

Epping Forest District Council

Member workshops on the Local Plan

The Epping Forest District Local Plan is probably the most important policy document to be produced for the District in the next 20 years. It will guide investment in homes, jobs and infrastructure up to 2031 by allocating land for new homes and jobs. It will support the vitality of towns and countryside whilst protecting the most cherished assets for future generations by setting future green belt boundaries.

Three workshops are to be held to involve members and key officers in the process of narrowing down the options for inclusion in the next stage of Plan preparation: The Preferred Option stage. The workshops will give Councillors an opportunity to further understand the issues involved in plan making and the evidence - including what the people of the district had to say during the Issues & Options consultation.

These interactive workshops are designed to result in a report to Local Plan Cabinet Committee in early 2013 that will give a steer to officers to focus the next stage of detailed flood risk, transport and sustainability assessments prior to the selection of a preferred strategy.

A further fourth workshop will be held that will consider the implications of further evidence and a preferred option for the emerging plan to be published Autumn 2013 for consultation.

Workshop 1 will involve presentation and discussion of the evidence and its implications across the district, and for different places in the district. Participants will explore different ways of addressing the key issue of growth for the future within the context of the wider evidence base. The results of Workshop 1 will be analysed and reported back to participants and inform workshop 2.

Workshop 2 will explore the impact of the plan vision and objectives, on the choices for growth and broad locations for development. Discussion on emerging policy themes and priorities critical to deciding the future of the district will take place. The roles of individual towns and the suitable directions of development for them will be explored.

Workshop 3 will address the future of towns in more fine grain and this will involve testing the likely future impact of different policy choices against the Council's aspirations for the futures of settlements and the rural areas. Participants will focus on a small number of settlements but will be able to comment on the work of others.

In order to be most effective it is requested that you sign up for all three as these are intended to be a programme of workshops and consistent input is desirable.

We will be signing up one Town and Parish representative per Council.