



Local Plan Review Newsletter

NUMBER 2 May 2024

What is a Local Plan?

A Local Plan shapes future growth and development of the City Council's area. It sets out a positive vision, identifies where and how new development should take place in the future as well as areas and land uses that will be protected.

Why are we reviewing the adopted Chelmsford Local Plan?

We adopted our current Local Plan in May 2020 and good progress is being made with implementing it. We need to review the plan at least every five years to ensure that it remains up to date and continues to meet our needs for development growth to 2041 including new homes, employment opportunities, and facilities for local people such as new schools, healthcare provision and upgraded transport infrastructure.

Government requirements mean we must provide more homes but our aim is to get the right type of development in the right places to meet the growing needs of local people and businesses while protecting our environment. If the Local Plan becomes out of date, the Council could have very little influence over the location of new development and supporting infrastructure.

What stage is the review at?

We are currently at the Preferred Options stage in the plan review process, with the plan due to

be adopted in 2025/26. Many people and organisations commented on the first Issues and Options stage consultation in 2022. All the responses have been carefully considered and used to progress the Preferred Options alongside an updated plan evidence base, national planning policy, new local priorities, and monitoring data.

A 'You Said We Did' feedback report and the evidence base of technical studies can be read on our website: www.chelmsford.gov.uk/lp-review

The Preferred Options document is a full draft local plan. It includes updated and new policies and sets out proposed sites where new homes, jobs and other facilities could be located, and contains policies that the council would use to decide planning applications.

We are inviting comments on the plan so residents can influence it and ensure that it is fit for purpose to meet local needs. We are not reopening any debates about the principle of already adopted allocated sites.



New Development: Where and how much?

The Preferred Options plan follows the approach in the adopted Local Plan by continuing to focus new housing and employment growth to the most sustainable locations in three Growth Areas. The existing site allocations in the adopted plan which are not yet built are carried forward in the Preferred Options plan. Many of these sites are now coming forward, with masterplans being approved and planning applications decided or in progress and some sites have started building.

To meet additional growth needs to 2041 it is estimated that we need to allocate new sites for around 3,862 new homes with provision made for a further 1,500 new homes beyond 2041, and around 162,646sqm of new employment floorspace. This is over and above the new homes and employment land in the current plan. To accommodate this identified additional growth, we have reviewed the Spatial Strategy and are proposing new development sites. The preferred Spatial Strategy (Policy S7) shown in the consultation document has been informed by the outcome of the Issues and Options consultation and further evidence. **We are not considering growth in the Green Belt.**



Central and Urban Chelmsford

Continued focus on strengthening the city as a centre for residential, employment and retail. Two existing allocations carried forward to the west and east of Chelmsford maximise cycling and walking opportunities into the City Centre.

1 Previously developed sites in Chelmsford Urban Area

- 2,765 homes (of which around 750 are on proposed new site allocations)

- 9,000sqm Business space

2 West Chelmsford

- 880 homes
- 5 Travelling Showpeople Plots
- Primary school and 2 nurseries
- Neighbourhood Centre

3a-3d East of Chelmsford

- 3a Manor Farm: 360 homes
- 3b Land North of Maldon Road: 5,000sqm Office/Business Park
- 3c Land South of Maldon Road: 109 homes
- 3d Land North of Maldon Road: 65 homes
- Country Park
- New pedestrian and cycle bridge to Sandford Mill

4 Land North of Galleywood Reservoir

- 24 homes

5 Land surrounding Telephone Exchange, Ongar Road, Writtle

- 25 homes

North Chelmsford

North Chelmsford (Chelmsford Garden Community) will continue as a key area for new neighbourhoods and employment opportunities. New smaller allocations at Ford End and extensions to two existing employment areas. Existing allocations carried forward at Great Leighs and Broomfield.

6 North East Chelmsford (Chelmsford Garden Community)

- 6,250 homes

- 10 Gypsy and Traveller Pitches

- 10 Travelling Showpeople Plots
- 56,946sqm Office/Business Park
- Country Park
- Chelmsford North East Bypass
- 4 Neighbourhood Centres
- 1 all-through school
- 3 primary schools with nurseries
- 2 nurseries

7a-7c Great Leighs

- 7a Land at Moulsham Hall: 750 homes
- 5 Travelling Showpeople Plots
- 7b Land east of London Road: 190 homes
- 7c Land North and South of Banter's Lane: 100 homes
- Neighbourhood Centre
- Primary school with nursery

8 North of Broomfield

- 512 homes
- Neighbourhood Centre
- Nursery

9a Waltham Road Employment Area

- 3,500sqm B2/B8 Use

14a & 14b Ford End

- 14a Land west of Back Lane, Ford End: 20 homes
- 14b Land south of Ford End Primary School: 20 homes

15 Little Boyton Hall Farm Rural Employment Area

- 6,000sqm B2/B8 Use

South and East Chelmsford

Proposals include a new garden community at East Chelmsford (Hammonds Farm), and a strategic employment site. New smaller allocations in Bicknacre and East Hanningfield. Existing allocations carried forward at South Woodham Ferrers, Bicknacre and Danbury.

10 North of South Woodham Ferrers

- 1,220 homes
- 5 Travelling Showpeople Plots
- 1,200sqm Business Space
- Neighbourhood Centre
- 2 nurseries and potential primary school

11a-c Bicknacre

- 11a South of Bicknacre: 42 homes
- 11b Land at Kingsgate: 20 homes
- 11c Land west of Barbrook Way: 20 homes

12 St Giles, Bicknacre

- 32 homes

13 Danbury

- 100 homes

16a East Chelmsford Garden Community (Hammonds Farm)

- 3,000 homes to 2041 (plus 1,500 homes post 2041)
- 20 Gypsy and Traveller Pitches
- 43,000sqm Business Space
- Country Park
- Neighbourhood Centres
- 1 all-through school
- 2 primary schools and nursery
- 3 nurseries

16b Land adjacent to A12 Junction 18

- 43,000sqm Business Space

17a & 17b East Hanningfield

- 17a Land North of Abbey Fields: 15 homes
- 17b Land east of Highfield Mead: 20 homes

Highlighted text: Proposed new development allocations in the review of Local Plan.

Local Plan policies

There are a number of new and updated policies included within the Preferred Options Local Plan. These cover many topics including housing, climate change, economy, environment, health and wellbeing, travel and transport, heritage, and design. We are not proposing to fundamentally change the general approach in the adopted Local Plan, but we want to take on board updated information and address some of our major challenges including acting on the climate emergency, responding to the housing affordability crisis and strengthening community ties.

It is important to note that the Local Plan is still evolving, and no firm decisions have been made at this stage. We will continue to gather evidence throughout the Local Plan preparation and the Preferred Options consultation will be an important aspect of this. **All the evidence and comments received will be used to prepare the final draft version of the Local Plan.**

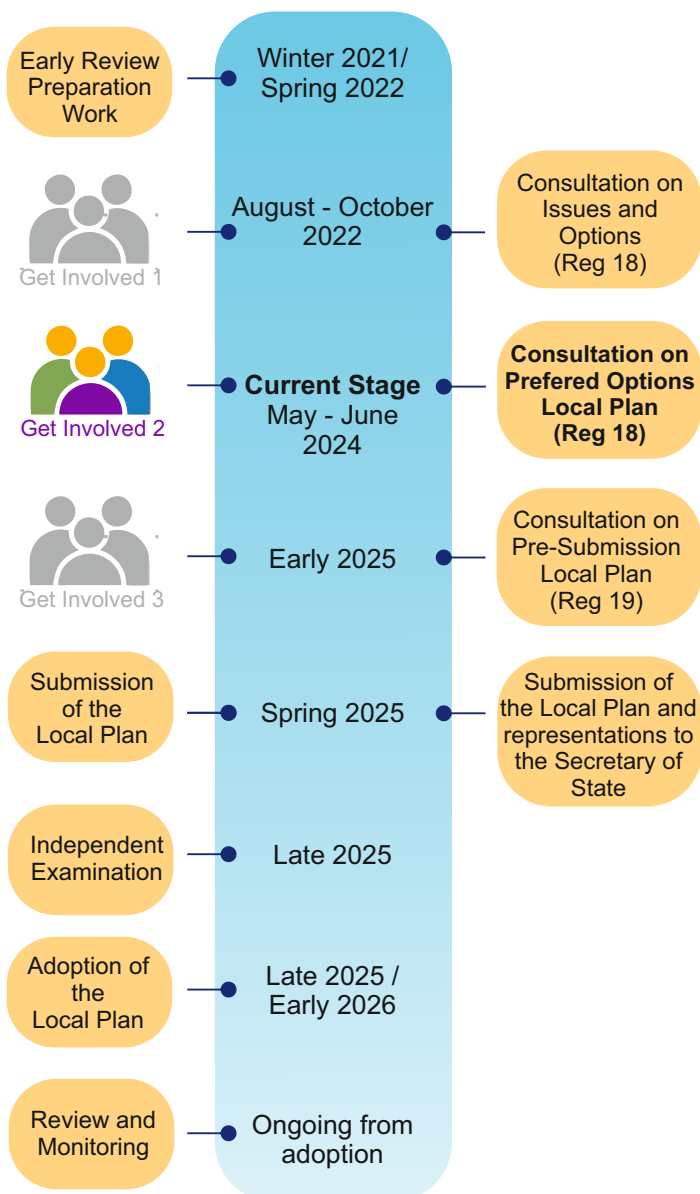
What is the Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA)?

The IIA identifies the key sustainability issues for the Review of the Local Plan. These feed into a framework against which the proposals have been assessed. It covers the potential environmental, social, economic and health performance of the Local Plan and any reasonable alternatives. The IIA includes:

- Sustainability Appraisal (SA)
- Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)
- Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)
- Health Impact Assessment (HIA)
- Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA)

We will be consulting on the IIA as part of the Preferred Options consultation.

What is the Local Plan timetable?



Where can I view the consultation documents?

The consultation documents will be available to view and comment on via our consultation portal at www.chelmsford.gov.uk/planningpolicyconsult. They will be available to read during normal opening hours at the Council's Customer Service Centre in Chelmsford.

There is an interactive online exhibition available during the consultation period – this can be found at www.chelmsford.gov.uk/lp-review. We will also be holding in-person exhibitions at Civic Centre, Duke Street, Chelmsford. These exhibitions will provide an opportunity for you to find out more and discuss the consultation with a Planning Officer. These will be held on

- Thursday 16th May 2024 6pm - 8pm
- Friday 17th May 2024 1pm - 3pm
- Saturday 18th May 2024 10am - 12pm
- Thursday 13th June 2024 6pm - 8pm
- Friday 14th June 2024 1pm - 3pm
- Saturday 15th June 2024 10am - 12pm (with British Sign Language interpreter available)

Consultation dates and how to have your say



The consultation on the Preferred Options documents runs for a period of six weeks from 10am on Wednesday 8 May 2024 to 4pm on Wednesday 19 June 2024. Comments made before or after these dates will not be considered.

You can respond:

- Via our consultation portal at www.chelmsford.gov.uk/planningpolicyconsult.
- By email to planning.policy@chelmsford.gov.uk
- By post to Spatial Planning Services, Chelmsford City Council, Civic Centre, Duke Street, Chelmsford, CM1 1JE.

Next Steps

All comments will be used to inform the next stage of the process, the Pre-Submission Local Plan. We plan to consult on this in 2025.