

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Where has the draft local plan come from?

There's a table on our New Local Plan web-page, which provides a detailed timeline explaining how the current version of the draft local plan has evolved. This has included gathering information and discussing issues and possible solutions with all kinds of stakeholders, like communities, parish councils, developers, agencies, organisations and so on. This simplified diagram gives you the main points:



### Where have the draft local plan sites come from?

These are from a list of available sites known as the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA). They've emerged as potentially good options for housing and employment development following initial assessments of their location and characteristics, preliminary sustainability checks (prior to a full sustainability appraisal) and community feedback received in 2013. More details can be found in the background document titled Sites Preferred and Not Preferred for Consultation, which is available from our New Local Plan web-page.

### Why are some sites preferred despite poor results in the checks and feedback?

Poor results, which show up in the Sites Preferred and Not Preferred for Consultation document, don't necessarily mean that the site is a poor option for development. This is because a poor result may signal that the site has a particular outstanding issue that needs to be resolved, but, if that issue *can* be resolved, the site would be a good option for development. For example, a site that's a long way from public open space may do badly in preliminary sustainability checks (under health and wellbeing), but if the site is large enough to accommodate new public open space within the development, the issue can be resolved and the whole area can benefit from a new facility. (NB. That's just an example to illustrate the point).

### What's the difference between informal and formal consultation?

Formal planning processes tend to be prescribed by regulations (instruments of law), which means they have to be done in a certain way, whereas informal processes involve greater local discretion. The final version of a complete local plan goes through a formal process of "Publication", which includes an Examination in Public. The current round of consultation is informal and will bring us closer to that formal publication stage.

## Is this the last chance to comment and what happens next?

This isn't the *last* chance to comment—that will be later at the publication stage, referred to above. However, this may be the *best* chance to comment, if you think the content of the plan needs to be changed. This is because comments at the publication stage will be restricted to issues of “soundness”, which are more to do with how the plan has been prepared. After the current round of consultation has finished, comments will be used to draw-up an improved version of the local plan, which will then go through the formal publication process.

## The draft local plan doesn't appear to be complete—why is that?

It's an early informal draft that's been put out as soon as possible, so that people can give their input at the earliest opportunity. Whilst it's not complete, there's plenty in the 22/9/14 version for people to respond to. Notable gaps at the moment include a full policies map, a monitoring regime, some evidence or updates to evidence (e.g. latest population projections, cumulative highway modelling, infrastructure list, etc.) and a full sustainability appraisal. However, feedback from the consultation will help us to fill these gaps.

## What's a “strategic” policy?

The council only has one local plan, which needs to cover the whole area, plan positively for the future and look ahead at least 15 years. This means that policies in the local plan need to work in different locations and for different people; need to aim for a better economy, environment and quality of life; and need to remain relevant as circumstances change over that 15-year period. A strategic policy is designed to fulfil these requirements by being broad, positive and adaptable, with a long-term view. If necessary, extra detail can be added later with Supplementary Planning Documents, which deal with the nitty-gritty and help people to draw-up individual detailed proposals that are in line with relevant strategic policies.

## How are existing planning permissions for housing taken into account?

Sites shown for housing in the draft local plan are intended to meet future housing requirements. This “future” is a period of 15 years beginning when the final version of the plan is adopted and brought into use. Any sites that have unimplemented planning permission (building is approved, but hasn't started), at the time the local plan is adopted, will be taken into account in one of two ways: they will make-up any backlog caused by a previous undersupply of housing or, if there is no backlog, they will count as future supply. So, if there is no backlog, the number of new sites shown in the local plan will be reduced to take account of unimplemented planning permissions, to avoid duplication and an oversupply of housing in the future.

## How does the local plan from 1999 fit in?

The Craven District Local Plan, which dates from 1999, is still being used, but will be deleted once the final version of the new Craven Local Plan has been through a successful publication process and has been adopted by the council. The new local plan will move on from the old local plan and will, for example, identify a new supply of land for housing and employment development—land that probably couldn't have been developed under the old local plan, but may now be considered, because previously identified sites have been used up and new ones are needed for the future.

## May I have a paper copy of the draft local plan?

Whilst we encourage people to download a free copy from our New Local Plan web-page, or to look at reference copies at the council reception and libraries, we can provide people with their own paper copy. They're available from the Planning Policy Team for £4.09. Charges for posting are £1.25 for 1st class or £1.02 for 2nd class. Paper copies are available free of charge in special circumstances. For full details please see our Printing Costs, which are available to download from the New Local Plan web-page.