



Name and Address

20th March 2012

Direct Lines: Martin Wilsher 01984 635334
Toby Clempson 01984 635284

E-mail: LDF@westsomerset.gov.uk

Dear Sir,

Our Ref: TWC/Reg25/prfst

Re: Consultation on the Draft West Somerset Local Plan to 2032 – Preferred Strategy.

The West Somerset Local Plan to 2032 will create new planning policies to help ensure that new development takes place in the right places to keep West Somerset's communities vital and healthy.

It is a very important document, when planning applications for development are made during the next twenty years, it is these policies which will guide the Council in deciding whether to permit or refuse them. So whether you might be interested in carrying out development yourself, or are concerned about where new development might be allowed in future, this plan matters to you.

The Council has carried out research and two public consultation exercises over the last two years, the results of which have been used to inform work to develop the draft plan now being published for public consultation. The Council, members of the community and other stakeholders have put a lot of work into getting the plan this far, now your help is needed in order to help us ensure that we have got it right before submitting it to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for examination.

The Plan's policies and proposals are based on evidence about the way the parts of West Somerset District outside the Exmoor National Park are working (the Exmoor National Park Authority has its own Local Plan). The Plan will be examined by an independent Inspector on behalf of the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, the purpose of the current consultation exercise is to help ensure that the Plan is justified in terms of the evidence about the area, and that its proposals are deliverable.

The documents enclosed, on which responses are being invited, are as follows:

- **The Draft West Somerset Local Plan to 2032 Preferred Strategy and figures, (enclosed)**
- **Policy amendments arising from the Habitat Regulations Assessment for the Plan (enclosed)**

Representations are also invited on the Sustainability Appraisal Report for the Plan which is available to download from the Council's website both as a full report and as a non-technical summary.

Supporting and explanatory documents as follows:

Consultation questions / response form - enclosed

- **A newsletter briefly describing the main development approach of the plan and setting out the range of subjects covered by it - enclosed**
- **The Habitat Regulations Assessment for the Preferred Strategy (available to download from the Council's website)**

NB: It is essential that any suggestions for changes to the draft local plan are supported with evidence if making such changes is to be considered. It is not sufficient to object to a policy or proposal because you disagree with it, you must demonstrate why your proposed change is a soundly based idea.

Relevant supporting evidence for the policies and proposals in the plan are also welcomed.

Please make any responses within the eight week consultation period which runs from Thursday 22nd March to Wednesday 16th May 2012. This community / stakeholder involvement exercise is part of an ongoing process of discussion, meetings and correspondence.

Responses may be made via the www.westsomersetsays.com website where the full documentation can be downloaded. However, you may also respond via e-mail to LDF@westsomerset.gov.uk or by post to:

The Local Development Framework Team, West Somerset Council,
West Somerset House, Killick Way, Williton, Somerset. TA4 4QA.

If you would prefer to be consulted via e-mail only in future could you please send us a specific instruction to this effect and let us know your e-mail address, for future consultation exercises. If you no longer wish to be consulted on Local Plan documents please let us know (in writing) and we will delete your records from our mailing list.

IMPORTANT: *If you are no longer the relevant person in your organisation to whom this consultation should be addressed I would be most grateful if you could please pass it on to the appropriate person.*

What other information is available to help you to take part?

You may find some or all of the following helpful:

- A series of **consultation events** will be held during the consultation period, these will consist of a workshop on the Plan's proposals led by the Council's planning policy officers followed by an informal drop-in information session. The details for these seminars are as follows:

Settlement	Venue	Workshop*	Drop-in session	date
Watchet / Williton	West Somerset House, Williton	11.00am to 1.00pm	1.00pm to 4.00pm	Tuesday 24 th April 2012
Minehead	Methodist Hall, The Avenue, Minehead	11.00am to 1.00pm	1.00pm to 4.00pm	Wednesday 2 nd May 2012
Brushford	Parish Hall, Brushford New Rd, Brushford	11.00am to 1.00pm	1.00pm to 4.00pm	Thursday 3 rd May 2012

* *It would be helpful if you could please let us know if you are intending to attend the workshop sessions.*

Further information on the Council's proposals for the Local Plan to 2032 can be found on the Council's website: www.westsomersetonline.gov.uk.

- A Local Plan newsletter has been prepared giving a brief outline of what the Local Plan is proposing.
- The consultation documents can also be inspected at the Council's offices or at local libraries within the District during their normal opening hours.
- Please make responses via www.westsomersetsays.com if possible
- Government guidance on LDF core strategies is contained in Planning Policy Statement 12 – "Creating strong, safe and prosperous communities through Local Spatial Planning", available to download free from www.communities.gov.uk.

Yours faithfully,

Toby Clempson,
Principal Planning Officer, LDF