

Guildford Borough Council
Proposed Submission Local Plan: strategy and sites
Frequently Asked Questions
June 2016

Why do we need a new Local Plan?

Our current Local Plan was adopted in 2003, and is now partly out of date and needs replacing. The absence of an up to date Local Plan makes us vulnerable to planning by appeal, with the prospect of piecemeal development happening in less preferable locations.

A new Local Plan will help us to determine planning applications using up to date planning policies, and direct the development we need to the most sustainable locations. It will also help us to achieve the appropriate level of facilities and infrastructure required to support new development whilst protecting our natural environment.

What is in the Local Plan?

Our Proposed Submission Local Plan (The Plan) sets out strategic policies and allocates sites for development in the borough up to 2033. The Plan addresses housing, employment, and retail and leisure requirements within the borough and aims to protect our natural environment. It also identifies the infrastructure requirements needed to support the planned housing and economic development including additional education, healthcare and transport provision.

How is the Local Plan structured?

The document is structured into a series of chapters covering the following themes: strategic, housing, protecting, economy, design and infrastructure and delivery.

Each chapter is divided into proposed policies which are supported by an explanation of how they have been devised, the key evidence used and monitoring indicators. A series of site allocations are set out within the delivery section.

The appendices to the plan include a glossary, infrastructure schedule, a list of the evidence base and policies maps.

We have also prepared a series of topic papers on certain themes that help tell the story and explain why we have taken the policy approach that we have. These are available at the following link: www.guildford.gov.uk/newlocalplan/topicpapers

What has changed since the Draft Local Plan 2014 ?

We consulted on the Draft Local Plan in 2014 for a period of just over 12 weeks, in order to understand the views of local people. We have listened to people's comments and responded by amending the plan in a number of ways:

Amongst a number of changes, four key areas of change are:

1. Updates to the evidence base supporting the plan;
2. Greater consideration of the Green Belt sensitivity map from the 'Green Belt & Countryside Study' to inform the identification of site allocations and assists in avoiding development in highly sensitive Green Belt areas; and
3. Reassessment of sites in the town centre in light of National Planning Policy on development and flood risk assessment.
4. Reassessment of sites to provide new secondary schools to meet the education needs of the borough over the plan period

Other changes include:

- National flood risk policy has been applied to and used in the identification of site allocations;
- the density of housing sites have been revisited;
- greater protection has been given to employment sites;
- a new policy on flood risk has been created;
- a new policy on the Special Protection Area (SPA) has been created;
- greater protection given to the character of villages;
- greater protection given to open space;
- there is an extension of new Green Belt in Ash and Tongham; and
- additional transport infrastructure.

For further information and how we have responded to your comments view our Consultation Statement at the following link:

www.guildford.gov.uk/newlocalplan/proposedsubmission

What can I comment on during the consultation?

We are accepting all comments regarding the Proposed Submission Local Plan 2016. Whilst the representation form lists specific questions, there is also the opportunity on the representation form for any other comments to be made. Structuring the representation form to relate to parts of the document helps us to consider the responses we receive.

The representation form includes the opportunity to comment on the evidence base, the tests of soundness and the duty to co-operate.

All written comments received during the consultation will be shared with the independent Planning Inspector when we submit the Local Plan (Submission version) for examination.

When is the consultation period?

We are consulting on the Proposed Submission Local Plan for six weeks from midday on 6 June until 18 July 2016.

How can I provide feedback on the Proposed Submission Local Plan?

All feedback must be received by the Council **by 11.59pm on Monday 18 July 2016.**

To make the process accessible for everyone, feedback can be provided in a number of ways via a representation form or by providing general comments. However the use of the representation form is highly recommended as this will ensure that comments are captured appropriately for examination of the Local Plan by the Inspector.

Feedback is required to be in writing. This can be done in a number of ways:

- submitted on-line via <https://getinvolved.guildford.gov.uk/consult.ti/LPSS2016>;
- paper copies of the representation form can be obtained and filled out in-person at the information events (detailed below);

- paper copies of representation forms are also available from the Council offices reception and from local libraries. A paper copy can also be provided by phoning 01483 444471 or by emailing localplan@guildford.gov.uk. Completed paper forms can be returned by post to:

Planning Policy, Guildford Borough Council, Millmead House, Millmead, Guildford, GU2 4BB;

- or email your views to localplan@guildford.gov.uk.

Public drop-in events:

Date	Location	Time
Saturday 11 June 2016	Millmead House (Council offices – main reception) Millmead Guildford Surrey GU2 4BB	10:00 am to 5 pm (drop-in anytime)
Thursday 16 June 2016	Tongham Community Centre, Poyle Road Recreation Ground, Poyle Road, Tongham, Surrey, GU10 1DU	12:00 noon and 8 pm (drop-in anytime)
Tuesday 21 June 2016	East Horsley Village Hall Management Committee East Horsley Village Hall Kingston Avenue East Horsley Leatherhead KT23 6QT	12:00 noon and 8 pm (drop-in anytime)

How can I view and comment on the Local Plan?

The Proposed Submission Local Plan and supporting documents, including the evidence base, can be viewed online. A hard copy will also be available to view at the Council's Millmead office, Guildford, during weekday office hours and at libraries in Guildford, Ash, Shere and Horsley. Further details, including library opening times, can be found at: www.guildford.gov.uk/newlocalplan/proposedsubmission

Who can we speak to if we want more details?

If you have questions or would like to find out some more details on the consultation you can speak to a member of the Planning Policy Team. The team can be contacted by email via planningpolicy@guildford.gov.uk, by phone on: 01483 444471 or by post at: Planning Policy, Guildford Borough Council, Millmead House, Millmead, Guildford, GU2 4BB.