

Local Plan Options Consultation - email received 12/02/2024

Dear Consultee

We are writing to inform you about the commencement of the next stage of consultation on our Local Plan and future development in Bath and North East Somerset.

The Local Plan Options document, recently approved by the Cabinet on 1st February, marks a crucial step in shaping the future of our district. We value your input and invite you to participate in the eight-week consultation, which will run from **12th February to 8th April**.

Options for addressing our future development needs, including the delivery of new homes and jobs across Bath and North East Somerset, as well as policies addressing a range of issues including the climate and ecological emergencies, are presented for your consideration and comment. These options align with the council's Corporate Strategy and Economic Strategy, aiming for a fairer, more prosperous, and sustainable economy.

Residents and stakeholders are encouraged to share their thoughts on the proposed options by responding to an interactive version of the Local Plan online at <https://www.bathnes.gov.uk/localplanoptions>, as well as taking part in a series of in-person events.

Representations can be made through the Council website or by post to Planning Policy, Bath and North East Somerset Council, Lewis House, Bath, BA1 1JG. Please note that we will not be accepting representations sent by email.

Find out more

Videos on the council website will give step-by-step guidance on 'How to Comment on the Local Plan' and explain 'What is a Local Plan' as well as outlining how the various options would help to deliver the council's priorities on housing, the climate emergency and sustainable transport. A second set of videos discuss specific locations identified in the Options report, as alternatives or options for potential development.

A series of drop-in sessions where people can discuss the options with council officers have been arranged at the following locations:

- Keynsham Community Space, 22 February
- Trinity Church, Radstock, 26 February
- Saltford Hall, 29 February
- The Hive, Peasedown St John, 1 March
- Bath Cricket Club, 4 March
- Whitchurch United Reform Church, 6 March
- Farrington Gurney Village Hall, 13 March.

All the drop-in events run from 3pm to 7pm.

Printed copies of the plan are available at Bath Central Library; Keynsham Library; Midsomer Norton Library; Bath Housing, Welfare and Advice Services and community libraries.

Consultation dates

The consultation opens today (**12 February**) and runs for eight weeks until **8 April**. You are encouraged to respond online on the council website:

<https://www.bathnes.gov.uk/localplanoptions>

Next steps

Following the consultation, the issues raised in all comments and feedback will be carefully considered, and a Draft Local Plan will be produced, which will be subject to further consultation. The Draft Local Plan and comments received on it will then be submitted to the Secretary of State and examined by an independent planning inspector in 2025. If approved, it will be adopted by the council.

For more information about the development of the new Local Plan please visit [the council's website](#).

We appreciate your engagement in this important process and look forward to receiving your valuable input.

Yours faithfully,

Richard Daone

Deputy Head of Planning (Policy)
Bath & North East Somerset Council
Planning_policy@bathnes.gov.uk

Local Plan Consultation - email received 12/01/2024

[The paragraph in bold states that Freshford has been about identified as a relatively sustainable village for potential Local Plan-led growth.]

Dear Parish Clerk

As you will be aware Bath & North East Somerset Council is currently developing a new Local Plan, including a comprehensive strategy and policies to guide growth, development, and change in our city, towns, and villages up to 2042. I am contacting you in respect of the next stage of Local Plan preparation, that is upcoming consultation on an Options document (subject to Cabinet approval).

The Options Document, which will be considered by the Bath & North East Somerset Council Cabinet on February 1, is set to outline a strategy for rural areas. This document will introduce two pathways to address challenges and foster sustainable growth:

Pathway 1: Community-Led Growth Local communities take the lead, proposing growth projects aligning with local aspirations, using tools such as rural exception schemes, community land trusts, and Neighbourhood Planning.

Pathway 2: Local Plan-Led Growth Focuses on a structured and comprehensive Local Plan-led approach, ensuring certainty for both communities and developers. This approach is essential for meeting overall housing, job, and infrastructure requirements, aligning with the principles of sustainable development.

As part of this strategy, the council has identified relatively sustainable villages for potential Local Plan-led growth. Your village has been identified as one of the relatively sustainable locations for some rural growth, and we acknowledge the importance of your collaboration in shaping the future of these areas. Our commitment is to engage with the community and Parish Council in these villages to explore the potential for modest growth, considering factors such as connectivity, essential services, and facilities. Once the Options Document has been considered by Cabinet and consultation is underway we will be in touch regarding the process of working collaboratively with you.

Subject to the Cabinet decision, the proposed consultation is set to run between February and March, providing you with an opportunity to share your thoughts and insights. Following the Cabinet decision detailed information about the Local Plan consultation will be published on the Council's website: <https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/local-plan>

To stay informed, please subscribe to our weekly residents' e-newsletter, e-connect, at: <https://newsroom.bathnes.gov.uk/> The cabinet meeting on February 1 can be viewed on the Council's YouTube channel.

Your active participation is vital in shaping the future growth of our identified villages. We would also appreciate it if the Parish Council can publicise the upcoming consultation on the Local Plan Options document. Further details on the consultation will be available once it has been considered by Cabinet. We look forward to receiving your valuable input during the upcoming consultation period.

Regards, Richard

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