

Media Release

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HAVE YOUR SAY ON THE FUTURE OF HARROGATE DISTRICT UP TO 2021

The Harrogate District Local Plan is to be reviewed and re-formed into a new style Local Development Framework for the district. The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 has prompted this new style plan making.

Anyone wishing to have their say on what the district should be like by the year 2021 is encouraged to do so over the next eight weeks - up to 17 September 2004.

To focus people's attention on some of the key planning issues facing the district and its diverse communities, an 'Issues Consultation' document has been prepared by the council. This is available on the council's planning website:
www.harrogate.gov.uk/planning/policy & plans/ldf.htm

Parish Councils, partnerships, chambers of trade, local businesses, community groups, civic societies, house builders, agents as well as relevant national and regional bodies will be notified at the start of this consultation (on 23 July) of the availability of the 'Issues Consultation' document. The document is also available and being advertised in all the district's libraries and the main council offices.

A series of questions accompany each key issue and all interested parties are requested to answer as many or as few of these questions as they feel appropriate.

These questions are linked on the web site to the 'Issues Consultation' document and can be forwarded to the council electronically via the internet.

Councillor Cooper (Cabinet Member for Planning) emphasises that the publication of the 'Issues Consultation' document marks the start of a very important period of community involvement leading to the council's preferred plan next summer.

"Council's need to draw up plans for the future of their area in line with the wishes of local residents and I encourage as many people as possible to have their say. Harrogate District is a beautiful place to live and we must do all we can to ensure it stays that way."

Press pack documents:

Issues Consultation Document: Summary.

Issues Consultation Document.

Issues Consultation Document: Questionnaire.

ISSUES CONSULTATION DOCUMENT: SUMMARY.

Introduction

Includes information on how the new plan making system will work and; how the council intends to progress the new local development framework.

Important messages from this section are that:

Instead of being one large plan like the existing local plan, the local development framework (LDF) will be made up of several smaller documents which can be produced, reviewed and altered more quickly than before. A new style LDF has to be adopted by March 2007.

Many of the existing local plan policies are intended to run alongside the new style development plan documents and these will form a document of 'Saved Policies'.

Three new style LDF documents are to be produced:

- A Core Strategy, incorporating a vision for the district, a strategy for the level and distribution of housing and employment, policies for the allocation and release of housing land and the provision of affordable housing.
- Housing allocations and site based policies for at least five years, incorporating the council's key requirements for each site, and
- A Proposals Map, incorporating all designations and land allocations from 'Saved Policies' and the new style LDF documents.

Key Issues and Considerations.

These can be summarised as:

What should be the overall level of housing and employment development in the District up to 2021?

How can the LDF maximise the provision of Affordable Housing for local people?

How should the LDF allocate and release housing land up to 2021?

What development is appropriate for Harrogate town, Ripon, Knaresborough, Boroughbridge, Pateley Bridge and Masham?

How should the district's smaller settlements be planned for in the future?

How can the LDF help make a vibrant living and working countryside?

How can the LDF secure 'sustainable development'?

How best can the LDF be linking with other plans, particularly the Community Plan?

What will the LDF need to take into account regarding infrastructure and service provision?

What happens next?

Council officers will collate all the responses to the 'Issues Consultation' and publish a Report of Consultation this autumn. If discussion on the matters arising from the responses is needed these will follow with interested parties early in 2005.

This will lead to the publication of the council's Local Development Framework preferred:

Core Strategy
Housing Allocations and Policies
Proposals Map

in the summer 2005.

Residents, community groups and stakeholders will then comment formally on the council's preferred approach to these LDF development plan documents over a six week consultation period.

Any necessary amendments to the cCouncil's preferred approach will then be made in the light of comments received and these documents then submitted to the Secretary of State for approval early in 2006.

If objections are received to these documents an Examination is held by an independent planning inspector. The planning inspector will publish his or her report which will be binding on the Council and the LDF documents will be adopted by March 2007.

FURTHER INFORMATION: Councillor Richard Cooper is available for comment on 01423 856564. Further technical information is available from Dave Sykes, Policy Planning Manager on 01423 556581.