

# Local Plan Update

Town and Parish Councils Briefing  
24<sup>th</sup> May and 5<sup>th</sup> June 2023

# Agenda



- 1) What is a Local Plan for?
- 2) Context of the Local Plan update
- 3) Anticipated timeline for the Local Plan update
- 4) Engagement this year
- 5) Explanation of the Issues Engagement Papers
- 6) How you can get involved
- 7) Next steps
- 8) Questions and discussion



# What is a Local Plan for?

# What is a Local Plan for?



**A plan for the future development of the local area, drawn up by the local planning authority in consultation with the community.**

- Sets out a vision and development strategy for the district
- Contains policies shaping environmental, social and economic aspirations
- Contains site allocations for future development
- Provides certainty for communities and investors
- Identifies target numbers for new homes and jobs
- Helps infrastructure providers with their service planning



# Context of the Local Plan update

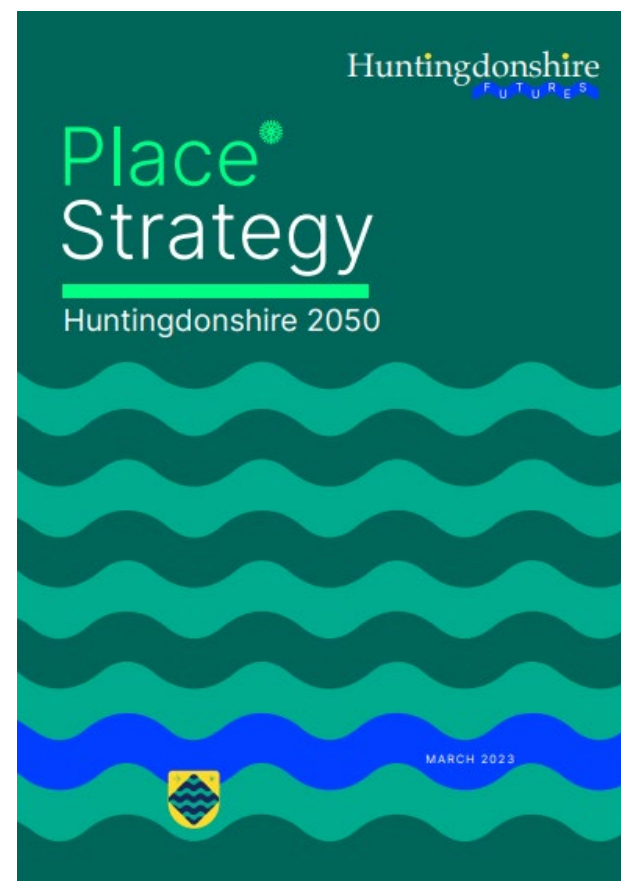
# National context

- Levelling up and Regeneration Bill
- National Planning Policy Framework review
- Standard methodology for calculating housing numbers
- Environment Act
- Future Homes Standard



# Local context

- Huntingdonshire Futures Place Strategy
- Declaration of climate crisis and ecological emergency
- Oxford to Cambridge pan-regional partnership
- Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority
- Delivery mechanism for Economic Growth Strategy, community and physical infrastructure and healthy communities





# Anticipated timeline



# Anticipated timeline

**Initial evidence gathering and engagement - Spring 2023 to Spring 2024**



**Further Issues and Options engagement - Summer to Autumn 2024**



**Engagement on full draft Local Plan - Summer 2025**



**Potential additional sites engagement - Spring 2026**



**Proposed submission Local Plan - Spring 2027**



**Submission to the Planning Inspectorate - Summer to Autumn 2027**



**Examination in Public - Autumn 2027 to Summer 2028**



**Potential Adoption of replacement Local Plan - Winter 2028**



# Engagement approach



- Core elements set out in the Statement of Community Involvement
- Engagement approaches include:
  - Social media
  - Online engagement opportunities and direct promotion
  - Local newspaper articles
  - Direct communications with Town and Parish Councils and duty to cooperate partners
  - Copies of Issues documents to all libraries and circulation via the mobile library with paper response forms for Easy Read survey

# Engagement so far



1<sup>st</sup> February to 15<sup>th</sup> March:

Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report  
Statement of Community Involvement

29<sup>th</sup> March to 10<sup>th</sup> May:

Draft Settlement Hierarchy Methodology  
Draft Land Availability Assessment

# Current engagement



## 1. Call for sites

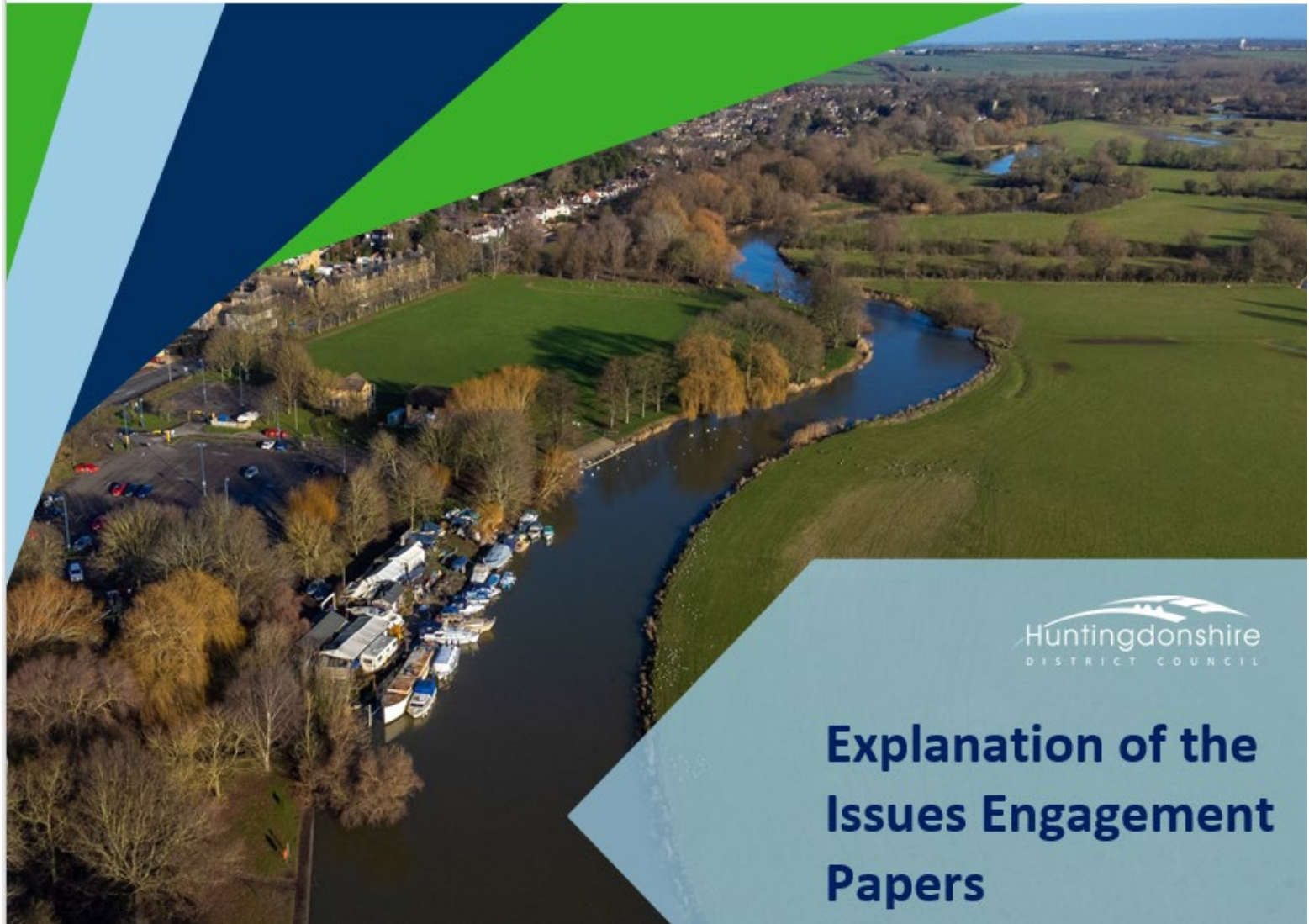
➤ 29<sup>th</sup> March to 7<sup>th</sup> June

## 2. Issues Engagement Papers comprising

- Issues Engagement Paper
- Issues Paper Summary
- Local Plan Issues Consultation – Easy Read

➤ 26<sup>th</sup> April to 5<sup>th</sup> July

Themes for the Issues are broadly the same through all versions.



## Explanation of the Issues Engagement Papers

# Issues Consultation

## Easy Read



- Explains the themes in short, simple language
- Intended to be accessible to people for whom reading English is challenging and for younger residents
- Links to a survey with 10 'tick box' style questions and 2 open questions
- Paper versions are being circulated on the mobile libraries

### Tackling climate change

Climate change will make the summer hotter. It will also mean more rain and strong winds in the winter.

**How important to you is tackling climate change?**

*(please select one answer)*

Very important .....  A bit important .....  Not important .....

### Supporting shops and jobs

Please think about the town or village centre you go to most often.

What would you like to see more or less of there?

			Less
Food shops	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other shops	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Pharmacy where you can get medicines	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Health clinics	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Offices and places to work	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Places to go in the evening	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cafes and restaurants	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Hot food takeaways	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

# Issues Summary Paper

- Explains what a Local Plan is and what it is for
- Stresses that this is to provoke comments on issues faced by the district
- Intention is to stimulate discussion and it does not prejudice any outcomes
- Contains 1 or 2 open questions on each issues theme
- Provides links to the full-length Issues Engagement Paper

*What housing issues do you think the Local Plan should seek to address?  
What is important to you?*

*How do you think the Local Plan can help the district to grow in a sustainable way? Where should we look to focus growth and what should growth look like?*



# Creating a vision and objectives issues



- Role of the Local Plan vision statement is to set the overarching framework
- The vision should provide guidance on priorities for the district and how change will be managed
- Policies and proposals should collectively deliver the district's vision
- Objectives should add detail to the vision's aspirations

## Question 2

### Huntingdonshire Local Plan's vision

How can the Local Plan's vision complement and add land use specific details to the Huntingdonshire Futures Place Strategy's vision?  
What should be its key priorities?

# Responding to the climate crisis issues

- Carbon emissions and targets
- Carbon sequestration and offsetting
- Renewable and low carbon energy
- Energy efficiency and retrofitting
- Flooding, water supplies and water pollution
- Waste and recycling

## Question 4

### Net zero carbon future

What are the key challenges for the updated Local Plan in terms of delivering growth while also working towards the District Council's net zero carbon ambition by 2040?

## Question 14

### Local flood risk - resilience and resistance

How can the Local Plan support increased resilience and resistance to flood risk in your local area?

# Enhancing the natural environment issues



- Huntingdonshire's landscapes
- The natural environment and nature conservation designations
- Green infrastructure
- Biodiversity net gain
- Air quality

## Question 22

### Relationship with the Great Ouse Valley

What more can be done to connect Huntingdon, St Neots and St Ives with the landscape of the Great Ouse Valley?

## Question 29

### Air quality

How can the updated local plan assist in reducing air pollutants and keep pollutants within acceptable levels?

# Supporting our places issues



- Huntingdonshire's market towns
- Huntingdonshire's villages
- The countryside
- Historic environment

## Question 32

### Relationship with Bedford and Cambridge

How can the Local Plan support St Neots in developing a complementary relationship with Bedford and Cambridge

## Question 41

### Huntingdonshire's villages

If you live, work or have other connections to a particular village in Huntingdonshire please name it and say what are the issues of greatest concern or priority?

# Meeting the housing needs of all issues

- The need for new homes
- Delivery of new homes
- Housing mix
- Housing tenures
- Housing standards
- Gypsy, Traveller, Travelling Showpeople and Boat-dwellers accommodation

## Question 48

### Specialist and older people's accommodation

Which types of specialist or older people's housing are most needed here?  
Are there particular locations, or types of location, where they should be built?

## Question 50

### Affordable homes

What proportion of new homes should meet the government's definition of affordable housing? Should this be the same throughout Huntingdonshire or vary according to local circumstances?

# Promoting a prosperous local economy issues

- A green economy
- Supporting an diversifying the local economy
- Logistics and distribution
- Rural economy and agriculture
- Retail and adapting our town centres
- Enhancing tourism

## Question 61

### A green economy

What approaches can the Local Plan take to enable a greener economy?

## Question 67

### Logistics and distribution

How should the Local Plan address logistics and distribution? What issues need to be considered?

# Developing high quality sustainable communities with supporting infrastructure issues



- Design of buildings and places
- Open space in new development
- Travel and transport
- Public transport and active travel infrastructure
- Parking provision
- Community facilities and services
- Utilities and digital infrastructure

## Question 81

### Open space standards and types

What do open spaces in new developments currently lack, are there additional standards or types of open space that the Local Plan should consider?

## Question 87

### Active travel infrastructure

What can the Local Plan do to help promote and provide active travel in new developments?

# Distributing new growth issues and questions

Structure is different from other chapters.

This focuses on:

- Variety of possible approaches identified
- What factors should we take into account?

## Question 97

### Growth scenarios

What development scenarios do you think are suitable for Huntingdonshire and what should be avoided and why?

## Question 99

### Priorities for new developments

What priorities should be considered when allocating new development?





**How you can get  
involved**

# How you can get involved



- Submit comments on Issues of interest to your parish
  - Share social media messaging being issued by our Communications colleagues
  - Display the posters sent out on your parish noticeboards
  - Signpost people to our webpage which explains the engagement opportunities in text and in a video and links to the online consultation portal
- [Local Plan Update - Huntingdonshire.gov.uk](http://Huntingdonshire.gov.uk)
- Signpost people with specific queries to our email
- [local.plan@huntingdonshire.gov.uk](mailto:local.plan@huntingdonshire.gov.uk)



# Next steps

- Analyse all responses put forward
- Finalise methodology documents
- Carry out Settlement Hierarchy assessments
- Complete Land Availability Assessment appraisals of all sites put forward to consider their potential suitability, availability and achievability
- Provide feedback on engagement outcomes
- Identify any further issues for engagement
- Prepare potential strategy and policy options
- Further Issues and Options engagement summer 2024 – 10 weeks



# Questions and discussion