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# News Release

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Suffolk Coastal ... *where quality of life counts*

## **Suffolk Coastal Local Plan – Published for Final Comments**

Suffolk Coastal has taken its next step towards finalising its Local Plan.

The District Council Final Draft Local Plan has been published to provide stakeholders and the public with a final chance to comment on the plan.

The six-week consultation runs from Monday, 14 January, to Monday, 25 February, with people being given the opportunity to have their say on the soundness of the plan, after it was agreed at an extraordinary meeting of the Full Council on Thursday, 3 January 2019.

Councillor Tony Fryatt, Suffolk Coastal's Cabinet Member with responsibility for Planning, said: "This Local Plan is an important and ambitious document, which provides a framework for how we see this district developing over the next two decades."

"As can be seen from the level of vocal interest displayed at our Full Council meeting, the draft plan will impact on the lives of local people. We believe we have created a plan which encourages a dynamic, growing economy, with developments that bring in much-needed homes and are supported by the correct infrastructure, while protecting our unique local environment."

"As a council, we have always said we welcome the right development in the right areas. This plan is an important step towards us being able to effectively avoid unwanted developments that would harm our communities or environment."

"Without the Local Plan, we would find it very difficult to reject speculative developments. We could end up with a development free for all in Suffolk Coastal that could harm all of our communities."

"There has already been extensive consultation with local stakeholders and the public to get the plan to this stage. These comments have shaped the current draft plan. I would encourage people to study this important document in its entirety and have their say, before it goes forward to be considered by the independent Planning Inspector."

The Local Plan sets out the policies which will guide development in the District over the period to 2036, and contains policies which will be used to determine planning applications. The plan identifies how much growth should take place and where this should be located.

This consultation is designed to bring in comments in relation to the soundness of the plan and whether legal and procedural requirements have been met.

Following this, the draft Local Plan, along with the comments made during this consultation, will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate and an Examination will be conducted by an independent Planning Inspector to determine whether the Plan can be adopted.

This Examination will include a Public Hearing, which will be held by the Planning Inspector, where people who have made written responses to the consultation will have the opportunity to discuss their comments.

The Council has arranged three drop-in sessions which are open to anyone to attend to find out more about the Final Draft Local Plan and how to respond.

These will be held at:

- Suffolk Coastal District Council, East Suffolk House (Deben Room), East Suffolk House, Station Road, Melton, IP12 1RT – Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> January, 3pm – 7pm
- Felixstowe Town Hall (Council Chamber), Undercliff Road West, Felixstowe, IP11 2AG – Monday 4<sup>th</sup> February, 3pm – 7pm
- Saxmundham Market Hall, 29 High Street, Saxmundham, IP17 1AF – Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> February 3pm – 7pm

The Final Draft Local Plan and supporting documents are available to view at [www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/finaldraftlocalplan](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/finaldraftlocalplan).

Copies of the Final Draft Local Plan are also available at local libraries across the District. Copies are also available for inspection at the Council's Customer Service Centre, Woodbridge Library, New Street, Woodbridge, IP12 1DT.

In order that the Council and the Planning Inspector have all of the necessary information to consider representations, respondents are asked to complete the official response form.

A guidance note is also available which should be referred to when submitting representations. The response form can be completed and submitted via:

- The Council's online consultation system at [www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/finaldraftlocalplan](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/finaldraftlocalplan) (this is the Council's preferred way of receiving representations);
- Download a response form from [www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/finaldraftlocalplan](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/finaldraftlocalplan) and returning via email to [suffolkcoastallocalplan@eastsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:suffolkcoastallocalplan@eastsuffolk.gov.uk) or by post to Planning Policy & Delivery Team, East Suffolk House, Station Road, Riduna Park, Melton, Woodbridge, IP12 1RT;
- Requesting a response form from the Planning Policy and Delivery Team by emailing [suffolkcoastallocalplan@eastsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:suffolkcoastallocalplan@eastsuffolk.gov.uk) or by phoning 01394 444557, and returning via email or post.

**All comments must be received by 5pm on Monday, 25 February 2019.**

**ENDS**

**Background:** The Local Plan sets out how policies to guide development in the District over the period to 2036, and contains policies which will be used to determine planning applications. The plan identifies how much growth should take place and where this should be located.

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Following consultation on Issues and Options in 2017, the Council undertook consultation in summer 2018 on the First Draft Local Plan. The Council has considered all of the responses received in progressing the local plan, alongside the robust evidence base which supports the Plan.

The Final Draft Local Plan presents a vision and strategy for Suffolk Coastal, which aims to facilitate economic growth and deliver more housing whilst also protecting and enhancing the District's unique and high quality natural, built and historic environments.

The Plan contains policies and allocations that will increase the supply of housing and facilitate the delivery of a mix of homes including affordable housing.

The Plan supports the growth and diversification of the District's economy, in particular reflecting the significance of the Port of Felixstowe. The infrastructure needed to support growth, such as schools, is also identified within the Plan.

It is anticipated that the finalised Local Plan will be adopted by the end of this year (2019).