

Date: 22 March 2016
Our ref: 178538
Your ref: Brentwood Draft Local Plan



Planning Policy Team
Brentwood Borough Council

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BY EMAIL ONLY

Dear Sir/Madam

Brentwood Draft Local Plan and Interim Sustainability Appraisal

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 10 February 2016 which was received by Natural England on 11 February 2016.

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

Due to pressure of other work, Natural England has not been able to examine in detail the entire Draft Local Plan and its accompanying Interim Sustainability Appraisal.

We have therefore examined the Draft Local Plan and Interim Sustainability Appraisal in the light of the concerns expressed in our previous response, dated 16 February 2015, at the Strategic Growth Options stage. Both the Draft Local Plan and the Interim Sustainability Appraisal now include several references to the three Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) within the district and to the potential threats to them arising from increased recreational pressure. We also note that there is now an explicit reference to the need for the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) of the Plan to include consideration of the potential impact of the Plan's policies on the Epping Forest Special Area of Conservation (SAC) as a result of increased road traffic and the associated air pollution.

We have also looked at, and are generally supportive of, the Strategic Objectives, Spatial Strategy, General Development Criteria, and the various policies covering the environment, Green Infrastructure, air quality, lighting, flood risk and Sustainable Urban Drainage.

We also note that the Plan has been informed by the Brentwood Green Infrastructure Strategy (2015) and recognises the need, as highlighted therein, to better link formal and informal open spaces in the Borough to improve their wider use and value.

Natural England does not therefore wish to comment further on the Draft Local Plan and its accompanying Interim Sustainability Appraisal at this stage.

We would be happy to comment further should the need arise but if in the meantime you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us.



For any queries relating to the specific advice in this letter only please contact Gordon Wyatt on 01480 810356. For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

Yours faithfully

Gordon Wyatt
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