



**Basildon & Brentwood
Clinical Commissioning Group**

Phoenix Place
Christopher Martin Road
Basildon
SS14 3HG

**Planning Policy Team
Brentwood Borough Council
Town Hall
Brentwood
Essex CM15 8AY**

23 March 2016

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Local Development Plan for Brentwood Borough 2013-2033

Thank you for sharing the Local Development Plan for Brentwood Borough with Basildon & Brentwood CCG (BB CCG).

We believe that there is a clear alignment between the vision for vibrant and thriving communities outlined in the Local Plan and BB CCG's strategic objectives of commissioning high quality and sustainable healthcare services which will support the local population to optimise and maintain their wellbeing and independence, and to reduce the inequalities in health outcomes evident between populations in different parts of our area.

We acknowledge that achieving these objectives is not without its challenges, given the pressures that the local health economy, in common with many other areas nationally, is currently facing. The challenge is essentially increasing demand for services, primarily driven by demographic change (both more people requiring services and increasing complexity of needs), and significant constraints on the resources – financial, workforce and the physical capacity available to meet these demands and needs. In response BB CCG is undertaking work in three interrelated areas:

- 1) Expanding capacity: the main gap in physical capacity locally is within the primary care sector, specifically GP practice facilities. Therefore, BB CCG is working with NHS England, which currently holds responsibility for the development of GP premises, to expand surgery capacity where possible, through a combination of extending existing premises and the provision of new buildings. A detailed response on the implications of the Local Plan, in relation to primary care premises, has been submitted separately by NHS England.

The other major capacity constraint is availability of an appropriately skilled workforce. BB CCG is therefore working with Health Education England and a range of professional bodies and local provider organisations, to develop robust recruitment and retention plans required to secure the appropriate workforce to meet both existing needs and prepare for expected changes in the need profile of our population. As noted in the Local Plan, many of the characteristics of Brentwood

mean that this is an area that is generally attractive to the type of skilled workforce that will be required to meet the future needs of the local population. BB CCG will work with the Council and others to ensure that this opportunity can be fully realised.

- 2) Developing more effective ways of working: the CCG is acutely aware that simply expanding capacity to accommodate ever increasing demand is neither possible nor desirable. Therefore, the CCG is seeking to support more effective provision of services, by driving greater collaboration and integration between local health and social care providers working across the primary, community and acute hospital sectors. It is recognised that the delivery of more coherent services to our population requires the establishment, or re-establishment, of more effective working relationships between professional teams and organisations. A key element in facilitating this approach will be the direct alignment of community health and care teams with specific GP practices. In this way the practice becomes a hub around which the care provided to the registered population is coordinated. In addition, as noted in the Local Plan, Brentwood Community Hospital represents a significant resource situated within the Borough, and the CCG is committed to ensuring that it is fully utilised to strengthen the community-based provision of healthcare, including sub-acute inpatient facilities, for our population.

Equally importantly, BB CCG is seeking to support a reduction in need, through the development of services that help our population to take greater control of their own health and also by working with partner organisations that can have a positive impact on health and wellbeing. Therefore, BB CCG recognises that, whilst on one hand the increase in population projected within the Local Plan is likely to increase pressure on services, on the other these pressures could be more than offset by the opportunity, outlined in the Plan, to address some of the wider determinants of health, including employment, education, housing and the local environment. BB CCG will welcome the opportunity to work with Brentwood Council and other local partners to support these developments.

- 3) Improved use of technology: BB CCG believes that there is a real prospect of using emerging technologies to provide new and effective ways for the local population to access health care advice and support from the place and at the time that is convenient for them. In this way we are expecting to both improve people's experience of health services, and deliver new approaches to provision that will allow projected increases in demand to be accommodated without placing unsustainable pressure on physical capacity.

In summary, BB CCG welcomes this opportunity to contribute to the consultation on the Brentwood Borough Local Plan, and will continue to work in partnership with Brentwood Council in order to ensure that our strategic plans are aligned as closely as possible in order to deliver the best possible outcomes for our population.

Yours faithfully,

John Leslie
Interim Accountable Officer