

Guildford Responds on issues raised during the consultation on the Draft Local Plan

Guildford Borough Council has put out a press release outlining its response to some of the main issues raised in the 20,000 received on the Draft Local Plan. These include:

Issues on the A3

- working with the Highways Agency to develop interim measures to relieve current congestion and improve safety on the A3. The government's Autumn Statement also included a provisional budget of £150-250 million for a future major scheme for the A3.

Concern about local road network congestion

- undertaking a hotspots study to help identify improvements.

Town centre improvements and congestion

- commissioned a Town Centre Masterplan and a Guildford Town Centre Highways Assessment (GOTCHA) study.

Location of school sites

- working with Surrey County Council to re-assess possible options for both primary and secondary schools.

Land Availability Assessment (LAA) - formally the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA)

- looking at a range of uses and not just housing, with a revised methodology. We also made a further call for sites to maximise brownfield opportunities in a sustainable way.

Flooding issues

- finalising a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and are working closely with the Environment Agency to ensure our future flood risk is minimised.

Employment and retail needs

- updating our Employment Land Needs Assessment (ELA) and our Retail and Leisure Study. We are doing more work to consider how best to provide the space we need and where.

As evidence is updated Guildford will prepare a single Draft Local Plan that contains possible development sites, strategic policies and development management policies to help guide planning applications. Our ongoing work on the LAA will consider the need for potential development sites with any constraints that might limit that development.

Guildford aims to publish an updated Local Plan timetable this summer once the results from the evidence base become clearer. There will then be round of consultation towards the end of 2015.