

Briefing Note - Review of Core Strategy Local Plan

As you know there is a significant amount of work currently being undertaken by the planning team at Shepway District Council. This note sets out the four work streams underway for the partial review of the Core Strategy Local Plan, which is additional to the Places & Policies Local Plan consultation currently underway.

I hope you find the note informative and useful. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact susan.priest@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk, chris.lewis@folkesotne-hythe.gov.uk or ben.geering@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk

1. Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA)

PBA has carried out a joint commission with Dover D.C, with whom Shepway has a joint housing market area (meaning that a significant number of people commute between the two districts). The study draws on data from the Census and the Office for National Statistics so as to predict “objectively assessed need” (OAN) for housing. It is anticipated at this stage that both districts will plan to meet their own OAN within their own district boundaries. As PBA’s work concludes, they will identify an OAN for Shepway which will give us a number of new homes that are needed per annum between 2014 (the base year) and 2037. This will equate to a minimum requirement per year and the existing commitments in the current Core Strategy and current proposals in the draft Places & Polices Local Plan will be subtracted off this figure, and adjustments will be made to take account of “unattributable population change” and windfall sites to give us an overall figure to plan for.

2. High Level Growth Strategy

The Council is carrying out a strategic review of the opportunities and constraints in the district for accommodating the level of growth identified in the SHMA. AECOM has been commissioned to carry out this 20 week study which comprises two phases of work. The output from phase one will be a summary paper of high level growth options across the district with mapping which also identifies where significant infrastructure investment may be needed to unlock the potential for suitable growth. This work will be informed by a workshop with members, a high level landscape appraisal carried out by AECOM, and other key evidence base documents such as the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment. Phase two involves more detailed testing of the options and infrastructure requirements identified in phase 1 with targeted stakeholder engagement prior to producing a Strategic Growth Options Report, which following consideration by Cabinet in early 2017 which would inform new spatial policies for the Core Strategy Review.

3. Transport Assessment

The Strategic Growth Options Report will also be informed by an updated Shepway Transport Model. AECOM transport unit, who carried out the transport assessment for the existing Core Strategy, has been appointed to carry out this work. The

methodology for the model has been agreed with Highways England and Kent Highways. Initially this involves updating data for 13 key roads and 35 junctions including, where necessary, carrying out new traffic surveys (being undertaken this week between 7-10am and 4-7pm) so as to establish a robust baseline against which future strategic growth options can be tested. Phase two of the commission involves building in potential growth options and carrying out performance tests of key junctions using specialised software and preparing concept junction improvement plans in key locations.

4. Sustainability Appraisal

All stages of the review of the Core Strategy Local Plan from inception to adoption have to be informed by a Sustainability Appraisal (SA). The SA ensures that development options are tested against a range of agreed sustainability factors and that the Plan meets all the tests for legality, soundness, and case law. Consultants LUC, who are also the SA consultants for the Places and Policies Local Plan, has been appointed to carry out this work which will span the whole process through to adoption of the new Core Strategy.