

# Imagine Bath and North East Somerset's rural areas in 2026...

together we need to make some tough decisions

The Council is reviewing its planning policies. To stimulate discussion about how our District should develop over the next 20 years, the Council has published a document that identifies the major issues it thinks we are facing.

Take a look at the 'Core Strategy Launch Document' and let us know what you think. Details of how to do this and where you can find the document are included in this leaflet.

## The Core Strategy

Work to put together a new generation of planning policies which will set out the broad locations for new housing, jobs and community facilities is being launched by the Council. Some of these new policies will be set out in a document called the Core Strategy.

The Core Strategy will set out the long term planning framework for the District looking ahead to 2026.

It will take on board the findings of studies, other Council strategies and consultations, including the Sustainable Community Strategy and the 'Future for Bath and North East Somerset Visions'.



Bath and North East Somerset  
Local Development Framework



THE FUTURE  
FOR BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET

Working together in



BATH & NORTH EAST SOMERSET

## What is the major spatial issue facing Bath and North East Somerset?

The District will need to deliver unprecedented levels of growth in housing and other areas over the next 20 years while also addressing the challenge of climate change. We need to find land for up to 16,000 new homes.

This is not the only issue facing the District. We recognise that there are different issues facing Bath, Keynsham, Midsomer Norton and Radstock, and the rural areas.

### We want you to tell us:

- **Has the Launch Document correctly identified the main issues for each area?**
- **What do you think are the best options for tackling the issues?**



## What about the rural areas?

We realise that the rural areas in Bath and North East Somerset are varied and different, however, we think that they do face some common challenges. We think the main issue for our rural areas is making sure that social and economic change benefits rural communities. Many rural areas are experiencing change – with many shops and post offices closing or under threat and traditional rural industries declining. Increasing migration to rural areas and increasing out-commuting is raising property prices. This is making affordable housing for some people – particularly first-time buyers in this area – difficult to find.

### We suggest other major issues include:

- level of development allowed in rural settlements
- need for affordable housing
- local facilities and services
- rural isolation and dependency on private car use
- rural economy
- protecting and enhancing the natural environment
- renewable energy



Parishes in Bath and North East Somerset

# Have your say!

## **Core Strategy Launch Consultation**

**25th September to 17th December 2007...**

Displays will be held in Bath, Keynsham and Midsomer Norton – you can see all display material on our website [www.bathnes.gov.uk/corestrategy](http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/corestrategy).

Talk to your Parish Council for more details about the consultation and ask them what comments they will be making on behalf of your local area.

Council Connect can provide contact details for your Parish Council:

Tel: 01225 394041

Text: 07797 806545

[councilconnect@bathnes.gov.uk](mailto:councilconnect@bathnes.gov.uk)

Comment online or contact us for a Comment Form

For full details of the consultation activities see our online consultation calendar or contact us directly.

Copies of the Core Strategy Launch document and leaflets for other areas can be found at:

[www.bathnes.gov.uk/corestrategy](http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/corestrategy)

all public libraries in the District

Council Offices including Trimbridge House, Bath

For further information you can contact the Planning Policy Team on 01225 477548 or e-mail [planning\\_policy@bathnes.gov.uk](mailto:planning_policy@bathnes.gov.uk)