

Update on Cooperation

CBC and North Essex CCG (on behalf of Suffolk and North East Essex ICS partners, particularly East Suffolk and North Essex Foundation Trust (ESNEFT), Essex Partnership University Trust (EPUT), East of England Ambulance Service Trust (EEAST))

April 2021

Section 2 Policies related to Health and Wellbeing

1. Colchester Borough Council has been working in cooperation with health sector colleagues including North Essex CCG on a range of health-related matters including development of policies and proposals in the emerging Colchester Local Plan, the Tendring Colchester Borders Garden Community, and securing s106 legal agreements from larger developments towards health infrastructure. Currently, to continue this collaborative approach to address the wider planning impacts of health care infrastructure requirements, a series of workshops on developers' contributions is underway. Whilst the Council and NHS colleagues would have liked to have entered into a Statement of Common Ground in the run-up to the examination hearings for the Section 2 Local Plan, health colleagues are currently under significant pressure in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and the tight timescales for the examination have not been sufficient to achieve the full signing off process which would normally involve an all-service response from different sections of the NHS.

2. The North East Essex CCG submitted largely supportive comments to the following Section 2 Local Plan. It noted that the NHS needed to be fully engaged in the process of delivering the infrastructure covered by Policy SG7 (Infrastructure Delivery and Impact Mitigation). The specific need for health infrastructure to support proposed allocations was highlighted at Middlewick (SC2), Stanway (WC2), Rowhedge (SS13) and Tiptree (SS14). The CCG welcomed the commitment to Health Impact Assessments in Policy DM1: Health and Wellbeing and did not suggest any amendments to the policy.

3. Accordingly, the only potential modifications arising from the CCG comments concern the precise wording to be attached to health infrastructure requirements in to serve the specific areas noted above. On this point, the Council considers that the issue of providing healthcare infrastructure to be provided is adequately covered by the general requirements of SG7 and DM1 and by the site specific health care points identified in the 2021 Infrastructure Development Plan (IDP) update to be added to the Council's evidence base and that no specific healthcare requirements should be listed in site allocation policies. Relying on this general requirement and the latest IDP update will permit flexible solutions for each site that address changing forms of healthcare provision and will provide facilities that are based on the specific requirements identified in Health Impact Assessments.

4. The Council has been having ongoing constructive conversations with Mrs. Jane Taylor who is intending to appear on behalf of NHS North East Essex CCG on 27th April 2021 in relation to Matter 11: Policies DM1-4. In particular, this is to advise that there

have been discussions around the way in which the provision of primary care is changing to embrace digital channels, something that was not fully reflected in the text of the Section 2 Plan as submitted in 2017.

5. In the absence of a Statement of Common Ground, the Council has agreed with the CCG the following approach to Section 2 and any proposed modifications:

a) In terms of Place Policy references to healthcare provision, agreement on cross-reference to Policies SG7 and DM1 means that the CCG is no longer requesting additional new health criteria for policies on Middlewick (SC2), Stanway (WC2) and Tiptree (SS14). The following modification would be proposed to be added to the Schedule of Proposed Section 2 Modifications:

Deletion of Rowhedge Policy SS13 criteria (iv) Provision of new health services to be agreed with the North Essex Care Commissioning Group

b) to provide clarity on required infrastructure improvements to support the delivery of healthcare;

New Paragraph 15.3 to precede Policy DM1: Health and Wellbeing

Primary care is adopting a Digital First approach to primary care investment. An agreed Integrated Care System Road map for Suffolk and North East Essex was introduced in 2019, many of the initiatives were brought forward as a result of the response to Covid 19 and have already proven successful. GP practices, care homes and community service providers have been using telephone/video consultations, smartphone applications to enable patients to request prescriptions and appointments. Practices within Primary Care networks will enable digital first options to improve fast access to primary care, reducing waiting and travelling time for patients, services will include outpatient follow up appointments and medication reviews. Consequently, the need for high speed broadband access and flexibility in terms of the provision of digital health infrastructure to any new housing development is crucial in order to ensure the success of the Digital First approach.