

Core Strategy Launch Document Executive Summary

Imagine Bath and North East Somerset 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 which identifies the major issues which it thinks we are facing.

Introduction

This document marks the beginning of a new generation of development plans for our district. These new planning policies will be set out in a suite of policy documents called the Local Development Framework (LDF). The key document in the LDF is 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'.

The purpose of this launch document

The document paints a picture of the district and identifies the major spatial issues which we think the different parts of the district are facing. A series of questions are raised throughout the document – you do not have to answer all the questions – their aim is to aid discussion.



The new planning system is such that it will be difficult to introduce new issues at a late stage in the process. So the simple message is:

Get involved now!

Don't wait until you're notified that a planning application has been made to develop that piece of land near where you live.

Core Strategy Launch Consultation

25th September to 17th December 2007...

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?

www.bathnes.gov.uk/corestrategy

Where can I see the Core Strategy Launch Document?

- § on our website
- § at all public libraries in the District
- § Council Offices at:
 - § Trimbridge House, Bath
 - § Riverside, Keynsham
 - § The Hollies, Midsomer Norton
 - § Victoria Hall, Radstock



How to get involved

Respond to the consultation online or fill in a Comment Form

For details of consultation activities see our website

Activities include:

- § Displays
- § Drop-in sessions
- § Local meetings and events
- § Targeted consultation
- § Other information will also be available e.g. leaflets and online resource pack

For further information you can contact the Planning Policy Team on 01225 477548 or e-mail: planning_policy@bathnes.gov.uk

The issues identified for the district in the Core Strategy Launch Document summarised

Issues for the District as a whole

HEADLINE ISSUE: Delivering the growth agenda and addressing the challenge of climate change

- ISSUE 1** Economic Prosperity
- ISSUE 2** The changing nature of shopping
- ISSUE 3** Meeting housing needs & demand
- ISSUE 4** Protecting and Enhancing the Environment
- ISSUE 5** Building Balanced Communities
- ISSUE 6** Integrated transport
- ISSUE 7** Making it happen

Issues for Bath

HEADLINE ISSUE: Delivering growth whilst respecting the environment

- ISSUE B1** Protecting and enhancing Bath's unique environment
- ISSUE B2** Maintaining Bath as an important economic centre – accommodating growth
- ISSUE B3** Economic diversity and type of growth
- ISSUE B4** Accommodating sufficient housing to meet needs & demand
- ISSUE B5** An urban extension to Bath
- ISSUE B6** Providing more affordable housing and the right housing mix
- ISSUE B7** Future of shopping in the City centre
- ISSUE B8** Meeting shopping needs outside the City centre
- ISSUE B9** Maintaining the City as an important visitor destination and managing its spatial impacts
- ISSUE B10** Expansion of the Universities and managing the impact on residential communities
- ISSUE B11** Meeting the need for community facilities
- ISSUE B12** Improving access around and into the City

Issues for Keynsham

Headline Issue: An Urban Extension south east of Bristol

- ISSUE K1** Future of Keynsham Town Centre
- ISSUE K2** Employment in Keynsham
- ISSUE K3** Providing sufficient housing
- ISSUE K4** Improving access and reducing the need to travel
- ISSUE K5:** Addressing Community Needs

Issues for Midsomer Norton, Radstock & Environs

Headline Issue: The vulnerable local economy and the need for diversification and expansion

- ISSUE NR1** The role and function of the settlements
- ISSUE NR2** New housing - a threat or an opportunity?
- ISSUE NR3** Transport improvements to assist economic growth and meet social needs
- ISSUE NR4** How can regeneration improve the centres of Midsomer Norton and Radstock? What should their respective roles and function be?
- ISSUE NR5** Improvements to local facilities
- ISSUE NR6** How can the distinctive local character be emphasised and enhanced while accommodating economic growth?

Key Issues for rural areas

Headline Issue: How can change be harnessed for the benefit of rural communities?

- ISSUE R1** The future for rural settlements.
- ISSUE R2** How can the need for affordable housing in rural areas be addressed?
- ISSUE R3** Maintaining and providing new local facilities and services?
- ISSUE R4** Rural isolation and dependency on private car use
- ISSUE R5** Fostering a buoyant rural economy
- ISSUE R6** Protecting and enhancing the Natural Environment
- ISSUE R7** Renewable energy



This document about community involvement in planning can be made available in a range of community languages, large print, Braille, on tape, electronic and accessible formats from the Planning Policy Team Tel (01225 477548) Fax (01225 477617), Minicom (01225 477535).

Prepared by Bath & North East Somerset Council Planning Services