From: BMSDC Local Plan <localplan@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk>

Subject: Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan Review - Publication of the Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment

Date: 21 October 2026 at 17:02:54 BST

We are writing to inform you that we have today reached a milestone in the preparation of the new Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan. The Councils have progressed through the first stage of the new plan-making system, known as Gateway 1, which means that this begins the 30-month process for producing a Local Plan for the two districts. The Councils have therefore published a Gateway 1 summary document and an Engagement Strategy for the Joint Local Plan. The Councils have also made an amendment to the Local Plan timetable to reflect the next stage of public consultation to take place during June and July, with exact dates to be confirmed at a later date. This amendment is to bring that stage of the plan-making process into alignment with other local plans being prepared in Suffolk.

Alongside this, the Councils have published the Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA) as evidence to support the Joint Local Plan and also to support the preparation of neighbourhood plans across the districts. The SHELAA assesses the housing and economic potential of sites that have been submitted to the Councils for consideration through the 'call for sites' exercises undertaken in January and February 2024 and between October 2025 and January 2026. It is important to note **the SHELAA does not allocate sites for development, and it has no planning status.** It is an evidence base document for the Joint Local Plan and will be supported further by additional evidence being produced before decisions are made on what sites will be proposed for future development through the Joint Local Plan. The SHELAA can also be used by those areas making neighbourhood plans in their identification of future sites for development.

Further information on the Local Plan together with the SHELAA and its appendices for can be viewed via the links below.

https://www.babergh.gov.uk/joint-local-plan

https://www.babergh.gov.uk/documents/d/asset-library-54706/babergh-and-mid-suffolk-shelaa-oct-2026