



## Site Allocations Development Plan Document (DPD)

- Rural Housing
- Rural Employment; and
- District Travellers

Briefing Note No.4

1<sup>st</sup> February 2016

The aim of this briefing note is to inform the community of the process undertaken so far and updates regarding the development of the DPD. This briefing note is released monthly, and is an informal note placed on our website as well as distributed to District, Parish and Town Councillors.

### Process so far

We are currently in the evidence collection stage of the DPD, and so far we have undertaken the following:

- Parish, Town, District Councillor Consultation 14<sup>th</sup> August – 31<sup>st</sup> October 2015
- Call for Sites Consultation 14<sup>th</sup> September – 31<sup>st</sup> October 2015.
- District Councillor Member Briefing 10<sup>th</sup> December 2015.

### Sustainability Appraisal of the DPD

The District Council has been working with Essex County Council in order to develop the best approach for undertaking the assessment of sites, which has been included in Appendices A, B, and C of the Scoping report. Following these discussions, we have made some amendments to the Minerals criteria to reflect the Minerals Local Plan, as well as the inclusion of Landscape Criteria which is supported by the Chris Blanford work on Landscape sensitivity.

### Traveller Consultation

The last briefing note mentioned the consultation with the travelling community regarding whether there are any opportunities to intensify existing sites to cater for further pitches. We have now completed this exercise with the travelling community and results show that there is the ability to satisfy existing and future traveller demand. We are now undertaking a sustainability appraisal of the potential sites for allocations. We will now be developing further options and undertaking further discussions regarding the best approach to satisfy traveller need such as looking at intensification of existing sites; potential for expansion; new sites; inclusion of traveller pitches with

housing allocations etc. The results of the assessment will be discussed with the Parish and District Councillors and will be made available for public consultation during the preferred options consultation which is expected around June 2016.

### **Stages of the Site Allocations DPD**

Last month, we explained the 5 step process involved in allocating sites. We are currently at Stage 4 for the housing, employment and traveller sites which was stated previously as the following:

- **Stage 4: Short List of Sites (Qualitative Assessment):** Sites will only be taken forward to the next stage of the plan making process as potential allocations if, following the assessments outlined above, they score well in terms of suitability, availability and achievability. During this stage there will also be consultation with parish and town councils, District Council Members, and landowners over the potential for the allocation of sites.

In line with this stage, we are now consulting with internal teams as well as with Essex County Council as to the appropriateness of sites to be put forward to public consultation as potential allocations in Stage 5 for rural housing, rural employment and district travellers. We expect to hear back from consultees by the end of February. It is anticipated that during March and April 2016 that we will have further discussions with Parish and District Councillors, as well as Agents and Owners of sites regarding potential allocations. Details of the assessments will be published in a background paper and will be subject to public consultation around June 2016.

### **Next Steps**

The next steps in the development of the DPD are as follows:

- Work to commence, evidence gathering – mid 2015 to early 2016
- Preferred Options consultation (Reg 18) – mid 2016
- Submission consultation (Reg 19/20) – late 2016
- Submission to Secretary of State (Reg 22): late 2016 – early 2017
- Adoption – early / mid 2017

### **Further Information**

The Site Allocations DPD has its own webpage at

[http://www.maldon.gov.uk/info/856/local\\_development\\_plan/83/maldon\\_district\\_local\\_development\\_plan\\_ldp/17](http://www.maldon.gov.uk/info/856/local_development_plan/83/maldon_district_local_development_plan_ldp/17) where updates, as well as these briefing notes will be published.