

OUR FUTURE – HOW DO WE PLAN FOR IT?

*Issues and Options Consultation
for the next Local Plan*



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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Issues and Options Consultation for the next Local Plan

OVERVIEW

We have started preparing the next Local Plan for the Borough for the period to 2036 and welcome your participation in its preparation. The new plan will set out the level of new homes, jobs and infrastructure needed to support our communities, and also include planning policies to use as the starting point for determining planning applications. In doing so, we need to follow national planning guidance, evidence, and take account of what the Council and its communities see as the key planning issues.

We've already started talking to our communities about what issues they think are important, including those identified through the Romsey Future and Andover Vision community planning exercises. We will continue to work with our parishes and take account of emerging Neighbourhood Plans.

This consultation, as this first stage in the preparation process, aims to get your views on the issues we will face and how best to deal with them. This includes how much development we should plan for and where it should go, but not about identifying possible sites at this stage. The options we've identified may not though be the only ones, and you can also suggest other alternatives.

We have identified the potential key issues and options under four topic based headings:

LIVING IN TEST VALLEY

- The Local Plan needs to provide for the right number of homes in the right location. If we don't meet housing need, arising from both the existing local population and from those moving into the area, then lack of supply will make it more difficult for people to enter the housing market.
- How housing development is spread throughout Test Valley will also have a major effect on the future of our communities.
- We also need to consider the mix of housing to best meet the needs of different types of households, including affordable housing, housing for specific groups and for rural settlements.

WORKING IN TEST VALLEY

- We need to consider the future needs of business in order to ensure a vibrant local economy and local job opportunities and prosperity for our communities.
- The local plan needs to be flexible to allow for economic changes, including different working patterns and growth in home working.
- Our town centres also need to adapt to the challenges of a changing retail environment particularly from the impact of internet shopping, and consider how best they should position themselves to attract visitors. We are progressing with masterplanning for the Andover Cultural Quarter and South of Romsey town centre proposals.

ENJOYING TEST VALLEY

- The Borough includes a number of important landscape, nature conservation and heritage designations, some of which are of national and international importance.
- Achieving high quality of development through good design, layout and provision of open space is important in creating new neighbourhoods and integrating new development into existing established communities.
- Ensuring high standards of air quality and water quality is of significance to both the environment and human health. The environmental impact of new development on the water environment can be reduced through its more efficient use. The impacts of energy use can also be mitigated through high efficiency standards and the use of renewable sources.

INFRASTRUCTURE IN TEST VALLEY

- Facilities and services are needed to support both our existing and future communities, including for: health, education, transport and utilities.
- Whilst much of the Borough is rural and many journeys are made by car, opportunities to walk, cycle and use public transport can be maximised.
- The type and scale of infrastructure will depend upon the scale and pattern of development. We wish to ensure that we have the necessary infrastructure in place to meet needs and to achieve this we will work with other organisations who have responsibility over delivery.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Your comments are invited during a ten week consultation period, which runs from **Friday 6 July 2018 – 4.30pm Friday 14 September 2018**. Comments can be either:

- Sent in writing to Planning Policy, Test Valley Borough Council, Beech Hurst, Weyhill Road, ANDOVER, Hampshire, SP10 3AJ; or
- Emailed to planningpolicy@testvalley.gov.uk

For further details see the full Issues and Options Consultation for the next Local Plan document, which includes a series of questions