

Date: 09/07/2021

Dear Sir/Madam,

Consultation Response – Eastleigh Borough Council Local Plan; Main Modifications.

Southampton City Council (SCC) would like to submit the following comments with regards to the Eastleigh Borough Council Local Plan, Strategic Main Modifications (Reg 19) consultation.

Firstly, SCC would like to confirm its continued support for the development of the Eastleigh Borough Council (EBC) Local Plan and to acknowledge the importance of working together, as has been done throughout the formation of the Borough's Local Plan, to maintain and enhance the interconnectivity of the two regions. The important relationship between SCC and EBC is further reflected by the emerging partnership between our strategic planning teams, alongside the two authorities' shared commitment to the Partnership for South Hampshire (PFSH).

SCC would therefore like to express its broad support for the overall approach which EBC has taken in producing its main modifications for the Local Plan. More specifically however, SCC notes EBC's removal of the 'Strategic Growth Option' following guidance from the appointed Planning Inspector. With this in mind, SCC acknowledges that in the longer term EBC will have a housing shortfall to 2036 of 2,614 dwellings, but that sufficient supply has been established for the next 10 year period. SCC recognises EBC's intention to conduct an early Local Plan Review, one year after adoption, in order to try and address this housing shortfall whilst continuing to work with the PFSH to positively plan for housing delivery. In light of this, SCC is satisfied that EBC is taking all possible measures to meet its housing need and support the proposed approach.

A further key modification of note to SCC is EBC's review of the settlement gaps that are proposed between certain built up areas of Southampton and Eastleigh. The most significant of these is illustrated in 'Map 5' of Eastleigh's reviewed 'Policies Map' (South West of Southampton Airport and along Stoneham Way). SCC supports EBC's intention to increase the size of this countryside gap and ensure that the M27 is used as the site's southern boundary. In addition to the site at Stoneham Way, SCC notes various other amendments to the countryside gaps that exist between Southampton and Eastleigh, namely: the two sites at 'West End' highlighted in 'Map 6' and 'Map 9' of EBC's 'Policies Map' alongside the site shown in 'Map 13' to the east of Botley Road. SCC supports all of



WEBCHAT

[southampton.gov.uk](https://www.southampton.gov.uk)

 @sotoncc

 @southamptoncc

DX115710 SOUTHAMPTON 17

EBC's proposed amendments to these countryside gaps as the City Council believes the important balance between protecting the existing greenfield space which separates Eastleigh and Southampton whilst also promoting sustainable development throughout the area is reflected within these proposals.

Finally, SCC would like to affirm its support for the proposed amendments to policies E6, E7 and E9 which include the intention to retain the Chickenhall Lane Link Road. SCC recognises the importance of the link road to ensure sufficient access to the proposed redevelopment sites along 'Eastleigh River Side'. Furthermore, SCC acknowledges the opportunities that adequate access to these sites may provide regarding economic growth and employment for the region as a whole. This is particularly significant given the decision to approve the expansion of Southampton Airport and the potential for a Solent Freeport.

Overall, SCC believes EBC's main modifications to their new Local Plan have effectively covered the key issues raised by the Inspector. SCC believes that the amendments cohesively weave together the locally focused priorities of EBC with the wider strategic objectives of PFSH to produce a comprehensive and well considered Local Plan. SCC welcomes any ongoing opportunities for further collaboration with EBC on relevant cross-boundary strategic planning matters, and we look forward to reviewing the results of this consultation.

Please do get in touch if you require any further information or have any questions regarding the above comments.

Good luck with the adoption of this new Local Plan.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Barton

Interim Head of Planning & Economic Development

Southampton City Council