

Committee: Planning Policy Working Group

Agenda Items

Date: 17 May 2017

5, 6, 7

Title: Topic Papers

Author: Sarah Nicholas, Senior Planning Officer

Key decision: **No**

Summary

1. Appended to this report are 3 topic papers considering the landscape, historic assets and ecological assets within and adjoining the new settlement / neighbourhood locations.
2. The purpose of the topic papers is to undertake a desk based survey of the sites and identify whether there are significant areas of information which are currently lacking and needed as evidence in preparing the Local Plan.
3. The topic papers were prepared by the Council's Landscape Officer, Conservation Officer and Planning Officer.

Recommendations

4. For information

Financial Implications

5. None

Background Papers

6. The following papers were referred to by the author in the preparation of this report and are available for inspection from the author of the report.

Impact

- 7.

Communication/Consultation	The documents will form part of the evidence base to the Local Plan.
Community Safety	N/A
Equalities	N/A
Health and Safety	N/A
Human Rights/Legal	N/A

Implications	
Sustainability	A sustainability appraisal will be undertaken on the whole plan
Ward-specific impacts	Littlebury, Chesterford and Wendens Lofts Elsenham and Henham Takeley Thaxted and The Eastons Flitch Green and Little Dunmow Felsted and Stebbing
Workforce/Workplace	N/A

Situation

8. The three topic papers that are appended relate to landscape character, historic assets and ecology. All these matters are important considerations in determining which potential new settlements can be allocated in the local plan.
9. The papers indicate that there will be impacts on these areas. However, it must be borne in mind that these issues are part of the planning balance that needs to be met in determining which sites to allocate and needs to be considered in the light of other factors such as housing need etc. Consideration also need to be given to mitigating the negative impacts of growth on landscape, historic assets and ecology.

Risk Analysis

10.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
Insufficient information is available to make an informed decision.	1. The Council is working to a project plan to ensure there is a proportionate evidence base.	Local Plan found unsound.	Prepare proportionate evidence.

1 = Little or no risk or impact

2 = Some risk or impact – action may be necessary.

3 = Significant risk or impact – action required

4 = Near certainty of risk occurring, catastrophic effect or failure of project.