EAST HAMPSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

EHDC | PO Box 310 | Petersfield | GU32 9HN
Phone 01730 266551 | Email info@easthants.gov.uk
easthants.gov.uk

Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council Scoping Consultation

(Evidence Base)

Question 1:

Are there any other evidence base documents that the council should be preparing?

East Hampshire District Council (EHDC) appreciates that the Council had already prepared a substantial evidence base to support the work to date on the emerging Local Plan, which is a similar position to us.

EHDC supports the list of further evidence base proposed to be updated/prepared. Given the acknowledged water resource constraints affecting the borough, the Joint Water Cycle Study and related water evidence will be critical in informing a sound and deliverable Local Plan.

We also support the update of the Gypsy and Traveller Needs Assessment. The emerging Local Plan should be underpinned by an up-to-date Gypsy and Traveller Needs Assessment and provide an appropriate strategy to meet evidenced accommodation needs over the plan period, including any identified cross-boundary considerations.

We are not aware of any other evidence base documents that the council should be preparing.

(Maintaining Cooperation with other plan making authorities)

Question 2:

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the key issues we have identified?

- • Strongly agree
- • Partially agree
- • Partially disagree
- • Strongly disagree

Please explain your answer and tell us whether there are other key issues which should be reflected.

Strongly Agree

EHDC agrees with the key issues identified and welcomes the emphasis on infrastructure-led growth, climate change, environmental protection and sustainable development. The recognition of water resource constraints, wastewater infrastructure, environmental capacity and cross-boundary working is particularly supported.

Acknowledging that Basingstoke and Deane's Standard Method housing requirement is 1,166 dwellings per annum, every effort should be made to meet that need within Basingstoke and Deane wherever possible, consistent with national policy.

EHDC supports the preparation of a robust evidence base to identify an appropriate strategy for accommodating housing, employment, traveller and other development needs in a sustainable manner. It is important that unmet development needs are not exported to neighbouring authorities unless it has been clearly demonstrated through the plan-making process that they cannot reasonably be accommodated within the borough. Likewise, the Local Plan should seek to meet the borough's evidenced accommodation needs for Gypsies and Travellers within Basingstoke and Deane wherever possible.

(Draft Vision and Measurable Outcomes)

Question 3:

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the draft vision for the Local Plan?

- • Strongly agree
- • Partially agree
- • Partially disagree
- • Strongly disagree

Please explain your answer.

Strongly Agree

EHDC supports the draft vision and welcomes its emphasis on sustainable growth, infrastructure delivery, climate resilience, environmental protection and water resource management. The recognition of the importance of water efficiency, investment in water infrastructure and the protection of sensitive river catchments is particularly supported.

EHDC particularly supports the aspiration to deliver sustainable growth whilst recognising environmental and infrastructure constraints. The vision should continue to emphasise the importance of meeting the borough's development needs through a plan-led approach, supported by the timely provision of infrastructure and environmental mitigation measures.

(Measurable outcomes)

Question 4:

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the draft measurable outcomes we have identified?

- • Strongly agree
- • Partially agree
- • Partially disagree
- • Strongly disagree

Please explain your answer and tell us whether there are any additional measurable outcomes that should be monitored.

Partially Agree

Overall, the proposed outcomes provide an appropriate framework for monitoring the effectiveness of the Local Plan and its contribution towards sustainable development.

(Proposed Locally Specific Policy Areas)

Question 5:

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposed scope of the Local Plan and the proposed policy areas (as detailed in Appendix 1)?

- • Strongly agree
- • Partially agree
- • Partially disagree
- • Strongly disagree

Please explain your answer and tell us if there are any other topics or issues that should be addressed through locally specific policies in the Local Plan?

Partially Agree

EHDC broadly supports the proposed scope of the Local Plan and the range of locally specific policy areas identified. Given the strategic role of the Local Plan, the council would support policies that promote the effective use of previously developed land, deliver sustainable patterns of growth, and ensure that infrastructure requirements are identified and secured alongside development. At this stage, EHDC

has no additional locally specific policy areas to suggest beyond those already identified.

(The Draft Community Engagement Strategy)

Question 6:

To what extent do you agree or disagree with how we are proposing to engage with consultees in the preparation of the Local Plan?

- • Strongly agree
- • Partially agree
- • Partially disagree
- • Strongly disagree

Please explain your answer and tell us what further actions we could take to encourage further engagement?

Partially Agree

EHDC broadly supports the proposed approach to community engagement. The proposed engagement methods should help support transparent and inclusive plan preparation.

The council encourages continued engagement with neighbouring authorities and key infrastructure providers, particularly on cross-boundary matters such as water resources, wastewater infrastructure, transport and environmental issues. Early collaboration on strategic issues will help inform a robust and effective Local Plan.

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).

(Integrated Impact Assessment Scoping Report)

Question 7:

Do you have any comments on the Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) Scoping Report?

EHDC supports the preparation of the Integrated Impact Assessment and its role in ensuring that the Local Plan is informed by robust evidence. The council considers that the IIA should continue to be informed by the most up-to-date evidence relating to water resources, wastewater infrastructure, environmental capacity and climate

resilience, particularly given the significance of these issues to future plan-making within the borough.

The council considers it important that the IIA tests the implications of different growth scenarios, including the extent to which the borough's identified development needs can be accommodated within Basingstoke and Deane, together with the associated infrastructure and environmental requirements. The assessment should also consider any potential cross-boundary implications arising from alternative development strategies.

Overall, EHDC supports the proposed approach and the use of an evidence-led assessment framework to inform the development of the Local Plan.