What is a Local Plan and why do we need a new one?

The Local Plan helps guide and shape development in a District

Our existing Local Plan is working well but we need to bring it up to date to meet new Government requirements.

This means we can:

• Improve our existing policies to bring forward our requirements for greater biodiversity, new housing developments and to tackle climate change
• Require higher levels of design in new development
• See how we could meet the Government’s requirement for a very big increase in housing numbers.

Development will not stop if we do not have a local plan

Producing a new Local Plan is going to be very difficult. However, experience from elsewhere shows that even if we had no plan, developers would still push ahead with their proposals, and it is very likely they would be granted permission at an appeal.

By preparing a Plan, we would know where future development would be going and be in a stronger position to ensure developments provide jobs and homes closer together and the open space and transport upgrades we need.