

Castle Point Local Plan Public Consultation 2018
Starts: Wed 4th July Ends: Wed 15th August 2018

Why has this notice of consultation been sent?

Castle Point Borough Council is preparing a new Local Plan.

The purpose of this notice is to advise you that the Council is seeking the views of the public, businesses and other interested parties on what a new Local Plan for the Borough of Castle Point should contain.

What is a Local Plan?

A Local Plan is a policy document which sets out how development and growth requirements in Castle Point, will be met over the next 15 years.

The Local Plan consists of a range of subjects including, but not limited, to town centre regeneration, transport improvement areas, housing need, employment and retail requirements, sport and recreation, education and healthcare provision, protection of local wildlife and habitats etc.

The Local Plan assesses, based on technical evidence, what provision is needed in all areas over the life of the plan, where opportunities occur and how delivery could happen.

Why is a Local Plan needed?

Local authorities are required, by law, to have an up to date Local Plan in place. The current Local Plan was adopted in 1998 and is no longer up to date.

Why isn't there an up to date Local Plan?

The Council has in recent years prepared and consulted publicly on Local Plans in both 2014 and 2016. The work in 2016 stalled however when the latest Plan was withdrawn from the examination process, which is undertaken by The Planning Inspectorate.

Both the 2014 and 2016 plans were supported by a substantial evidence base and were informed by, and reflected, ongoing public consultation, so the majority of that evidence base, and consultation responses previously received are still relevant.

Why is a new Local Plan being prepared now?

The Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government has written to the Council and confirmed the need to accelerate the timetable for delivery of a new Local Plan.

The Council intends to revisit the work from 2014 to prepare a new plan, and where necessary seek to update and revise the policies and sites allocations on the basis of new national planning policy, guidance and local evidence that has emerged in the intervening time.

What has happened since 2016?

The Council has been co-operating with other local authorities in South Essex on the preparation of a joint strategic planning approach. Initial work has brought forward new evidence relevant to Castle Point Borough. In June 2018, the Council formally committed to the preparation of the Joint Strategic Plan (JSP) by signing a Statement of Common Ground. Additionally Government has sought to establish an updated National Planning Policy Framework and planning policy guidance, which the Local Plan will need to reflect.

Why is there going to be a Local Plan and a Joint Strategic Plan (JSP)?

The commitment to prepare a Joint Strategic Plan means that policies in the Castle Point new Local Plan to bring forward major developments, such as housing, will make provision for a period of 15 years, as required by national planning policy, but the housing allocations element will eventually be superseded by the JSP delivering sustainable growth in the longer term.

The JSP will be a high level planning framework covering the whole South Essex area. It will set out the overarching spatial strategy, housing target and distribution, strategic employment areas, key transport and other infrastructure priorities and strategic development opportunity areas.

What information is available to inform responses?

The previous draft plans, comments received and latest technical evidence are available on the Council's website which has been updated and contains all the relevant information regarding the proposed subject of the new Local Plan for you to comment on: www.castlepoint.gov.uk.

How can comments be made?

Any comments can be made using the online portal found on: www.castlepoint.gov.uk. The online portal contains a number of questions which reflect the content of the Local Plan and what the subject could contain. Additionally you are free to comment on any aspect of the previous draft Local Plans, the evidence and the broad approach to be taken. If you wish to suggest a new site allocation, or re-promote any site that has previously been considered this should also be done now.

When is the deadline for comments?

23.59pm on Wednesday 15 August 2018.

What if a consultee doesn't have access to a computer?

Public computers are available at the Council offices between the hours of 09:00 and 16:30 Monday to Friday. We strongly encourage online comments, however written representations can be made.

Is someone available to discuss comments?

The consultation is being sent to every household and business in the Borough as well as statutory consultees and representatives of hard to reach groups and neighbouring authorities, inviting responses from, in the region of, 100,000 consultees. The Council is unable therefore to answer individual queries regarding the Local Plan. All queries or representations can be made as stated above.

What happens next?

Consultation responses will be collated and, along with updated technical evidence, will be used to inform the preparation of a new draft Local Plan.

Can comments be made on the draft Local Plan when it is prepared?

Once the draft Local Plan is prepared it will be put out to consultation again. The draft Local Plan will be published for public consultation in early 2019.

Data Protection

In responding to this consultation the Council will be receiving and processing your personal information. If you wish to know more about the processing of your personal information please see the Council's privacy notice on its website: <https://www.castlepoint.gov.uk/privacy-notices>

Thank you for taking the time to read this notice of consultation. Your comments are welcomed.



David Marchant
Chief Executive