

Oyez 22.08.24



# UPDATE

## **PROPOSED PLANNING/BUILDING IN EARLS COLNE**

**GABRIELLE SPRAY THE CABINET MINISTER FOR PLANNING AT BRAINTREE DISTRICT COUNCIL HAS PROVIDED AN UPDATE IN RESPECT OF PROPOSED PLANNING IN EARLS COLNE.  
A FULL COPY IS DETAILED ON PAGE 2**

**THE ECPC MEETING SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST AT 7PM HAS THEREFORE BEEN DEFERRED PENDING RECEIPT OF THE REVISED TIMETABLE AND PROPOSALS FROM BDC**

**THE DATES FOR SUBMISSION OF FEEDBACK HAVE NOW BEEN RECONSIDERED AND ANY COMMENTS PROVIDED AFTER 16<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

**Comments can be submitted by email to [planningpolicy@braintree.gov.uk](mailto:planningpolicy@braintree.gov.uk)  
Submitted sites which are being considered can be viewed at <http://www.braintree.gov.uk/planning-building-control/local-plan-review-2/3> (click on "Call For Site submission)**

**STATEMENT PROVIDED BY  
GABRIELLE SPRAY  
CABINET MEMBER FOR PLANNING  
BRAINTREE DISTRICT COUNCIL  
AUGUST 2024**

*Braintree Council's Local Plan refresh has dominated my Cabinet Portfolio over the last few weeks, so here is an update and summary of where we are:*

*In March this year, the Local Plan sub-Committee (chaired by me) decided to undertake a refresh of BDC's Local Plan. Our current Plan was adopted in 2021 and runs to 2033 but we are required to review it every five years, so a review is needed by February 2026.*

*The timetable for the refresh was very tight, with submission to the Planning Inspectorate by end June 2025 in order to ensure that we have the protection of an adopted Local Plan to guard against unwanted developments across the District. The Call for Sites has resulted in over 300 sites being proposed and many Parish Councils and residents have already responded to the Community Engagement exercise which had a closing date of 16<sup>th</sup> August.*

*However, following the May General Election the new Government has extended the deadline for submission of Local Plans to December 2026. As a result, at a meeting of the Local Plan sub Committee on 15<sup>th</sup> August I made a statement announcing that, in discussion with Officers, I will be reviewing the timetable for the refresh of our Local Plan.*

*The 2<sup>nd</sup> September meeting of the Local Plan sub Committee, which had been to discuss the first of the sites proposed for Parishes, is cancelled. The next meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> September – also intended for Parish sites – will take place but will now be to discuss BDC's response to the Government's National Planning Policy Reforms (NPPF).*

*A revised timetable for the Call for Sites meetings will be issued as soon as possible; the extended deadline of Dec 2026 allows for a slower pace for discussion and consultation. In the meantime, Officers continue to carry out the extensive background work required to support a Local Plan and the work carried out since March will not be wasted; it will stand us in good stead going forward. **Any comments submitted after the original 16<sup>th</sup> August deadline will be accepted and form part of the wider representations.***

*We are at a very early stage of this process; I hope that Parish Councils and residents will be reassured that just because sites have been submitted does not necessarily mean they will be included in a refreshed Local Plan.*

*There is a long way to go!*