



Rother District Local Plan Update

Early Engagement Form

for Members and Parish/Town Councils

For official use only

Rec:

Ref:

Completing and submitting this form

We would like both your input on a number of specific questions and also for your organisation to raise any issues that you feel need consideration in updating the Local plan.

If possible, we ask that you complete this form electronically and try to respond using bullet point form as this will assist in collating and analysing your responses. Please note that your responses are not limited to the size of the text boxes, a scroll bar will be automatically added next to the text box for larger responses. See page 11 for the Council's Privacy Policy.

To complete this interactive form electronically, you will need to have either **Adobe Acrobat** or **Adobe Reader** installed on your device. **Adobe Reader** can be downloaded for free at get.adobe.com/reader.

Completed forms should be emailed to planning.strategy@rother.gov.uk by 4.30pm on Friday 9 October 2020.

If you are unable to send the form electronically then it can be printed and posted to: **Planning Policy, Rother District Council, Town Hall, London Road, Bexhill, East Sussex, TN39 3JX.**

Thanking you in advance for your time.

1. Your Details

Q1. *First Name:*

Q2. *Surname:*

Q3. *Organisation:*

Q4. *Job Title:*

Q5. *Address:*

Q6. *Email:*

Q7. *Telephone:*

Q8. *Please keep me updated about further consultations:* Yes No

Introduction

Officers at Rother District Council (RDC) have started work on the Local Plan update which will cover the planning period up to 2039. It is important to progress this work as the Council's existing Core Strategy Local Plan is now more than five years old. We need your views at the start of this process to help us review the policies needed in the new Local Plan. This informal early engagement will help shape the Local Plan in advance of the formal public consultation stage planned for next year. Ordinarily RDC would have commenced early engagement through a series of workshops but given the current Covid-19 crisis, this is not possible.

We want to hear your views on the key issues for the planning and development of the District. Our starting point is the [National Planning Policy Framework \(NPPF\)](#) and there are a number of planning policy requirements that the Plan will need to fulfil. We must also incorporate local priorities and aspirations – and be relevant to our place and our communities. To help support local planning issues, the Local Plan will help set the context for subsequent Neighbourhood Plans to come forward over time. Your views on key planning issues are therefore critical to the preparation of the new Local Plan.

The existing [Core Strategy](#) and the [Development and Site Allocations](#) (DaSA) Local Plan are the starting point for updating the plan; however, we would like your ideas on what you think works well in the existing Plan as well as anything which needs changing.

Below are a series of questions covering issues that the Local Plan will need to consider.

The Local Plan update provides an opportunity to consider policies that can be carried forward, from the existing Local Plan (Core Strategy Local Plan, and Development and Site Allocations Local Plan) along with opportunity for a fresh look at new evidence-based policies. Please use this opportunity to outline your thoughts on how the Council can develop new policies or carry forward ways to meet local needs.

Tim Hickling

Head of Service - Strategy & Planning

Nichola Watters

Planning Policy Manager

Cllr. Jonathan Vine-Hall

Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Strategic Planning

Cllr. Susan Prochak

Deputy Leader

Overriding Strategic Objectives of the Plan

2. Vision

The Local Plan will set out a vision for the type of place Rother will be in 2039.

The current Core Strategy [Local Plan Vision](#) incorporates the following themes:

High quality of life, sustainable low carbon future, sustainable economic growth, improved economic and social wellbeing, improvement in coastal towns, sensitive historic character, protect AONB, character and diversity of settlements and countryside maintained.

Q9. *What should the District look like by 2039?*

Q10. *What should have been achieved?*

Q11. *What would you change or add into the current vision?*

3. Objectives

The Local Plan will identify objectives for the development of Rother.

The current Core Strategy Local Plan Objectives incorporate the following issues: achieve a pattern of development that contributes to the Sustainable Community Strategy, spatial vision that responds to local circumstances. Objectives for Bexhill, Hastings Fringes, Rye, Battle, Rural Areas, Sustainable Resource Management, Communities, Local Housing Needs, Economy, Environment, Transport and Accessibility.

An example objective from the existing Core Strategy Local Plan is 'To secure sustainable economic growth for existing and future residents and provide greater prosperity and employment opportunities for all.'

The Council will pick out key themes from your responses when developing objectives for the new Local Plan.

Q12. What should these objectives cover? Please list up to 10 objectives that you think are the most important to Rother District.

Future Growth and Development

The new Local Plan will set out the strategy for growth within the District over the Plan period. National policy in the NPPF dictates that the starting point for considering housing need is decided by the national prescribed standard methodology and this is the starting point for looking at housing numbers for the District. Currently our plan requires us to deliver 335 dwellings per year. As at 1 April 2019, the average number delivered is 198 dwellings per year. The new figure required by the Government is 727 dwellings per year. We will need to demonstrate how this figure can be met and, if we can't meet the housing number, we need to have clear, robust evidence to justify a lower figure. The District Council will also need to consider the appropriate level of business and commercial development and its distribution across the District to support continued economic growth.

The overall distribution of residential and economic development will need to be considered in the context of 82% of the District being within the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

4. Housing

Q13. *How can the current plan be modified to increase the number of houses to be delivered whilst still ensuring we deliver sustainable development which is defined as balancing social, economic and environmental needs?*

Q14. *Should Rother be considering the creation of a new settlement by itself or with a neighbouring Borough or District? Please expand on your response with any potential locations.*

5. Employment

In answering yes or no to the following questions, please elaborate on your response.

Q15. *Should growth be focused around existing employment areas and settlements with a range of services?*

Yes

No

Q16. *Should employment growth be linked to the future distribution of housing?*

Yes

No

Q17. *Should there be provision in rural settlements to support the rural economy?*

Yes

No

Q18. *Should the existing town centres be a focus for growth?*

Yes

No

Q19. *Should a complementary approach be achieved with Neighbouring Planning authorities to meet overall need in the wider market?*

Yes

No

Q20. *What consideration should the Council have to the development of live/work units (homes with workspaces included)?*

Q21. *Do you have any other comments on employment growth?*

6. Infrastructure

When replying to the below questions, consideration should be had to:

- Development needs for the District as a whole
- Development needs for your local area
- Important services and facilities

Q22. *What infrastructure should be included in the Local Plan for your local area?*

Q23. *What infrastructure should be included in the Local Plan for the District?*

Other Considerations

7. Climate Change

Rother District Council have declared a Climate Emergency and have committed to becoming Carbon Neutral by 2030.

Q24 *What suggestions do you have for the Council to fulfil its commitment to addressing the wider strategic climate emergency through planning policies?*

8. Natural and built heritage assets

When replying to the below questions, consideration should be had to:

- The District's environmental designations and their level of protection
- The significant coverage (82% of the District) of the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty across the District

Q25. *How should the Council ensure effective protection of its natural and built heritage assets whilst ensuring the delivery of development and its supporting infrastructure?*

Q26. *Are there any specific local issues in relation to the protection of the natural and built environment that you would like to highlight?*

9. Community

Q27. What specific things should the plan include to ensure that Rother is a safe, enjoyable and accessible for all members of the community, whatever their particular needs or income level?

10. COVID-19

Q28. Do you think there will be a permanent shift in how and where people work? If yes, what impact will it have on the need for employment workspace?

Yes

No

Q29. Do you think there will be a permanent shift in how and where people shop? If yes, what impact will it have on the need for shops?

Yes

No

Q30. Do you have any other thoughts on changes that will affect how people live in the future?

Q31. If you think there will be shifts to the way people live and work, then what (if any) infrastructure would be required to support these new arrangements?

11. Other planning issues

Please use this section to highlight any other changes that you think needs to be made to the policies of the current Local Plan. Please explain why you think the change should be made. If you are referring to a specific policy, please include the policy number.

Note: The current Local Plan (2011-2028) consists of the adopted [Core Strategy](#), the [Development and Site Allocations](#) Local Plan and the remaining saved policies from the [2006 Local Plan](#).

Q32. *Are there any other specific planning issues that you think the Local Plan Update should address?*

Use of personal data

Rother District Council is committed to ensuring that your privacy is protected and will only use and store your personal data in line with the General Data Protection Regulations 2016 and the Data Protection Act 2018.

The Council will collect and use your personal data in order to provide services you have requested from us or to carry out our legal obligations to you. The Council will not disclose your personal data to any third parties, unless it is needed to do so to provide a service to you or the Council are legally required to do so. The Planning Policy department may share your personal data with other Council departments in order to provide the service you have requested and to ensure that the information held about you is accurate and up to date.

The Council's Privacy Policy sets out how it collects, uses and securely holds your data and can be viewed at www.rother.gov.uk/privacypolicy.

If you want more information on how a particular Council service uses your personal data, please view the Privacy Notices under Related Documents on the Council's website at www.rother.gov.uk/privacypolicy.