

Copford with Easthorpe Neighbourhood Development Plan Sustainability Statement

This Statement is required by Regulation 16(4) of The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.

Background

Colchester City Council decided by resolution at Full Council on 18th October 2023 to make the Copford with Easthorpe Neighbourhood Development Plan under Section 38A(4) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended). The Copford with Easthorpe Neighbourhood Development Plan forms part of the Development Plan for Colchester.

The Copford with Easthorpe Neighbourhood Development Plan covers the area designated by Colchester Borough Council¹ as the Neighbourhood Plan Area in May 2015.

The Copford with Easthorpe Neighbourhood Development Plan, the Strategic Environmental Assessment report, the Decision Statement pursuant to Section 38A(9) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and Regulation 19 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2010, and the Statement containing the particulars specified in Regulation 16(4) of the The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, and accompanying documents are available on Colchester City Council's website: www.colchester.gov.uk

How environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan or programme.

Environmental considerations have been integrated into the neighbourhood plan. The Neighbourhood Plan contains a vision to seek to conserve and enhance the distinctive nature of the rural community recognising the challenge of the climate emergency while taking a sustainable and optimistic view of future development. The Plan aims to protect and improve the most valued areas of biodiversity and landscape, and enable sustainable travel by public transport, foot and cycle. The neighbourhood plan will avoid and mitigate likely significant effects in terms of recreational disturbance on Habitats sites in combination by requiring contributions towards the Essex Coast Recreational disturbance Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy.

How the environmental report has been taken into account.

The environmental report was prepared alongside plan preparation. As the Plan does not make allocations for housing sites, the comments on the Environmental Report were

¹ Following granting of City Status in November 2022, the Council is now Colchester City Council. However, reference to Colchester Borough Council remains for decisions made prior to this.

limited. No amendments or requirements for mitigation were recommended as the Policies adequately cover the relevant issues.

How opinions expressed in relation to the environmental report have been taken into account

As the Plan does not make allocations for housing sites, the comments on the Environmental Report were limited. Two representations were received in relation to the environment report. These were from Natural England and Historic England, both of whom have limited comments as the Plan does not allocate land for housing. Natural England responded and confirmed that the Copford with Easthorpe Neighbourhood Plan does not represent any likely significant effects to any protected sites. Historic England responded and confirmed that, on the basis of the information supplied, Historic England concurs with the Council that the preparation of a Strategic Environmental Assessment is not required. No amendments or requirements for mitigation were recommended.

No amendments to the Neighbourhood Plan were necessary as a result of responses to the Environmental Report.

How the results of any consultations entered into under regulation 14(4) have been taken into account

No consultations under regulation 14(4) were entered into.

The reasons for choosing the plan or programme as adopted, in the light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with

The Plan does not allocate sites for Housing so there were a limited number of alternatives as the majority of policies look at the principles of promoting sustainable development and meeting the needs of the parish within the plan period, adding to the principles established in the Colchester Local Plan which provides the Strategic Planning Framework.

The measures that are to be taken to monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the plan or programme

Colchester City Council produces an Annual Monitoring Report, which monitors the implementation of planning policies. It includes a range of environmental indicators, which will be used to monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the plan.