

Appendix 1

East Cambridgeshire Local Plan Preliminary Draft: Consultation Responses

Broad distribution of growth (Education)	Paragraph 3.6	Comment
<p>Option 1 – This option would pose real challenges to managing the efficient provision of school places to meet the additional demands of the new Plan. The County Council carries very little spare capacity at its schools so even relatively small levels of growth in settlements may exceed capacity and require school expansions, potentially on constrained sites, that could result in inefficient patterns of school organisation.</p> <p>Option 2 – It will be necessary to carry out a thorough review of capacity and potential for expansion of existing infrastructure before this option can be considered further. In terms of secondary school provision, for example, Bottisham and Soham Village Colleges have reached or are forecast to reach 10FE and 9FE respectively which is at the upper end of the size range for these settlements with limited space for expansion.</p> <p>Option 3 – This is in effect the current strategy and the one planned for in our review of secondary school provision in East Cambridgeshire back in 2010. This would represent a continuation of the current approach and the Council's response which is a new school in Littleport with more limited expansions at Soham VC, Bottisham VC and Ely College. The district wide education strategy would need to adapt to consider the needs of the additional housing in the new plan, although a continuation of this existing approach has strengths.</p> <p>Option 4 – This would be a reasonable option in terms of planning additional secondary school provision. There are three secondary schools in the area following the opening of Littleport Academy in Sept 2017 and they would all be capable of expansion: Ely by 2FE, Witchford by 2FE and Littleport by 1FE (750 additional secondary places could be created in response if needed). A smaller number of concentrated larger allocations would generate the need for new primary schools and this is often easier to plan for than distributed and infill development that can place pressure on existing schools and their sites which often have limited expansion potential.</p>		
Broad distribution of growth (Transport)	Paragraph 3.6	Comment
<p>We welcome the opportunity to work with East Cambridgeshire District Council as their Local Plan develops. As the four broad distribution of growth options are investigated further the County Council would expect some further work regarding the transport impacts of the different options to be considered. It is likely that the different options will have different transport impacts and infrastructure requirements. Therefore the County Council would like to work with East Cambridgeshire District Council to investigate the transport impacts of the options and subsequent allocations in more detail and note that the transport evidence base will be required to support the submission of the Local Plan and the examination stage.</p>		
Meeting local housing needs	Policy LP6/ paragraph 4.3.6	Object
<p>The policy regarding Category 3 homes should be based on a needs analysis for the area not only on the potential impact to viability of sites. Therefore an evidence based requirement for Category 2 (accessible and adaptable) and 3 (wheelchair adaptable or accessible) homes should be undertaken and included within the local plan policy LP6. Furthermore, with an increasingly ageing population the development of accessible homes should be encouraged to ensure that all people regardless of their needs are able to remain independent within their own home.</p>		

<p>Suggest widening the section on residential care accommodation to all supported housing accommodation (as noted in 4.3.9). While residential care homes may be required there may also/instead be a need for other types of supported accommodation for older people and/or other vulnerable people so should not limit policy by only referencing residential care. Also to note, the Cambridgeshire Executive Partnership Board is sponsoring a strategy specifically looking at OP accommodation options which will be helpful in developing policy around housing for older people.</p>		
East Cambridgeshire's Transport Network	Paragraph 5.5	Comment
<p>Reference should be made in the Plan to the local transport policy framework to ensure that transport and spatial plans are properly aligned. This should include reference to the Cambridgeshire Local Transport Plan, the Long Term Transport Strategy and particularly the draft Transport Strategy for East Cambridgeshire.</p> <p>It is important that the transport infrastructure impacts and requirements from all developments are considered holistically rather than on an individual piecemeal basis. It is vital that this strategic overview is taken into account as an individual development may be able to mitigate its impacts but when a number of developments come forward it may be hard to mitigate impacts and a holistic solution may be required. This needs to be known before developments start coming forward. This is most important when a large number of smaller sites are proposed as in some of the proposed options.</p> <p>The County Council would also welcome involvement as the Infrastructure Investment Plan develops to ensure that the infrastructure needs arising from the Plan are addressed strategies and programmes can be delivered to support delivery.</p>		
Maintaining and Improving Community Facilities	Paragraph 5.6	Object
<p>There is no reference within the plan to the protection and provision of 'cultural' facilities. This will be critical to meeting the need of the growing population and are directly linked to mental and physical wellbeing and the general quality of life for residents.</p> <p>There is a tenuous link in Section 5.6 which refers to community halls and centres, however cultural provision in the District is wider than this and therefore this section and Policy LP19 could be expanded to include requirements for retention and provision of cultural, arts and museum facilities.</p> <p>These are a pre-requisite and are key components to a establishing and maintaining thriving communities described in the Vision for East Cambridgeshire.</p>		
Maintaining and Improving Community Facilities	Policy LP19	Object
<p>Expand the policy so it sets some standards for what is expected from community facilities. For example, all new community facilities should be flexible so they can be used for and by a variety of organisations and activities to help to ensure that all communities are well served and supported.</p>		
Achieving Design Excellence	Policy LP22	Comment
<p>Specific mention of ensure that streets are designed to encourage movement and are accessible for older people and others who may have difficulty navigating ill designed pavements/public realm (wide enough pavements for wheelchair users and parents with buggies etc.). Also encourage the use of street furniture such as benches so those who may find walking or standing for long periods of time difficult have the opportunity to rest. Also consider designing places that are dementia friendly.</p>		

