

Local Plan Review

Issues and Options



*Do you want to help shape
Wyre Forest District in the future?*

The Council is preparing a new Local Plan to set out how much new housing, employment and retail development will happen in the Wyre Forest District and where it will be located.

The Local Plan Review will result in new development happening over the longer term until 2032. This is your chance to get involved and have your say on new opportunities for growth in our area.

We want **your** views on the issues we have identified and the options for addressing them.

Consultation Period
1st September to 16th
October 2015



Wyre Forest
District Council

What is the Local Plan?

The new Local Plan will guide the amount and location of new development in the District up until 2032. The Local Plan will allocate the sites needed to help deliver the identified level of development. Wyre Forest's current plan looks forward to 2026 and there are a number of sites allocated which are still to be developed. However it is likely that new sites will also be needed as the new Plan will cover a longer time period and will need to find sites to meet future housing, employment and retail needs.

How could the new plan affect me?

The Local Plan will result in new development happening in our area. The changes that take place may affect you in a variety of ways; you may be able to see new housing or employment development near to where you live or on your way to work; new facilities may be provided close to you such as new shops, schools or open spaces; new roads or cycle ways could be built to make journeys shorter or easier and new employers may provide new job opportunities.

What is this consultation about?

The Issues and Options paper is the first public consultation stage in the Local Plan's preparation and it includes seven potential options for locating new development in our area. The Council still wants to retain the emphasis on its successful regeneration strategy and re-using brownfield sites for new development. However, with the longer plan period and the potential need to accommodate higher levels of housing, employment and retail growth this alone is unlikely to provide enough land to meet our future development needs. Therefore, the possible options do include the potential for some Greenfield development within the District. If you'd like to find out more about the options for growth then please read the Issues and Options Consultation Paper or attend one of our exhibitions and let us know your thoughts.





The consultation also presents some issues and options to address specific planning matters that impact on our District, these include:

- **Providing Quality Homes** - how many new homes are needed and how much affordable housing should we expect developers to provide? How can we provide well designed and sustainable housing that meets the needs of the elderly, the disabled, younger people and families? Where should we locate any new Gypsy and Traveller sites that are needed?
- **Providing Employment Opportunities and Retail Services** - how much new employment land do we need and where should it be located? How do we ensure it is protected for employment uses to help regenerate our District? What can we do to help our local workforce access employment opportunities? How can we encourage rural employment opportunities and diversification? How will tourism contribute to the District's future economy? With consumer shopping patterns changing how can we best manage the impact on our town centres and how do we retain our local shops and services?
- **Safeguarding Character and Local Distinctiveness** - how can we protect and enhance the District's most valued asset – its character and landscape? How can we ensure we improve access to our green spaces and recreational resources? How can we make the most of the area's rich historic environment?
- **A Well Served District** - how can we improve transport choice, accessibility and efficiency for our residents and visitors? Should we identify other possible new road links to improve accessibility to the District? How can we address air quality issues in all three of our towns? How do we ensure we have the right education, healthcare and recreational facilities and how will it all be funded?
- **Tackling Climate Change and its Impacts** –how can we address and manage one of the District's biggest problems - flood risk? Can we deliver improved levels of water efficiency across our District, and what are the options for delivering renewable energy in the future?

The Paper includes lots of questions to help guide your thoughts on how the District should develop.

How to get Involved

Consultation on the Issues and Options Paper will take place between Tuesday 1st September and Friday 16th October 2015. You can submit your comments in any of the following ways:



On-line: by following the links from our web-site:
www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk/localplanreview



By e-mail: Planning.policy@wyreforestdc.gov.uk

By post: Planning Policy Team, Wyre Forest DC, Wyre Forest House,
Finepoint Way, Kidderminster, Worcestershire, DY11 7WF

Documents will also be available to view at Kidderminster Hub and libraries within the District.

Look out for opportunities to engage via social media: **Like us on Facebook - Wyre Forest District Council** and **Follow us on Twitter - @WyreForestDC**

The Planning Policy Team will host a number of drop-in sessions during the consultation period as listed below. You are welcome to come along and chat to us about the Issues and Options Paper and how the Local Plan Review might affect you.

Saturday 5th September 2015	11am-3pm	Stourport Carnival
Sunday 6th September 2015	10am-2pm	Bewdley Farmers' Market
Saturday 12th September 2015	10am-2pm	Weavers Wharf, Kidderminster
Thursday 17th September 2015	10am-3pm	Kidderminster Market

We look forward to hearing from you. Your comments and responses will help us to shape the future of our area through the Local Plan Review.

