

Draft Vision, Aims & Objectives

Draft Vision

“To protect and enhance green spaces within the district, whilst encouraging appropriate levels of growth to provide for the housing, employment and social needs of the district.”

Draft Aims & Objectives – how will we deliver the vision?

Aim 1 - To protect and enhance the natural, historic and built environment of Epping Forest district

1. Protect and improve the Green Belt, whilst recognising its five purposes
2. Protect and enhance the general rural character and landscape of the district including Epping Forest and its setting, and the edges of market towns, villages and other rural settlements
3. Secure means to improve the quality of green spaces and to protect, enhance and extend the existing ‘green infrastructure’ network
4. Protect biodiversity across the district and in particular local wildlife habitats, and secure means for their improvement
5. Protect and enhance the built heritage and character of the district
6. Encourage development proposals to contribute to or enhance local distinctiveness and to be built in appropriate local materials.
7. Mitigate the adverse environmental and social effects of any existing and proposed mineral works

Aim 2 – To manage sustainable growth in Epping Forest district

1. Utilise previously developed land in sustainable locations, before considering development in the Green Belt
2. Manage and mitigate flood risk and water management, including the use of sustainable drainage systems where appropriate
3. Deliver planned growth whilst making the best use of existing and proposed infrastructure
4. Maximise opportunities to seek investment to support existing communities and further planned growth
5. To prepare for, adapt to, and reduce the impact on, climate change
6. Ensure that any issues relating to contaminated land are safely addressed before sites are developed

Aim 3 – To support and enhance the economy of Epping Forest district

1. Retain existing good quality employment land and premises
2. Ensure new employment sites (a) are sustainably located to minimise environmental and amenity impacts; and (b) will encourage local firms to relocate and expand, and attract other innovative businesses
3. Create conditions locally which seek to retain and attract innovative firms and people into the district to help create a diverse and competitive economy
4. Support the district's rural economy in a way which also helps to protect the natural environment
5. Encourage sustainable economic growth in the district and improve the prestige, performance, vitality and viability of the town centres in The Broadway, Loughton; Buckhurst Hill; Chipping Ongar; Epping; High Road, Loughton; and Waltham Abbey
6. Promote the district as a tourism destination, making the most of the existing assets, including Epping Forest and the Lee Valley Regional Park, and support the identification and creation of other attractions

Aim 4 – To deliver the right number of houses in the right places

1. Provide for the release of sufficient land in the right places to meet local housing targets
2. Ensure land allocated for housing is used in the most efficient manner possible, whilst still respecting the existing character of the area
3. Provide housing types and tenures to meet specific local needs and widen housing choice, thereby helping to ensure that people are able to live in good quality affordable housing appropriate to their domestic circumstances and way of life
4. Support the improvement and redevelopment of housing in areas where there are regeneration needs
5. Create residential environments where people are proud to live and a sense of community spirit can be created

Aim 5 - To maintain safe, healthy and inclusive communities

1. Seek to reduce health inequalities across the district.
2. Recognise the contribution that green spaces make to healthy and inclusive communities, and encourage walking and cycling over private car use
3. Recognise the need for, and facilitate the redevelopment and improvement of, key local services

4. Promote the provision of 'Lifetime Homes' which are designed to meet people's needs at different points in time
5. Work in partnership with the community in formulating long term plans for the district
6. Investigate and introduce options with other agencies for maintaining rural services, including public transport, schools, post offices etc

Aim 6 - To improve access and movement within and around Epping Forest district

1. Reduce reliance on private car use where possible and encourage alternative methods of transport such as cycling and walking
2. Address disparities in urban and rural public transport accessibility within the district and to major urban areas beyond its boundaries (e.g. London, Harlow, Waltham Cross, Chelmsford)
3. Consider the improvement of road and rail links where evidence indicates significant improvements for businesses and local residents
4. Ensure new developments reduce and keep the need for parking provision to a minimum