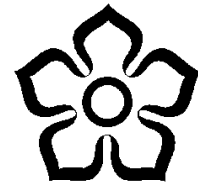


Date: 7 April 2017



Leicester
City Council

Planning Policy

City Hall
115 Charles Street
Leicester
LE1 1FZ
www.leicester.gov.uk/planning

James Beverley
Planning Policy
Melton Borough Council
Parkside, Station Approach
Burton Street
Melton Mowbray
LE13 1GH

Dear James

Melton Local Plan Pre Submission Local Plan Consultation

Thank you for consulting Leicester City Council on the pre submission Melton Local Plan. The following are Leicester City Council's comments.

'Growing Melton Borough – The Spatial Strategy'

'Section 4.2 – Policy SS2 'Development Strategy':

This sets out the approach to objectively assessed housing need across the Housing Market Area (HMA), through the Leicester and Leicestershire Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) 2014. Policy SS2 sets out a housing requirement based on the agreed SHMA and this approach is supported by the City Council.

The City Council also supports the statement at paragraph 4.7.6 which confirms that Melton Borough Council are 'committed to working collaboratively with other Authorities, including those within the Leicester & Leicestershire Housing Market Area, to update objectively the level of long term growth'.

We note that the housing requirement set out in the plan seeks to address issues in respect of economic growth for the borough. If the housing requirement is above the emerging Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment (HEDNA) objectively assessed need for the borough, this also will be expected to count towards addressing any unmet need which may arise in the HMA.

We welcome the inclusion of a commitment to review the plan should the HEDNA and associated work to establish the scale and distribution of housing and economic land, including the emerging Strategic Growth Plan, lead to additional need to be accommodated within the Borough (paras 4.7.6-4.7.8). This is in line with a HMA wide agreement on local plan trigger mechanisms.

Policy SS6 – Alternative Development Strategies and Local Plan Review

The City Council also supports the flexibility in the plan provided by policy SS6

which sets out several alternative strategies should they be required in the future as a result of monitoring and review of the Plan ‘to accommodate any potential additional need which may arise.’ However any further consideration of sustainable village proposals such as at Six Hills will require close engagement and collaborative work with the City Council.

Transport

Accessibility and Transport : Paragraph 2.4.1. should also note that the A46 also provides access between Melton and Leicester, and north towards Nottingham and Lincoln. It also notes that Melton Mowbray station is on the Birmingham to Stanstead Airport railway line and is described as providing ‘quick and regular access to Leicester’. It should be noted that this is only an hourly service.

Policy SS2 Development Strategy:

This also notes that :

‘Development will be expected to contribute positively to the provision of key infrastructure, including traffic relief within the town, to support its growing population and economy.’

It should be highlighted that development will also be expected to contribute to the provision of key infrastructure where adverse impacts are identified from robust transport modelling on the wider highway network.

Growing Melton Mowbray through Large Scale Development Sites

This notes that development required in Melton Mowbray will be focussed in two new large scale ‘sustainable neighbourhoods’ to the north and south of the town.

Paragraph 4.3.4 states *that ‘these developments will deliver new residential and business communities in the form of attractive and high quality new neighbourhoods and places supported by the infrastructure necessary to mitigate the impacts of growth.’*

However modelling should include identification of impacts on the wider highway network outside the Borough.

The City Council notes that a new strategic link road will be provided to help deliver both the Melton Mowbray Sustainability Neighbourhoods which is expected to improve Melton Mowbray’s east/west connectivity through a link road. By providing this new infrastructure, traffic movements from the new housing stock could gravitate towards Leicester (subject to robust transport modelling) as this may facilitate easier access to Leicester’s employment and other opportunities. Whilst this could reduce the traffic impacts in Melton Mowbray, there is the potential to create adverse impacts on the existing transport network in Leicester. These areas may include the A47, A607 and A46. Any adverse impact in this area may be accelerated from proposed large scale housing growth in Charnwood and Harborough. Mitigation measures for Leicester’s highway network may be required to support this new growth based

on any strategic transport modelling findings.

Policy IN1 – Transport & Strategic Transport Infrastructure

The provision of strategic transport infrastructure should also have regard for the identification and mitigation of impacts on the wider highway network outside the Borough.

Policy C6 – Gypsies and Travellers

Paragraph 5.10 of the supporting text states that the 2016 Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment (GTAA) identified the level of need for additional Gypsy and Traveller pitches. The GTAA is a document that is currently being led by the City Council, and involves all of the authorities in the Housing Market Area (except Hinckley and Bosworth), including Melton and the City Council. However it is still a work in progress, and currently at this point in time a final, completed version is not available.

The City Council therefore requests that this paragraph is amended to make clear that the levels of need identified are draft at present.

Similarly, paragraph 5.10.10 contains a quote which is attributed to the 2016 GTAA, setting out a recommendation that review of the evidence base relating to unauthorised encampments should be undertaken in autumn 2018 once there is a new 3 year evidence base following the changes to the 'Planning Policy for Travellers Sites (PPTS) in August 2015.

Paragraph 5.10.11 contains a commitment to update an evidence base review in 2018. . As already stated, the final GTAA has not yet been completed (at the time the draft Local Plan was published, not even a draft GTAA was complete, so the quote is not from an available draft report).

It is therefore concerning that such a statement should be included in the draft Plan as there is currently no agreement between participating authorities on this issue. While it is the prerogative of Melton Council to undertake an evidence base review in 2018 should they see fit to do so, it is not the case that there is agreement from all of the participating authorities (including the City Council) that this is required or an additional joint GTAA planned.

Yours sincerely

Grant Butterworth
Head of Planning
Leicester City Council.