

Local Plan Preferred Options Consultation

As part of the process of developing a new Local Plan for Colchester Borough, the Local Plan Committee will be considering a Preferred Options version of the plan at its 5th July meeting, with consultation then programmed to begin on 9th July running for 8 weeks to 2 September.

The Plan will include a shared strategic Part 1 providing for a joint approach to development across the Braintree/Colchester/Tendring area and which will be included in the Local Plan of all three authorities. In addition to committing the authorities to joint working on strategic spatial issues, Part 1 also includes proposals for three new Garden Communities in East Colchester/West Tendring (University Garden Village), West Colchester/Braintree and West Braintree (Blake End Garden Community).

Part 1 proposes that the design, development and delivery of each new garden community will follow on from joint plans and will confirm with Garden Community principles which involve long term community engagement and the public sector working pro-actively and collaboratively with the private sector.

Part 2 of the Local Plan provides policies and allocations for the Colchester area. These relate to a spatial strategy for the Borough that directs growth to the most accessible and sustainable locations while protecting and enhancing the Borough's countryside areas. The spatial hierarchy focuses growth on the urban area of Colchester, reflecting its position as the main location for jobs, housing, services and transport.

Sequentially, the next tier of preferred growth includes Garden Communities and proportionate growth in existing Sustainable Settlements (the Borough's larger villages and towns).

These areas will be the preferred location for new housing to meet the Council's housing need of 920 units/year as well as new employment floorspace and supporting infrastructure.

Members of the public will be able to comment using an on-line system on the Council's website, which will be available at Colchester Borough Council - Emerging Local Plan 2017-2033. Comments received will inform the Council's Submission Version of the plan which is programmed for submission in early 2017 following a final round of consultation.

Both parts of the plan will then be subject to examination in public by a Government-appointed Inspector later that year, followed by adoption if found sound.