

# Executive Summary

## **Context**

The Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan (JLP) has been prepared under the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulation 2012 (as amended).

The JLP sets out a planning framework to guide development and facilitate growth in Babergh and Mid Suffolk Districts over the period from 2018 to 2037. It will play an important role in shaping our future – how towns and villages develop, how we protect and enhance our natural environment, adapt to climate change, develop our local economy, improve leisure and visitor facilities, improve social infrastructure and support more sustainable forms of travel.

The policies contained within the JLP will be used to inform future decisions on planning applications and appeals.

## **Background**

The creation of a local plan is a regulated process which requires formal consultation and public engagement at a range of different stages. Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils began gathering a range of evidence to inform the preparation of a new JLP during 2016. An early draft plan identifying broad issues and options was produced, and consultation undertaken during 2017. A Preferred Options JLP was published, and consultation undertaken during 2019. The final publication stage of the JLP is undertaken in 2020 prior to formal Submission for Examination.

## **Structure**

The Part 1 (Objectives and Strategic Policies) are supported by detailed delivery policies (Part 2) which cover the key themes of housing; the economy; the environment; and healthy communities and infrastructure. The Place and Allocations Policies (Part 3) detail the policies and allocations for specific places and neighbourhoods, including new housing and land allocations.

There is an extensive evidence base and appraisals which has been used to inform the JLP. The evidence base can be viewed on the Council websites at:

[www.babergh.gov.uk/jointlocalplan](http://www.babergh.gov.uk/jointlocalplan) or [www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/jointlocalplan](http://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/jointlocalplan)

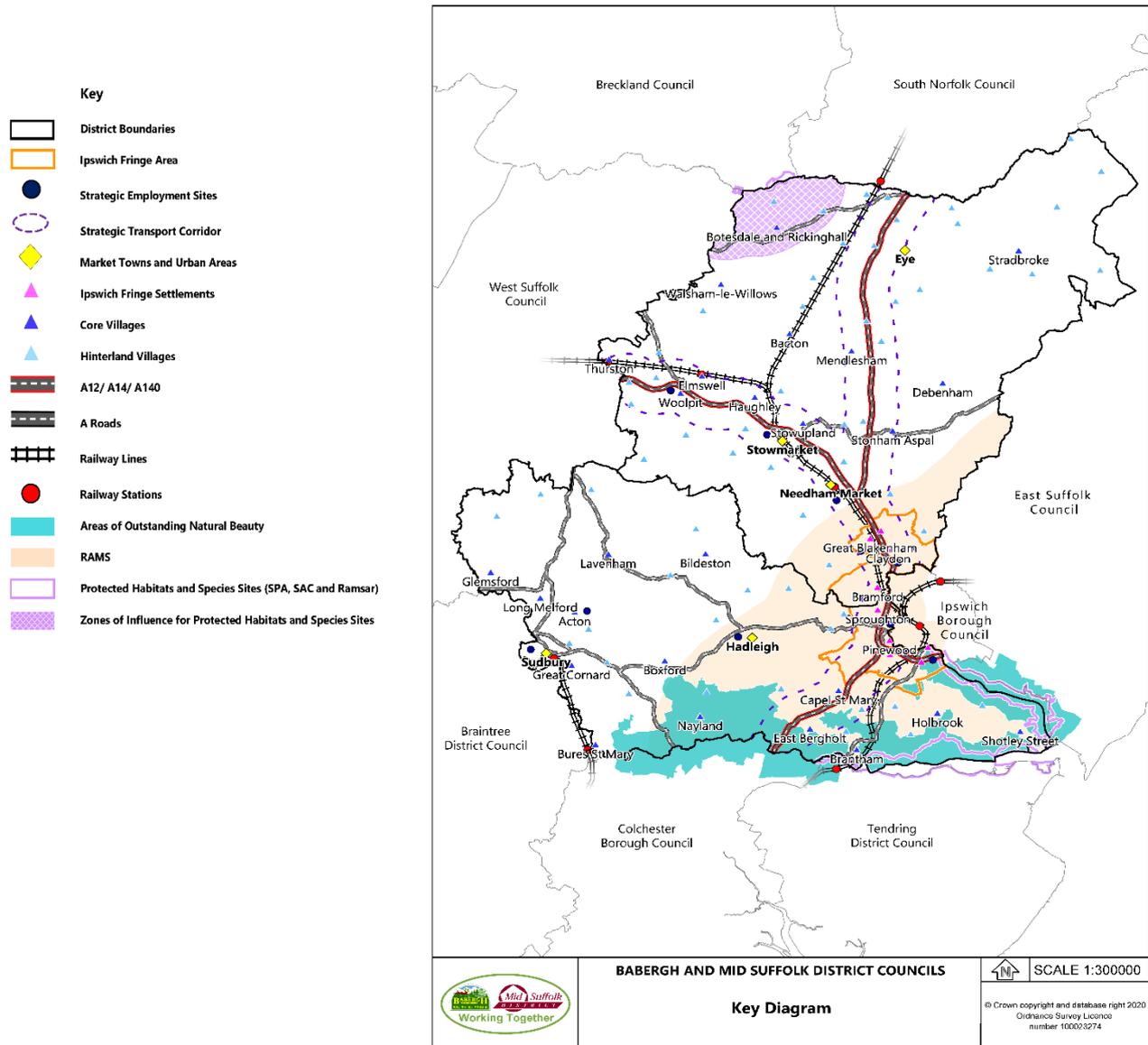
## **Summary**

The JLP aims to manage the delivery of sustainable development through housing delivery and economic growth, whilst creating healthy communities and protecting the natural and historic environment.

The JLP consists of three main parts.

- (i) **Objectives and strategic policies:** establishes the overall strategy for the pattern, scale and quantity of development;
- (ii) **Detailed policies for the management and delivery of types of development.** (Housing, Economy, Environment & Health Communities and Infrastructure);
- (iii) **Non Strategic Place and allocation policies:** Detailed policies for specific places and neighbourhoods, including new land allocations.

The location, core features of the JLP and the general pattern for growth are shown on the key diagram:



In developing the JLP, Babergh and Mid Suffolk Councils have worked closely with the neighbouring authorities (see key diagram) and key delivery partners to enable delivering the growth and policies set out in the Plan. There are numerous key issues in which Babergh and Mid Suffolk are working with other bodies to secure delivery, such as the impact of strategic housing developments on the borders of other authorities and on the transportation networks. Further information is detailed in the JLP (Chapter 5).

**Housing:** The Plan makes provision for a minimum of 7,904 net additional dwellings (416 per annum) in Babergh and 10,165 net additional dwellings (535 per annum) in Mid Suffolk over the Plan period (2018 – 2037). A substantial number of these dwellings are permitted and accounted for – full details are set out in the plan. For residential sites of 10 or more dwellings, 35% of the total should be affordable housing.

The Plan seeks to ensure development is sustainable and broadly accommodated in settlements where the need to travel can be reduced, through good access to services and facilities.

**The Economy**: The distribution of new development seeks to secure a balance of economic growth and housing in the strategic transport corridor areas, as well as ensuring that other market towns and rural communities benefit from appropriate growth.

The JLP seeks to support employment retention and growth by ensuring a range and diversity of sites and premises are available to meet current needs and build in sufficient flexibility to respond to potential future economic needs. The ongoing economic led regeneration at Brantham and at the former Sproughton Sugar Beet Factory regeneration sites is supported.

The Plan seeks to support our market towns and, in the current challenging times, the ongoing provision of vital services, facilities and tourism and leisure provision across the District areas.

**Healthy Communities and Infrastructure**: All of the growth and development needs to be supported by the provision of facilities and infrastructure, such as our transport and water supply networks, health and education facilities as well as our important network of green spaces and community facilities. The JLP provides a framework which ensures the impact of proposed development on communities, their facilities and wider infrastructure is understood and sets out policy to secure funding for delivery where this is required. Further information on the types of infrastructure is set out in the Infrastructure Delivery Plan.

**The Environment**: Environmental enhancement, protection and management is at the heart of the JLP, supporting the Councils' ambition to be carbon neutral by 2030. The JLP policies provide a framework to support the transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate, taking full account of flood risk and coastal change. This is to be met through a combination of Climate Change policies including issues on sustainable construction, design, energy, flood risk and water management. They also protect and manage green infrastructure, biodiversity, geodiversity, landscape (including the AoNBs) and the rich historic environment.

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