

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

Email: [REDACTED]

## Part A: Your Details

Please fill in all boxes marked with an \*

Title* Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Dr/Other (please state)	Mr	First Name*	Bryan
Surname*	Jezeph		
Organisation* (If responding on behalf of an organisation)	BJC Planning		

Please provide your email address below:

Email Address*	████████████████████
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Alternatively, if you don't have an email address please provide your postal address.

Address*			
	Postcode		

If you are an agent or responding on behalf of another party, please give the name/company/organisation you are representing:

The Whittick Family, ██████████
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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. 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

The Neighbourhood Plan for Kings Somborne has taken an eternity to reach fruition. It is an indictment of this form of planning.

There is evidence from the Parish Council's Housing Need and Sites Report that there is an identified local need to allocate sites for 40 homes.

Sites that have met the planning requirements and that have the support of the local community are still not being released. The site at Spencers Farm could provide 8 self build or custom build housing and 4 much needed affordable dwellings.

#### **Attention is drawn to the following points:**

#### **"Meeting Housing Demand": Report published by The House of Lords Built Environment Committee**

The House of Lords Built Environment Committee has published "*Meeting Housing Demand*", a new report with a set of recommendations for government to support new housing delivery to combat the "expensive, unsuitable and poor quality" homes that most people live in.

As well as calling for an increase in money spent on social housing, the report singles out the crucial role that Small to Medium-Sized (SME) housebuilders have in building more and better homes. It also cites their vital role in diversifying the market. It states that:-

**"SMEs should be supported through reduced planning risk, making more small sites available, and increased access to finance," states the report, which also puts forward recommendations to create a fast-track planning process specifically for SMEs that would help reduce delays and planning risk."**

#### **Self Build and Custom Build Housing.**

The Local Plan should make specific reference to the importance of providing sites for self build and custom build housing. This form of housing can meet the need for homes that require minimal energy inputs and help to meet the zero carbon challenge and climate change issues. High levels of home insulation are especially beneficial for the older members of society, who are more susceptible to the cold.

Self build and custom build housing can provide the highest standards of construction and design thereby providing highest quality of development.

This form of housing can reach net zero standards. The housing can meet the requirements of fabric first and the need to provide natural ventilation. This form of housing will meet the needs of people for much longer than major developers house types.

### **Settlement Hierachy**

Kings Somborne is a relatively sustainable settlement. It has a primary school, shops, a church and a community centre and facilities.

The village should provide many more dwellings than currently proposed in the Neighbourhood Plan. Test Valley is required to provide for a very substantial housing requirement. As so much time has passed, the present Plan should be modified to move to the next stage and the Local Plan should increase the housing allocation.

### **Transport**

Kings Somborne is situated on the main road between Romsey, Stockbridge and Andover. There is every opportunity to improve bus services along this road to enhance the sustainability of the village.

Paragraph Ref	Specific Comments
<p><b>Para 3.12</b></p>	<p><b>Spatial Strategy</b>  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>In principle the Council's Sustainable Spatial Strategy is supported. However, when more specific polies emerge at Stage 2 further comments may be made.</p>
<p><b>Para 3.19</b></p>	<p><b>Settlement Hierarchy</b>  The concept of the hierarchy is supported as a means of assessing the settlement types.</p>
<p><b>Para 3.21</b></p>	<p>The statement in paragraph 3.21 is particularly endorsed.</p> <p><b>Test Valley is predominantly rural in nature and has a number of smaller settlements. In rural areas, planning policies and decisions should be responsive to local circumstances, support housing developments that reflect local needs and identify opportunities for villages to grow and thrive, especially where this will support local services.</b></p>
<p><b>Paras 3.23-3.28</b>  <b>Appendix 1</b>  <b>Settlement Hierarchy Assessment</b>  <b>Topic Paper</b></p>	<p><b>Settlement Hierarchy Assessment</b>  The Settlement Hierarchy Assessment explains the details of the survey and the assessment which was the determinant in the proposed hierarchy.</p> <p>The Assessment commences with some extracts from the National Planning Policy Framework. Of the chosen extracts paragraphs 79,84, 105 and 114 of the NPPF stand out as particularly supportive of addressing the needs of rural communities.</p> <p>The identification of the 6 key facilities, which are determinants in the formation of the hierarchy, is important. The first 5 key facilities plus access to public transport provide a reasonable measure of services which are valuable to most residents.</p> <p>The Local Plan rightly places considerable emphasis on all forms of sustainability including that of sustainable transport. This is important in the context of the Council's declaration of a Climate Emergency. The inclusion of access to a good level of public transport is an important construct of sustainability. However, another criterion, the use of the bicycle, is completely missed. Why</p>



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