



**HAMPSHIRE**  
CONSTABULARY

**Gosport NPT Neighbourhood Police Office**  
Town Hall  
High Street  
Gosport  
Hampshire  
PO12 1EB

Test Valley Borough Council  
Beech Hurst  
Weyhill Road  
Andover  
Hampshire  
SP10 3AJ

**Our ref:** Test Valley – Local Plan  
**Your ref:**

20<sup>th</sup> July 2020

### **COMMENTS ON THE REFINED ISSUES AND OPTIONS CONSULTATION FOR TNE NEXT LOCAL PLAN**

Thank you for your email of the 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2020 and the opportunity to respond to the consultation. Having considered the document I have the following comments to make with reference to prevention of crime and disorder<sup>1</sup>.

Crime and disorder are things that people don't like to consider or admit occur where they live. Unfortunately, crime and disorder occurs throughout Test Valley, left unchecked crime and disorder ruins lives and split communities. Every opportunity must be taken to reduce the opportunities for crime and disorder, the planning process is one of those opportunities.

Reading the "Next Local Plan Revised Issues and Options Consultation" I could find only one reference to crime<sup>2</sup> hidden in amongst the word cloud within paragraph 2.19, simply, "Low Crime".

The design and layout of a development influences the opportunities for crime and disorder. The presence of good natural surveillance of the public realm, defensible space (especially about dwellings), good lighting and appropriate connectivity and permeability will reduce the opportunities for crime and disorder.

<sup>1</sup> In the context of this letter "disorder" includes Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

<sup>2</sup> Within the key issues raised, two contain the word "safe": "To live in a safe area" and "Clean and safe cycle paths"



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Government policy is that the design and layout of a development must be such that it reduces the opportunities for crime and disorder (anti-social behaviour). To that end various pieces of legislation and guidance demonstrate the Government's commitment to reducing crime and disorder (by use of the planning system) some of which are referenced below:

- (i) Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (as amended) requires all local, joint and combined authorities (as well as National Parks, the Broads Authority and the Greater London Authority) to exercise their functions with due regard to their likely effect on crime and disorder, and to do all they reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder<sup>3</sup>. Crime for these purposes includes terrorism.
- (ii) The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF):  
Paragraph 127. Planning policies and decisions should ensure that developments:
  - f) create places that are safe, inclusive and accessible and which promote health and well-being, with a high standard of amenity for existing and future users<sup>46</sup>; and where crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine the quality of life or community cohesion and resilience.
- (iii) Planning Practice Guidance (PPG); Healthy and Safe Communities; Supporting Safe Communities:
  - a. What is the role of planning in preventing crime and malicious threats?
    - i) Planning provides an important opportunity to consider the security of the built environment, those that live and work in it and the services it provides.
  - b. How can planning help achieve resilient places?
    - i) Good design means a wide range of crimes from theft to terrorism are less likely to happen by making committing those crimes more difficult. It helps create safer places, infrastructure and buildings that are less vulnerable to terrorist attack and, should an attack take place, where people are better protected from its impacts. It can also reduce the cost and impact of security measures by avoiding retrospective works and enable mitigating measures to be blended into the environment.

It is clear that central Government's intension is that the design of a development must contribute to reducing the opportunities for crime and disorder. The proposed local plan must reflect national planning policies as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework and associated Planning Practice Guidance, and in this context should contain the Council's policy on reducing crime and disorder.

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<sup>3</sup> Section 17 states "crime and disorder in its area (including anti-social behaviour and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment); and"





The vision contained within the Local Plan is: ***“to create a Test Valley community where everyone has the opportunity to fulfil their potential and enjoy a good quality of life”.***

A low level of crime and disorder is essential if this vision is to become a reality.

To that end, the reduction of crime and disorder should be one of the objectives of the new Local Plan. We would ask that a new objective heading of “Reducing Crime and Disorder” is added, with paragraphs worded as below (or worded so as to convey the same meaning):

“The reduction of crime and disorder within the Borough is one of the Council’s key responsibilities. The Council recognises the great benefits that low levels of crime and disorder bring to individuals and a community. The Council expects that all development will play its part in reducing the levels of crime and disorder. To that end all development must incorporate measures that will reduce the opportunities for crime and disorder.

The Local Planning Authority will be supportive of proposals which are assessed under the Secured By Design (SBD) Award Scheme. Those proposals which have, or are demonstrably committed to achieving SBD accreditation will be looked upon favourably.”

“Low Crime” does not happen by chance, the right policies and strategies must be put in place to provide the conditions for the built environment to play its part in reducing crime.

If I can be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

#### **DISCLAIMER**

***This survey is based on information supplied by yourself and the current crime trends. I can only give a view on what measures might reduce the risk of crime and there can be no guarantee that the measures will prevent crime. The advice is given free with no intention of creating a contract. Neither the Home Office or Hampshire Constabulary take any other legal responsibility for the advice given.***



