

Draft Canterbury District  
Local Plan to 2045

# **CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT TOPIC PAPER**

(OCTOBER 2022)

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# 1. Introduction

This paper sets out a summary of the engagement undertaken to date in the development of the draft Local Plan.

The council's adopted Statement of Community Involvement (2019)<sup>1</sup> explains how we aim to involve the community in our planning functions.

Prior to the start of the issues consultation, officers undertook some early engagement to help identify key themes for consideration as part of the Local Plan process. This included meetings with all parish councils across the district.

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<sup>1</sup> [Statement\\_of\\_community\\_involvement\\_19.pdf](#)

## 2. Issues Consultation

To help us understand the issues affecting residents and their local area, an initial consultation took place between 1 July and 30 September 2020.

This consultation received 445 responses containing over 9,000 individual comments.

We also held a variety of events as part of the issues consultation:

- Local Plan Issues Conference - 20 July 2020 (attended by over 100 delegates from local organisations and statutory bodies)
- Developer Conference - 22 July 2020 (attended by the development industry)
- Town Centre Strategy Conferences (attended by local residents groups, councillors, local and national organisations):
  - Whitstable - 16 September 2020
  - Herne Bay - 22 September 2020
  - Canterbury - 29 September 2020
- Secondary School Conference - 16 October 2020 (attended by the Langton, Spires and Whitstable Schools)
- Transport Conference - 22 October 2020 (run in partnership with Kent County Council and attended by local and national organisations)

Through this consultation and engagement with the community, including businesses, schools and local organisations, some clear priorities were identified:

- The need to diversify and strengthen the local economy, build on our strengths including our universities, and provide high skilled jobs, including science and technology, which support the retention of graduates and improve opportunities for local young people
- The need to deliver a range of market and affordable housing to meet local needs, particularly as house prices are high relative to local incomes
- The need to proactively lead on climate change, aim for zero carbon and support the green economy

- The need to ensure new homes and communities are well designed, at appropriate densities and with access to facilities and open space
- The need to improve connectivity for residents and businesses, tackle congestion and air quality, particularly on the Canterbury ring road and at the coastal towns
- The need to deliver community infrastructure as part of, if not ahead of, new development
- The need to facilitate active and sustainable travel to improve air quality and the health and wellbeing of our communities
- The need to adapt our town centres to the challenges of Covid-19 and the rise of online shopping, and promote the growth of our tourism, cultural and creative sectors
- The need to significantly improve digital infrastructure and mobile connectivity to support economic growth and the shift to working from home
- The need to protect and enhance our valued natural and historic environment while facilitating growth and change

You can read all the responses to the issues consultation in Appendix 1.

### 3. Options Consultation

Feedback submitted in response to the issues consultation was used to develop a draft vision for the district and a set of options for different growth strategies and policy approaches for the new Local Plan..

Consultation on the draft district vision and Local Plan options took place between 4 June and 9 August 2021, seeking views on which of the options people thought were more appropriate and why.

This consultation comprised a set of online forms (one for each chapter of the draft document), paper copies of which were available on request. Written representations were also welcomed.

The options consultation received a total of 770 responses, comprising 602 survey forms and 168 written representations. These 770 responses contained a total of 5,091 individual comments.

A number of events were also held as part of the options consultation:

- Local Plan Options Conference - 23 June 2021 (attended by over 70 delegates from local organisations, statutory bodies and developers)
- Secondary School Conference - 13 July 2021 (attended by Barton Court, Canterbury Academy, Herne Bay High, Langton and Spires schools)
- Disability Advisory Panel meeting - 10 June 2021 (DAP acts as a consultative group in relation to the provision of inclusive and accessible services, feeding into city council consultation exercises, communications, policy and service reviews and key projects)

The table below sets out some of the key pieces of feedback received and how the council has used this to inform the development of the draft Local Plan.

<b>Consultation feedback</b>	<b>How the council has used this</b>
60.4% support improving the local transport network to improve air quality	The draft Local Plan includes a strategy and a range of policies to create a transport network with a focus on low-carbon travel to improve air quality and people’s health while ensuring excellent access to city and town centres on foot, cycle and by public transport including through intelligent transport systems.

<p>58.8% support enhancing our heritage and culture</p>	<p>The draft Local Plan includes a strategy and a range of policies to protect and improve our rich and distinctive heritage and culture, including within the city centre, enhancing character, setting, sense of place and quality of life, supporting tourism and the local economy for our residents, visitors and businesses.</p>
<p>76.0% support protecting the environment, supporting wildlife and biodiversity</p>	<p>The draft Local Plan includes a strategy and a range of policies to protect and enhance our rich environment and valued landscapes, creating a network of spaces, supporting wildlife and biodiversity and improving the health and wellbeing of our communities.</p>
<p>68.2% support reducing the impact of climate change</p>	<p>The draft Local Plan includes a range of policies to reduce the causes of and adapt to climate change by ensuring all district development enables carbon emissions reductions and increased resilience as quickly as possible.</p>
<p>No option has a majority support however we will need to plan for at least the minimum number of new homes set by the government. Canterbury Focus A (9,000 homes) is favoured more than the other options, followed by Coastal Focus and New Freestanding Settlement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Canterbury Focus A: 27.5% agree and 32.9% disagree</li> <li>● Preferred option: 10.3% agree and 66.8% disagree</li> <li>● Canterbury Focus B: 8.6% agree and 65.8% disagree</li> <li>● Coastal focus: 21.8% agree and 29.4% disagree</li> <li>● Rural focus: 12.9% agree and 48.0% disagree</li> <li>● New freestanding settlement: 19.4% agree and 34.2% disagree</li> </ul>	<p>The draft Local Plan proposes Canterbury urban area as the principal focus for development, with Whitstable and Herne Bay urban areas the secondary focus for development, a new freestanding settlement at Cooting Farm, Adisham Road and smaller scale development at the most sustainable rural settlements.</p>
<p>Strong disagreement on the principle of planning for more than the minimum number of homes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 231 comments saying the preferred option pushes for too many homes to be built</li> </ul>	<p>The government sets a minimum housing target per year which we are required to meet. The draft Local Plan sets out development allocations to meet that need in full between 2020 and 2045 but does not propose higher levels than the minimum number set by the</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>113 comments that Canterbury Focus B pushes for too many homes to be built</li> </ul>	<p>government. This will include affordable housing, older persons housing and a range of sizes and types of housing to meet local needs.</p>
<p>Lots of objection to Duke’s Meadow link (232 comments) but limited objection to eastern bypass (8 comments)</p>	<p>The draft Local Plan does not propose a link road through Duke’s Meadow - this potential scheme has been superseded by an upgrade at Rough Common Road, which KCC Highways have agreed as an effective alternative. An eastern movement corridor is proposed and the draft Local Plan includes policies to ensure this is delivered.</p>
<p>Strong support for active travel and public transport (60.5% in agreement)</p>	<p>The draft Local Plan includes a strategy and a range of policies to improve public transport across the district, as well as investment in walking and cycling routes to improve air quality and support good health and wellbeing.</p>
<p>Need to protect and enhance our green spaces e.g. AONB, green gaps, parks (76.1% in agreement)</p>	<p>The revised draft district vision in the draft Local Plan now includes an additional section as below:</p> <p><b><i>A thriving environment</i></b></p> <p><i>Significant new areas of accessible, high-quality open space will be created across the district and both new and existing valued open spaces enjoyed by the district’s residents will be protected for future generations, ensuring continued access beyond the period of the plan.</i></p> <p><i>Our important habitats and landscapes will be restored and enhanced, supporting the recovery of nature and increasing biodiversity.</i></p> <p><i>Opportunities for nature-based responses to climate change and other environmental challenges will be maximised.</i></p> <p><i>Significant investment in our water environment and infrastructure will improve river and coastal water quality, provide a resilient water supply and minimise flood risk.</i></p>



	The draft Local Plan also includes a strategy and a range of policies to protect and enhance our valued landscapes, public open spaces and green gaps.
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You can read all the responses to the options consultation in Appendix 2.

## 4. Consultation on the draft Local Plan

Subject to permission to consult being granted by Cabinet on 19 October 2022, consultation on the draft Local Plan is scheduled to take place from 24 October 2022 to 16 January 2023.


In line with the adopted Statement of Community Involvement, this will take the form of an online questionnaire, paper copies of which will also be made available. Written representations will also be welcomed.

The consultation will be widely publicised on the council’s newsroom website and social media channels, plus through press releases sent to the local media.


A number of consultation events are also planned, including drop in sessions in Canterbury, Herne Bay and Whitstable for members of the public to ask questions about the draft plan before forming their response, and dedicated briefings with parish councils, amenity groups, the business community and groups with an interest in transport issues, among others.


# Appendices


## Appendix 1: Responses to the Issues Consultation


 Issues Consultation Responses 2020.xlsx


## Appendix 2: Responses to the Options Consultation


 All chapters - consolidated report


 Options Consultation Responses 2021: Employment (Publishable version)


 Options Consultation Responses 2021: Historic and Natural Environment (Publishable version)


 Options Consultation Responses 2021: Housing (Publishable version)


 Options Consultation Responses 2021: Movement (Publishable version)

 Options Consultation Responses 2021: Town Centres and Local Facilities (Publishable version)

 Options Consultation Responses 2021: Town Centres Strategies (Publishable version)

 Options Consultation Responses 2021: Vision and Growth (Publishable version)

 Options Consultation Responses 2021: Written representations

 Local Plan Options Consultation 2021: CCC Officer responses