

Tendring *District Council*



Independent Examination of Section 2 of the Tendring District Local Plan '2013-2033 and Beyond'

SUPPLEMENTARY STATEMENT FROM THE LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY

Update on cooperation between Tendring District Council and NHS North East Essex CCG

Matter 5: Healthy Places

February 2021

Policy HP1 : Improving Health and Wellbeing

1. Tendring District Council has been working in cooperation with colleagues across North East Essex Health and Wellbeing Alliance on a range of health-related matters including developing relevant policies and proposals in the emerging Local Plan, the Tendring Colchester Borders Garden Community and securing s106 legal agreements from larger developments towards health infrastructure. Whilst the Council and NHS colleagues would have liked to have entered into a Statement of Common Ground in the run up to the examination hearings for the Section 2 Local Plan, colleagues are currently under significant pressure in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and the tight timescales for the examination have not been sufficient to achieve the full signing off process which would normally involve an all-service response from different sections of the NHS.
2. The Council has been having ongoing constructive conversations with Mrs. Jane Taylor who is intending to appear on behalf of NHS North East Essex CCG on 25th February 2021 in relation to Matter 5: Healthy Places. In particular, there have been discussions around the way in which the provision of primary care is changing to embrace digital channels – something that is not fully reflected in the text of the Section 2 Plan as was submitted in 2017.
3. The Council agrees that the Local Plan could be amended to better reflect the current objectives around primary health provision and therefore, in the absence of a Statement of Common Ground, is putting forward a form of wording to the Inspectors on a unilateral basis that, subject to Mrs. Taylor’s comments at the hearings, may provide a solution to the issue raised.
4. The suggested wording, which is based on an exchange of information between the Council and the CCG, is suggested for the Inspectors’ consideration as a possible modification to the Local Plan. It is a suggested new paragraph within the supporting text before Policy HP1 – essentially a new paragraph 4.1.10 to follow paragraph 4.1.9:

4.1.10 Primary care is adopting a Digital First approach to primary care investment. An agreed Integrated Care System Road map for Suffolk and North East Essex was introduced in 2019, many of the initiatives were brought forward as a result of the response to Covid 19 and have already proven successful. GP practices, care homes and community service providers have been using telephone/video consultations, smartphone applications to enable patients to request prescriptions and appointments. Practices within Primary Care networks will enable digital first options to improve fast access to primary care, reducing waiting and travelling time for patients, services will include outpatient follow up appointments and medication reviews. Consequently, the need for high speed broadband access and flexibility in terms of the provision of digital health infrastructure to any new housing development is crucial in order to ensure the success of the Digital First approach.