

Strategic Planning Team  
East Cambridgeshire District Council  
The Grange  
Ely  
Cambridgeshire  
EB7 4EE

**Our ref:** AC/2021/130200

**Date:** 13 June 2022

By email:

[REDACTED]

Dear Sir/Madam

**East Cambridgeshire Local Plan Single Issue Review (SIR) Proposed Submission Consultation**

Thank you for consulting us on the proposed submission Single Issue Review of the Local Plan adopted 2015.

Noting the narrow focus and scope of the review we have no comments or objections to the specific proposed changes shown in section 8.1.

Although the Council is clearly not proposing to change or identify further site allocations, there seems to be a missed opportunity to review the suitability of existing allocations. The consultation explains that the new housing requirement figure is far exceeded by the identified supply which suggests there is some scope to reconsider and withdraw sites. Recently we have provided advice for planning applications on sites allocated in the Local Plan that are causing us flood risk concerns. A continued reliance on existing flood defence infrastructure is not a safe long-term strategy due to uncertainties about climate change and funding. [Our Flood and Coastal Risk Strategy Roadmap](#) outlines a rethink on the nation's climate change resilience with a greater emphasis on sustainable growth and nature-based solutions. In addition, water resources and water quality are emerging as significant challenges for our region, and it's likely we will be issuing a letter to all our local authorities policy teams on this soon.

An early review of your evidence base such as the 2017 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and Water Cycle Study should be considered in preparation for a full review. This should be used to assess the suitability of existing (and new) site allocations and help to identify sustainable locations for development, including a fresh

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look at the flood risk Sequential Test (NPPF paragraph 161). We would be happy to discuss this with you in more detail when appropriate.

If you have any further questions or would like to discuss these issues in more detail please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

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**Planning Specialist**

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