

Local Plan: Initial Proposals

Regulation 18 Engagement Strategy

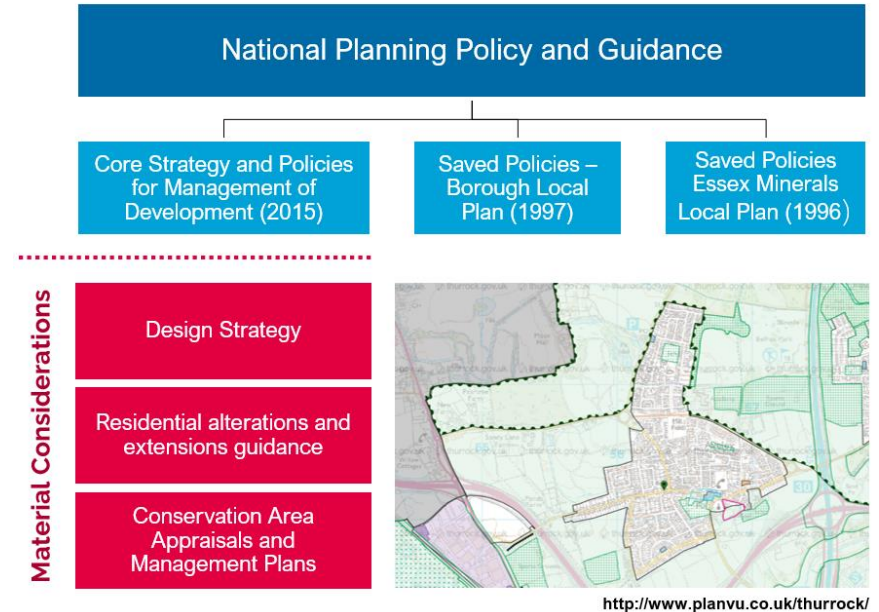
Thurrock Council is preparing a New Local Plan for the Borough. The involvement of communities and stakeholders is key to preparing a strategy for the Borough which allows it to grow sustainably, meets the needs of our communities, and protects and enhances the things we value most.

This document sets out the Council's approach to consulting and engaging the community and stakeholders on the new Local Plan. It is important that we involve communities and those affected by the Plan at an early stage in the process, when it is possible to make a difference. The Council seeks to take an inclusive and proactive approach to engagement, providing the opportunity for all to engage in the plan-making process.

1. Background Information

Current Development Plan

- ❑ Existing policies are becoming increasingly out of date – changes to the national planning system and changes to local needs/priorities
- ❑ There are no site allocations in the current plan, so growth is coming forward in a very piecemeal and uncoordinated way with limited scope to consider cumulative impacts
- ❑ Housing delivery has been very low in the last few years which means that we are now subject to the ‘presumption in favour of’ policy within the National Planning Policy Framework – *this gives us less control/influence over proposals for new housing developments*



Why we need a new Local Plan

- ❑ Using outdated policies means that we are not always able to influence developments in the way that we want. There is also a risk we could lose planning appeals as our policies may not hold full weight.
- ❑ Local people are struggling to access/afford the right types of housing in the places they want to live
- ❑ In some places people are unable to access key services and facilities and are forced to either travelling further than they should to access them or are going without
- ❑ Our highstreets and shopping areas are under more pressure than ever, and we need to have a clear plan to help make them fit for the future

Thurrock's new Local Plan will help create the right conditions for places to change, adapt and grow.

What is the process for preparing a new Local Plan?

Welcome to our Kitchen



WHAT IS A LOCAL PLAN?

PULLING IN THE RIGHT INGREDIENTS

A LOCAL PLAN IS A RECIPE FOR THE TYPE OF PLACE WE WANT THURROCK TO BECOME. WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND THE CURRENT CHALLENGES AND THINK ABOUT FUTURE NEEDS. VIEWS FROM LOCAL PEOPLE ARE ONE OF THE MAIN INGREDIENTS IN FORMING THE PLAN.

FIGURING OUT THE RIGHT BALANCE

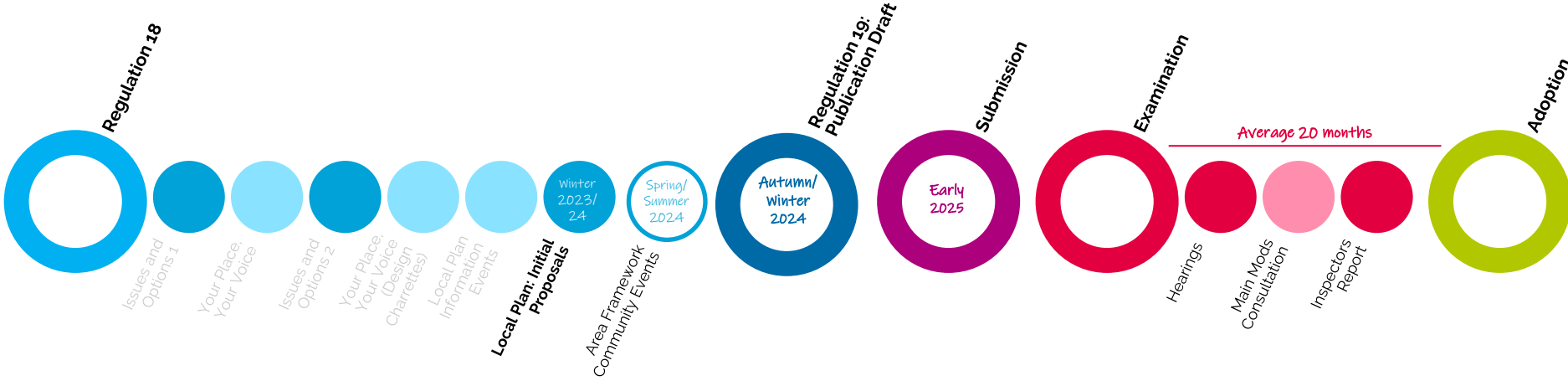
WE KNOW THAT WE NEED NEW HOMES AND PLACES TO WORK, BUT WE ALSO NEED TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT AND MAKE SURE PEOPLE CAN MOVE AROUND THE BOROUGH EASILY. OUR PLACES NEED TO WORK HARD SO WE NEED TO THINK ABOUT HOW WE BALANCE THE INGREDIENTS TO MAKE SURE THE PLAN WORKS FOR THE MANY AND NOT JUST THE FEW. WE NEED PEOPLE FROM LOTS OF DIFFERENT BACKGROUNDS TO LET US KNOW WHAT IS IMPORTANT.

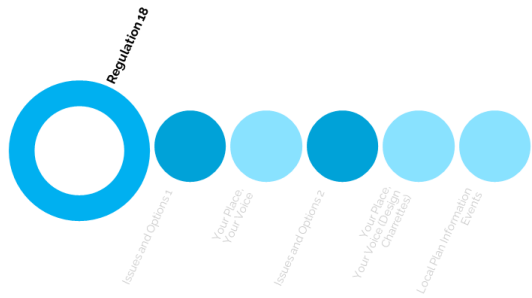
TESTING OUR RECIPE

AT KEY POINTS IN PREPARING THE PLAN WE NEED PEOPLE TO GIVE US FEEDBACK AND LET US KNOW WHAT WORKS, WHAT DOESN'T AND WHY. AFTER OUR FINAL CONSULTATION WE SUBMIT THE PLAN TO THE MEMBERS OF COUNCIL SO THAT IT CAN BE INDEPENDENTLY EXAMINED AND PEOPLE WHO WANT CHANGES TO THE PLAN ARE INVITED TO SUBMIT MORE INFORMATION. IF THE PLAN IS FOUND SOUND AT THE END - LOCAL COUNCILLORS THEN VOTE ON WHETHER OR NOT THEY WANT TO ADOPT IT.

TO FIND OUT MORE, VISIT
WWW.THURROCK.GOV.UK/LOCALPLAN

Local Plan Development Timeline

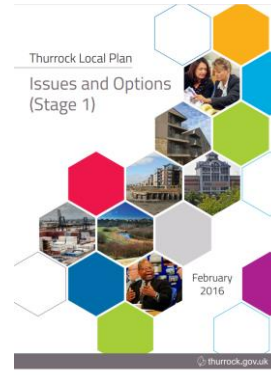




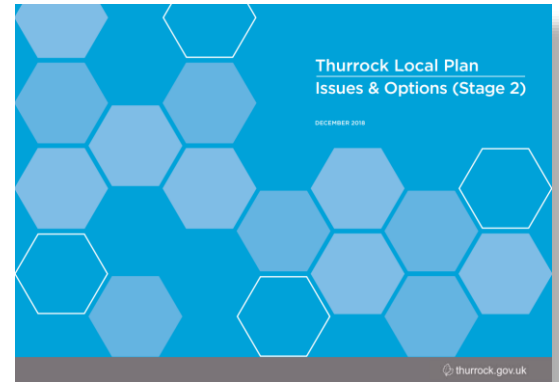
Previous consultations

February - April 2016

Formal Consultations



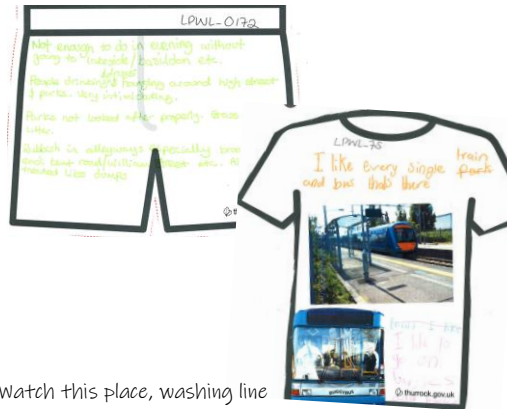
December 2018 - March 2019



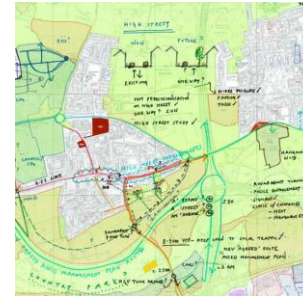
Informal Consultations



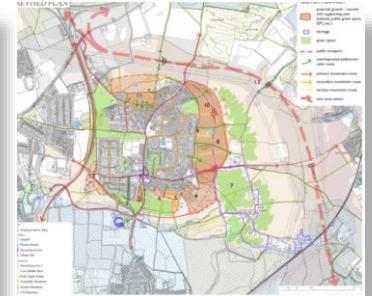
Your Place, Your Voice



Watch this place, washing line



Princes Foundation Design Charrette Exercise





This document will set out initial proposals and alternative options – it has been shaped by what we know to date. It is **not a draft Local Plan** and **we expect things to change** between now and the final version.

This consultation will help add to our understanding of constraints, opportunities and local priorities so we can make sure the policies and sites in the final version are the right ones.

Purpose of the Initial Proposals document

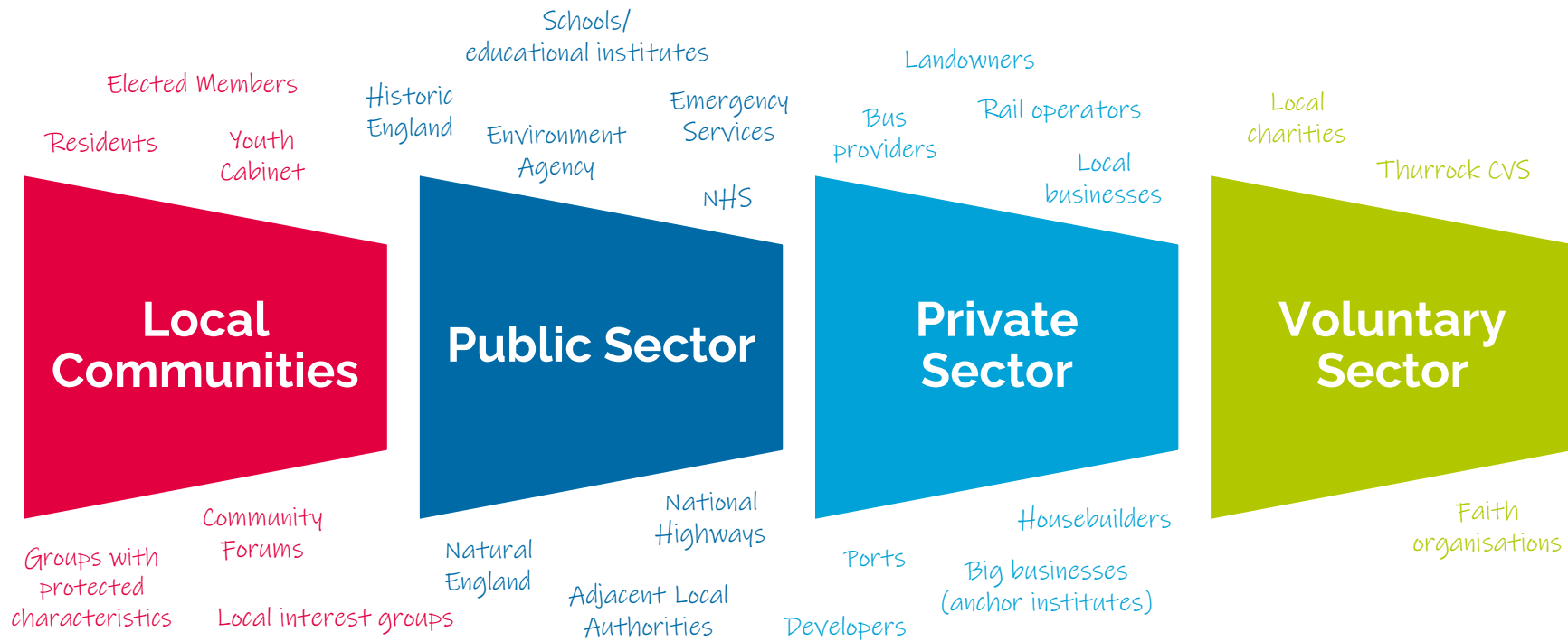
To enable a more focussed conversation with communities and other stakeholders like local businesses and statutory consultees* about how they want to see the borough change, adapt and grow over the next 15-20 years.

*Historic England, Environment Agency, Natural England etc.

2. Stakeholder Mapping

Planning is all about creating successful places that enable people to live healthier, more prosperous, and better-connected lives. It's also about supporting local businesses and making sure that the things that make our places special are protected. Planning decisions can be small in scale like an extension to your home or nationally significant like the expansion of a port and everything in-between. Planning genuinely affects everyone who lives, works, and visits in a place. So, it is important that local communities and stakeholders are aware of and can participate in the planning process and be involved in planning decisions.

Who needs to be involved in Plan making?



3. Engagement Approach

Engagement principles

The Council's approach to community engagement and involvement in the planning Process is set out within our Statement of Community Involvement which is aligned with the priorities in the Thurrock Collaborative Communities Framework.

The SCI states that when undertaking planning consultations, the Council will:

- Place community engagement at the front of the process, ensuring that opportunities for involvement exist at the earliest opportunity.
- Keep the process simple by writing in plain English and explaining any planning terms that we use.
- Communicate clearly by explaining the reasons why we want to involve you and receive your comments.
- Use engagement methods that are relevant to the community being consulted and appropriate in scale.
- Make it easy for you to get involved by setting out when and where you can provide your comments.

Suggested Actions *(during the consultation period)*



- ❑ Make the Initial Proposals document and Integrated Impact Assessment available online as well as in the civic offices and borough libraries. A standard comment form will be produced to capture responses from local communities and key stakeholders – use of the form will be actively encouraged but we will also accept emails/letters and petitions.
- ❑ Piggyback onto the Your Place, Your Voice corporate consultation events that are being planned for January/February. These events are intended to be interactive drop ins sessions where officers can gain feedback on a range of different issues relating to place.
- ❑ Host a series of online events for residents and other stakeholders to attend and ask questions. These sessions will be recorded and made available online for others to view the content later.

Suggested Actions *(after the consultation period)*

- ❑ **Local Plan Planning Performance Agreement process with site promoters** *(paid for service)*
 - this process is intended to encourage a more collaborative and proactive approach to evidence development, and the consideration and assessment of potential development sites. It will provide the opportunity for those involved to work together to secure the necessary funding and delivery of supporting infrastructure.
- ❑ **Community planning events** – These events could take place in several different ways including public meetings, workshops, walking tours and potentially drop-in sessions.
- ❑ **Online surveys** – These will be used to compliment in person events as a way of trying to increase and diversify participation.
- ❑ **Developer Forum and Youth Cabinet meetings** - The Local Plans Team currently hosts a monthly workshop session with Youth Cabinet members and quarterly sessions with the developer forum. We are currently working with colleagues in the Communities team to explore opportunities for setting up a series of YPYV Community Panels.