

East Cambridgeshire Local Plan – April 2015

A Statement setting out the outcome of a Review of the Local Plan

17 October 2019

Introduction

Section 17 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, together with Regulation 10A of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 requires a Council to Review its Local Plan prior to it becoming five years old. The review is necessary to determine whether or not a new Local Plan is need of preparing.

The East Cambridgeshire Local Plan 2015 becomes 5 years old on 21 April 2020, and therefore a Review is required by that date.

Outcome of the Review

On 17 October 2019, East Cambridgeshire District Council concluded a Review and determined that its Local Plan 2015 does not at the present time require to be updated. As such, no new Local Plan for the area is to be commenced.

Reasons for Considering that no new Local Plan is necessary

The Council determined that it was not appropriate to commence preparation of a revised/new Local Plan at the present time because of the following primary reasons, with a more detailed assessment set out in the public report to Council of 17 October 2019:

- Following a detailed Review, no compelling evidence indicated a need to commence a new Local Plan at the present time;
- Some evidence indicated that waiting to commence a new Local Plan to a future date had benefits, including such a plan being able to align with:
 - the yet to be published national Green Paper on planning (due Autumn 2019);
 - the yet to be finalised Combined Authority Non Statutory Spatial Framework for Cambridgeshire-Peterborough (due by end of 2020/21);
 - the national response to the Brexit situation.

Commencing a Local Plan prior to these wider matters concluding could result in aborted work.

- The cost implications of preparing a new Local Plan, estimated at between £500,000-£750,000, particularly when weighed against the less than compelling evidence of the need for a new Local Plan at this stage.

Commitment to a further Review

The Council committed to undertaking a second Review of the Local Plan within 18 months of the conclusion of this first Review. That second Review will once again determine whether or not a Local Plan should be commenced for the area.