

Date: 13th October 2017

**Planning Policy Team
Neighbourhoods Directorate**
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Epping Forest District Local Plan

Dear Sir / Madam

I am writing to provide you with an update in relation to the progression of the Epping Forest District Local Plan.

The Council is progressing rapidly with the finalisation of the Local Plan, and will be seeking to publish the Pre-Submission (Regulation 19) Plan prior to Christmas 2017. The Plan will be published for a six week period, and during this period you will be able to submit representations relating to the soundness and legal compliance of the Plan should you wish to do so. The Council will publish further details and guidance notes in relation to the procedure for making representations in due course.

It is anticipated that the Plan, together with representations submitted during the Publication period, will then be submitted to the Secretary of State for Examination-in-Public before the 31st March 2018. Further details are set out within the report to Cabinet on 12th October 2017 which is available to view on the Council's website: [Cabinet Thursday 12th October 2017](#)

The Council will continue to engage constructively with all relevant stakeholders over the following months to ensure a successful Examination-in-Public of the Plan which can lead to its legal adoption as the new statutory development plan for the District. Where appropriate, the Council will seek to agree Statements of Common Ground and / or Memoranda of Understanding with relevant parties in due course in order to demonstrate the deliverability of the Plan.

However, this revised timetable does mean that the Planning Policy team will be unable to commit significant resources to unscheduled tasks that are not directly related to the progression of the Local Plan for the next few months. The Council will need to prioritise the successful progression of the Plan.

As a result:

- Support for Parish and Town Councils that are progressing Neighbourhood Plans will be restricted to the services offered by the Rural Community Council for Essex on behalf of the Council.
- The Developer Forum meetings scheduled to take place on the 24th November will be postponed and rescheduled to take place early in 2018 (date to be confirmed in due course).

- Individual meetings to discuss the progression of sites proposed for allocation within the Local Plan through Strategic Masterplans and / or Planning Performance Agreements will be postponed and rescheduled to take place early in 2018.

The Council remains committed to working closely with stakeholders in order to ensure the joined up delivery of high quality plan-led development to meet the future needs of the District. This will include the commencement of Strategic Masterplans in 2018 which will be informed by meaningful community engagement to guide and shape future development proposals. The Council will also encourage site promoters to enter into Planning Performance Agreements with the Council and other partners in order to ensure that development proposals will be front-loaded and that the views of statutory consultees and other stakeholders will be carefully considered at the earliest possible stages and throughout the consideration of specific development proposals. Further details in relation to the approach to the production of Strategic Masterplans and Planning Performance Agreements were reported to the Cabinet on the 15th June 2017.

I trust that you have found this update useful. Further updates will be provided to you in due course as the Local Plan progresses.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Philip', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Councillor John Philip
Cabinet Member for Planning and Governance