

# 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](http://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](http://www.testvalley.gov.uk/nextlocalplan)

## Part A: Your Details

Please fill in all boxes marked with an \*

Title*		First Name*	
Surname*			
Organisation* <i>(If responding on behalf of an organisation)</i>			

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 6 months 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-Q3	<p>Housing Market Areas</p> <p>Is there a need to define one or more HMAs as part of the work on the new local plan ref paras 60+61 of the NPPF 2019? The components of the calculation of need are set out using the Government's Standard Method. The White Paper Planning for the Future proposes a binding housing figure set by the Government which if taken forward would also question the need for HMAs to be defined.</p> <p>The 2020 ONS household projections when applied to the Standard Method suggest that the new local plan will need to make provision for a significant number of additional homes. Once a Borough figure of need is established the key policy issue is where and how to meet that need.</p> <p>Should the Council decide to define housing areas to inform the distribution of new development then Ampfield is clearly part of one which would cover Romsey/southern Test Valley given its proximity to Romsey, Valley Park/Chandlers Ford.</p>
Para 5.16-5.19	<p>Housing distribution</p> <p>The purpose of the planning system is to deliver sustainable development. In that context development should be located within or close to existing settlements where facilities and services are available.</p> <p>Previous local plans have relied to a great extent on a small number of large sites which has led to issues regarding the timing and rate of completions. The NPPF 2019 para 68 advises that development plans should promote a range of sites including a proportion of small sites. There is considerable scope to deliver a significant number of homes on smaller sites, as evidenced by the 2019 SHELAA and new local plan should include a range of sites as a key part of its overall housing strategy</p> <p>Given the pattern of development in southern Test Valley where the distances between settlements is relatively short, making provision for housing in the smaller settlements would not be inconsistent with the delivery of sustainable development.</p> <p>To support the promotion of vibrant communities whose housing needs can met locally will require a fresh approach. In respect of the planning policy framework, including a specific housing requirement for the rural villages would be a positive step forward.</p>
Para 5.20	<p>Neighbourhood Planning</p> <p>The allocation of a housing figure to be provided by each defined settlement would provide certainty regarding the preparation of neighbourhood plans. However, the settlements which are not within a designated neighbourhood area should be included within such an approach.</p>
Q4-Q7	<p>Settlement Hierarchy</p> <p>If the preferred approach of the new local plan is to allocate a housing figure to each defined settlement it is assumed that it would be informed by a number of factors such as the availability of facilities and the character and setting of the settlement. In taking such an approach a settlement hierarchy based on the availability of facilities may not be necessary.</p>

<p>Q11-Q12</p>	<p>The increasing range of goods and services which can be ordered on-line and delivered to the home would suggest that the availability or otherwise within a settlement of services and facilities may not be so critical in determining where development should take place. A more informative criteria may be the distance travelled by residents to access services and facilities which would recognise that those settlements which are located close to larger well-established areas are locations where sustainable development can be achieved. Ampfield is a good example of such a settlement.</p> <p>Settlement Boundaries</p> <p>In defining the boundaries of settlements regard should be had for the advice in the NPPF 2019 para 78. Through-out the Borough there are clusters of development close to villages with defined boundaries which could quite properly be considered as part of that village and where a policy boundary would be appropriate. Ampfield is a good example where a number of clusters of development together can be considered as forming part of the settlement.</p> <p>The approach to defining settlement policy boundaries will be dependent upon the approach the local plan takes in respect of how the overall development requirements of the Borough are to be met. If the approach is to identify a specific number to a settlement and community-led planning is supported by the Council, as suggested in the introduction section, then the community through a neighbourhood plan should have the scope to use a range of planning tools such as allocating land and defining the boundaries of settlements. The status of a settlement in any hierarchy in that context will not be particularly relevant.</p>
<p>Q13-Q15</p>	<p>Self-Build and Custom-Build Homes</p> <p>The NPPF 2019 para 61 advises that the needs of a range of different groups should be accommodated in the planning policies of an area. The Council has a duty to meet the need for self-build and custom-build homes as reflected in the register it maintains so a policy on the subject is justified. Any policy which seeks to deliver a percentage of service plots will need to include provision for those plots to be released for other forms of housing in the event that there is no need to be met.</p>
<p>Para 7.12 - 7.15</p>	<p>Local Gaps</p> <p>If the local plan includes a policy which seeks to maintain the existing settlement pattern it would need to be justified and the extent of the area where the policy would be applied should be limited to that which is necessary to meet the objectives of the policy. The starting point should be a new appraisal of potential areas where separation may be an issue rather than to roll forward the boundaries of existing designated local gaps.</p>