

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*Mrs		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
	Please see separately supplied document which addresses Romsey Town Centre and Retailing

Please use next page if necessary

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.



BJC PLANNING

**COMMENTS OF THE REFINED ISSUES AND OPTIONS CONSULTATION
ON THE TEST VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL
EMERGING LOCAL PLAN**

Comments made on behalf of

**Comments are made specifically regarding
Romsey Town Centre and Retailing**

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The following comments are made on Section 6 Working in Test Valley and specifically on 'Town Centres and Retailing'. They are made with Romsey Town in mind.
- 1.2 With regard to the section on town centres the analysis accurately acknowledges the issues and challenges currently facing high streets and town centres across the country, including Romsey. The change to online shopping has undermined traditional retailing patterns.

2.0 Current Policies

- 2.1 Romsey Town has witnessed many changes in recent years as premises have closed and there has been a gradual reduction of A1 uses. The current local plan policies focus on the provision of a percentage of A1 uses and they need to be reviewed considering high street trends. Policy LE12 Ground Floor Uses in Romsey is too prescriptive and as such limiting to new opportunities.

3.0 Opportunity for Change

- 3.1 A change away from a focus on A1 uses to allow for more entertainment and leisure uses would be welcomed. Romsey Town needs to become a destination, a town which it is desirable to visit during the day and in the evening. The development of an evening economy will ensure that Romsey does not close down at 5.30pm, a feature so often seen in many English towns.
- 3.2 If new businesses can be established which support an evening economy then these will benefit from mutual support. An attractive destination for an early evening drink may encourage a customer to stay in town for dinner at a nearby restaurant.

4.0 Residential development

- 4.1 The provision of more residential development within town centres is also welcomed as another positive move. This can take many forms. The opportunities for new build are likely to be limited by lack of available land but there may be possibilities of conversion. Changes of use of redundant commercial space could provide for new dwellings. Those commercial premises towards the edges of the town centre which may be marginal in terms of retailing might well be better converted to residential use.
- 4.2 The reduction of secondary shopping areas which struggle to maintain A1 uses can provide a resource for new homes. This would enable town

centre uses to be concentrated together rather than scattered more widely around the town.

- 4.3 An increase in the number of people living within convenient walking distance of the town centre has many benefits. Shops and services can be accessed without the need for a car or for public transport. The local population will support local shops and services helping to assure their viability in the long term. The presence of local people in a town acts as a deterrent to any anti-social behaviour.
- 4.4 Development within towns centres is sustainable. It reduces commuting and encourages walking and cycling.
- 4.5 This representation supports a review and revision of the town centre policies.

