

# Part II Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)

## South Essex Joint Strategic Plan (JSP)

### Draft

#### Introduction

This Part II Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) sets out a consistent approach for consultation and involvement on preparing a South Essex Joint Strategic Plan (JSP). This Part II SCI provides an addendum to each of the existing SCI's for the six South Essex authorities working in partnership on the JSP: Basildon Borough, Brentwood Borough, Castle Point Borough, Rochford District, Southend Borough, Thurrock Borough Council.

#### Important Note

This Part II SCI sets out the consultation approach for the JSP only and not on other planning documents or on planning applications. All six authorities existing Statements of Community Involvement will continue to set out the approach to consultation and involvement for other planning policy documents and planning applications, and these are not affected by this document. Please refer to the individual authority's website for details.



## Background

The JSP will be a formal statutory Development Plan Document, providing the strategic planning framework for the six Local Planning Authority areas. Essex County Council will assist with preparing the JSP. The JSP will contain strategic allocations and policies, including an overall spatial strategy and amount of housing, employment and supporting infrastructure to be provided. It will cover the period up to 2038.

Consultation is required at various stages during JSP preparation, including “Publication” stage, after which it will be submitted to Government. An independent Planning Inspector then carries out an Examination into the document, considering the views of interested people. The final decision on the soundness of the Plan will be made by that Inspector, after which the plan will be adopted by the six councils. You can find government guidance on preparing local plans here: [www.gov.uk/guidance/local-plans](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-plans)

## Consultation General Principles

We will apply some general principles to our JSP consultation.

- Involvement will be open to all regardless of gender, faith, race, ethnicity, disability, sexuality, age and social deprivation.
- We will undertake consultation as the plan is prepared.
- We will choose consultation processes by balancing available resources, cost and time constraints, and our level of discretion on the outcome.
- Consultation publications will be clear and concise and avoid unnecessary jargon, without understating the complexities of any decision.
- Enough time (minimum of 6 weeks) will be given for responses.
- We will inform those who respond to a consultation of later stages in the process, where required.

## Who we will Consult

- Statutory organisations including councils, infrastructure providers and government bodies as legally required or otherwise appropriate.
- The general public.
- Groups representing place or interest communities.
- Local business, voluntary and other organisations.
- Planning and development industry and consultants.
- Others who have expressed an interest in the subject matter.

## How we will Consult

- We will contact appropriate organisations and individuals directly.
- We will publicise consultations by a combination of methods, as appropriate, such as: website, press release, displays, social media, community groups, community events.
- We will make consultation documents available at council offices and public libraries where appropriate.
- Consultation documents will be made available for download via each Council's website.
- We will consider organising consultation events such as public exhibitions and stakeholder workshops.
- We will publish comments received or a summary as soon as feasible. We will explain how these comments have been taken into account when decisions are made.

## **When we will Consult**

- We will consider the need for targeted engagement with organisations and key stakeholders in developing a preferred option for consultation.
- The first consultation will ask for comments on the Draft South Essex Joint Strategic Plan, which will present the Council's preferred option.
- After considering the initial consultation responses we will formally publish the 'Publication Version' of Plan for representations in accordance with the relevant regulations before submission to Government.