



Site Allocations Development Plan Document (DPD)

- Rural Housing
- Rural Employment; and
- District Travellers

Briefing Note No.5

1st March 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 14th August – 31st October 2015
- Call for Sites Consultation 14th September – 31st October 2015.
- District Councillor Member Briefing 10th December 2015 and 1st March 2016.

Sustainability Appraisal of the DPD

We are continuing to have discussions with the County Council regarding the process of identifying sites and our approach using the 5 step process (see Briefing note 3), as well as incorporating further comments into the final version of the Sustainability Scoping Report. The methodology utilised of the identification of sites and incorporation of comments received by Historic England and Natural England (Environment Agency made no comment) has been viewed as a robust approach with no additional need to re-consult these statutory bodies until the next stage in the statutory process.

Traveller Consultation

The last briefing note mentioned the consultation with the travelling community and that the results show that there is the ability to satisfy existing and future traveller demand. We will soon be organising briefings with the District Councillors 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.

Stages of the Site Allocations DPD

In Briefing Note No.3 we explained the 5 step process involved in allocating sites. We are currently still 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. It is anticipated that during April and May 2016 that we will have further discussions with District and Parish 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 where updates, as well as these briefing notes will be published.