

Local Plan Update

Town and Parish Councils Briefing
24th May and 5th June 2023

Agenda



- 1) What is a Local Plan for?
- 2) Context of the Local Plan update
- 3) Anticipated timeline for the Local Plan update
- 4) Engagement this year
- 5) Explanation of the Issues Engagement Papers
- 6) How you can get involved
- 7) Next steps
- 8) Questions and discussion



What is a Local Plan for?



**A plan for the future development of the local area,
drawn up by the local planning authority in
consultation with the community.**

- Sets out a vision and development strategy for the district
- Contains policies shaping environmental, social and economic aspirations
- Contains site allocations for future development
- Provides certainty for communities and investors
- Identifies target numbers for new homes and jobs
- Helps infrastructure providers with their service planning



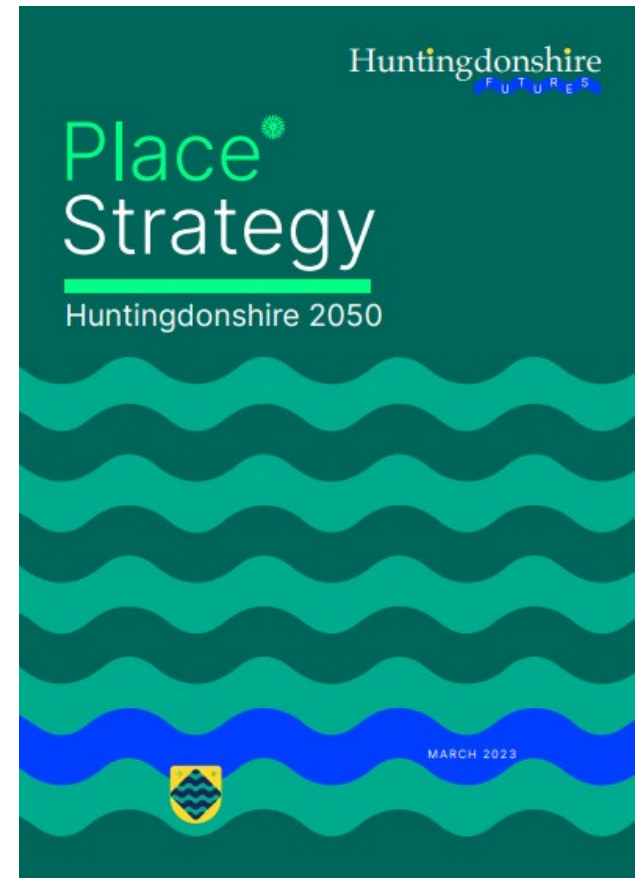
National context

- Levelling up and Regeneration Bill
- National Planning Policy Framework review
- Standard methodology for calculating housing numbers
- Environment Act
- Future Homes Standard



Local context

- Huntingdonshire Futures Place Strategy
- Declaration of climate crisis and ecological emergency
- Oxford to Cambridge pan-regional partnership
- Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority
- Delivery mechanism for Economic Growth Strategy, community and physical infrastructure and healthy communities





Anticipated timeline





Engagement approach



- Core elements set out in the Statement of Community Involvement
- Engagement approaches include:
 - Social media
 - Online engagement opportunities and direct promotion
 - Local newspaper articles
 - Direct communications with Town and Parish Councils and duty to cooperate partners
 - Copies of Issues documents to all libraries and circulation via the mobile library with paper response forms for Easy Read survey

Engagement so far



1st February to 15th March:

Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report
Statement of Community Involvement

29th March to 10th May:

Draft Settlement Hierarchy Methodology
Draft Land Availability Assessment

Current engagement



1. Call for sites

➤ 29th March to 7th June

2. Issues Engagement Papers comprising

- Issues Engagement Paper
- Issues Paper Summary
- Local Plan Issues Consultation – Easy Read

➤ 26th April to 5th July

Themes for the Issues are broadly the same through all versions.



Issues Consultation

Easy Read



- Explains the themes in short, simple language
- Intended to be accessible to people for whom reading English is challenging and for younger residents
- Links to a survey with 10 'tick box' style questions and 2 open questions
- Paper versions are being circulated on the mobile libraries

Tackling climate change

Climate change will make the summer hotter. It will also mean more rain and strong winds in the winter.

How important to you is tackling climate change?

(please select one answer)

Very important ☐ A bit important ☐ Not important ☐

Supporting shops and jobs

Please think about the town or village centre you go to most often.

What would you like to see more or less of there?

			Less
Food shops	☐	☐	☐
Other shops	☐	☐	☐
Pharmacy where you can get medicines	☐	☐	☐
Health clinics	☐	☐	☐
Offices and places to work	☐	☐	☐
Places to go in the evening	☐	☐	☐
Cafes and restaurants	☐	☐	☐
Hot food takeaways	☐	☐	☐

Issues Summary Paper

- Explains what a Local Plan is and what it is for
- Stresses that this is to provoke comments on issues faced by the district
- Intention is to stimulate discussion and it does not prejudice any outcomes
- Contains 1 or 2 open questions on each issues theme
- Provides links to the full-length Issues Engagement Paper

*What housing issues do you think the Local Plan should seek to address?
What is important to you?*

How do you think the Local Plan can help the district to grow in a sustainable way? Where should we look to focus growth and what should growth look like?

Creating a vision and objectives issues



- Role of the Local Plan vision statement is to set the overarching framework
- The vision should provide guidance on priorities for the district and how change will be managed
- Policies and proposals should collectively deliver the district's vision
- Objectives should add detail to the vision's aspirations

Question 2

Huntingdonshire Local Plan's vision

How can the Local Plan's vision complement and add land use specific details to the Huntingdonshire Futures Place Strategy's vision?
What should be its key priorities?

Responding to the climate crisis issues

- Carbon emissions and targets
- Carbon sequestration and offsetting
- Renewable and low carbon energy
- Energy efficiency and retrofitting
- Flooding, water supplies and water pollution
- Waste and recycling

Question 4

Net zero carbon future

What are the key challenges for the updated Local Plan in terms of delivering growth while also working towards the District Council's net zero carbon ambition by 2040?

Question 14

Local flood risk - resilience and resistance

How can the Local Plan support increased resilience and resistance to flood risk in your local area?

Enhancing the natural environment issues



- Huntingdonshire's landscapes
- The natural environment and nature conservation designations
- Green infrastructure
- Biodiversity net gain
- Air quality

Question 22

Relationship with the Great Ouse Valley

What more can be done to connect Huntingdon, St Neots and St Ives with the landscape of the Great Ouse Valley?

Question 29

Air quality

How can the updated local plan assist in reducing air pollutants and keep pollutants within acceptable levels?

Supporting our places issues



- Huntingdonshire's market towns
- Huntingdonshire's villages
- The countryside
- Historic environment

Question 32

Relationship with Bedford and Cambridge

How can the Local Plan support St Neots in developing a complementary relationship with Bedford and Cambridge

Question 41

Huntingdonshire's villages

If you live, work or have other connections to a particular village in Huntingdonshire please name it and say what are the issues of greatest concern or priority?

Meeting the housing needs of all issues



- The need for new homes
- Delivery of new homes
- Housing mix
- Housing tenures
- Housing standards
- Gypsy, Traveller, Travelling Showpeople and Boat-dwellers accommodation

Question 48

Specialist and older people's accommodation

Which types of specialist or older people's housing are most needed here?
Are there particular locations, or types of location, where they should be built?

Question 50

Affordable homes

What proportion of new homes should meet the government's definition of affordable housing? Should this be the same throughout Huntingdonshire or vary according to local circumstances?

Promoting a prosperous local economy issues



- A green economy
- Supporting an diversifying the local economy
- Logistics and distribution
- Rural economy and agriculture
- Retail and adapting our town centres
- Enhancing tourism

Question 61

A green economy

What approaches can the Local Plan take to enable a greener economy?

Question 67

Logistics and distribution

How should the Local Plan address logistics and distribution? What issues need to be considered?

Developing high quality sustainable communities with supporting infrastructure issues



- Design of buildings and places
- Open space in new development
- Travel and transport
- Public transport and active travel infrastructure
- Parking provision
- Community facilities and services
- Utilities and digital infrastructure

Question 81

Open space standards and types

What do open spaces in new developments currently lack, are there additional standards or types of open space that the Local Plan should consider?

Question 87

Active travel infrastructure

What can the Local Plan do to help promote and provide active travel in new developments?

Distributing new growth issues and questions



Structure is different from other chapters.

This focuses on:

- Variety of possible approaches identified
- What factors should we take into account?

Question 97

Growth scenarios

What development scenarios do you think are suitable for Huntingdonshire and what should be avoided and why?

Question 99

Priorities for new developments

What priorities should be considered when allocating new development?



**How you can get
involved**

How you can get involved



- Submit comments on Issues of interest to your parish
- Share social media messaging being issued by our Communications colleagues
- Display the posters sent out on your parish noticeboards
- Signpost people to our webpage which explains the engagement opportunities in text and in a video and links to the online consultation portal

[Local Plan Update - Huntingdonshire.gov.uk](http://Huntingdonshire.gov.uk)

- Signpost people with specific queries to our email
local.plan@huntingdonshire.gov.uk



Next steps

- Analyse all responses put forward
- Finalise methodology documents
- Carry out Settlement Hierarchy assessments
- Complete Land Availability Assessment appraisals of all sites put forward to consider their potential suitability, availability and achievability
- Provide feedback on engagement outcomes
- Identify any further issues for engagement
- Prepare potential strategy and policy options
- Further Issues and Options engagement summer 2024 – 10 weeks

