

NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL RESPONSE TO EASTLEIGH BOROUGH COUNCIL ISSUES AND OPTIONS (REGULATION 18) LOCAL PLAN CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To agree the Council's response to the Eastleigh Local Plan review Issues and Options consultation closing on 17 February 2016.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Eastleigh Borough Local Plan 2011-2036 is currently being developed and will form part of the Development Plan when adopted, replacing the saved policies of the 2001-2011 Local Plan.

3. PROPOSED RESPONSE

- 3.1 There are three key strategic issues identified that have wider 'duty to cooperate' implications. The proposed response, attached as Appendix 1, focuses on these issues and does not have any comment to make on the other sections of the Issues and Options document.
- 3.2 These key strategic issues are:
- the need to test options for housing requirements that recognise the problems of unmet housing need arising from the Southampton Housing Market Area,
 - the desirability of a strategic approach to assessing and meeting the needs of Gypsy and Traveller Communities, and
 - the need for adequate and sub-regionally consistent mitigation measures for development related impacts on Natura 2000 sites including the New Forest SPA and SAC

4. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are potential environmental implications of Eastleigh Borough Local Plan 2011-2036 for the New Forest SAC and SPA sites that could be reduced if the points made in this Council's proposed response are addressed.

5. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS / EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 None

6. RECOMMENDATION

- 6.1 To agree the consultation response as attached at appendix 1.

7. PORTFOLIO HOLDER ENDORSEMENT

I have agreed to the recommendation of this report.

Signed:CLLR E J HERON..... **Date:** 3 FEBRUARY 2016

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Background papers:
Published documents¹

Date on which notice given of this Decision - 3 February 2016

Last date for call-in - 10 February 2016

¹ Eastleigh Issues and Options Consultation Paper (December 2015)
https://www.eastleigh.gov.uk/media/184064/151217-Issues-and-Options_postcabformat.pdf

Appendix 1: New Forest District Council Response to Eastleigh Issues and Options Local Plan Review Consultation Document

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Eastleigh Issues and Options (regulation 18) Local Plan consultation document. New Forest District Council (outside the National Park) wishes to comment on three key strategic issues within this Issues and Options Document that have wider 'duty to cooperate' implications (we have no comment to make on the other questions within the document). These key strategic issues are:

- the need to test options for housing requirements that recognise the problems of unmet housing need arising from the Southampton Housing Market Area,
- the desirability of a strategic approach to assessing and meeting the needs of Gypsy and Traveller Communities, and
- the need for adequate and sub-regionally consistent mitigation measures for development related impacts on Natura 2000 sites including the New Forest SPA and SAC

Q6: What do you think of the summary of the options for calculating the Borough's housing requirement set out above? Are any of the options appropriate to meet the housing requirements in this area?

We are supportive of the fact that Eastleigh Borough Council Local Plan review is having due regard to the emerging PUSH Strategic Housing Market Assessment and related strategic planning work. We acknowledge and support the testing of an option or options that would help to address unmet need from the Southampton Housing Market Area (including from the Totton and the Waterside area of the New Forest District). As a comparatively less constrained area, in this HMA context Eastleigh Borough will need to test its ability to play the fullest possible part in helping to address unmet HMA need, to enable the sustainability and deliverability implications of doing so to be fully understood and an appropriate balance to be reached in the local plan.

Q7: What are your views on the estimates of travelling communities' need as set out above? Do you agree with the Council's proposed approach? And Q25: Do you agree with any of these approaches? What else could we do to deliver sites for Travelling Communities?

Discussions have taken place within HIPOG regarding undertaking joint approaches to updating the evidence of Gypsy and Traveller needs. The approach taken to assess Gypsy and Traveller needs is an area where cooperative working would be welcomed.

Q36: Do you have any comments on the proposed approach to addressing future nature conservation issues?

We question the conclusions of the HRA screening report in relation to potential impacts on the New Forest SAC/SPA sites. The HRA correctly acknowledges some visitor pressures, but questionably concludes they are 'negligible' due to SANGS and green infrastructure provision within the borough. Eastleigh is as little as 10 miles from the New Forest SAC/SPA sites. Wiltshire, Test Valley and New Forest District

Council all have mitigation schemes for the New Forest SAC/SPA sites. We recommend that Natural England be specifically consulted on this matter and would welcome a wider strategic discussion to ensure a consistent and proportionate mitigation approach is put in place.