

Welcome to the latest edition of the Planning Policy Newsletter where we will provide an update on the Breckland District Council Local Development Framework (LDF).

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### What are we working on at the moment?

The Strategy and Core Policies Development Plan document will be part of the Breckland District Local Development Framework (LDF) and will set out the strategic spatial vision for Breckland and the core policies that will apply across the whole district. The Strategy and Policies which will determine where future development will go and what it will look like needs to be finalised by the end of the year. In developing the Strategy and Policies to 2021 it is important that all the reasonable options are looked at and that everyone has an opportunity to shape the future plans for Breckland. We're looking ahead to 2021 and need to find land for at least 15,200 new homes and 6,000 new jobs.

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### Roadshows

In March we will start major public consultation on the LDF – involving communities, service providers and other key stakeholders. There will be an interactive on-line consultation at [www.breckland.gov.uk](http://www.breckland.gov.uk) and a series of informal drop-in sessions where planners will be on hand to answer your questions and listen to your ideas on future development.

A series of informal drop-in sessions will be touring the District. The sessions are open from 10am-2pm and 5pm-7pm at the venues below and offers a chance to speak to planners. There will be exhibition material, plans and maps for people to look at. Whether you live in the town or one of the surrounding villages please drop-in and tell us your ideas.

20<sup>th</sup> March - Dereham Library  
21<sup>st</sup> March – Watton: Wayland Hall  
22<sup>nd</sup> March – Attleborough Learning Centre  
27<sup>th</sup> March – Thetford: Carnegie Rooms  
28<sup>th</sup> March – Swaffham: Assembly Rooms

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### A new updated timetable

Available on our website at [www.breckland.gov.uk](http://www.breckland.gov.uk)

In November the decision was taken to delay submission of the LDF to Government so that more work on the Strategy and Policies can be completed.

### Key milestones or deadlines for the Diary are now as follows-

**December 2007** - Submit final Strategy and Core Policies document to Government – Copies will be sent to all Town and Parish Councils, and will be available on line and at the council offices.



**What you can do** – There will be a six week consultation period on the final strategy and general policies document. Comments made at this stage will be considered at a public examination in June 2008.

**June 2008** – A public examination will be held on to the Strategy and General Policies document by a Government Inspector.



**What you can do** – If you made comments at the submission stage in December 2007 you may be invited by the inspector to attend the public examination to give evidence.

**September 2008** – Undertake public consultation exercise on 'preferred' sites for housing, employment, retail and services that will be needed to meet needs of Breckland till 2021.



**What can you do** – There will be a six week consultation period on the 'preferred sites'. Comments at this stage will shape the final site specifics document which will be published early in 2009.

## Evidence Base

The evidence base for the LDF has been growing—further details available on line

## Employment Land Review

A detailed audit of existing employment sites in the Breckland District has been completed. The employment land review assessed the demand and supply of employment land by market sector over the LDF plan period till 2021 and appraised the market conditions, quality of sites and allocations to identify the gaps in local employment land provision, both in terms of quality and quantity. The review findings will direct employment developments in the LDF in order to ensure that jobs growth targets are met.

## Housing Market Assessment

Currently a housing market assessment is being completed in partnership with our sub regional partners, North Norfolk District Council and Kings Lynn & West Norfolk Council. The assessment will look at the housing requirements of the district and advise on affordable housing needs which will set out the availability and affordability of housing in the district so that the Council can be sure of setting the right requirements in the LDF.

## Landscape Character Assessment

Breckland is currently the subject of the Landscape Character Assessment, which involves mapping, classifying and describing variations in landscape character. It will allow the authority to make judgements about the character and quality of the landscape and analyse forces for change, advise on the key aspects to conserve and enhance and help us make key decisions about how we should manage change in the future.

## Open Space Audit

Breckland has now completed a comprehensive review of all 'open spaces' in the District with a view to provide information that will enable development of new open space standards and inform related plans and strategies. The audit has enabled the identification of qualitative or quantitative deficiencies or surpluses in 'open space' within Breckland; the examination of the needs and aspirations of local communities with regards to open spaces, and assessment of open space as a community and environmental resource and its potential to improve people's quality of life and create more sustainable settlements.

## East of England Plan

The Secretary of States has issued changes to the to the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) for the East of England. A Public consultation on the Secretary of States changes to the Draft Revision to the (RSS) for the East of England commenced on the 19<sup>th</sup> December 2006 and will end on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2007. This is the latest in a series of consultations on the Draft Plan. Further details at [www.go.east.gov.uk](http://www.go.east.gov.uk).

## Growth Point Initiative Thetford

Thetford has been awarded Growth Point Status. The Growth Point initiative means that in the period to 2021 and beyond, Thetford and the surrounding area will become one of the fastest growing areas in the East of England. The Growth Point master-plan will guide decision making and help deliver accelerated housing and employment which will make the Thetford area a truly regional centre.

### Where can I find out more...

All of our current Information is available on the Breckland District Council Website:  
[www.breckland.gov.uk](http://www.breckland.gov.uk)

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