



Suffolk Coastal **Local Plan**

Guidance when making a Representation

Helping you to make a representation on the
Suffolk Coastal Final Draft Local Plan



Final Draft Plan | January 2019

Representations period: 14th January to 25th February 2019

www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/suffolkcoastallocalplanreview



Suffolk Coastal Final Draft Local Plan

Representation Period: Monday 14th January – 17.00 on Monday 25th February 2019

This guidance note is to help you make a representation concerning the Suffolk Coastal Final Draft Local Plan.

Even if you have submitted comments to previous consultation stages, it is important to consider whether to submit a representation at this stage of the process. Should you wish a matter raised at previous consultations to be considered in the assessment of the Final Draft Local Plan then it is important to make a representation at this stage of the process.

The Council recommends using the on-line Representation Form which structures your representation so the Planning Inspector will consider it when examining the plan. Using the form also means that you can register your interest in speaking at the public hearings – this is optional.

If you wish to make a representation seeking a modification to the plan or part of the plan you should make clear in what way the plan or part of the plan is inadequate having regard to its legal compliance and soundness. It may be helpful to state precisely how you consider the plan should be modified and include succinct information showing why the plan should be modified. After this representations period, further submissions will be only at the request of the Inspector.

Legal Compliance

When making a representation concerning legal compliance it is necessary to consider whether the Final Draft Local Plan is in accordance with:

The Council's Local Development Scheme – This is the Council's project plan that identifies which local plan documents will be produced and the programme of work for preparation of its Local Plan. The Local Plan should be included in the current Local Development Scheme (October 2015) and the key stages should have been followed. The Local Development Scheme is available on the Council's website <https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/local-plans/suffolk-coastal-local-plan/existing-local-plan/local-development-scheme/>

The Council's Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) – This sets out the Council's strategy for involving the community in the preparation and revision of planning policy documents (including the Local Plan). The Suffolk Coastal Statement of Community Involvement (September 2014) is available on the Council's website www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/local-plans/suffolk-coastal-local-plan/existing-local-plan/statement-of-community-involvement/

The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 – The Council is required to publish documents prescribed in the Regulations, and make them available at its principal office and in other appropriate locations, for example libraries within the plan area, and on

its website. It also sets out who the Council must consult on preparation of the Local Plan and when. The Regulations can be viewed at <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2012/767/contents/made>

Sustainability Appraisal / Strategic Environmental Assessment – The Local Planning Authority is required to undertake Sustainability Appraisal, incorporating the requirements for Strategic Environmental Assessment, and to publish a Sustainability Appraisal Report when it publishes a Plan. This should identify the process by which the Sustainability Appraisal has been carried out, and the baseline information used to inform the process and the outcomes of that process. Sustainability Appraisal is a tool for appraising policies to ensure they reflect social, environmental and economic factors. The Sustainability Appraisal Report can be viewed on the Council’s website www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/finaldraftlocalplan. Comments are invited on the Sustainability Appraisal Report.

Habitats Regulations Assessment – The Habitats Regulations Assessment is a process for ensuring that a Plan will not adversely affect the integrity of European wildlife sites. The assessment is required under the 1992 Habitats Directive and the 2009 Wild Birds Directive. A Habitats Regulations Assessment has been undertaken and can be viewed at www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/finaldraftlocalplan. Comments are invited on the Habitats Regulations Assessment.

Duty to Cooperate – Under the 2011 Localism Act, Local Planning Authorities and public bodies are required to engage constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis regarding strategic cross boundary matters. Local Planning Authorities are expected to provide evidence of how they have complied with any requirements arising from the duty. A Duty to Cooperate Statement and a Statement of Common Ground with other authorities can be viewed on the Council’s website www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/finaldraftlocalplan

Soundness

Representations enable the Planning Inspector to give scrutiny to whether the plan is within the law and whether it can be considered “sound”. It is important to make your representation in terms of one of the 4 tests of soundness below. To be considered sound, the Inspector has to be satisfied that the Plan is positively prepared, justified, effective and consistent with national policy. Soundness is explained in paragraph 35 of the Government’s National Planning Policy Framework (July 2018). https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/740441/National_Planning_Policy_Framework_web_accessible_version.pdf

- Positively prepared – Providing a strategy which, as a minimum, seeks to meet the area’s objectively assessed needs; and is informed by agreements with other authorities, so that unmet need from neighbouring areas is accommodated where it is practical to do so and is consistent with achieving sustainable development.
- Justified – An appropriate strategy, taking into account the reasonable alternatives, and based on proportionate evidence.

- Effective – Deliverable over the plan period and based on effective joint working on cross-boundary strategic matters that have been dealt with rather than deferred, as evidenced by the statement of common ground.
- Consistent with national policy – Enabling the delivery of sustainable development in accordance with the policies in the Government’s National Planning Policy Framework (July 2018).

Submitting a representation

Representations can be submitted between Monday 14th January and 17.00 on Monday 25th February 2019 by:

- Using the Council’s online consultation system at www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/finaldraftlocalplan (this is the Council’s preferred way of receiving representations).
- Downloading a response form from the website (www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/finaldraftlocalplan) and returning via email to suffolkcoastallocalplan@eastsuffolk.gov.uk or by post to Planning Policy & Delivery Team, East Suffolk House, Station Road, Riduna Park, Melton, Woodbridge, IP12 1RT.
- Requesting a response form from the Planning Policy and Delivery Team by emailing suffolkcoastallocalplan@eastsuffolk.gov.uk or by phoning 01394 444557, and returning via email or post.