

THURROCK LOCAL PLAN CONSULTATION BRIEFING NOTE

JULY 2021

As you may be aware, Thurrock Council is developing a new Local Plan which will shape the future of development – including homes, transport, and local facilities – over the next 15 years. This briefing outlines the consultation activities undertaken to date and provides information on the upcoming consultation activities taking place across Thurrock.

As part of the Local Plan process, Thurrock Council is undertaking widespread consultation at an early stage in the development of the Plan, which aims to hear the views of all those affected by development in the area, as well as infrastructure providers and landowners.

What have we done so far?

The recent stage of consultation follows on from the previous ‘Issues and Options’ and ‘Your Place, Your Voice’ consultations that took place in 2019.

Following on from these consultation stages, eight growth areas were identified. These areas were selected as there is a real need and opportunity to bring forward investment which supports the aspirations of the existing community. The areas also align with the ‘Call for Sites’ process and reflect those areas with the greatest development interest.

The eight identified ‘growth areas’ are: Bulphan, Chadwell St Mary, South Ockendon, East Tilbury, Horndon on the Hill, Orsett, Corringham, and Stanford-le-Hope.

As part of the most recent round of the Your Place, Your Voice consultation, we have undertaken a series of workshops with landowners who submitted sites in each of the eight identified growth areas as part of the Council’s Call for Sites process. These workshops provided the opportunity to understand which sites are deliverable, what the strengths of each area are, and to understand the opportunities and constraints of development in each of these key areas.

These workshops took place from January to March 2021. Also undertaken from January to March was an initial online consultation with residents looking to explore what local people feel the strengths and weaknesses of their area are through a dedicated website.

Activity was then paused for the pre-election Purdah period, where consultation had to be paused in line with Government legislation.

The second stage of consultation with the public has now launched and we are once again asking for communities’ views on their local area.

As part of this second stage of consultation, further workshops are to be held with key stakeholders, including key community groups.

This workshop process, also referred to as a ‘Charrette’ process, aims to bring a wide range of people into the process of developing the Local Plan. So far, this has included:

- An internal Council workshop to understand the needs and priorities of all Council services within the Local Plan.
- An ongoing community-focused survey which is helping us to understand the broader views and aspirations within specific areas of Thurrock. This follows on from our previous consultations.

- A series of workshops with landowners who may wish to promote their sites through the Local Plan process. This helped us to establish what land is available, who owns it, and the broader constraints and opportunities that exist with each one.

Next steps

As part of the next stage of consultation, we want to engage with people who live and work in Thurrock to understand local aspirations and spark a Thurrock-wide conversation on where, when, and how development can and should take place. Thurrock Council has partnered with The Prince's Foundation to implement these workshops through its 'BIMBY' process.

In addition to seeking feedback through an online survey, Thurrock will be holding the next stages of the workshop process with a series of creative workshops with communities in all eight growth areas. These workshops present an opportunity to engage collaboratively and positively with local people to understand their concerns about, and ambitions for, their area. These workshops will take place once a week in each of the eight areas across September and October and will be held with key community stakeholders. The workshop sessions will be held midweek and will be all day.

In addition to these workshop sessions, a number of drop-in events will take place. These drop-in events will be open to all members of the community, with two taking place per area. One will take place in the evening following the workshop session, with the other drop-in event taking place on the following Saturday.

We want to listen carefully to local people and encourage them to have a say on development alongside professionals and other stakeholders. While acknowledging that following consideration, it may not be possible to implement all suggestions, we hope these workshops will help to build common ground and trust.

These community consultation events will be taking place as follows:

- Bulphan – Wednesday 8th & Saturday 11th September
- Stanford-le-Hope – Thursday 16th & Saturday 18th September
- Corringham - Tuesday 21st & Saturday 25th September
- South Ockendon - Tuesday 28th September & Saturday 2nd October
- Horndon on the Hill- Tuesday 5th & Saturday 9th October
- Chadwell St Mary - Tuesday 12th & Saturday 16th October
- Orsett - Tuesday 19th & Saturday 23rd October
- East Tilbury - Tuesday 26th & Saturday 30th October

The online survey will continue to run until 31 December and comprises a multiple-choice questionnaire on what communities' feel are the strengths, and areas for improvement in their area, focussed on four main themes - nature and environment, buildings and transport, social life, and financial opportunity. Respondents are then also asked to provide comments on specific places in their communities using our 'Mapdragon' software. This allows you to drop a 'pin' on a specific element, e.g., a particularly busy traffic junction, or a community centre, and provide a comment. The survey and Mapdragon are available to view at www.thurrockyourplaceyourvoice.co.uk/have-your-say/.

Should you have any questions on any of the information enclosed within this briefing, please do not hesitate to get in touch by emailing info@thurrockyourplaceyourvoice.co.uk,

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