

Councillor John Evans, Portfolio Holder for Planning, Stansted Airport, Infrastructure Strategy and the Local Plan

Report to Full Council: 20 April 2022

Local Plan

In March the Local Plan Leadership Group (LPLG) continued to receive the evidence being prepared to inform the emerging Local Plan. These included reports on the settlement hierarchy for the new Local Plan; evidence relating to Culture, Creativity and the Arts; an advice note on First Homes; and the Authority Monitoring Report.

A report was taken to Local Plan Scrutiny Committee in March noting that there was a need for further work at this crucial stage in the preparation of the Local Plan. The timetable for the Local Plan has always been ambitious, as it should be. However, it was considered that this work is justified as it is likely to lead to an enhanced Local Plan for the district, and it is crucial that the Council develops the best Local Plan for the district that it can. Subsequent to this meeting the LPLG meetings in April have been postponed, the impact on the timetable is thought to be only a few weeks, and regulation 18 consultation will still be able to commence in the summer.

Members will be briefed prior to the emerging plan's publication. Representations received during this consultation will be used to inform and amend the plan before it is prepared to be submitted to the Secretary of State for examination.