

Concerning Military of Defence (MOD) land at  
Shoeburyness / Foulness  
Please note we are sending this letter to a contact  
at both the Ministry of Defence and Qinetiq.

Our ref: Local Plan – MoD Shoeburyness  
Your ref:  
Date: 06 April 2020  
Telephone: 01702 215408  
Email: [planningpolicy@southend.gov.uk](mailto:planningpolicy@southend.gov.uk)

Dear 

### **Southend Local Plan Review – Call for Evidence**

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council (SBC) has commenced preparation of a new Local Plan that will set out the planning framework for the next 20 years to manage future development in the area. SBC consulted on its Local Plan Issues and Options between February and April 2019. The document can be viewed [here](#) and the consultation report [here](#).

To inform preparation of the Local Plan the Council's undertook the South East Essex Strategic Growth Locations Assessment. This 2019 Study looked at a number of potential key growth locations across Castle Point, Rochford and Southend. ([South East Essex Growth Locations Study](#)) The assessment of the Shoeburyness and Foulness area (Sector F) concluded that some pockets of land may be suitable for development but that a strategic growth location would be seriously constrained by flood risk and environmental designations. It is also recognised that there would be a need to address unexploded ordnance which could have significant viability implications.

In order to demonstrate that we have undertaken a robust evaluation of a full range of reasonable alternative options for the Local Plan the Council is now seeking to understand the aspirations of the Ministry of Defence for its landholdings in the area. Previous communications, most recently on a "Statement of Community Involvement" consultation, have indicated a desire for further discussion but also that there remains a need to retain the land, currently managed on the MoD's behalf by Qinetiq, for operational purposes. It would be very helpful to us to understand the plans you have for the site (including any breakdown of individual parcels within it) in the short term (up to 2025); medium term (to 2020) and longer term (up to 2038 and beyond).

In addition to the above it would be helpful to us if you were able to provide us with any relevant operational information that you hold for the Shoeburyness site. For example, are there any buffer zones around all or parts of the site where development should not occur? Are there any particular high risk areas? Also it would be useful to understand if there are any parts of the landholding which could be opened to further public access or be managed for environmental benefit.

This initial evidence will assist in providing the basis for developing options for growth and specifically a greater understanding of the potential for new development within the Borough. This request for information is made without prejudice to the objectives of either party; at this stage it is

not possible to foresee the outcome of the emerging Local Plan, nor does it prejudice any decision the Council may wish to take should an application be made.

In order for this evidence to feed into the plan making process it is requested that it is submitted to the Council by **5<sup>th</sup> June 2020** or earlier.

It would be beneficial if any data and GIS associated with this could be shared with the Borough Council and be available to neighbouring Rochford District Council.

If you would like to arrange a meeting to discuss these matters in more detail, please contact me by email or on the above telephone number.

Yours sincerely

**Mark Sheppard**  
Team Leader Strategic Planning

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**E:** [planningpolicy@southend.gov.uk](mailto:planningpolicy@southend.gov.uk)