

Summary of county council support for local planning

Bucks

Local plan support

- The Growth & Strategy team co-ordinates the Local Plan and neighbourhood plan consultations with BCC services including major sites, IDPs, links and strategic infrastructure mapping / programming. This function is mainly done by the Strategic Planning & Infrastructure team.
- The transport strategy team is a separate team within G&S and supports Local Plans with transport modelling and policy.
- A separate highways DM service supports Local Plans with their viability and traffic assessments
- A separate Environment service provides support on ecology, archaeology and green infrastructure including Local Plan and major planning applications, an SLA regarding service provision is being negotiated.
- An MoU has been negotiated regarding the DtC for individual Local Plans and we are looking at MoUs to clarify operational / service support expectations.

Specialist support services

- Provision of strategic infrastructure planning and programming including GIS support and spatial mapping.
- Traffic modelling and highways DM assessments.
- Engagement / advice on NSIPs and links to public health and health impact assessments.
- The County Council provides support on ecology and archaeology matters to the Districts on Local Plans and major planning applications.
- The County Council has a population model which has forecasting capability based on housing numbers – made available to the Districts but offer not taken up.
- Provides advice pm flooding to Districts and advise on SUDs, with a service level agreement in place with Districts on planning applications over 10 houses and within flood zones.

Consultancy support

- No consultancy services but does contract with Northamptonshire CC to provide support on minerals and waste planning including the preparation of the minerals and waste plan.

Cambridgeshire

Local plan support

The Growth and Development team:

- co-ordinates infrastructure support for LPs & transport assessment on the strategic growth sites.
- responds to local plans and other policy under the duty to cooperate

Specialist support services

- Provision of demographic and forecasting resources to LPAs through a service level agreement.
- Separate agreement to provide monitoring data to the LPAs to support the publication of their AMR and other functions.

Consultancy support

- The County Council provides agency type support to the Combined Authority in respect to transport planning and policy in response to the CA assuming responsibility for transport strategy.

Cumbria

Local plan support

- The County Council places significant weight on the importance of engaging effectively in the development of local plans and the consideration of planning applications.

Specialist support services

Specialist technical information provided on:

- highways and transport
- drainage
- education.

Consultancy support

- No consultancy services but seek to secure a project management fee where joint funded studies undertaken.

Devon

Local plan support

- Coordinate and feed County Council views on its statutory responsibilities into the plan preparation process
- Input into local plan preparation (commentary on sites, policies where relevant)
- Coordinate County infrastructure planning re LPs and IDP (focus on transportation and education but other statutory responsibilities also considered)
- Respond to planning policy consultations
- Support LPA at hearings
- Help steer master-planning exercises

Specialist support services

Provide input (generally free of charge) in terms of:

- Transport planning
- Pupil place planning
- Demographics
- Minerals
- Waste
- Flood risk
- Historic environment
- Some ecology
- Some landscape
- Libraries
- Youth
- Health and wellbeing

Consultancy support

- Engineering design: Highways, structures etc;
- Occasionally recharge specific work undertaken for externally funded projects.

Dorset

Local plan support

- The County Council lost its dedicated spatial/strategic planning role in a previous restructuring following the revocation of regional and structure plans. The only 'dedicated' strategic planner resource comes from officer support within the County Planning, Minerals and Waste team. The team leader previously led the Spatial Planning team and supports generic cross-boundary planning matters which relate to the County's interests, principally via the Strategic Planning Forum and officer support group (as well as Minerals and Waste Joint Advisory Committee) on matters of strategic cross-boundary cooperation.
- Officers continue to play an important support role across a range of matters that support strategic planning, many of these being in technical specialisms, including:
 - Responding to strategic consultations on matters of interest to the council, including national consultations, local plans, neighbourhood plans and 'strategic' planning applications
 - Infrastructure: Planning Obligations Manager liaises with district and council Service Providers to evidence and secure CIL/s.106 towards county infrastructure
 - Research and Intelligence: Council research officers provide evidence in support of local plan preparation including population/demographic forecasting, employment/sectoral information, etc.

Specialist support services

The County Council provides some specialist advice/services but beyond minerals and waste, none of these fall within the statutory planning function. They include:

- Evidence of infrastructure needs for which DCC is responsible (CIL / S.106; evidence of needs, support at local plan examinations and appeals): no charge
- Responses to consultations on various technical matters (such as archaeology, ecology, education, highways, minerals and waste, surface water management): no charge
- Commissioned evidence in support of local plans: ecological assessments, transport models, research on demography, housing needs, economic models/forecasting: chargeable

Consultancy support

- It is understood that Dorset Highways, and Architects (Buildings and Construction Services) can be commissioned to design/construct schemes.
- Services can also be commissioned where LPAs require specialist expertise over and above the Council's normal/statutory functions. For example, the Natural Environment team operate an ecological assessment function/framework on behalf of Natural England as a means of assisting LPAs when dealing with plans or proposals likely to have an impact upon internationally important habitats.

Dorset (continued)

Local plan support

- Transport modelling team: carries out detailed transport models in support of local plan preparation and wider Local Transport Plan priorities, including involvement in the South-East Dorset Multi-Modal Transport Study, models related to urban extensions, etc.
- Transport Planning Team: works closely with Bournemouth and Poole unitary authorities in implementing and reviewing the Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Local Transport Plan and managing the implementation of LEP-funded transport schemes in the DCC area that deliver the LTP; supports local planning authorities on strategic transport matters in the preparation of local plans, providing technical advices, responding to consultations and attending local plan examinations as necessary; advises on the impact of new development proposals for example associated with major applications; commissions transport models/ studies in support of the above
- Transport Development Management: provides detailed technical highway advice to local planning authorities in DCC Dorset area on local plans and planning applications.
- Economy and Enterprise team: promoting initiatives such as Dorset Innovation Park (enterprise zone); Western Growth Corridor; promotion of skills and economic growth agendas; rural economy; etc.
- Superfast Broadband: working with infrastructure providers to increase broadband access across Dorset.

Specialist support services

Consultancy support

East Sussex

Local plan support

- IDP preparation and in relation to site allocations;
- Preparing responses to statutory consultations on LPs.

Specialist support services

- Services provided on a range of specialisms to (some) districts (and some authorities outside East Sussex):
 - Archaeology
 - Ecology
 - Landscape architecture
 - Noise
 - Data

Providing specialist advice to planning authorities on planning applications is either covered through a pre-set fee agreed through a Service Level Agreement, or through a “pay as you go” fee.

Consultancy support

Consultancy service is offered but is limited and depends on the resource available (e.g. Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, Landscape Capacity Study)

Essex

Local plan support

- Recently strengthened strategic planning team to focus on West Essex and South Essex to engage/lead on the Duty to Cooperate, and lead on forming the Council’s corporate response to Local Plan, DPD and Master Plan consultations, including the planning policies shaping the strategic growth and proposed Garden Communities etc.
- As part of the principal planning officer’s role they also seek to align other ECC leads to effectively engage at the appropriate time i.e. public health, education and early years, skills, SuDS, highways and transportation including modelling. And undertake a similar “single point of contact” role in securing full engagement with IDP work.

Specialist support services

- The Council does provide the full range of support in terms of:
- Transport planning/modelling
 - Pupil place planning
 - Demographics
 - Minerals
 - Waste
 - Flood risk
 - Libraries
 - Youth
 - Public and Health and wellbeing
 - Skills/Apprenticeships 16-19yrs

Consultancy support

The Council has developed a consultancy Place Services which provides specialist support on a commercial basis to 14 LPAs through service level agreement on ‘pick and mix’ basis. Consultancy offer is available through Place Services providing specialist services for:

- Archaeology;
- Urban Design;
- Ecology
- Landscape;
- Conservation;
- Listed Buildings;
- Town Planning – various including sustainability appraisal, planning policy; producing Local Plans, sustainable Urban Drainage – advice on planning applications.

Clients are all Essex LPAs ‘as well as providing support across the East of England

Hampshire

Local plan support

- Coordinate County Council responses to Local Plan consultations and act as a central point of contact for the District/Borough Councils.
- Colleagues in Research & Intelligence team provide data
- Strategic Transport also provide support but not part of strategic planning support

Specialist support services

County Council provides both R&I and certain environmental services (Ecology, Archaeology and Landscape) to some districts under service level agreements (charged service)

Consultancy support

Services offered through SLA charged for, along with specialist EIA resource which the County is hoping to expand. Some Districts use these consultancy services widely, others not at all.

Hertfordshire

Local plan support

- Strategic Planners currently act as co-ordinators for service departments in terms of providing input to Local Plans (fulfilling the Duty to Cooperate)
- There is a protocol developed by Highways Department in relation to transport modelling at various stages of local plan preparation, which sets out the respective responsibilities and expectations.
- The County may assist with information for individual IDPs but do not prepare them on behalf of LPAs.
- Strategic planners play a major role is leading on strategic studies at a county wide level, which then provide the context and evidence base for LPs e.g. Water Study, Strategic Green Infrastructure

Specialist support services

Specialist advice (free of charge) on Archaeology and ecology

Consultancy support

The County provides development information and monitoring service for the whole county where the District councils meet approximately 50% of the total operating costs.

Kent

Local plan support

The Strategic Planning and Infrastructure team plays a significant role working with LPAs throughout LP preparation. This includes:

- Co-ordinating and preparing responses to Local Plans (and associated evidence base documents);
- Liaising with departments across the Authority (e.g. Education and Highways);
- Coordination and hosting the bi monthly meeting of the Kent Planning Policy Forum providing useful mechanism underpinning cooperation on strategic matters and assisting in meeting with the requirements of the Duty to Cooperate.

Specialist support services

- Specialist advice on ecology & heritage conservation operating on a 'paid for' basis, under service level agreements.
- Demographic intelligence is regularly published on the 'Facts and Figures' pages of the County website and is used by LPAs in the preparation of Local Plan evidence bases. Due to resource constraints, demographic intelligence is no longer provided directly to LPAs but forecasts etc. are internally commissioned e.g. to identify service demands arising from development proposals.
- Transport assessment of Local Plans, including commissioning transport modelling and preparation of transport strategies.
- Mineral and waste safeguarding advice to local planning authorities as part of plan making and development management, supporting the delivery of sustainable development and assisting in meeting the requirements of the Duty to Cooperate.

Consultancy support

Lancashire

Local plan support

- Co-ordinating and preparing responses to Local Plans (and associated evidence base documents);
- Liaising with departments across the Authority (e.g. Education and Highways)

Specialist support services

Specialist advice on ecology operating on a 'paid for' basis, on a very occasional basis.

Consultancy support

Leicestershire

Local plan support

- Strategic Planning Manager located within Economic Growth Team:
- Liaises with key internal services (Highways, education, strategic assets etc) and co-ordinates and prepares responses to Local Plans (and associated evidence base documents);
- Works with the Joint Strategic Planning Manager for L&L to progress the Strategic Growth Plan for L&L;
- Facilitates Neighbourhood Planning Network event in L&L (held twice a year).

Small Strategy and Policy team in Transport and Environment department provides strategic transport advice and supports Local Plan examinations. Also undertakes bid writing to secure funding for transport infrastructure e.g. HIF EOIs.

Specialist support services

- LCC provides specialist planning advice to most of its districts on archaeology, ecology and historic built environment under service level agreements.
- Business Intelligence provides specialist research and advice on a wide range of topics (pupil places, rural, health and wellbeing etc). A fee is charged for service users.

Consultancy support

Consultancy work is provided on highway design and transport modelling when specifically commissioned.

Lincolnshire

Local plan support

Strategic planners provide the following:

- Co-ordinate response to central government policy consultations, statutory consultations and local plan documents
- Engage with strategic services such as education, public health, highways, water management and social care to provide integrated corporate responses to planning policy documents and site allocations
- Commission IDPs and viability studies (whole plan, CIL. Sc 106) to support evidence base in Local Plan preparation
- Commission traffic modelling (via Highways) to assess impact of planned growth on road network Comment on Neighbourhood Plans

Specialist support services

- County Council provides Built and Natural Heritage services to some of the districts under service level agreements.
- Current goal is to move towards a self-financing model.
- County Council's Research Observatory provides updated socio-economic and environmental information for use by the public and LPAs.

Consultancy support

Recently provided services on infrastructure and viability to LPA to cover long term staff absence. Future expansion unclear but is likely to be demand-led.

Norfolk

Local plan support

- Coordinate quarterly meetings between the LPAs and our service departments.
- Oversee and coordinate corporate responses to LP consultations. Our strategic planners and transport planners are in a combined team and work together on infrastructure planning to support major development proposals.

Specialist support services

- Voluntarily support and interpret the East of England Forecasting Model for districts.
- Monitor employment land take up across the county.
 - Norfolk Insight provides demographic information

Consultancy support

Northamptonshire

Local plan support

- The County Council support to the LPAs is largely around transport/ infrastructure matters, including in relation to local plan development.
- Responses to LP consultations by the LPAs concentrates on impacts on council services (e.g. schools, roads), landholdings or on the minerals and waste local plan.

Specialist support services

The Council provides a planning archaeology service to all of the local planning authorities through annual subscription.

Consultancy support

- Consultancy offer on natural environment, ecology, SA/HRA and related services to the LPAs.
- Natural environment advice on planning applications submitted to the four North Northamptonshire planning authorities and Northampton Borough Council under a chargeable service level agreement.
- Specific tasks undertaken at authorities request for an additional charge.

North Yorkshire

Local plan support

- Coordinate single corporate responses to LP and other policy consultations.
- Advise Members and officers in relation to LP and related matters.
- Coordinate and manage engagement in DTC related activities.

Specialist support services

The Council provides a planning archaeology service to all of the local planning authorities through annual subscription.

Consultancy support

- Range of services and advice provided, some charged for, some not.
- Currently have formal service level agreements in place in relation to provision of archaeological advice to all Districts.
- Formal arrangements for Landscape Architecture services to one District
- Establishing an SLA for the provision of ecological advice with the same.

Nottinghamshire

Local plan support

- Respond to consultations with LPAs on behalf of NCC
- Lead on co-ordinating between NCC services and LPAs on infrastructure planning.

Specialist support services

Specialist service covering:

- Archaeology
- Nature Conservation
- Landscape

Consultancy support

Oxfordshire

Local plan support

- Lead authority for Oxfordshire Infrastructure Strategy (OxIS), includes a ranking mechanism to support prioritisation of Investment/funding (informed by IDPs)
- Support evidence base in Local Plan preparation (produce Highways evidence base, modelling)
- Guidance on Neighbourhood Plans and comment where appropriate
- Co-ordinate response to central government policy consultations, statutory consultations and local plan documents
- Engage with OCC strategic services such as education, public health, highways, and social care etc. to provide integrated corporate responses to planning policy documents and site allocations
- Commission traffic modelling (via Highways) to assess impact of planned growth on road network
- Provide 'Single Response' to planning applications reflecting all key OCC services

Specialist support services

- Speciality advice provided either through Service Level Agreement or pay as you go:
- Ecology
 - Archaeology
 - Thames Valley Environmental Records
 - Historic Landscape

Consultancy support

Somerset

Local plan support

Strategic planners assist in:

- Preparing responses to statutory consultations on LPs DPDs
- Preparing responses to Joint Spatial
- Providing technical input into district IDP preparation
- Support for The Hinkley Point C: Seizing the opportunities programme of investments

Specialist support services

- Specialist heritage advice is available via the South West Heritage Trust (There is a charge for some services)
- Ecological and acoustic advice is available to our districts via service level agreements (There is a charge for some services).
- Somerset Environment Records Centre (SERC) Data management on wildlife and the surrounding environment. (There are service level agreements or data sharing agreements with SERC. There is often a charge for this service).
- Demographic data and information, intelligence available via Somerset Intelligence
- As Highway authority, SCC respond to all development proposals, ranging from a single property to major development proposals and planning plan documents.
- The Somerset Economic Assessment (SEA) an economic assessment of the county.

Consultancy support

Staffordshire

Local plan support

Adopts a 'One Council' approach to planning with strategic planners leading on coordinating engagement between county council services and LPAs on infrastructure to support development. This includes:

- transport modelling/assessment,
- school place planning
- local flood mitigation schemes.

Strategic Planners lead on County involvement in IDP preparation and in relation to site allocations. Statutory consultations on local plan documents are co-ordinated and led by strategic planners.

Specialist support services

- Range of specialism offered, some voluntary and some charged.
- Transport input is a mixture of free and paid for advice.
- Education infrastructure capacity support is currently free.
- Services are provided to LPAs by our Environmental experts (Ecology, Landscape and Historic Environment)

Consultancy support

County council has provided:

- transport modelling and mitigation packages;
- Strategic Flood Risk Assessment advice;
- Ecological/landscape Studies;
- heritage studies.

There is a reasonable prospect that the range of services offered may expand in the future.

Suffolk CC

Local plan support

Provide close engagement with districts on development of local plans, in particular on impact on services and transport modelling, leading to statutory consultation stage.

Specialist support services

Informal (voluntary) demographic coordination, archaeology and ecology services.

Consultancy support

Surrey CC

Local plan support

- Coordinate SCC responses to LPs (infrastructure)
- LP consultation responses
- Supports Surrey Future www.surreycc.gov.uk/environment-housing-and-planning/development-in-surrey/surrey-future) on behalf of districts

Specialist support services

- Lead on Surrey www.surreycc.gov.uk/your-council/how-the-council-works/council-policies-and-strategies/surrey-i-surreys-local-information-system
- Transport Studies Team provides Strategic Transport Assessments to support local plans free of charge although LPAs who have time pressures or require details of mitigation measures to be developed may choose to pay consultants to supplement SCC support.
- Share some heritage capacity with districts

Consultancy support

Principal Environment Assessment Officer will undertake work for the LPAs on a consultancy basis.

Warwickshire

Local plan support

Strategic Planners play a role in co-ordinating the County Councils views on all matters – transport, public health, flood risk, housing mix and education requirements

Specialist support services

County Council has SLA agreements on providing heritage advice to the District and Borough Council

Consultancy support

West Sussex

Local plan support

Policy planners:

- co-ordinate the County Council's response to local plan consultations,
- support the services with infrastructure planning
- lead on inputs to the preparation of CIL and IDPs.

The transport planners provide expert advice re transport impacts and guidance re modelling, but do not prepare transport assessments for local plans and proposed site allocations.

Specialist support services

- Population projections and monitoring of residential and commercial development. All provided voluntary and, currently, free of charge.
- Provision of at-cost environment and heritage services (archaeology, ecology and landscape) were withdrawn at end March 2015.

Consultancy support

Worcestershire

Local plan support

- Transport: modelling and infrastructure assessment and delivery, developer contributions. Partnership on policy development
- Education; pupil place planning, infrastructure assessment for school expansions and new schools, developer contributions. Partnership on policy development.
- Green infrastructure; planning for GI, partnership on policy development, evidence base and green infrastructure development briefs.
- Wider infrastructure planning including engagement with utilities, and other public sectors functions.

Specialist support services

- Historic environment and archaeology support is provided on a paid for basis to some of the districts, through a service level agreement.

Consultancy support

General reluctance to pay for services, although we do also offer ecological assessment and survey service as a consultancy.