

Tendring *District Council*



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

SUPPLEMENTARY HEARING STATEMENT FROM THE LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY

Matter 7: Prosperous Places

Response to new Question 7.4

February 2021

7.4 Improving Education and Skills PP12

On 8th February 2021, the Inspector advised examination participants that a question had been omitted from the original set of Matters Issues and Questions (MIQs) and therefore invited responses to a new Question 7.4. This supplementary hearing statement contains the Council's response to the new question.

Are the policies justified and consistent with national policy? Are the requirements of the policies clear, and would they be effective?

In particular, does the policy provide adequate recognition of the needs of Higher Education over the plan period?

- 7.4.1 Policy PP12 is designed to facilitate improved education and employment prospects for all of the residents of Tendring across early years, primary, secondary, further and higher education. It also provides the policy basis for ensuring new development is supported, as necessary, through the delivery of new or improved education infrastructure. The TDC Economic Development Strategy 2019 ([EB6.1.1](#)) recognises the importance of the local workforce and promotes education, training and skills as a key priority in supporting the area's economic future.
- 7.4.2 In line with the NPPF paragraph 72 the Council take a 'proactive, positive and collaborative approach' to ensuring there is sufficient choice of school places to meet the needs of existing and new communities. By working with our partners in educational establishments including Essex County Council as the education authority, local schools and academies, Colchester Institute and Essex University we are ensuring Policy PP12 is both justified and consistent with national policy. The ongoing reviews of the Infrastructure Development Plan ([EB10.1.1](#)) also informs the numbers of school places required across the District - in line with Paragraph 162 of the NPPF and identifies the additional infrastructure needed to support the growing population.
- 7.4.3 Policy PP12 is clear that 'planning permission will not be granted for new residential development unless the individual or cumulative impacts of development on education provision can be addressed'. This is in line with the NPPF requirements, with Essex County Council as the key consultee, provision would be sought, where necessary through developer contributions to ensure any additional educational requirements were met. The Council has a successful record in securing new facilities and financial contributions from development through s106 legal agreements.
- 7.4.4 Paragraph 37 of the NPPF centres on a balance of land use, ensuring that residents are encouraged to minimise their journey lengths to key provisions including education. In PP12 the council will support proposals that provide new, expanded or

improved educational facilities, notably SAMU2 Hartley Gardens and SAMU3 Oakwood Park have allocations for new educational facilities.

7.4.5 Objective 3 in the TDC Economic Development Strategy 2019 ([EB6.1.1](#)) is to 'ensure residents have the skills and information to participate'. This will be achieved by working with education providers, training organisations and businesses to ensure Tendring residents have the means to access opportunities within the District and beyond. As such TDC are fully supportive of the plans for expansion of Essex University and have entered into a Statement of Common Ground with the University to strengthen that support through the addition of policy wording The Council also works very closely with other education providers such as Colchester Institute and Essex County Council's Adult Community Learning (ACL) section to strengthen the availability of education and training for Tendring residents, particularly in Clacton where there are existing campuses.