engagements

[Boost Post](#)

7 shares

 **Colchester Borough Council** @yourcolchester · Aug 19

We want your views on the additional evidence being submitted to the Planning Inspector to support the development of three garden communities in North Essex. For more info see colchester.gov.uk/info/0bo-arl0...

Submit your views by 5pm on Sept 30 here braintree.gov.uk/NEAtchS1

North Essex Local Plan Examination Technical Consultation 2019

HAVE YOUR SAY
Consultation open
19 AUGUST - 30 SEPTEMBER



👍 8 🗨️ 3 📌

 **Colchester Borough Council** @yourcolchester · Aug 25

Garden Communities are purpose built developments that would provide homes, jobs and infrastructure supporting North Essex's growth in a more holistic way. Have your say on the additional evidence being submitted to the Planning Inspector here braintree.gov.uk/NEAtchS1

North Essex Local Plan Examination Technical Consultation 2019

HAVE YOUR SAY
Consultation open
19 AUGUST - 30 SEPTEMBER



👍 1 🗨️ 2 📌 1 📌

 **Colchester Borough Council** @yourcolchester · Aug 27

Have you had your say yet on the evidence we are submitting to the Planning Inspector on plans supporting the three Garden Communities proposed for North Essex? If not make sure you make your views known here braintree.gov.uk/NEAtchS1



2 1 4

 **Colchester Borough Council** @yourcolchester · Aug 31

We are submitting more evidence to the Planning Inspector supporting the development of three Garden Communities in North Essex. Make sure you have your say on them to help inform his decision. braintree.gov.uk/NEAtchS1



1

Colchester Borough Council @yourcolchester · Sep 7

Make sure your view on the additional evidence we are submitting to the Planning Inspector supporting the development of three new garden communities in North Essex is heard by taking part in the consultation at braintree.gov.uk/NEAtechS1

North Essex Local Plan Examination Technical Consultation 2019

HAVE YOUR SAY
Consultation open
19 AUGUST -
30 SEPTEMBER

1 2

Colchester Borough Council @yourcolchester · Sep 8

The new evidence being submitted to the Planning Inspector around the 3 new garden communities in North Essex includes information on a new rapid transport link that would help reduce congestion and improve air quality. Have your say at braintree.gov.uk/NEAtechS1

North Essex Local Plan Examination Technical Consultation 2019

HAVE YOUR SAY
Consultation open
19 AUGUST -
30 SEPTEMBER

1 1

Colchester Borough Council @yourcolchester · Sep 10

You have until 5pm on 30 Sept to have your say on the new evidence being provided to the Planning Inspector supporting the development of three new garden communities in Braintree, Colchester and Tendring. Make sure your views are heard by going to braintree.gov.uk/NEAtechS1

North Essex Local Plan Examination Technical Consultation 2019

HAVE YOUR SAY
Consultation open
19 AUGUST - 30 SEPTEMBER

3 1

Colchester Borough Council @yourcolchester · Sep 13

We are half way through the consultation to get your views on the new evidence being sent to the Planning Inspector on the 3 purpose built garden community developments in North Essex. Don't miss out on having your say at braintree.gov.uk/NEAtechS1

North Essex Local Plan Examination Technical Consultation 2019

HAVE YOUR SAY
Consultation open
19 AUGUST - 30 SEPTEMBER

3 2

 **Colchester Borough Council** @yourcolchester · Sep 16

Have you had your say on the new evidence we are submitting to the Planning Inspector supporting 3 new Garden Communities in North Essex? If not – don't miss out. #haveyoursay by visiting braintree.gov.uk/NEAtechS1





 **Colchester Borough Council** @yourcolchester · Sep 21

The proposed NE Garden Communities would be built over 40-50 yrs providing a large amount of the homes needed in that time, reducing the need to expand existing towns and villages. Have your say on the evidence going to the Planning Inspector at braintree.gov.uk/NEAtechS1







Colchester Borough Council @yourcolchester · Sep 23

One week left to #haveyoursay on the evidence we are submitting to the Planning Inspector supporting 3 new garden communities in North Essex. You have until 5pm on Monday 30 September to make your comments in the consultation: braintree.gov.uk/NEAtech51



6 - Press Releases

Have your say on Garden Community evidence

A six-week public consultation is being launched today

Date issued: 19 August 2019

Residents across North Essex are being urged to have their say on the additional evidence being submitted to the Planning Inspector supporting the development of three new garden communities in Braintree, Colchester and Tendring.

Braintree District Council, Colchester Borough Council and Tendring District Council have produced the extra information requested by the Inspector last year on the joint part of the Local Plan developed by the three councils.

A six-week public consultation is being launched today (Monday 19 August) for residents to comment on this evidence, which centres on the purpose-built garden community developments.

Supported by Essex County Council, these new developments incorporate a long-term strategy – helping to provide homes, jobs and infrastructure provision ensuring North Essex grows in a more holistic way.

Built over 40-50 years, they will provide a large amount of the homes needed over that time, reducing the need to expand existing towns and villages. Through building at scale, the plans also ensure that new developments come with a mixture of the different affordable homes, schools, health facilities, green spaces and employment land needed for the new communities.

Following an examination of the joint plans last year the Planning Inspector raised several areas in which he wished to see further evidence – especially in terms of viability, rapid transit and sustainability.

The additional evidence compiled by the three councils to address the Inspector's questions show the plans are viable, sustainable and can provide a significant boost to the local economy, providing at least one job per home in the local area – higher than traditional development. They offer a wide variety of homes, including a minimum of 30% set aside as affordable housing.

The issues addressed in the new evidence include:

a new rapid transport network system which would grow alongside North Essex reducing congestion, improving air quality and providing quick and easy access into and out of Colchester and Braintree linking with other public transport hubs. This would include segregated lanes for public transport and ensure the infrastructure is in place so it can provide alternative forms of transport like a trackless tram scheme.

information showing the councils' infrastructure-led approach is viable, meaning the schools, health, and leisure facilities needed to support the stand-alone settlements would be developed at the same time as the homes – not afterwards as is the usual practice.

an enhanced assessment of the environmental effects, and the social and economic issues associated with the proposals

Cllr Mark Cory, Leader of Colchester Borough Council, said: “The Local Plan process is complex, but it is vital we get local engagement on the future of development and public scrutiny of the new evidence. The Planning Inspector wanted more information on our ambitions to provide the homes, jobs and infrastructure needed for the North Essex residents of the future.

“It is absolutely vital that we get Government support to deliver the infrastructure we need to turn the principals of the garden communities into reality; otherwise they cannot work. Working together with the other councils we have developed detailed responses to the Inspector’s questions and are urging residents across North Essex to have their say on them to help inform his decision.”

Cllr Graham Butland, Leader of Braintree District Council, said: “At least 716 homes have to be built every year in our district. That is a given. We have a choice – add them to our existing villages and towns or think more strategically. Garden communities mean we can plan for infrastructure in a joined-up way from the start with today’s modern requirements in mind.”

Every five years the Local Plan rolls forward, and more homes need to be provided. By choosing garden communities now, we are protecting our towns and villages in the long term. We have now published a huge amount of evidence to support our garden community plans – I would encourage all residents to take a look.”

Cllr Neil Stock, Leader of Tendring District Council, said: “As always, we are keen to hear residents’ views on the new evidence created in support of our draft Local Plan, and consultation responses will be passed to the Planning Inspector when he re-examines our vision.

“Our robust and innovative garden community plans form a relatively small part of this draft Local Plan but will evidently set us on a path for sustainable growth for the future.”

The findings of the revised and new Local Plan evidence have been considered by councillors of the three councils over the last month. The comments received through the consultation will be supplied to the Inspector ahead of the re-opening of the Local Plan examination expected to be held this winter.

The consultation will run from Monday 19 August until 5pm on Monday 30 September. Residents can make their views known by going to www.braintree.gov.uk/NEAtechS1

Make sure you have your say on garden community evidence

A six-week public consultation was launched last month for residents to comment on this additional evidence

Date issued: 18 September 2019

North Essex residents are being reminded they have until 5pm on Monday 30 September to make their views known on additional evidence being submitted to the Planning Inspector supporting three new garden communities.

Braintree District Council, Colchester Borough Council and Tendring District Council have produced the extra information requested by the Inspector last year following an examination on the joint part of their Local Plans.

The Planning Inspector raised several areas he wanted to see further evidence on surrounding viability of the garden community schemes, the proposed rapid transit system and the sustainability of alternative development options.

A six-week public consultation was launched last month for residents to comment on this additional evidence.

Supported by Essex County Council, the garden community developments in Braintree, Colchester and Tendring incorporate a long-term strategy – helping to provide homes, jobs and infrastructure provision ensuring North Essex grows in a holistic way.

Built over 40-50 years, the communities will reduce the need to increase the size of existing towns and villages. Through building at scale, the plans also ensure that new developments come with a mixture of the different affordable homes, schools, health facilities, green spaces and jobs.

The additional evidence compiled by the three councils to address the Inspector's questions show the plans are viable, sustainable and can provide a significant boost to the local economy, providing at least one job per new home in the local area – far higher than traditional development. They offer a wide variety of homes, including a minimum of 30% set aside as affordable housing.

The issues addressed in the new evidence include:

a new public transport system which would serve North Essex reducing congestion, improving air quality and providing quick and easy access in and out of Colchester and Braintree and linked with other public transport hubs. This would include segregated lanes for public transport and lay the foundations for innovative new technologies such as trackless trams.

evidence demonstrating the councils' infrastructure-led approach is viable, meaning the schools, health, and leisure facilities needed to support the stand-alone settlements would be developed at the same time as the homes – not afterwards as is the usual practice.

an enhanced assessment of the environmental effects, and the social and economic issues associated with the proposals and alternative development options.

Cllr Mark Cory, Leader of Colchester Borough Council, said: "It is vital we get local views and public scrutiny of the new evidence. The Planning Inspector wanted more information on

our ambitions to provide the homes, jobs and infrastructure needed for the North Essex residents of the future.

“It is absolutely vital that we continue getting Government support to deliver the infrastructure needed to turn the principals of the garden communities into reality. I would call on all residents across North Essex to have their say on the new evidence in order to help inform the inspector’s decision.”

Cllr Graham Butland, Leader of Braintree District Council, said: “We believe garden communities are our long-term answer to building the homes we need in our district. The Planning Inspector asked us to undertake further work on a series of topics and it is that work we are now consulting on. I would encourage parish councils, residents and other partners to take a look and our planning policy team are more than happy to help if residents have any questions or concerns.”

Cllr Neil Stock, Leader of Tendring District Council, said: “As always, we are keen to hear residents’ views on the new evidence created in support of our draft Local Plan, and consultation responses will be passed to the Planning Inspector when he re-examines our vision.

“Our robust and innovative garden community plans form a relatively small part of this draft Local Plan but will evidently set us on a path for sustainable growth for the future, and I would urge people to have their say.”

The comments received through the consultation will be supplied to the Inspector ahead of the re-opening of the Local Plan examination expected to be held this winter.

Residents can make their views known by going to: www.braintree.gov.uk/NEAtechS1

Relax at spirit festival

A FESTIVAL to relax the mind and body is being held next month. The Mind, Body and Spirit Festival, hosted by Life Arts, will be held in Marks Tey on October 19 and 20 from 10am until 4pm. Marks Tey Parish Hall will house a number of stalls offering wellbeing therapies, spiritual guidance, health advice, meditation classes, workshops and healing music. The event is raising money for the Helen Rollason Cancer Charity. Gifts including jewellery, natural body products, vegan skincare products, essential oils and incense will be on sale. Tickets for all workshops, talks and demonstrations will be available at the venue on the day, for a donation to the charity. Admission is £4 for adults, £3.50 for concessions and children under 16 go free. For more information visit www.lifearts.co.uk.

Ukulele club open to all

AN Ukulele club will start having regular classes for beginners and those who can already play. The sessions will start on Monday September 30 at 7pm to 8.30pm in the Pump Room at the Red Lion Pub in Manningtree costing £8 per class. Email sarahporter168@gmail.com.

ROCK CHOIR RAISES VOICE FOR PEOPLE WITH DEMENTIA



■ Singing - Colchester Rock Choir which has taken part in Proms in the Park

A ROCK choir which took part in one of the biggest music events in the country is supporting people living with dementia. The Rock Choir team from Colchester is collaborating with BBC Music Day to help bring music

and staging to everyone living with dementia. The choir will be reaching out to individuals who have, in some way, been affected by dementia either through their own personal experience or by close contact

with a family member or friend. The choir will be inviting the carers of anyone affected by dementia to attend one of their rehearsals free of charge. The Colchester team has already joined 30,000 other choir

members at the BBC Proms in the Park event in Hyde Park in London. Any carers who would like to join a free Rock Choir session can visit www.rockchoir.com or call 01253 714276 to book a place.

THE ULTIMATE GAZETTE
WEDDING SHOW

Everything you need to plan your perfect day!

Sunday 13th October 2018 11am - 3pm
Colchester United Football Club CO4 5UP
FREE Entry - FREE Parking
www.facebook.com/weddingshowgazette
For all enquiries please contact Lynda on 01206 234215 or lynda.clark@localiq.co.uk

LOCALIQ **Gazette**

Last chance to have your say on garden villages

By KATHERINE PALMER
k.palmer@essexcc.gov.uk

RESIDENTS are being reminded to have their say on plans for proposed garden communities before the end of the month.

The additional evidence being submitted to the planning inspector supporting three new garden communities will be available until 5pm on September 30.

Brewintra, Colchester and Tendring councils say they have produced the extra information requested by the inspector last year following an examination on the joint part of their local plans.

The planning inspector raised questions about several areas he wanted to see further evidence on surrounding the viability of the garden community schemes, the proposed rapid transit system and the sustainability of alternative development options.

A six-week public consultation was launched last month



■ Vision - West Tey

for residents to comment on this additional evidence.

Supported by Essex County Council, the garden community developments in Broomfield, Colchester and Tendring incorporate a long-term strategy which the developers say will help provide homes, jobs and infrastructure.

Built over 50 years, it is said the communities will reduce the need to increase the size of

existing towns and villages. Mark Cury, leader of Colchester Council, said: "It is vital we get local views and public scrutiny of the new evidence."

"It is absolutely vital we continue getting Government support to deliver the infrastructure needed to turn the principles of the garden communities into reality."

Ned Stock, leader of Tendring Council, said: "We are keen to hear residents' views on the new evidence created in support of our draft Local Plan, and consultation responses will be passed to the planning inspector."

"Our robust and innovative garden community plans form a relatively small part of this draft Local Plan but will put us on a path for sustainable growth for the future."

The comments received will be supplied to the Inspector ahead of the re-opening of the Local Plan examination. Visit www.braintree.gov.uk/NEA-rob51.

Letters

Write to us at Colchester Gazette, Unit 1, Brunel Court, Newells Industrial Estate, Colchester CO4 5XP or email gazette.letters@thegazette.co.uk
Please keep it brief, with your full name and address, which will only be withheld in exceptional circumstances.

MP don't face consequences for behaviour



Divided house - Parliamentarians at loggheeds

Pictures: Press Association

WATCHING the antics in Parliament over Brexit, I began to wonder what our local MPs predecessors might have thought of the chaos our politicians have wilfully allowed the government to fall into.

My eye fell upon Sir Henry Milnes who was MP for this area in the 17th century. He was sentenced to life imprisonment and once a year was dragged through the streets on a sled with a rope around his neck, shown the scaffold and then taken back to prison in disgrace. They eventually transported him to Turgiers, although he probably died on the way.

Now, Milnes was a rigidist, a spy, a one-time prisoner of the Scots and quite probably stole the crown jewels but, still, it's nice to know that there was a time when MPs faced consequences for their actions.

Jim Jacobs
Meads Close, Halstead

We need film of Layer Road up to the Eighties



Snip - photographers covering the 1968 FA Cup match when Arsenal visited Layer Road

SPAREFILMS of Colchester is producing a number of short films relating to Colchester United at Layer Road and would be interested to hear from anyone with footage in any format pre 1985.

Films in production range from one minute to 10 minutes.
Ray Hodgson
Colchester
01206 482000

Leaflet isn't propaganda... it's clarity we can do better

YOUR Gazette article and letters column feature attacks on Colchester Council for spending money on garden community leaflets, on the suggestion of bias in favouring a young white couple building house boys and the "propaganda".

That is so wrong on all counts. Those opposed to garden communities deserve to be heard. And they are. They are leafletting and pushing hard. They believe they are right. They have a Cause, after all.

But they and their supporters are wrong to tell others not to engage, not to make a case.

Local councils have a duty to the public. We must speak up for the huge opportunity that garden communities offer, for better places to live and work.

Thus a leaflet that gets to all, the elderly and disadvantaged, not just those enjoying the Gazette and Essex County Standard, or having a go at each other on Twitter.

Our leaflets do not preach. They make a reasonable and positive case and invite the reader to make up their mind.

Different images can always be used but the point of our leaflet is clear: having a home of any kind really matters.

Thus our support for garden communities because they will mean more affordable homes, more council housing and better places to live, for everyone, whatever their ethnicity or background.

It is a fact that developers pocket the profits. It is a fact that getting contributions from them for affordable homes or facilities can be difficult and that new housing often comes without the facilities and roads and transport needed.

Soon we will have an alternative. Garden communities. Developments with more space and facilities, a better quality of life and a community voice throughout.

To point this out is not "propaganda", it is stark clarity that we can have more of the same or something different and better.

Garden communities that turn acres of the money gained from building houses into facilities and infrastructure for us all.

Cllr David King and Julie Young (Cllr King) Lib Dem borough councillor responsible for business and (Cllr Young) Labour deputy leader

Garden town costs remain a secret

IT is absolutely right that Colchester's Conservatives should be jumping up and down about the secrecy surrounding the commercial review of the

Super Mum



Super mum - Kevin Jay spotted Wonder Woman on children's duties at Inveson Colchester

garden communities.

Our authorities are diverting money to North Essex Garden Communities Ltd without a care.

By the end of this year £7.5million will have been spent, with nothing to show in the following two years, North Essex

Garden Communities wants £4million to £5million from each council, meaning that more than £20million will have been spent.

Not a house will have been built, let alone an affordable one for the homeless and those on the housing register, so often cited as the lucky beneficiaries of the garden town vanity project.

Then there's the debt required, peaking at more than £500million.

The commercial review makes grave warnings about this in the unredacted bits of its paper.

So anyone who thinks the north Essex new town do not affect those should think again. £200million would go a long way on local services.

And who knows what the impact of the debt will be on future services?

The answer is no-one, because it's all been kept shrouded in secrecy.

Rosie Pearson
Secretary, Campaign Against Inveson
Sprawl in Essex
Pettibick

How many people approved in past?

FOLLOWING Noel Maud's letter (September 2, "Deeply flawed plan") on the taxpayer funded propaganda that has been dropping through our doors, I have one further question.

The leaflet lists various consultations that have taken place over the past few years, stating there have been more than 3,000 responses on the Local Plan so far.

How many of those, I wonder, expressed approval?

Helen Hogan
Copford

Don't forget role Sir Bob played

THE Gazette Comment (September 10) was right to praise the role of Jonathan Tippett, former executive head of the Stanswells, Thomas, Lord Audley and Alderman Bixhall Schools, in converting education buses at County Hall that secondary school provision on the Shrub End estate would be needed because of the increase in the number of children in Colchester.

What is disappointing is the Comment failed to mention the pivotal role played in Parliament by Colchester's then MP Sir Bob Russell.

He led a determined campaign against the closure policy of Essex County Council, under the personal

direction of the now disgraced Lord Henningfield, to shut Alderman Bixhall School and Thomas Lord Audley School at Monkwick.

As official records can confirm, Sir Bob pursued matters in the House of Commons and held meetings with education ministers.

This was during the time of the Labour Government whose national education policies enabled Lord Henningfield to promote his closure plans.

Bob invited Liberal Democrat party leader Nick Clegg to visit Colchester on this important matter.

The election of the Coalition Government in 2010 led to the threat to close Thomas Lord Audley School being scrapped,

but the fight to retain a secondary school at Shrub End continued because it was obvious that rising numbers of children would require this.

As part of his successful lobbying, Sir Bob invited Tory Education Secretary Michael Gove to visit Colchester for a meeting with Sir Tippett.

The opening of the new Paxman Academy, on the site of the former Alderman Bixhall School, is testimony to the significant efforts made by Sir Bob when he was Colchester's MP.

I am pleased to remind people of this fact.

Martin Goss
Liberal Democrat Parliamentary Candidate for Colchester

Garden communities are only way to get infrastructure we need



■ Growth - one of the many new housing developments in Slawley

THE ongoing debate about the need to build more homes highlights just how complex, sensitive and challenging the housing crisis is.

There may be some who wish to ignore it - but most people recognise the need to deliver the right homes in the right way. By that, I mean reducing the impact on our environment (and enhancing it wherever possible) and making sure new homes are well-connected by public transport.

Last year, we took a decision on to how to proceed with the Local Plan and garden communities, and nothing has changed to suggest we should review that decision.

The planning inspector asked for additional evidence - which we have now prepared - and independent consultants have demonstrated that the plan is sustainable.

Garden communities present the best mechanism to create new communities in the most sustainable manner over the longer term, as well as enabling more control over what happens on our borders.

Not so long ago, Tendring Council published a document showing new housing right up to our borders, north and south of the A153. There is nothing to stop this happening again, either through a standalone



Julie Young, deputy leader of Colchester Council, gives her views on the authority's garden communities plans

Tendring Local Plan or through an application by the landowner.

So, what are the alternatives to garden communities? Without garden communities we will have to find sites for thousands of additional homes somewhere in the borough.

We know development is constrained to the south, because much of the land is owned by the MoD. We are close to the boundary to the east, so would have to look at villages and urban extensions to the north or west. The north would involve breaching the A12. Once breached, where will it end?

To the west, there is already significant development proposed in Slawley, so we would have to look at Copford and

Markis Tey. We could build thousands of homes in Markis Tey without a garden community, and therefore without the necessary infrastructure. But I know we can do better.

Without the garden communities, the Housing Infrastructure Fund bids will fail and the money for new infrastructure simply won't materialise.

Do our villages want extra housing? Probably not. We have seen opposition to additional growth in villages where speculative applications have been made. How would these communities feel if they had to accommodate even larger developments?

Other villages have limited services and facilities, so they surely aren't suitable places for more new homes. Some villages could integrate a degree of new housing, but nowhere near the many thousands needed by 2033 and beyond.

We also must consider the consequences of not progressing with the garden communities. If we prepare a new plan, we will need to incorporate higher housing targets because Government requirements have changed since we submitted the current plan. That will, of course, mean finding even more development sites.

Without a plan we are exposed to all kinds of speculative development. We've already seen proposals in West Bergholt, Rowledge, Eight Ash Green and Tiptree. Others will join them - if developers think there's an opportunity.

It is the scale of garden communities that is key to delivering the infrastructure necessary to support them. The facts are clear: development of 750-800 homes is required to generate the need for a primary school. There is no rapid transit system and no A133/A129 link road, without new development.

Frankly, we will have to allow the same number of houses anyway, because it's a national requirement.

However, with garden communities we will at least get the infrastructure needed to alleviate the impact on existing communities.

Without garden communities, we won't. It's as simple as that.

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■ Infrastructure - an artist's impression of the rapid transport system, with a bus turning from North Hill to the High Street

GARDEN TOWN PLANNERS HAVE BEEN WORKING WITH JACOBS AND GO-AHEAD

'Rapid transit system' could cost up to £325m

By **ROBIE DRYSON**
robiedryson@essexpress.co.uk

DETAILED plans for a new rapid transit system linking three new garden communities in north Essex are due to be revealed today.

Part of proposals, by Colchester, Tending, Braintree and Essex councils, to build 63,000 homes over the next 50 years, the system is designed to reduce congestion and provide quick and easy access in and out of Braintree and Colchester from the new towns.

The system, which could cost between £250 million and £325 million, will start off as a bus service with bus lanes.

They say the service will be reliable, frequent, comfortable and affordable.

The councils expect to bear if a bid to the Government's Housing Infrastructure Fund, the key to paying for the scheme, is successful soon.

The authorities hope the network will eventually develop into an "east to west" public transport corridor.

The dedicated lanes could eventually be adapted to the reflect the latest ways of transport like truckless trams.

As well as linking the garden communities at the Tending Colchester border, West Tey and west of Braintree, the system could also stretch to Shoebury Airport.

Mark Cory leader of Colchester Council, said garden communities needed infrastructure first to be successful.

He said: "It would be a failure if we simply add thousands of new cars to our already stretched roads."

"This is why the rapid transit system is so important and why we are setting out a strong case for how it could operate from the first few homes.

"As we are starting from scratch we have the opportunity to design the new communities in such a way it supports a rapid transit link and encourage people



Designs - how the rapid rapid transit system could look

to use it, as well as boosting, walking and cycling, instead of their cars."

North Essex Garden Communities Limited, run by Colchester, Tending, Braintree and Essex County councils, has worked with transport consultants Jacobs and provider Go-Ahead Group on the plans.

New evidence on the Local Plan will be considered by councillors in July before a further consultation period.

The councils plan to submit the evidence to the planning inspector by the end of the year.

He is expected to make a decision early next year. The councils hope work on the 7,000 to 9,000-home East Colchester garden community could start in 2025 and the 15,000 to 20,000 West Tey new town in 2028. Visit braintree.gov.uk/transportevidence.

As we are starting from scratch we have the opportunity to design the new communities



Infrastructure first - Colchester Council leader Mark Cory

Dog dies after contracting disease

A DOG has died after being the first in Essex to contract a deadly canine disease called Alabama Rot.

The dog, from Manningtree, was one of two new cases confirmed as having the disease.

The other case was in Ivybridge, Devon.

The initial symptoms of the disease are skin lesions on the legs, chest and abdomen followed by problems with kidney functioning.

This disease is still very rare, so vets are advising dog owners to remain calm but vigilant.

Caroline Allen, RSPCA's veterinary director said: "The cause of Alabama Rot is unknown and little is known about the mysterious condition."

"It is very difficult to give advice about how to avoid it. It is sensible to wash off mud after a muddy walk, especially in woodland, but at this stage it is not known if this is necessary or helpful."

"Dogs can display skin lesions that often look like open sores or ulcers - particularly on the legs - and signs of acute kidney injury can develop, including drinking more, vomiting and lethargy."

In total, the country has now seen 168 confirmed cases across 59 counties since 2012, with 52 cases in 2018 and 13 in 2019.

The disease was first identified in a dog in the American state of Alabama in the 1980s.

Ladies group hands out share of £750 to causes

A CHURCH group made donations of £750 to a collection of good causes.

St Luke's Ladies Group, a non-profit organisation based at the church in Tiptree, made the donations at its annual general meeting.

The Mercury Theatre received £100 for its renovation project, £180 was donated to Colchester

Zoo's Action for the Wild scheme, Action for Family Carers received £200 and £100 was donated to the Tom Bredidge Foundation.

The group also gave £150 to Barney a Gilbert student who is travelling to Swaziland in 2020 to help build a school.

Members met on the third Thursday of each month in the extension at St Luke's Church.

Campaigners say estimates are 'hope triumphing over reality' as councils publish report

New garden communities 'could create 21,000 jobs'

CAMPAIGNERS say they are sceptical about claims 21,000 jobs could be created in "garden communities" over the next 30 years.

The Centre for Economics and Business Research was commissioned to produce projected employment figures.

Three garden communities are planned at the Tendring/Colchester border, West Toy and west of Bricktrey.

CEBR analysed population statistics and employment forecasts to estimate the number of jobs the new towns could create.

Not including construction jobs, it is claimed 21,500 jobs would be created by 2051.

Most of the land would be allocated for offices, industrial and warehouse use.

However, the report says there are no guarantees people living in the garden communities would choose to work there.

Robert Benschamp, economist

By KATHERINE PALMER
k.palmer@gazette-news.co.uk

at CEBR, said: "It's still early planning so the question will come later on how to monitor it."

"We could work with employers to monitor residential locations of employees.

"We cannot force people to work in a location but we can put policies in place to encourage people to look for employment in their local area."

"The garden communities will provide employment spaces to give a competitive edge."

Brentree, Colchester, Tendring and Essex county councils have published further information, following questions raised by the Planning Inspector last year, in a bid to show an infrastructure-led approach is more viable.

But members of the Campaign Against Urban Sprawl in Essex

are not convinced. Secretary for In-Peasage said: "It seems to be yet another case of hope triumphing over reality. Evidence will have to be scrutinised extremely carefully and the new employment study will have to explain why it contradicts the previous one."

"That one found to create one job per home for West Toy alone, there would need to be a step change in employment growth in Colchester, for example the building of a new hospital."

The revised evidence will be considered by Local Plan committees and then by full councils ahead of a consultation.

Colchester Council leader Mark Cary said: "Homes, jobs and infrastructure are interlinked and should not be treated as independent in one another. They matter to people and it is vital we get them right."

The Local Plan examination is expected to reopen this winter.



■ Vision - how the new town at West Toy could look

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Two-way High Street plan for garden towns

Report reveals scheme linking garden towns could cost £325m

By Katherine Palmer

A REPORT reveals Colchester High Street could be made two-way to accommodate a "rapid transit system" linking the town centre with two proposed garden communities.

Consultants have looked at ways to get a fast and regular pub-



ALL CHANGE: A sketch showing a bus entering the High Street in transport system linking new towns planned near Essex University and at "West Ivy" with Colchester, Braintree and Stratford

lic transport. Two options listed for Colchester town centre are using the current one-way system or a two-way High Street, if access is restricted to public transport and "specified categories of user".

The report, commissioned to prove the garden towns scheme is viable, reveals the scheme could cost up to £325 million.

Special report: Pages 4&5

'Rapid transit' could

Dedicated route from Tendring to Stansted Airport

FOUR routes have been revealed for a proposed "rapid transit system" linking three garden communities.

Part of proposals by Colchester, Tendring, Braintree and Essex councils to build 63,000 homes over the next 50 years, the transport system is designed to reduce congestion and provide reliable and affordable transport between Colchester, Braintree, Stansted and the new towns.

A document titled "From Vision to Plan" provides details on what a rapid transit system could look like and how it will be funded.

It lists four routes. Route 1 connects the Colchester/Tendring border garden community to Essex University, Hythe, Colchester town centre, Colchester Station, Colchester Hospital and the existing park and ride.

With the highest investment option it could take 27 minutes



ON THE BUSES: An artist's impression of what the rapid transport system could look like in Colchester town centre, with the image showing a vehicle turning from North Hill into the High Street

to get from end to end at morning peak time.

Route 2 connects West Tey with Marks Tey, Stanway and Colchester town centre. Connections can be made to the destinations on Route 1.

With the highest investment option, it could take 23 minutes from end to end at morning peak time.

Route 3 connects the West Braintree garden community

eastward to Braintree and continues westwards to Stansted via Great Dunmow and the planned new development at Easton Park.

It could take 46 minutes to get from end to end at morning peak time.

Route 4 links the West Tey garden community with Braintree, connecting Routes 2 and 3 and providing a through link between Colchester and Stan-

sted. It could take 38 minutes from end to end at morning peak time.

The project could cost up to £221.1million to complete and the total revenue across all routes is expected to be about £38.8million by 2051.

The idea is for the scheme to be delivered using the latest bus technology such as guided busways as used in Cambridge or "trackless trams".

The aim is to make journey times faster than those of cars between key destinations with a frequent all-day service, running every eight minutes.

The scheme will be funded through the Housing Infrastructure Fund and developer contributions.

The system will need its own dedicated route.

The report said: "By the end of the Local Plan period in 2033 it is expected Routes 1, 2 and 3 will be in place.

"The aim is to invest at the

high end of capital estimates, circa £150 million to £200 million. This higher end investment would help reach an operational viable system in a faster time frame.

"Post 2033, the intention is to extend the level of segregation on Routes 1 to 3 and introduce Route 4, which connects the two subsystems.

"Significant investment is planned as part of the garden communities.

However it is expected additional bids will be made to government through opportunities such as the Housing Infrastructure Fund.

"The proposals are considered highly achievable and highly likely to meet the objectives for garden communities in north Essex."

North Essex Garden Communities, the firm working on the council's plans, has worked with transport consultants Jacobs and provider Go-Ahead.

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High Street could be made two-way with West Tey link running via Lexden Road

THE report reveals Colchester High Street could be made two-way to accommodate the "rapid transit system".

Consultants have looked at ways to get a fast and regular public transport system linking the proposed garden towns with Colchester town centre.

The Tendring/Colchester Borders Garden Community on land near Essex University could see a dedicated route created alongside the A132, bypassing the university's Knowledge Gateway.

The alternative route suggested is via Boundary Road and the south side of the university.

Getting from the university to the town centre is more complicated.

One option is using Greensted Road, East Street and East Hill.

A second suggestion is along Clapton Hill, St Andrew's Avenue, Ipswich Road and East Street. The third and option is Hythe Hill, Barrack Street and Magdalen Street.

However, the report considers most of the route will be an "unsegregated" route, roads which can be used by any vehicles, with priority measures for the "rapid transit system" on the link up to and through junctions.

Options for linking in the town centre are using the current one-way system via High Street, Queen Street, St Botolph's Street, Osborn Street, St John's Street and West Street.

It lists "possible two-way op-



JOINED-UP THINKING: A drawing of a new-link Lexden Road



MAPPED OUT: The proposed route from West Tey, in pink, to Colchester

tion along High Street" as a second option, if access to the High Street is restricted to "rapid transit system and specified categories of user".

Linking Colchester town centre with Marks Tey is the most complicated part of the journey.

The report says: "A number of options are under consideration. All use the existing road network within Colchester, with reserved sections and restricted access where possible."

A northern range of options includes an envelope between the A130/A12 and the A134/

B1498 (Lexden Road and London Road) through Lexden, Stanway and Rescon End.

A southern range of options includes the B1222 (Maldon Road and Marsh Red Road) through Marsh End, continuing to the garden community on new infrastructure either via Marks Tey or into the southeast corner of the garden community near Clapton Green.

The report says new park and ride sites could be built as part of the Tendring/Colchester borders garden community and West Tey towns.

cost £325m

System will link new and existing towns

By **Robin Ryan**
01206 750000/robin.ryan@essexstandard.co.uk

DETAILED plans for a "rapid transit system" linking three new garden communities in north Essex have been unveiled. Part of proposals, by Colchester, Tondring, Braintree and Essex councils, to build 45,000 homes over the next 30 years, the system is designed to reduce congestion and provide quick and easy access in and out of Braintree and Colchester from the new towns.

The system, which could cost between £290 million and £350 million, will start off as a bus service with dedicated lanes. They say the service will be reliable, frequent, comfortable and affordable.

The councils expect to hear if a bid to the Government's Housing Infrastructure Fund, the key to paying for the scheme, is successful soon.

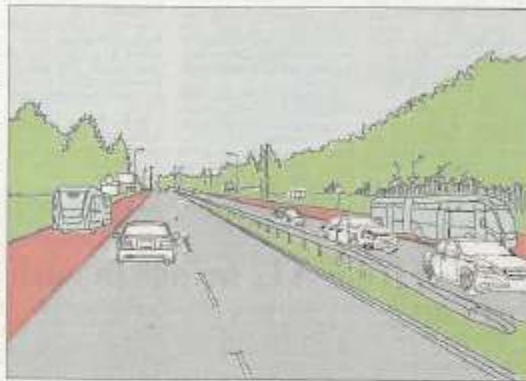
The authorities hope the network will eventually develop into an "east to west" public transport corridor.

The dedicated lanes could eventually be adapted to the rest of the lanes ways of transport like trackless trams.

As well as linking the garden communities at the Tondring Colchester border, West Tey and west of Braintree, the system could also stretch to Stansted Airport.

Mark Cory leader of Colchester Council, said garden communities needed infrastructure first to be successful.

He said: "It would be a failure if we simply add thousands



BIR LANE: The rapid transit system will rely on dedicated lanes

of new cars to our already stretched roads.

"This is why the rapid transit system is so important and why we are setting out a strong case for how it could operate from the first few homes.

"As we are starting from scratch we have the opportunity to design the new communities in such a way it supports a rapid transit link and encourage people to use it, as well as boosting walking and cycling, instead of their cars."

North Essex Garden Communities Limited, run by Colchester, Tondring, Braintree and Essex County councils, has worked

with transport consultants Jacobs and provider Go-Ahead Group on the plans.

New evidence on the Local Plan will be considered by councillors in July before a further consultation period.

The councils plan to submit the evidence to the planning inspector by the end of the year.

He is expected to make a decision early next year. The councils hope work on the 1,000 to 1,500 home East Colchester garden community could start in 2021 and the 15,000 to 20,000 West Tey new town in 2023. Visit braintree.gov.uk/localplan for evidence.

It would be a failure if we simply added thousands of new cars to our already stretched roads

Mark Cory

New garden communities 'could create 21,000 jobs'

CAMPAGNERS say they are sceptical about claims 21,000 jobs could be created in "garden communities" over the next 30 years.

The Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR) was commissioned to produce projected employment figures.

Three garden communities are planned at the Tondring/Colchester border, West Tey and west of Braintree.

CEBR analysed population statistics and employment forecasts to estimate the number of jobs the new towns could create.

Not including construction jobs, it is claimed 21,000 jobs would be created by 2050.

Most of the land would be allocated for offices, industrial and warehouse use.

However, the report says there are no guarantees people living in the gar-

den communities would choose to work there. Robert Beauchamp, economist at CEBR, said: "It's still early planning so the question will come later on how to monitor it."

"We could work with employers to similar residential locations of employees.

"We cannot force people to work in a location but we can put policies in place to encourage people to look for employment in their local area."

"The garden communities will provide employment space to give a competitive edge."

Braintree, Colchester, Tondring and Essex county councils have published further information, following questions raised by the Planning Inspector last year. In a bid to show an infrastructure-led approach is more viable.

But members of the Campaign Against Urban Sprawl in Essex are not

convinced. Secretary Rudi Pearson said: "It seems to be yet another case of hope triumphing over reality."

"Evidence will have to be scrutinised extremely carefully and the new employment study will have to explain why it contradicts the previous one."

"That one found to create one job per house for West Tey alone, there would need to be a stop change in employment growth in Colchester, for example the building of a new hospital."

The revised evidence will be considered by Local Plan committees and then by full councils ahead of a consultation. Colchester Council leader Mark Cory said: "Homes, jobs and infrastructure are interlinked and should not be treated as independent to one another."

"They matter to people and it is vital we get them right."

The Local Plan examination is expected to reopen this winter.

Boutique hotel plans

PLANS have been submitted to transform a former pub into a boutique hotel and restaurant. The White Hart in West Mersea High Street could be transformed with a new seating and drinking area, kitchen and reception on the ground floor. The first floor will have four ensuite hotel rooms with an extra room on the second floor. The application said: "The building has been vacant for some time and it is important the building is brought back into beneficial use. "The property is one of the focal points in the centre of the village. West Mersea is recognised as having a tourism function and returning a hotel use to this property will help to reinvigorate the district centre." Colchester Council will hear the final say.

Uni's happy students

ESSEX University students are among the most satisfied in the country, according to a survey. National Student Survey results rank it in the top 14th for overall student satisfaction for the seventh year running. A total of 87 per cent of students said they are satisfied with their course.

Buses or trams could be using routes through Lexden and Shrub End



All change? Colchester High Street could become two way again to speed up the transport system. Inset is a sketch of the proposals

Two way High Street for fast track buses?

TRAMS or buses could be weaving their way through leafy Lexden and Shrub End if plans to set up a "rapid transit system" through Colchester are approved.

Part of proposals by Colchester, Tendring, Braintree and Essex councils to build up to 40,000 homes over the next 30 years, the system is designed to reduce congestion and provide regular and affordable access in and out of Braintree and Colchester.

Documents provide details on the vision, which also include an option to make Colchester High Street two ways.

The four routes are:
 ■ Route 1 would connect the Colchester/Tendring border garden community to Essex University Hynes, Colchester town centre, Colchester Station, Colchester Hospital and the existing park and ride.
 ■ There is an option for a dedicated route alongside the A135, then via West Lodge, Newfield Road and Capon Road to serve the Knowledge Gateway at the university.

There are another three options for getting from the university to the town centre via Greenstead Road, East Street and East Hill; Clingoe Hill, St Andrew's Avenue, Ipswich Road and East Street; and via Hynes Hill, Harrack Street and Magdalen Street.

The report also suggests having a two-way high street if the route is restricted to the rapid transit system and selected vehicles.

With the highest investment option, it could take 27 minutes to get from end to end at morning peak time.

■ Route 2 would connect West Toy with Marks Tey Stanway and Colchester town centre. Connections can

By KATHERINE PALMER
 Colchester Journalist

be made to the destinations on Route 1. There are two options for this route - a northern range of options includes an envelope between the A135 (Cymbeline Way) and A19 and Tyburn Hill/London Road through Lexden and Shrub End; a southern range of options includes Shrub End Road through Shrub End, continuing to the garden community via Marks Tey or into Copford Green.

With the highest investment option it could take 21 minutes from end to end at morning peak time.

■ Route 3 would connect the west of Braintree garden community eastward to Braintree and continue westwards to Stansted and the planned new development at Easton Park.

■ Route 4 would link the Colchester/Braintree border garden community with Braintree, connecting routes 2 and 3 and providing a through link between Colchester and Stansted.

The possible options are using the A12 and then following the proposed A130 heading south past Cressing and Silver End, and requiring the A13 just west of Kelvedon, or following the old A130 route.

It could take 35 minutes from

end to end at morning peak time. The project could cost up to £25 million to complete if it gets the go-ahead.

The total revenue across all routes is estimated to be about £26.3 million by 2051.

The idea is for the scheme to be delivered using "low rapid transit" technology which could be upgraded to "trackless trams" in the future.

After 2032, the report says "driverless rapid transport vehicles" are a possibility.

The aim is to make journey times faster than by car between key destinations with a frequent all-day service every eight minutes.

The scheme, if allowed, will be funded through the Housing Infrastructure Fund and developer contributions.

The rapid transit system is envisaged to have its own lane separate from other traffic with provision for walking and cycling alongside it.

The report said: "By the end of the Local Plan period in 2038 it is expected Routes 1, 2 and 3 will be in place."

"Post 2032, the intention is to extend the level of segregation on Routes 1 to 3 and introduce Route 4, which connects the two sub-systems."

"The proposals are considered highly achievable and highly likely to meet the objectives for garden communities in north Essex."

North Essex Garden Communities Limited, the firm working on the plans, has worked with transport consultants Jacobs and provider Go-Ahead Group.

However, agreement for the garden communities has yet to be given with opponents saying the schemes would destroy the north Essex countryside.

Public Consultation Event Proposed Residential Development at Land West of Dawes Lane, West Mersea



Mersea Town Council are preparing an Outline Planning Application in respect of a development of residential development on the land to the west of Dawes Lane, West Mersea.

This consultation is an opportunity to view the emerging proposals and provide comments to help shape the preparation of a planning application. In brief, the proposals are for:

- 1. 100 dwellings
- 2. Six Public open spaces with potential to provide new community facilities
- 3. Landscaping, including new footways and cycle links, to create a high quality environment.

We do intend to discuss the emerging proposals with local people and community representatives, and as part of that process a public exhibition will be held on:
Tuesday 9th July 2019
 at Glabe Pavilion,
 Glabe Recreation Ground,
 Colchester Road West Mersea, CO5 9RS
 From 4pm until 7pm

If you are unable to attend the event, feedback forms and information concerning the consultation will be available from:
 https://www.colchester.gov.uk or by email: planning@colchester.gov.uk.
 We will be accepting comments between Tuesday the 9th of July and Monday the 22nd of July.

The proposals are considered highly achievable and highly likely to meet the objectives for garden communities

PLANNERS WANT PEOPLE TO WALK, CYCLE AND USE BUSES

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Great garden communities are being created. How healthy are you?



Healthy - walking and cycling is being encouraged for residents in garden communities like West Tey

70% of garden town residents will have to ditch their cars

By KATHERINE PALMER

CUTTING back household and kerbside parking on new estates could reduce the number of cars on roads, garden communities bosses have claimed.

Colchester, Braintree, Taudring and Essex councils have produced a series of reports to show how "garden communities" will work. A "movement and access strategy" encourages 40 per cent of trips between garden communities to be completed by walking or cycling.

The remainder will be split equally between public transport and private cars.

For shorter journeys within the communities the targets are more ambitious with hopes 61 per cent

A key part is limiting access of motor vehicles and the volume and speed of vehicles in public squares

of trips will be through walking and cycling and just 19 per cent of people using public transport or cars.

The 2011 Census shows the most up-to-date figures for how people are travelling through Braintree, Colchester and Marks Tey.

Braintree - 14 per cent walking and cycling; 11 per cent public transport; 74 per cent car; 1.6 per cent other mode

Marks Tey - 7 per cent walking and cycling; 13 per cent public transport; 74 per cent car; 3 per cent other

Colchester - 31 per cent walking and cycling; 16 per cent public transport; 41 per cent car; 1 per cent other

The report looks at what techniques have worked in other countries to reduce cars.

Suggestions include creating more employment land so residents will not have to travel to work, creating less parking spaces in residential areas and providing more direct buses.

It suggests removing the physical space for cars by crossing more pedestrianised areas or avoiding underpasses and flyovers.

Banning household and kerbside parking on new estates in

favour of car parks further away is suggested, the idea being having to walk further to a car makes drivers less likely to use it.

The report said: "As recognised in work as part of the NHS Healthy New Towns Programme, the design of the urban environment can encourage active travel."

"A key part of this is limiting access of cars and the volume and speed of vehicles in public squares. Higher density development should be encouraged as this delivers multiple benefits in terms of putting jobs, services and day-to-day needs within walking and cycling distance."

West Tey between Colchester and Braintree, could have up to 24,000 homes and the Taudring/Colchester new town up to 5,000 homes in the next 10 years.

Campaigner: 'We must have cast iron promises'

SEGREGATED cycle lanes and public bike hire schemes have been suggested as ways to encourage cycling through proposed garden communities.

The ideas were part of the north Essex authorities' access plan.

Cycle campaigner Will Bramhill said promises needed to be made for infrastructure to come

before homes. He said: "At face value this sounds encouraging but I'd like to see a cast-iron promise to have it on the ground before the first residents move in."

"The vital infrastructure is not just in the garden communities but we will need first-rate connections all the way to existing transport attractions such as the

university, the stations, the town centre and the hospital.

"You will see a large group of people, most either shoppers or scared, who insist on driving for journeys of two to four miles which is an ideal cycling distance."

"For those who don't like the effort, e-bikes make mince-meat of hills and distance. For those

worried about a shower, there's a Dutch saying: "You're not made of water, you won't melt."

Rosie Pearson, secretary for the Campaign Against Urban Sprawl in Essex, said: "Trying to build entire new towns without sorting out existing transport issues means these huge new developments will create more problems than they solve."

Have your say on garden villages

A SIX-WEEK consultation allowing people to have a say on details for three new garden towns begins today.

The proposals by Colchester, Tendring, Brentree and Essex councils aim to build 48,000 homes over the next 55 years.

Last year an inspector approved the number of new homes required, but set out areas of work needed to help make the plans a success. During the consultation residents can have their say on amendments, additional evidence and reports on the sustainability of the three new towns.

Once the public consultation is completed, the councils will submit the documents to the planning inspector before an examination of the proposals starts again.

The evidence includes details on the councils' rapid transport plans, infrastructure such as schools and GP surgeries and how viable and sustainable the project is.

The rapid transit system is designed to reduce congestion and provide quick and easy access in and out of Brentree and Colchester from the new towns.

The system, which could cost between £20million and £35million, will start off as a bus service with bus lanes.

But it is dependent on funding from the Government and the councils are also awaiting a decision on whether they will be awarded cash for the proposal, as well as work to re-align the A12.

Mark Cory leader of Colchester Council, said: "The local plan process is complex, but it is vital we get broad engagement on the future of development and public scrutiny of the new evidence."

"The planning inspector wanted more information on our ambitions to provide the homes, jobs and infrastructure needed for the north Essex residents of the future."

"It is absolutely vital we get Government support to deliver the infrastructure we need to turn the principles of the garden communities into reality otherwise they cannot work."

"Working together with the other councils we have developed detailed responses to the



▲ **Art** - the CGI representation of how a new town at West Tey could look if proposals are given the go-ahead

By **REBECCA CREED**
rebecca.creed@essex.gov.uk

Inspector's questions and are urging residents across north Essex to have their say on them to help inform his decision."

Graham Sullivan, leader of Brentree Council, added: "At least 716 homes have to be built every year in our district. That is a crisis."

"We have a choice - add them to our existing villages and towns or think more strategically."

"Garden communities mean we can plan for infrastructure in a joined-up way from the start with today's modern requirements in mind."

"Every five years the local plan rolls forward, and more homes need to be provided."

"By choosing garden communities now, we are protecting

At least 716 homes have to be built every year in our district. That is a given

ing our towns and villages in the long term. We have now published a huge amount of evidence to support our garden community plans - I would encourage all residents to take a look."

The consultation will run until September 30.

Neil Stock, leader of Tendring Council, said: "As always, we are keen to hear residents' views on the new evidence created in support of our draft local plan, and consultation responses will be passed to the planning inspector when he re-examines our vision."

"Our robust and innovative garden community plans forms a relatively small part of this draft local plan but will evidently set us on a path for sustainable growth for the future."

The findings of the revised evidence have been considered by the three councils over the last month.

The comments received through the consultation will be supplied to the inspector ahead of the co-opting of the Local Plan examination expected to be held this winter.

To comment on the evidence visit www.brentree.gov.uk/NEASchSL

Gazette COMMENT

Feedback on garden towns is crucial

THE next stage of consultation opens today into the plans for three garden communities.

If built, the three developments on the outskirts of Colchester, Tendring and Brentree, will see 48,000 homes built over the next 55 years.

Advocates of the scheme argue homes will be built across north Essex regardless and this is a way to ensure infrastructure is included from the get go.

Opponents, however, are far from persuaded.

Protesters say the plans are flawed and have raised serious concerns about the irreversible damage of such large-scale developments on the north Essex countryside.

So, you pay your money and take your choice on this subject. One thing all sides agree on, however, is you must have your say.

The garden communities would be the biggest housing developments in this area probably since the end of the Second World War.

As such, it is absolutely vital people who live and work in north Essex take the time to investigate the proposals.

Once the decision is made, there will be no going back.

And it will be no good moaning about the garden communities or lack of them - after the fact.

By then, it will be too late.

Now is the time to engage.

We are lucky to live in a democracy where we have a vote and the freedom of speech.

It's the time to take advantage of that privilege and have your say.

Leaders' joy at boost

LEADERS expressed their joy at the announcement. John Spence, chairman of North Essex Garden Communities, said: "We recognise a fundamental principle of building any new community is all aspects of infrastructure need to be created in tandem with housing. "This route is an important step ahead of the council's imminent consultation on their revised Local Plan evidence." Neil Stook, Tendring Council leader, said: "People said the new FM's focus on the Northern Powerhouse would mean Essex being passed over but I was always confident that was never going to happen. From meetings and conversations I have been involved in with senior government figures it was clear to me the partnership working here in North Essex between Colchester, Tendring and Braintree councils as well as Essex County Council has really impressed Whitehall and is seen as the best example of its kind anywhere in the country. "The Government is so determined as we are to see the success of garden communities, where infrastructure is delivered before the housing as we have always said is the whole point of the project."

Road link would reduce congestion on Ipswich Road route into town



Planned - Essex County Council leader David Finch welcomes the new road funding from the Government

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Gazette

£100 million for road and transport link

ALMOST £100 million of funding has been allocated by the Government for a link road connecting the A120 and A130 and rapid transit link. Essex County Council leader David Finch, welcomed a Government infrastructure funding boost of £96.8 million for the road which will reduce traffic along Ipswich Road and support a new garden community. The funding, from the Housing Infrastructure Fund, will be used for an A120/A130 link road and rapid transit system in Colchester. The link road will serve new park and ride sites and relieve traffic to Essex University and its Knowledge Gateway technology and research park. Colchester MP Will Quince said the new road would also

relieve congestion in Highwoods, St John's, St Anne's and Greenstead. He said: "We have been working together to forward fund some of the big infrastructure projects to make these developments viable. "We already know one of the most congested areas in the Ipswich Road and Ipswich Road roundabouts. With this road people could ease off the A120 at the university and will not have to go through Colchester." There is no indication of time scale but the new road would tie in with the Local Plan. Mr Quince said the important thing was the money has

been secured. Most of the land for the proposed link road has already been allocated for development as part of the garden communities plans and Local Plan. Chancellor Sajid Javid said the Tendring/Colchester borders garden community bid could deliver a new single carriageway link road to unlock land for 7,500 homes. The money is part of an overall infrastructure allocation of £318 million from the Government which will bring road and rail transport benefits including a new railway station for Chelmsford and the rapid transport system for Colchester. It means more than half the £96.8m HIF money is being directed towards Essex.



A six-week public consultation has launched into new evidence for the three new garden communities in north Essex. Inset below, Colchester Borough Council leader Mark Cory and Rosie Pearson, of Campaign Against Urban Sprawl in Essex.

PHOTOS: NANCY SWAIN/STREETVIEW; DISTRICT COUNCIL AT COLCHESTER; BORDEN, COUNCIL/NEST PEARSON

Last chance to have your say on plan for 43,000 new homes

Public consultation has begun for three huge garden towns - which campaigners claim will "change the face of north Essex forever".

The six-week consultation into the three new "garden communities" - situated between Colchester and Tending, at west Tey and west of Braintree - launches today.

Up to 43,000 new homes would be built over 40-50 years as part of the plans, which developers say will also come with improved infrastructure, schools, health facilities and green spaces.

The fresh consultation - which is the final chance for people to have their say - shines the spotlight on new evidence drawn up by Colchester, Tending and Braintree councils in response to recommendations from a government planning inspector.

Council chiefs say issues addressed in the new evidence include:

JIMMY TOWNSEND

Executive Director of Braintree Council

■ A new "rapid transport network system" with "quick and easy" access into and out of Colchester and Braintree, linking to other public transport hubs

■ An enhanced assessment of environmental, social and economic effects of the proposals

■ Information showing the council's infrastructure-led approach is "viable", allowing schools, health and leisure facilities to be built at the same time

■ Rosie Pearson, from the Campaign Against Urban Sprawl in Essex urged people to tell the inspector what they think but raised "huge concerns" over the viability of the proposals.

"The three new towns will change the face of north Essex forever, taking up 3,600 acres of

countryside," she warned.

"They will result in 50,000 people trying to use our roads, rail and hospital. There will be no new stations, as originally promised. No new hospital. And none of the infrastructure promises can be delivered unless they can be funded," Mark Cory,



leader of Colchester Borough Council, said public scrutiny of the new evidence is extremely important.

He added: "It is absolutely vital that we get government support to deliver the infrastructure we need to turn the principles of the garden communities into reality; otherwise they cannot work."

This latest consultation comes as a £29.5m government cash pot was set aside for a road connecting the A139 and A138 north of Colchester.

The consultation runs until September 30. Have your say at www.braintree.gov.uk/NEAtech51

Major investment of £100m to be ploughed into roads and transport

Almost £100m has been green-lit by Westminster to invest in roads and public transport in north Essex - but only if new homes are built.

JAKE FOXFORD

Local Transport Director

Ipswich Road and Cowdry Avenue. That traffic off the roads means less congestion, and even better it connects to the University of Essex.

"The rest of the money will go towards providing good public transport links between the new garden community and the town, whether that's dedicated bus lanes or electric buses or even trams."

The money announced in the HIF is for one of three garden communities planned to be built across the north of Essex. The second is west of Marks Tey and the third west of Braintree.

Another £10m from the HIF is designated for a new train station between Chelmsford and Hatfield Power. The two are used by commuters heading to London and Norwich on the main line, but the long-awaited

Baulieu station, to be built near Boreham, should ease congestion at both those stations.

Colchester's Green councillor Mark Goscher welcomed the allocation of money for public transport, but would like to see a different approach made to meet housing targets.

"Central government sets the targets for developing houses across the country and at the rate they are expecting them to be built in south east England I can see a future where there's nothing but houses and people."

"If these houses need to be built, other solutions need to be considered - things like using more brownfield sites."

"The garden communities could build upwards as well. If you need to meet these targets for homes in the future, building upwards is one way to solve that problem."

Final chance to have say on homes plan - see page 11

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Hopes £100m new road will ease traffic chaos in town

Funding linked to garden village plans

Nearly £100 million has been earmarked by Westminster to invest in roads and public transport in north Essex - but only if new homes are built. The £93.2m cash pot has been set aside in the Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) to build a road connecting the congested A120 and A130 north of Colchester, as well as adding public transport links between the town and a potential garden community of

JAKE FOXFORD
jake.foxford@essexpress.co.uk

5,000 new homes on the Colchester-Tendring border.

But the money can only be used if the homes are built there - meaning it is down to councillors and planning inspectors to approve the development and include it in their local plan.

Colchester MP Will Quince welcomed the news

of the money.

He said: "That traffic off the roads means less congestion, and even better it connects to the University of Essex."

The money announced in the HIF is for one of three garden communities planned to be built across the north of Essex.

The second is west of Marks Tey and the third is west of Haverhill.

Full story: Page 6

'Life-changing moment'

Pages 4-5

Band to support Ed Sheeran



Picture: DANIELLE BOGGS