

11 – STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE

Policy background and explanation

- 11.01 The provision of infrastructure is fundamental to maintaining the quality of life, prosperity and environmental credentials of the area. It is essential that any future growth and development is supported by infrastructure to meet the needs of the population, businesses and the wider community. There are a wide range of infrastructure types necessary at both a local and strategic level. It is critical that the strategic and cumulative infrastructure needs are considered and addressed. This approach will then inform how individual developments can contribute and support the delivery of such strategic infrastructure, as well as understanding the more localised and scheme specific infrastructure capacity issues and needs.
- 11.02 The key strategic infrastructure projects include transport improvements, an education expansion programme, environmental protection of internationally important environmental designations, improvements to digital infrastructure and the water supply and treatment network. A comprehensive list of all strategic and local infrastructure is set out in the Babergh and Mid Suffolk Infrastructure Delivery Plan. In the Hartismere Water Resource Zone (WRZ) in Mid Suffolk District, water supply infrastructure network upgrades will be required. The network upgrades will not be available before 2032 at the earliest.
- 11.03 There are strong aspirations towards the delivery of key infrastructure projects, some of which will cross over administrative local authority boundaries, including into Ipswich. As such, development in the Ipswich Strategic Planning Area (ISPA) is predicted to add significant strain on the transport network. Therefore, a Transport Mitigation Strategy, which provides a package of transport measures, has been identified to reduce vehicle movements arising from new development and existing communities, and address air quality impacts in and around Ipswich.
- 11.04 To support the delivery of growth across Babergh and Mid Suffolk Districts, the Councils will continue to work with service providers, statutory bodies and neighbouring authorities to ensure support for the timely delivery of the required infrastructure throughout the Plan period.
- 11.05 Monitoring of infrastructure delivery and re-assessment of infrastructure requirements will be undertaken regularly.

SP08 – Strategic Infrastructure Provision

- 1) The Councils will work with the relevant partners in supporting and enabling the delivery of key strategic infrastructure projects¹⁵ affecting both the plan area and beyond, which include:**
 - a. Infrastructure for transport (including sustainable transport modes) along the strategic transport corridors (including the delivery of the ISPA Transport Mitigation Strategy) to avoid and mitigate any adverse effects, and achieve net environmental gains;**
 - b. A district wide education expansion programme to match projected population growth;**
 - c. Protected Habitats Mitigation Zones;**
 - d. The provision of essential water supply and water recycling infrastructure, including an upgrade from 2032 to the Hartismere water supply infrastructure network; and**
 - e. Improvements and expansions to electronic communication networks and high-quality digital infrastructure.**
- 2) All development will also need to make provision for appropriate contributions towards community infrastructure.**
- 3) The required infrastructure will be provided through a combination of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), Planning Obligations, other Developer Contributions and where appropriate, funding assistance from the Councils / other provider organisations.**

Community Infrastructure

- 11.06 Community infrastructure is vital to ensuring that settlements of all scales can thrive and function in more sustainable ways. The role of community infrastructure such as healthcare, early years and primary education, and cultural infrastructure, is typically of a more localised nature, but the cumulative impact of deficits can be severe on a wide area.
- 11.07 Many communities within the Babergh and Mid Suffolk area need improvements to community infrastructure, to support growth. The Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) has identified which improvements to community infrastructure are required throughout the Plan period. Development must have regard to this, to ensure that appropriate and sustainable development can be supported.

¹⁵ Detailed information on strategic infrastructure projects are set out in the most recently published Babergh and Mid Suffolk Infrastructure Delivery Plan.