

Cabinet 17 June 2020

Item 21 - Test Valley Borough Local Plan – Refined Issues and Options Consultation

ANNEX 1 REFINED ISSUES AND OPTIONS DOCUMENT - ADDENDUM

Corporate Plan

Paragraph 1.12

The Local Plan has a central role in the delivery of the spatial aspects of actions under each of the Corporate Plan's priorities including as set out below. We received a broad range of feedback from residents about various aspects of their life in Test Valley but the below highlights those areas that are most relevant to the Local Plan.

Town Centres

Provide a long-term strategic overview of what is needed in our town centres, within an ever changing environment, putting in place the mechanisms to enable delivery.

Residents highlighted their ambitions and aspirations for Test Valley's town centres. Key issues raised, relevant to the local plan:

- More events and activities.
- Amenities such as family friendly restaurants and leisure facilities.
- Good availability of local services and transport links.
- Many people recognised that town centres are changing, becoming less retail focused and developing into destinations where people can enjoy social activities.
- Helping local shops to thrive
- Suitable parking to access the town centre

Communities

We will strengthen our community-led approach to spatial planning so that plan people can play an active part in shaping their communities. This will include our ongoing commitment to undertake a review of the Local Plan in an inclusive way, and support communities who will benefit from developing a Neighbourhood Plan or Village Design Statement to do so. More specifically, we will work with communities to explore opportunities to deliver more new affordable homes in urban and rural areas.

Being able to contribute and play an active role in the local community was important to residents. Key issues raised, relevant to the local plan:

- To live in an environment that is naturally and physically attractive
- To be able to live a healthy & active lifestyle easily.
- Access to good local sports facilities which can also be used for community activities
- To live in a safe area

People

We will support communities to ensure that the right infrastructure at the right scale is secured that delivers homes and employment growth, enabling people to access a job, live in a decent home and fulfil their aspirations.

Test Valley residents were passionate about the place they live and were keen for future infrastructure to meet the needs of a changing and growing population. Key issues raised, relevant to the local plan:

- Attractive and peaceful place to live
- Access to the countryside and green spaces
- Good travel networks and public transport which supports residents to commute within, or outside of, Test Valley.
- Access to facilities such as doctors, local shops and schools
- House prices which enable residents and their families to stay in Test Valley

Local Environment

Through the review of our Local Plan and our strategies for green spaces, we will continue to identify opportunities to increase access to the countryside and green spaces for Test Valley residents.

Test Valley residents care about their local environment and believe it is important to protect it for future generations. Key issues raised, relevant to the local plan:

- Clean and safe cycle paths
- More electric vehicle charging points
- Increased frequency of busses and see public bikes on offer

Climate Change

Paragraph 2.3

Climate change is one of the greatest challenges which we face. Reflecting this, the Council declared a climate emergency in September 2019 and subsequently ~~approved~~ ~~published~~ a climate emergency action plan in June 2020. This action plan identifies that the next Local Plan will be one of the mechanisms the Council can use to take action to move towards carbon neutrality and help promote more sustainable living. The Government has set a statutory target for the country to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050.

Paragraph 2.6

At times it may appear that the decisions the Council has to make may be at odds with protecting the environment or other elements of protecting the climate. This will be the challenge the Council has to face. We will take decisions in line with the principle of achieving sustainable development, balancing its three elements of: social, economic and environmental issues, which will be considered jointly. The next Local Plan will seek to deliver development to meet the needs of the community and national planning policy, in a manner which minimises any potential adverse impacts on the environment.

Car Parking

Paragraph 8.13

The consultation responses indicate a perception that adequate off road parking is important within new developments and also in our town centres, although some comments specifically do not favour parking courts. Whilst the local plan sets minimum residential parking standards based upon dwelling size, some respondents indicate that parking for at least 2 cars should be a requirement for each new dwelling and there are concerns that car parking should not dominate local streets and developments.