

Thurrock Local Plan

The Story So Far



February
2016

What is the Local Plan?

Local Plans make sure that an area is developed in the right way, including:

- Building the right number and types of houses
- Developing the right kind of shopping and recreation facilities
- Getting the right office and industrial spaces

- Creating opportunities for local jobs
- Protecting our wildlife, landscapes and heritage.

All planning decisions - from deciding whether to build a new shopping centre to whether to approve a new housing development - are assessed against the Local Plan.

Why do we need a new Local Plan?

Thurrock is set to change a lot over the next 20-30 years with a growing population, increased investment in industry and changes in the way people access key services. We need to make sure that this change is planned for in a way that makes Thurrock an even better place to live, work and visit.

Since the 'Core Strategy' was adopted in 2011 there have been substantial changes to national policy. Although some of the policies were updated following a focussed review, others required additional evidence. Without an up-to-date Plan in place, the Council will be at risk of speculative applications being approved on appeal.

What are the main stages in preparing the Plan?

Scoping Content

Issues and Options (Stage 1)
February 2016

Issues and Options (Stage 2)
October/November 2016

Draft Local Plan
October/November 2017

Publication Draft of the Local Plan
October/November 2018

Submission and Examination
From March 2019

Adoption
October 2020



What stage has the Council reached in preparing the new Local Plan?

The Council is currently at the Issues and Options Stage and is looking for people to have their say on the big issues affecting the Borough and its environment.

The Council is intending to undertake a second Issues and Options consultation in October/November 2016 to look in more detail at specific policy options and site allocations.

What status does the Core Strategy have now the Council is preparing the new Local Plan?

The policies within the Core Strategy will continue to be used in decision making until the Thurrock Local Plan is adopted.

However, as work on the new Local Plan progresses, emerging policies could start to influence decisions on planning applications. Once the Thurrock Local Plan is adopted it will replace the existing documents.



How will local people be involved in preparing the new Local Plan?

The Council is keen to engage as many people as possible in the making of the Local Plan and is achieving this by promoting a range of activities which go above and beyond the legal requirements including the creation of a Local Plan Residents Forum.

Forum members will be involved throughout the preparation of the Local Plan, interrogating evidence and being party to the difficult decisions needed through each stage.

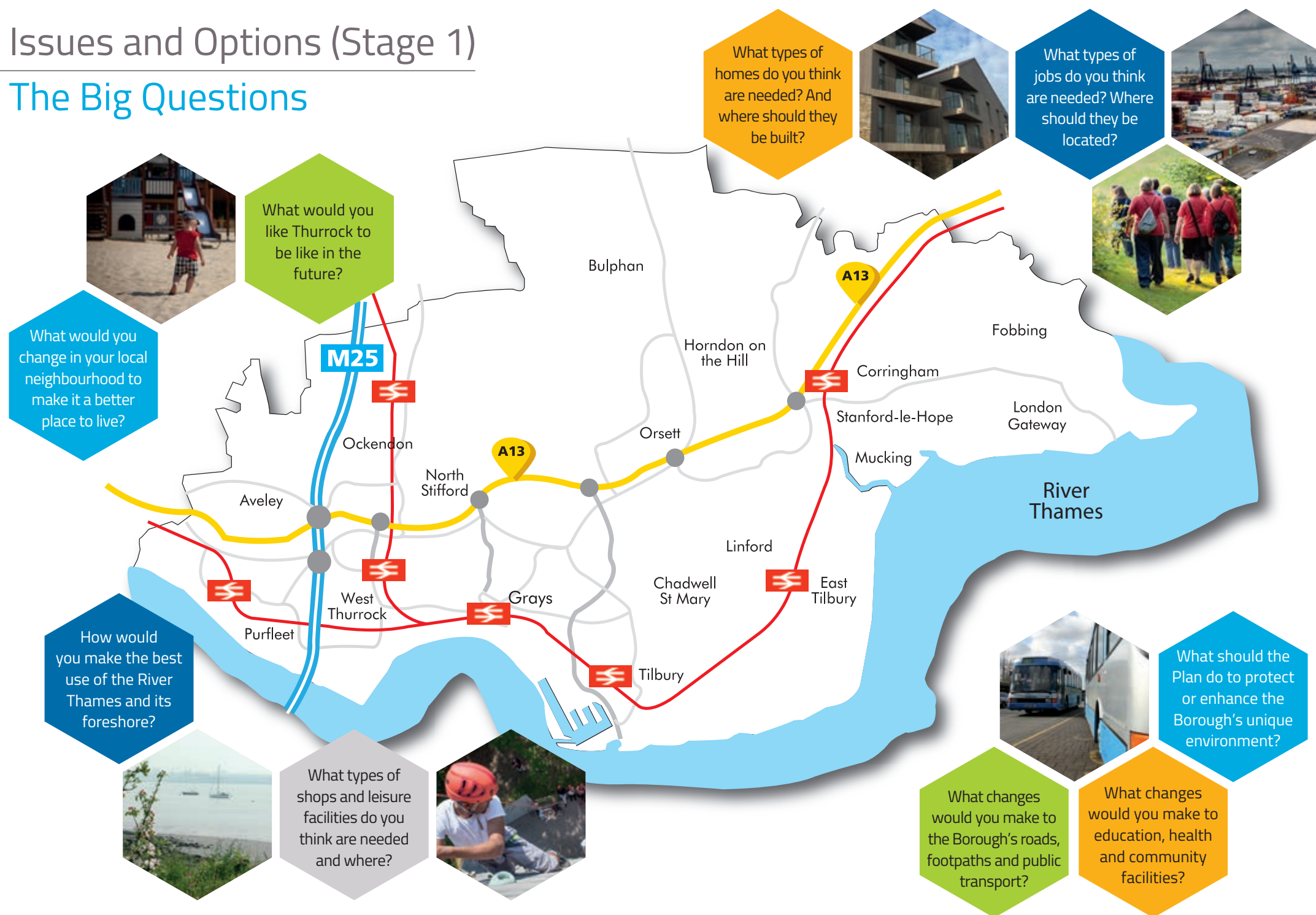
If you are interested in joining the Local Plan Residents Forum please contact a member of the Growth and Strategy Team using the details on the back of this document.



Over **200** people completed the Local Plan Active Place Survey on how open spaces are used in the Borough.

Issues and Options (Stage 1)

The Big Questions



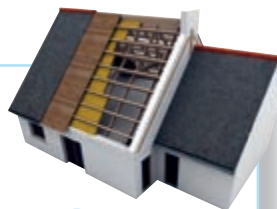


Is the Council still accepting new site submissions?

The Council undertakes a formal call for sites every year. This year we have tied it in with the Local Plan Issues and Options (Stage 1) consultation.

If you know of any sites that the Council should consider for new uses in the Plan, please complete a **2016 Call for Sites Form**. Forms are available online and in libraries and should be submitted to the **Growth and Strategy Team by Monday 11 April 2016**.

Please note that we may not be able to include sites submitted after this deadline in the 2016 Housing or Employment Land Availability Assessments but will be included in future updates.



Over **170** sites were submitted to the Council last year as part of the Council's 2015 call for new sites with development potential.

How do I have my say and what are the next steps?

The easiest way to have your say is online through the Council's Consultation Portal which can be accessed through thurrock.gov.uk/localplan

Comments forms are available on request at the Civic Offices and in all libraries in the Borough.

The Council is intending on producing a Stage 2 Issues and Options consultation document in October/November 2016 to look in more detail at specific policy options and site allocations.

If you would like to be updated on the progress of the plan or if you would like to become a member of the Local Plan Residents Forum please contact a member of the Growth and Strategy Team using the details on the back cover.

Local Plan Roadshows

The Council will be holding a series of drop-in events for people to learn about the Local Plan and the Design Strategy document. Events will be held in:

- Aveley
- Chadwell St Mary
- Corringham
- East Tilbury
- Grays
- Lakeside
- Orsett
- Purfleet
- South Ockendon
- Stanford-le-Hope
- Tilbury Centre

Up-to-date information on the times, dates and locations of these events can be found on thurrock.gov.uk/localplan



What is the Design Strategy and why is it important?

High-quality design is fundamental to the creation of high quality places and has a significant impact on quality of life. The Design Strategy document sets out guidance on how

new developments in the Borough should be designed. Once adopted, the Design Strategy will be used as a tool to inform and assess planning proposals in Thurrock, at all scales.

What are the key themes in the Design Strategy?

The Design Strategy states that the starting point for every development proposal must be a detailed study of the site and its physical context. In Thurrock the diverse nature of settlements and landscapes means that the need for a robust site appraisal is critical to the success of the design process.

In preparing a site appraisal, the Council will expect four main considerations to be taken into account. Each of these considerations is set out in more detail in the strategy document:

- Understanding the place
- Working with site features
- Making connections
- Building in sustainability

How can I have my say on the Design Strategy?

The easiest way to have your say is online through the Council's Consultation Portal which can be accessed through thurrock.gov.uk/localplan

Comments forms are available on request at the Civic Offices and in all libraries in the Borough.



Growth & Strategy Team

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**The consultation on the Local Plan Issues and Options
(Stage 1) and Design Strategy document runs from
Friday 26 February to 5pm Monday 11 April.**

