Suffolk Coastal Local Plan Examination

Note on proposed modifications to SCLP2.1 regarding local housing need

1. This note responds to the Inspector’s comments in relation to modifications put forward by the Council in the ‘Note on Local Housing Need – Policy SCLP2.1’ dated 17th February 2020.

2. Following the comments of the Inspector, the Council wishes to put forward further proposed modifications. In relation to these further modifications put forward to the text by the Council, it is considered that reference to working collaboratively will provide appropriate flexibility in relation to mechanisms for future planning and is consistent with the Duty to Co-operate. The Council also considers it is appropriate for the policy to seek to accommodate unmet need through a plan review, as at the outset of a review of the plan the extent to which that could be met may not have been determined and could be dependent on consideration of evidence and options.

3. Modifications are shown in strikethrough for deleted text and in underline for additional text. The Council will include these revisions in the schedule of modifications that has been collated as part of the Examination. The text shaded in grey is that which is covered under this note.

Alternative modification to Policy SCLP2.1:

“The Council will work actively with the other local planning authorities in the ISPA and with Suffolk County Council to co-ordinate the delivery of development and in monitoring and reviewing evidence as necessary. Should it be determined through the plan making process that another authority within the ISPA is unable to meet its minimum housing need, the Council will, under the duty to cooperate, work collaboratively to determine whether housing development needs that cannot be met wholly within a particular plan area, could be met elsewhere. An agreement to seek to accommodate unmet housing need would trigger an immediate review of the strategic policies of this Plan.”

Additional text at the end of paragraph 2.8 (further modification shown in grey shading):

“The housing need figures for the authorities in the ISPA are shown in Table 2.1. The starting point for each authority will be to meet their own housing needs within their own boundary. Reflecting the agreed outcomes in the ISPA Statement of Common Ground (March 2019), where through the plan making process an authority is unable to meet its own housing need, following a comprehensive re-assessment of deliverability the ISPA Board will provide the forum to collectively consider how need can be met within the ISPA. Where this would necessitate considering spatial and policy options to plan for further growth above that planned for within this Local Plan, a review of the Local Plan would be necessary. Policy SCLP2.1 refers to immediately commencing a review of the
Local Plan or the strategic policies. In the context of the production of a Local Plan, the actions related to immediately commencing a review are likely to initially entail a review of the Local Development Scheme, consideration of strategic cross boundary issues and the production and consideration of an updated evidence base."