

---

# Shaping Elmbridge A New Local Plan

---



## Frequently Asked Questions

### Creating our vision, objectives and the direction for development management policies 2020

#### About the Local Plan

##### What is the Local Plan?

The Local Plan guides how the communities and places of Elmbridge will develop over a 15-year period. It will tell us how many homes we need, how much employment land we need, how much infrastructure we need as well as indications for where it should go and how we can best protect our environment. It will also contain detailed policies known as the Development Management policies. These provide the detailed design and technical criteria and standards that proposed development will be assessed against. When adopted, the Local Plan will guide decisions on whether or not planning applications should be granted and it will be the overarching framework for any [Neighbourhood Plans](#).

##### Why have a Local Plan?

The Local Plan is a statutory requirement and the Government has made it clear that all local authorities must have an up-to-date plan and it must be pro-growth. [The National Planning Policy Framework \(NPPF\)](#) explains that 'The planning system should be genuinely plan-led. Succinct and up-to-date plans should provide a positive vision for the future of each area; a framework for addressing housing needs and other economic, social and environmental priorities; and a platform for local people to shape their surroundings' (NPPF, p15).

##### What will happen if we don't prepare a new Local Plan?

The Local Plan is a statutory requirement and the Government has made it clear that all local authorities must have an up-to-date plan.

Failure to do so could lead to intervention whereby the Government writes our Local Plan and policies. Without a new plan we could find ourselves unable to resist unacceptable development or refused applications being granted on appeal. This could result in unplanned development in unsustainable locations.

## **What is the status of the existing Local Plan?**

The set of adopted documents ([Core Strategy](#), [Development Management Plan](#), [Developer Contributions SPD](#), [Design and Character SPD](#) and [Flooding SPD](#)) still represents the council's Local Plan. These documents will remain as local planning policies until the new Local Plan is at an advanced stage of preparation. The new Local Plan will replace the policies in the Core Strategy 2011 and the Development Management Plan 2015.

## **Will all the existing policies be changed?**

We will be reviewing all our existing local policies and while much of the content is still relevant it is likely that there are aspects that require updating or re-writing altogether to reflect more recent national policy and current local circumstances.

## **What has been done so far?**

We have already done a lot of work preparing the evidence base to inform and support the Local Plan as well as undertaken two previous consultations with our residents, businesses and other stakeholders to help identify on what our new Local Plan should contain, the key issues it should address and the different approaches for doing so.

The first consultation the [Strategic Options 2016](#) introduced the need to produce a new Local Plan and discussed where new homes could be located as well as possible approaches to other important issue that the Local Plan must address. The second consultation, the [Options 2019](#) focussed on the issue of housing again and set out five different approaches as to where new homes could be located in the borough.

Information on the previous consultations including, frequently asked questions and the responses received can be found on our website using the following links, Strategic Options 2016 ([FAQs](#) and [responses](#)) and Options 2019 ([FAQs](#) and [responses](#)).

## **What is the next step? When will the new Local Plan be ready?**

This consultation is the last of three consultations with our residents, businesses and other stakeholders during the early stages of the plan preparation. The role of these early consultations is to consider what type of place we all want the borough to be over the next 15 years.

We will collate all of the responses, and these will be published on our website in spring.

After that we will consider the feedback, along with the responses to the Strategic Options 2016 and Options 2019 consultations and prepare a draft plan known as the 'pre-submission draft'. This will contain draft policies, allocations and designations.

You will be asked for your view on the draft plan before it is submitted to an independent Planning Inspector for examination, this is anticipated to happen in September/ October 2020 with

submission anticipated in December 2020. The Planning Inspector will consider your views along with other representations during the examination of the draft plan.

The Examination in Public is expected to commence spring/ summer 2021 and those that made representations will be given the opportunity to make their case to the Planning Inspector.

It is anticipated that the new Local Plan will be adopted by the Council in Autumn 2021.

Full details of the current timetable for producing the new Local Plan can be found in our [Local Development Scheme 2019-2022](#) (published in December 2019).

### **Who decides if the Elmbridge Local Plan is acceptable?**

An independent Planning Inspector will examine the plan through a formal 'Examination in Public' to assess if it has been prepared in accordance with legal and procedural requirements and whether it is 'sound'. To be found 'sound', the Local Plan must be:

- Positively prepared
- Justified
- Effective
- Consistent with national policy

Following the examination, the Inspector makes recommendations to the Secretary of State and the local planning authority about whether the local plan should be adopted, adopted with changes or, if the plan is unsound and cannot be adopted. If changes are required further consultation is necessary. If the plan can be adopted, it would need to be formally decided by the council.

### **About the vision, objectives and the direction for development management consultation 2020**

#### **What is this consultation about?**

This consultation is to seek views on the what vision, objectives and the direction for development management policies to form the basis of the new Local Plan should be. Once adopted, the new Local Plan will replace the Core Strategy 2011 and Development Management Plan 2015.

We need your help to identify a shared vision for Elmbridge 2036 and the key objectives for the new Local Plan that new development and growth will need to focus on delivering. It will be the policies, land allocations and designations in the Local Plan that will help to deliver the vision and objectives as new development will be assessed against them.

We have shared with you our thoughts on what approaches future policies could take in relation to policy topics. The topics have been split into three key themes; protecting and enhancing our natural environment, growing a prosperous economy and ensuring health and wellbeing for all. We know that many of the topics are cross- cutting and have relevance across all three themes.

The document explores how we maintain and grow our prosperous economy, respond to local employment needs, continue to ensure our town and local centres remain vibrant and at the heart

of our communities as well as our approach to tackling climate change and conserving and enhancing the environment, our open spaces and our heritage assets.

### **Does the consultation document include draft policies and allocations?**

No, at this stage no draft policies are being advanced, and no sites are being proposed to be allocated for development, this does not happen until the draft plan is produced.

### **Why does this consultation not include how and where infrastructure will be included?**

Infrastructure includes transport, health facilities such as GP surgeries and hospitals, schools and other education facilities, emergency services (fire, police and ambulance), utilities and waste, and green infrastructure (multifunctional green space).

We think the need to deliver the essential infrastructure required to support growth should be an overarching objective for the new Local Plan and that this should be central to all policies. This consultation document sets out our thoughts on the policy approaches we should take to the different types infrastructure.

The details on the infrastructure required to support growth, how and when this will be delivered will be produced in an Infrastructure Delivery Plan which will be published alongside the draft plan later in the year. The amount, type and location of new infrastructure required is dependent on decisions regarding the overall scale of growth up to 2036.

### **What communication has there been about this consultation?**

The consultation has been advertised on the council's website since mid-November 2019 and meetings have been held with Claygate Parish Council and Local and County Councillors to advise on the format of the consultation. Community groups and local Resident Associations' registered to receive updates on the Local Plan were advised of the consultation in November and all of those registered were sent an invite to the consultation the week before consultation was due to start. Press releases and a notice in the local press have also been issued.

### **What area does it cover?**

The consultation covers the area within the borough boundary.

### **Where can I find the council's technical documents and supporting information?**

The evidence base is a collection of documents we use to inform the development of policy for the Local Plan. It is generally technical work, either produced by the council or specialist planning consultants, and uses a clear and established methodology where appropriate so that the conclusions it reaches are transparent. These evidence base documents help us to write consultation documents and policy from an informed perspective, alongside other considerations like the results of consultations and national policy.

The consultation document also highlights the linkages with other borough and county-wide strategies as the Local Plan will help to deliver the spatial elements of these. A diagram (diagram 3) of the Elmbridge Strategies can be found on page 8 of the consultation document. Links to each Strategy can be found [here](#).

In addition, there are several supporting documents produced to inform the Local Plan as it is being prepared to ensure the plan preparation complies with national policy and guidance as well as regulatory and legislative requirements. This includes a Sustainability Appraisal/ SEA, Habitats Regulation Assessment and an Equality Impact Assessment which assist to shape the Local Plan. These have been published alongside the consultation document and are available to [view on our website](#).

Alternatively, hard copies are available for inspection by appointment at the Civic Centre. Please contact the Planning Policy team by phone on 01372 474 474 or by email at [localplan@elmbridge.gov.uk](mailto:localplan@elmbridge.gov.uk) to make an appointment.

### Has my response to the Options consultation been taken on board?

Yes, your feedback and ideas on housing and your preferred option for your area will help to inform the new Local Plan and the future key decisions on locations for new development.

During the Options consultation you also told us what made your area special and what you would like to see happen over the next 15 years, including responding to climate change, another key challenge for the council. As promised we have used these to shape our thoughts of what our vision for the borough should be and what should be the key objectives that new development and growth will need to focus on delivering.

### Where can I find the Consultation Document?

The consultation document can be access online and in hard copy. Online the document can be found on the council’s website: [www.elmbridge.gov.uk/localplan2020](http://www.elmbridge.gov.uk/localplan2020).

The document is also available to view at the Civic Centre and in all libraries in the borough. There will be no need to make a booking appointment for this.

| Library/ Centre     | Address  | Opening Hours   |
|---------------------|--|---|
| Cobham Library      | The Cedar Centre, Cedar Road, Cobham KT11 2AE            | Sunday & Monday – Closed<br>Tuesday- Saturday – 9.30am to 5pm   |
| The Dittons Library | Mercer Close, Thames Ditton KT7 0BS                      | Sunday & Monday – Closed<br>Tuesday- Saturday – 9.30am to 5pm   |
| Molesey Library     | The Forum, Walton Road, West Molesey KT8 2HZ             | Sunday & Monday – Closed<br>Tuesday- Saturday – 9.30am to 5pm   |
| Walton Library      | The Heart (off Hepworth Way), Walton on Thames, KT12 1GH | Monday – 9.30am – 5.30pm<br>Tuesday 9.30am – 7pm<br>Wednesday – Friday - 9.30am – 5.30pm<br>Saturday – 9.30am – 5pm<br>Sunday – 11am to 5pm |
| Hersham Library     | Molesey Road, Hersham, KT12 4RF                          | Monday – 2pm-5pm<br>Tuesday – Friday 10am-1pm and 2pm-5pm<br>Saturday – 10am – 4pm  |

|                   |  |  |
|-------------------|--|--|
|                   |  | Sunday - closed  |
| Weybridge Library | Church Street, Weybridge, KT13 8DE       | Sunday & Monday – Closed<br>Tuesday- Saturday – 9.30am to 5pm                              |
| Esher Library     | Old Church Path, Esher, Surrey, KT10 9NS | Sunday & Monday – Closed<br>Tuesday- Saturday – 9.30am to 5pm                              |
| The Civic Centre  | High Street, Esher, KT10 9SD             | Monday – Thursday 8.45am – 5pm<br>Friday – 8.45am – 4.45pm<br>Saturday and Sunday - Closed |

### **How can I take part in this consultation?**

You can tell us what you think by completing the questionnaire. You will need to [register](#) or if you are already registered [log in](#) to be able to complete the questionnaire.

If unable to complete the interactive response form, hard copies of the form are available at the Civic Centre, Esher and in the borough libraries or upon request by calling 01327 474 474.

### **When is the deadline to respond?**

The consultation runs from 9am 27 January to midnight on 9 March 2020.

### **What will happen to my comments?**

The responses will be reviewed and considered as we prepare the more detailed draft plan. We will issue a log of the consultation responses received alongside respondents' names and their organisation where relevant. The council will publish a summary of the issues raised during the consultation in the Spring.

### **How do agents upload supporting documents on behalf of their client or multiple clients?**

All agents must make sure that both client and agent are registered on the portal. The agent will then have to link clients through their profile.

The agent can submit additional documents on behalf of a client or multiple clients at Question 13 of the structured document online.

Last updated: 28 January 2020