

# 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* (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	The present division into two HMAs reflects market reality and should not be changed.
Q2	See Q1
Q3	The Parish boundaries should be used.
Q 4	Yes. The tiers need to recognise the wide diversity in population, facilities and, services of settlements.
Q 5	Settlements should be tiered by population and services distinguishing between settlements where modest organic development is desirable to maintain village viability and identity and those where existing facilities could support greater growth that could be accommodated without serious damage to identity.
Q 6	Not necessarily. Some neighbouring villages have very individual characters.
Q7	Rural settlements are often very strong self-supporting communities Policy should be to support the continued viability of such settlements whilst protecting their individual identity including, where appropriate, by maintaining Local Gaps.
Q8	The location of new allocations should be selected by option studies and identified in the Local Plan and in the case of rural settlements, community led.
Q9	All land uses that are integral to the settlement, such as local public open space, village greens etc. should be included in the settlement boundaries and their use protected by plan policies.
Q10	Settlement boundaries should be defined principally by physical features.
Q11	Neither. The present definitions are generally appropriate.
Q12	No. see Q8



<b>Q13</b>	No. Policies for controlling mix of housing types should be limited to those necessary to achieve affordability. Self-build would not play a significant role in increasing deliveries and availability can be left to market forces.
<b>Q14</b>	No. see Q13
<b>Q15</b>	Not as a policy requirement.
<b>Q16</b>	No more than for development generally
<b>Q17</b>	Tourism and other policies should recognise the attraction of the rural areas of Test Valley to tourists and the need to prevent their deterioration by insensitive development.
<b>Para 7.13</b>	<p>It is stated that national guidance does not contain a specific reference to local gaps referring presumably to the National Planning Policy Framework ("NPPF").</p> <p>NPPF states that Local Plans should 'identify land where development would be inappropriate, for instance because of its environmental or historical significance' (paragraph 157, bullet point 7).</p> <p>The NPPF "sets out the Government's requirements for the planning system only to the extent that it is relevant, proportionate and necessary to do so. It provides a framework within which local people and their accountable councils can produce their own distinctive local and neighbourhood plans, which reflect the needs and priorities of their communities."</p> <p>It seems clear that NPPF is not intended to be an exclusive list of permitted policies. For example, NPPF says "Planning policies should support economic growth in rural areas in order to create jobs and prosperity -----". It does not specifically propose the provision of accommodation for rural workers as provided for by policy COM10.</p>
<b>Para 7.14</b>	<p>The present Local Plan policy allows development in Local Gaps only if "a) it would not diminish the physical extent and/or visual separation; and b) it would not individually or cumulatively with other existing or proposed development compromise the integrity of the gap." This is a protection not afforded by settlement hierarchy or landscape protection, or other environmental policies. It is vital for the continued protection of the identity of settlements such as Abbots Ann that it continues.</p> <p>It is particularly significant that it allows the potentially cumulative effect of individual developments to be taken into account in assessing threat to the integrity of the gap.</p>

<p><b>Para. 5.16</b></p>	<p>The way in which the Abbots Ann Gap functions to give Abbots Ann its distinctive identity can be experienced by walking or driving from the Army Headquarters to the village along Red Post Lane. As soon as you leave Monxton Road there is an immediate transition to countryside – no “urban-rural transition zone” – so that arriving in Abbots Ann is to arrive at a rural village rather than a detached suburb.</p> <p>The sense of relationship to the surrounding landscape, which derives not only from views out of the village but the experience of travelling to and from it, contributes significantly to the character and identity of the village. It is not possible to put a value on the sense of identity and community found in a village like Abbots Ann but it is vulnerable to insensitive change.</p> <p>The strategy of a wider distribution of housing to a larger number of settlements would be mistaken. The existing policy of major development areas is surely more sustainable than a policy of dispersal.</p> <p>It would mark a departure from spatial planning policies that have been pursued by the Borough Council for many years and on which investments in infrastructure have been based. Andover in particular needs the impetus that continuation of that strategy would give to the further development of commercial, cultural, recreational facilities and services.</p> <p>Planning policy should <b>not</b> view villages primarily as a potential repository for meeting housing targets out of scale with the needs of the village.</p> <p>The future of rural villages needs to be considered from the point of view of the social and economic health of the villages. This means a careful consideration of the function of villages in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and the amount, type and location of development that is needed to maintain a viable community with its great strengths of social cohesion.</p>
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**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.