

Hart Local Plan Scoping Consultation (closes 19 June)

Have your say on what our new Local Plan should cover and how best to engage with you going forward

At this early stage of the Local Plan process we are seeking input on:

1. which matters you think are relevant to the preparation of the Local Plan, including what the plan should contain
2. how we should engage with you in the preparation of the Local Plan.

Do you have any views on how we should address this challenge, or where we should focus growth?

Acknowledging that Hart's 'local housing need' is 804 homes per annum, every attempt should be made to meet that need within Hart District. If there is unmet need emerging from Hart, this should be considered across the new unitary geography of North Hampshire, of which Hart is part, along with Basingstoke and Deane and Rushmoor.

Which groups do you believe have specific housing needs in Hart? How should the plan address their housing needs?

We would expect the Hart Local Plan to look specifically at the needs of the Traveller community, based on up to date evidence. As above, every attempt should be made to meet that need within Hart District. If there is unmet need emerging from Hart, this should be considered across the new unitary geography of North Hampshire, of which Hart is part, along with Basingstoke and Deane and Rushmoor.

How should the plan support economic growth?

The plan should look to meet the evidenced need for employment uses in the district. Efforts should be made to sustain the current economic trends of the district whilst also ensuring economic growth that accommodates and fulfils the needs of future residential growth in the district.

What infrastructure issues or challenges do we face and how can they be overcome?

WRZ4 is a South East Water resource zone covering parts of East Hampshire and neighbouring authorities, including Hart. It is currently under significant pressure, with limited water availability and environmental restrictions constraining additional supply.

As a result, there is a clear gap between planned growth and available infrastructure. Because WRZ4 operates as a shared water supply area, pressures are cumulative, with development in Hart, East Hampshire and Basingstoke & Deane drawing on the same constrained resource.

Addressing this requires joint working with Hart District Council and others, alongside careful phasing of development and alignment with the delivery of strategic water infrastructure improvements.

Is there a group or community you are aware of that find it harder to participate? If so, what steps could we take to help those groups engage?

In our experience, engaging younger people can be challenging and considering how best to achieve responses from all ages is encouraged.

We would recommend writing to all Traveller sites in your area to inform of the consultation and advise of ways to be involved (including offering meetings to further discuss).

How would you like to be engaged with during the preparation of the Local Plan?

Through email notification of the start of consultations, and through regular engagement on cross boundary matters. We draw your attention to our Duty to Co-operate Framework 2025 which sets out cross boundary strategic matters, and on which Hart was consulted.