



LOCAL PLAN UPDATE – 30th June 2026

The Town Council held discussions with the City Council Planners in the early Summer. These meetings included early consideration of draft proposals for an island specific policy, safeguarding our local environment, coastal areas, and other issues relevant to the emerging Local Plan. We understand that our City Councillors have also been involved in related discussions.

The Council's 40+ response to the earlier consultation is reproduced below.

Pleased to report that Island Policy and Coastal Policies as reported in the Courier of 26th June 2026 were adopted for the next stage of the Local Plan by the Local Plan Committee. The next stage is the consideration of the Local Plan Place Policies that includes the allocation of 300 houses for West Mersea that will be considered by the next Local Plan Committee in August. The Town Council strongly objects to this allocation.

The Committee formally agreed - "to the policy wording as presented in the schedule attached as Appendix A (that included the policies above) for inclusion in the Submission Draft Local Plan. Subject to agreement of the remainder of the Plan in August, to agree publication for Regulation 19 consultation and submission to the Planning Inspectorate. To note the updates on progress and evidence updates identified in the report which will be considered further to inform the next iteration of the Local Plan."

In the report by the Planning Officers, it was stated that one of the most significant updates was - new Islands Policy - "this was suggested by West Mersea Town Council to address the unique issues facing Mersea Island. Officers have collaborated with the Town Council in drafting the policy and supporting text."

It also stated in the report - "The caravan parks policy has been amended to apply solely to caravan parks on Mersea Island, with additional criteria added. This will be included in the Place chapter of the plan."