

Test Valley Borough Council Consultation for Local Plan 2040 Regulation 18 Stage 1

COMMENTS FORM

Test Valley Borough Council has published its Local Plan 2040 Regulation 18 Stage 1 document for public consultation. This consultation document sets out draft strategic planning priorities for Test Valley supported by a number of strategic policies.

The consultation period runs from Friday 11 February to noon on 8 April 2022. Please respond before the close of the consultation period so that your comments may be taken into account.

You can respond to our consultation by filling out the form below. This form has two parts:

Part A: Your Details

Part B: Your Comments (please fill in a separate sheet for each comment you wish to make)

Further information can be found on our website at:

www.testvalley.gov.uk/localplan2040

Once the form has been completed, please send to
[REDACTED] by **noon on 8 April 2022**.

Following receipt of your comments from, we will keep you informed of future consultation stages unless you advise us that you want to opt out of such communication.

If you are unable to send via email, please send a postal copy to our address below.

Contacting us

Planning Policy and Economic Development Service
Test Valley Borough Council
Beech Hurst
Weyhill Road
Andover
SP10 3AJ

Tel: [REDACTED]

Website: www.testvalley.gov.uk/nextlocalplan

Email: [REDACTED]

Part B: Your Comments

Please use the boxes below to state your comments. Insert any general comments you may have that do not relate to a specific paragraph number or policy in the general comments box. For specific comments, please make it clear which paragraph, policy or matter your comments relate to where possible.

If you are suggesting a change is needed to the draft Local Plan or supporting document, it would be helpful if you could include suggested revised wording.

If you are commenting on a document supporting the draft Local Plan (such as a topic paper, or the Sustainability Appraisal), please indicate so.

General

Paragraph Ref	Specific Comments
2.30, 3.27 & 3.36	It is considered that places of worship should not be included as one of the 6 key facilities. Attendance at places of worship is not what it once was and it is also not a barometer of how sustainable a settlement is.
3.11	The housing allocation of Whitenap should not be taken forward in the next Local Plan if no planning application has been forthcoming. The 1,300 homes should be reallocated throughout the Borough.
3.12	<p>The spatial strategy includes greater support for rural settlements. This is an important change of emphasis from the previous Local Plan and is welcomed. The restriction upon development in the rural settlements in recent years has led to the decline of local services and an ageing of the populations as there has been little opportunity for young families to take up residence.</p> <p>The wider distribution of development throughout the Borough compared to the previous Local Plan 2029 is supported.</p>
3.18	Site 164 - Land south of Lionwood, Braishfield Road, Braishfield, Romsey SO51 0PQ is one such site which extends to less than 1 hectare and so could be allocated for residential development in accordance with paragraph 3.18 of the Draft Local Plan 2040 and paragraph 69 a) of the NPPF (2021).
3.19 & Appendix 1	<p>The grouping of settlements in the Settlement Hierarchy (Appendix 1) is supported, but the Council could go further. The Council should also address how it treats rural settlements like Braishfield which are close to large settlements and can therefore easily access their facilities and services.</p> <p>Question 7 on the Refined Issues 7 Options Consultation sought views on how the Council should treatment rural settlements close to larger settlements. The Draft Local Plan 2040 does not make any attempt to address this issue.</p> <p>Braishfield is one rural settlement which benefits from several local services and facilities, accessible from within the village or from the outside by public transport. Its proximity to Romsey also helps make this a sustainable settlement for further housing.</p> <p>Braishfield is a village with its own identity and a number of services and facilities. The long-term failure to provide more housing in the rural villages such as Braishfield has created enclaves of great wealth, expensive housing and an ageing population. The less wealthy have to rely on affordable housing through any rural exception schemes that may come forward, such as the 9 affordable homes built by Hyde Housing on land off Braishfield Road, Braishfield. The services</p>

	<p>including shops, schools and community facilities suffer gradual decline due to the increasing elderly population.</p> <p>Housing allocations around the edges of Braishfield would enable the village to at least sustain the services and facilities which it still has and for new families with children to move into the village.</p> <p>Land south of Lionwood, Braishfield Road, Braishfield is one such site in the Council's SHELAA (Site 164) which should be allocated for residential development and included within an enlarged settlement boundary for the village. It currently adjoins the settlement boundary and is located centrally within the village.</p> <p>Site 164 could be developed for approximately 15 dwellings whilst retaining existing trees on site.</p>
3.31	<p>Chilworth's position in the Settlement Hierarchy has been artificially inflated due to its close proximity to the University of Southampton Science Park and neighbouring settlements of Eastleigh, Chandlers Ford and Southampton. Chilworth has been included in tier 2 and yet Braishfield, which has a similar relationship to Romsey, is included in tier 4. Braishfield has more key and other facilities than Chilworth and as a result should also be promoted through the Settlement Hierarchy to a higher tier.</p>
3.32	<p>The final sentence of this paragraph is misleading as Braishfield has 6 key facilities and public transport and yet is included in tier 4.</p>
4.20	<p>This paragraph omits to mention the importance of increasing the share of electric vehicles on the road, alongside the other options outlined.</p>
5.17	<p>There is support for the revised HMAs boundary as shown in Figure 5.1.</p>
5.19, Table 5.2 & Strategic Policy 6	<p>The 43% split of housing (4,653 dwellings) within the South Test Valley HMA is welcomed and is an increase on the 33% split in the adopted Local Plan.</p>
5.31	<p>It is considered that the Council should apply the definition of major development (included in the Glossary to the Draft Local Plan 2040) as a suitable minimum threshold for the provision of affordable housing in the undesignated rural area. The Council should move away from the lower site area thresholds currently employed in the adopted Local Plan. Paragraph 65 of the NPFF (2021) states that '<i>Provision of affordable housing should not be sought for residential developments that are not major developments, other than in designated rural areas (where policies may set out a lower threshold of 5 units or fewer).</i>'</p>

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Please use next page if necessary

What happens next?

All valid responses received within the consultation period will be acknowledged and you will be given a reference number. Please quote this number when contacting the Council about the Local Plan 2040. If you have an agent acting on your behalf, correspondence will be sent to your agent.

All responses received will be taken into account as part of the preparation of the Local Plan 2040.