

## Local Plan Issues and Options (Stage 1)

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. The Council's emerging Local Plan will make sure that the area is developed in the right way. 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.

Public consultation on this document begins on Friday 26 February 2016 at 9am and ends on Monday 11 April 2016 at 5pm. To ensure that your comments are processed accurately please can you ensure that when preparing your comment/s you consider the following guidelines:

- Anonymous comments forms can not be accepted. You must include your contact details for your comment/s to be considered. NB: Contact details for comments made through the online portal are linked automatically.
- If you are submitting comments on behalf of a group please make a single comment on behalf of all members.
- If you would like to make more than one comment on the document please submit a new form for each individual comment.

If you have any questions or would like more information please email the Growth and Strategy Team at [growth&strategy.gov.uk](mailto:growth&strategy.gov.uk) or call 01375 652705

### Your Contact Information

The Council keeps the contact details of local people and organisations who want to be informed about planning policy in Thurrock. In responding to this consultation your contact details will automatically be added to the Council's consultation database by the Growth and Strategy Team.

**Name:**

**Name of the company/organisation you are representing (if applicable):**

**Address:**

**Post code:**

**Email address (if applicable):**

**Your Agents Information (if applicable)**

**Name:**

**Name of agency (if applicable):**

**Address:**

**Post code:**

**Email address (if applicable):**

**Consultation Questions**

The questions are the same questions set out in the Local Plan Issues and Options (Stage 1) document. Please note that you do not have to answer all of the questions.

**Question 1**

**As the Plan progresses more evidence will be need to be prepared. What other evidence documents do you think the Council will need to commission or produce to ensure that the Plan is sound?**

**Question 2**

**Do you feel that all the key cross boundary issues have been identified? If not, then please state any other issues that we should be working with our partners to address.**

**Question 3**

**What would you like Thurrock to be like in the future and what do you think should be the key economic, housing, environmental, social, community and health outcomes that the Local Plan should help to deliver?**

**Question 4**

**Do you believe that the vision and approach set out in the Core Strategy of focusing development within Thurrock’s urban area and major growth hubs remains the most appropriate option for meeting the Borough’s future development needs?**

**Question 5**

**Do you think that the plan period of 2015-2035 is appropriate? If not please suggest a more suitable plan period.**

**Question 6**

**Policies in the Local Plan can seem very high level but at their heart they are all about creating better places to live, work and play. What would you change in your local neighbourhood to make it a better place to live?**

**Question 7**

**The River Thames is one of the Borough’s biggest assets but has been somewhat neglected over the years. Going forward we need to ensure that the river and the areas around it are developed in the right way. How would you make the best use of the River Thames and its foreshore?**

**Question 8**

**Have you ever experienced any difficulty in trying to find a suitable property in the Borough? If yes what were your biggest challenge?**

**National policy states that the Council should prioritise the development of redundant brownfield sites that have good access to existing services for new housing. What should the Council look to do if it cannot find enough suitable brownfield sites to meet its housing need?**

**Question 10**

**National policy encourages Local Plans to plan positively for a mix of housing based on the type of people that live in the Borough both now and in the future. What types of housing do you think will be most needed in the Borough over the coming years?**

**Question 11**

**The costs of developing some sites and the risks involved can mean that some sites which are suitable for housing cannot come forward due to viability issues. Should the Council explore the potential for variable affordable housing targets and approaches so that difficult higher risk sites can be developed?**

**Question 12**

**National policy states that the Council should prioritise the development of redundant brownfield sites that have good access to existing services for new housing which includes pitches for gypsies, travellers and travelling show people. What should the Council look to do if it cannot find enough suitable brownfield sites for new pitches?**

**Question 13**

**What are the main barriers to growth that need to be addressed in the Local Plan to ensure that all sections of the community have access to the benefits of future employment creation in Thurrock?**

**Question 14**

**Do you think there is a need to identify additional land for employment and what other employment uses outside of the port, logistics and retail sectors should the Local Plan support and promote**

**Question 15**

**What do you think are the key challenges facing Thurrock's retail centres and how can the Local Plan maintain and enhance their role?**

**Question 16**

**What improvements would you like to see in those centres that you visit regularly and what would make you visit them more often? Please state the name of the centre in your response.**

**Question 17**

**What are the best locations for new retail and leisure development in the Borough and how can future development be harnessed to support the delivery of wider regeneration and economic growth needs and objectives?**

**Question 18**

**Is there a need for the development of retail, leisure and other town centres uses in locations outside the existing established retail centres and if so where?**

**Question 19**

**What new sport and leisure facilities do think are needed in the Borough to support existing and new communities?**

**Question 20**

**National policy gives Councils new powers to protect valued open spaces by designating them as a Local Green Spaces. Are there any open spaces that are special to your local community which should be designated? If yes, please provide details of the open space, its location and the reason why it is special to you and your community.**

**Question 21**

**What new educational facilities do think are needed in the Borough to support existing and new communities?**

**Question 22**

**What new health and community facilities do you think are needed in the Borough to support both new and existing communities?**

**Question 23**

**Buildings in community use are a valuable local resource. Displacing them by redevelopment or change of use makes it far more difficult to return them to community use. What kind of things could the Local Plan do to protect these valuable community assets?**

**Question 24**

**What approach could the Local Plan take to ensure that issues relating to pollution and air quality are minimised?**

**Question 25**

**There is a growing need to deliver the infrastructure required to support sustainable transport choices. What kind of things could the Plan do to help you make more sustainable transport choices?**

**Question 26**

**Are there any specific sustainable transport projects that the Council should be promoting in the Local Plan? If yes, please provide some detail about the project.**

**Question 27**

**Are there any specific road transportation projects that the Council should be promoting in the Local Plan? If yes, please provide some detail on the project, its location and the reason why you believe it is necessary.**

**Question 28**

**It is likely that port-related and freight activity will continue to be a main feature of the Borough's economy over the plan period. What kind of things can the plan do to reduce the adverse impacts of freight movements?**

**Question 29**

**What things could the plan do to protect and enhance the Borough's listed building and conservation areas?**

**Question 30**

**Are there any buildings of significance in your local community which should be included on a local heritage list? If yes, please provide details including its location and the reason why it is special to your community.**

**Question 31**

**What approach should the Local Plan take to ensure that Borough's landscape, seascape and its key features are protected and where possible enhanced?**

**Question 32**

**How should the Local Plan use the information from the landscape and seascape capacity and sensitivity study?**

**Question 33**

**What approach should the Local Plan take to ensure that Borough's natural assets are protected and where possible enhanced?**

**Question 34**

**In planning for new development, how much weight should the Local Plan give to flood risk relative to other objectives (including sustainability, regeneration, local need and the local economy)?**

**Question 35**

**Should the Plan seek to promote higher water efficiency standards by adopting the Government's Optional Technical Housing Standards?**

**Question 36**

**How should the Local Plan take account of and encourage community owned renewable energy schemes?**

**Question 37**

**Which renewable technologies do you think are most suitable for large scale proposals in the Borough? Please provide additional information as to why you deem these to be suitable.**

**Question 38**

**How can the Plan ensure that enough minerals are available for development and also protect resources for the future?**

### Question 39

**What should the Local Plan do to ensure that waste management facilities are located, designed and operated to minimise impacts on climate change, local amenity for residents, and the natural and built environment?**

### Question 40

**This document sets out the issues that need to be addressed through the new Local Plan. There may be matters that have been missed or that are not covered by the other consultation questions. Are there any matters you think also need to be considered at this stage and why?**

### Other Comments

Please use the space below to write any additional comments you may have about the Local Plan Issues and Options (Stage 1) document.

## Consultation Feedback

### How did you find out about this consultation?

(please select all that apply)

- Council website .....
- Letter/email from the Council .....
- Social media (Facebook/Twitter) .....
- Advert in local newspaper .....
- Online news article .....
- Article in local newspaper .....
- Family member or friend told me about it .....
- Other .....

### In what format have you viewed this document? (please check all that apply)

(please select all that apply)

- Electronic: Consultation Portal .....
- Electronic: PDF .....
- Paper copy: Council offices, Library, Community Hub .....
- Paper copy: Purchased .....
- Paper copy: Printed at home .....

### Did you find the document and the supporting information easy to read and understand?

(please select one answer)

- Yes .....  No .....  Somewhat .....

**Please use this space to provide any suggestions you may have for how we can improve future consultations:**

## Next Steps

Thank **you** for making your comments on the **Local Plan Issues and Options (Stage 1)** document. **Completed form/s should be returned by 5.00pm on Monday 11 April 2016 to:**

Growth and Strategy Team,

Thurrock Council,

Civic Offices,

New Road,

Grays,

Essex,

RM17 6SL

## Feedback

Feedback is a key part of the consultation process showing those who have responded to the consultation how their views have been taken into consideration. All responses will be acknowledged by the Council and summaries will be prepared of such representations as soon as practical.

Please note that all comments and representations received are public documents and will be available for public inspection on the Council's website and by request at the Civic Offices in Grays.