

Test Valley Borough Council Next Local Plan - Refined Issues and Options Consultation

COMMENTS FORM

Test Valley Borough Council has published for public participation its Refined Issues and Options document. This is the second stage of preparing the next Local Plan, which follows the Issues and Options consultation in 2018.

You can respond to our consultation by filling out the form below. Further information can be found on our website at: www.testvalley.gov.uk/nextlocalplan

The consultation period runs from Friday 3 July 2020 to 4.30pm on 28 August 2020. Please respond before the close of the consultation period.

Once the form has been completed, please send to

If you are unable to send via email, please send a postal copy to our address below.

Contacting us

We are happy to help. If you have any queries, please contact us at:
Planning Policy and Economic Development Service
Test Valley Borough Council
Beech Hurst
Weyhill Road
Andover
SP10 3AJ

Tel: 01264 368000

Website: www.testvalley.gov.uk/nextlocalplan

Part A: Your Details

Please fill in all boxes marked with an *

Title*		First Name*	
Surname*			
Organisation* (If responding on behalf of an organisation)			

If you wish your comments to be acknowledged and to be kept informed of progress, please provide your email address below:

Email Address*	
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If you don't have an email address and wish your comments to be acknowledged and to be kept informed of progress, please provide your postal address.

Address*			
	Postcode		

If you are an agent please give the name/company/organisation you are representing:

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Personal Details and General Data Protection Regulation

Please note that representations cannot be treated as confidential. If you are responding as an individual, rather than as an organisation, we will not publish your contact details (email/postal address and telephone number) or signatures online, however the original representations will be available for public viewing at our offices by prior appointment. All representations and related documents will be held by the Council for a period of 6months after the next Local Plan is adopted.

The Council respects your privacy and is committed to protecting your personal data. Further details on the General Data Protection Regulation and Privacy Notices are available on our website

<http://www.testvalley.gov.uk/aboutyourcouncil/accesstoinformation/gdpr>

Part B: Your Comments

Please use the boxes below to state your comments and questions. Please make it clear which paragraph or question your comments relate to where possible.

Paragraph / Question Ref	Comments
Q1	<p>Q1 The current split of 2 HMA's works well and in our view should not be changed. The current arrangement of splitting out the rural area in the north also makes good sense and should not be changed. The current rural area of the North could be designated as a 3rd HMA as it is still expected to meet a defined housing number but does not have a requirement for designated sites for development but relies rather on windfall, community lead development and other specific types of appropriate rural development etc to deliver the expected housing numbers.</p> <p>Neighbourhood Plans are increasing in the rural areas and are coming up with numbers and sites based on local need which it is expected will get incorporated into the emerging local plan. We believe this is still the best way but should it be deemed absolutely necessary to apportion allocations top down for the rural area then there should be some fair apportionment of required numbers between the rural settlements which takes proper account of constraints to development such as closeness to National Parks and SSSI's etc.</p> <p>Note: The current settlement hierarchy mechanism is badly in need of updating due to reduction of the services in many rural areas. Some categories are almost irrelevant such as bus services which now have next to no buses</p>
Q2	<p>Q2 If the intent of this question is to seek opinion on whether TVBC should include housing allocations to help meet the allocations of these town areas then in our view this is not appropriate as what we will create is simply more Urban Sprawl.</p>
Q3	<p>Q3 No – This is entirely impractical – Neighbourhood Plans are created by Parish so how would a Parish Neighbourhood Plan be able handle some obscure arrangement of different areas. They have to be tied into a Parish Council area for sensible control.</p>
Q4	<p>Q4 No – the larger rural villages are struggling to retain their rural status already because of development pressure. Assuming the idea is to have a tier of larger villages with more facilities then this would increase the pressure to build more</p>

	homes. It should be recognised that the majority of people who live in rural villages choose to do that because they are rural and wish them to stay that way.
Q5	Q5 As stated in the answer to Q4 above the idea of splitting out larger rural parishes into a separate tier will, by definition, turn them from rural into urban parishes over time which, certainly from the views of over 90% of respondents to our Neighbourhood Plan survey is totally unacceptable
Q6	Q6 You can only consider groups of rural settlements together if there is agreement that any Neighbourhood Plans are done on the same basis. This may work for some very small parishes but certainly would not work for others.
Q7	Q7 The words “close to” in this question are ambiguous. Is this within walking distance and reachable by footpaths or is it a car journey away? If a car journey then consideration needs to be given to parking etc. in the larger settlement. As a general rule it is difficult to see how this could be applied sensibly
Q8	Q8 Yes – but only where a Neighbourhood plan has allocated sites for development
Q9	Q9 Including Public open spaces in the settlement areas might be a good idea but only if it safeguards it as an open space
Q10	Q10 There needs to be some flexibility around this. It should be possible to include boundaries that are not necessarily marked as curtilages. For example, in some areas where gardens are extensive it should be possible to exclude remote parts of gardens from the settlement area to prevent inappropriate infilling.

Please use next page if necessary

Q10	<p>In rural areas, it should be made possible to allocate a small section of a larger field as part of the settlement area without creating the assumption that in time the whole field will become an option for further development. The current situation puts constraints on choosing and putting forward small sites in rural areas.</p> <p>We need to find a way to define a boundary that is not already marked by physical borders.</p>
Q12	<p>Q12 – Where this is driven by a Neighbourhood Plan this would make good sense as the community have the opportunity to help decide where new development should take place. However, this should only be done through a NHP to ensure inappropriate sites are not allocated for housing.</p>

What happens next?

All valid responses will be acknowledged and you will be given a reference number. Please quote this number when contacting the Council about the next Local Plan. If you have an agent acting on your behalf, correspondence will be sent to your agent.

All response received will be taken into account as part of the preparation of the next Local Plan.

