

# Scoping Consultation

## Overview



### Help Shape the Future of the Royal Borough

The Council is preparing a new local plan, called the Development Plan for the Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead.

This Plan will guide how the Borough grows and changes over the next 20 years. It will help shape where homes, jobs, infrastructure, community facilities and green spaces are located.

We are at the very beginning of the process. At this stage we are not proposing sites or policies. We are:

- Identifying key issues and opportunities.
- Finding out what matters most to you.
- Asking how we can engage with you.

This consultation is your chance to help identify the opportunities and priorities that should shape the new Plan.

## Why your views matter

**Shortcode: factbank**

Factbank Title: Why are we consulting now?

Factbank Content:

The Government requires councils to prepare up-to-date local plans and plan for future growth.

For the Royal Borough this means:

Planning for a significantly higher level of housing need, driven by a revised national formula, whilst recognising that we are a constrained borough  
Ensuring the growth is supported by the necessary infrastructure

Responding to changes in national policy and legislation, including a new plan-making system and the introduction of national decision-making policies  
Preparing a plan within a much shorter timeframe (around 30 months)  
Without an up-to-date plan:

Development is harder to coordinate  
There is less local control over where development happens

#### **Shortcode: factbank**

Factbank Title: The issues we want your views on

Factbank Content:

This consultation focuses on the following:

#### **Building Communities**

How can we provide the homes people need while maintaining attractive and inclusive communities?

#### **Caring for What Matters**

How should we protect and enhance our environment, green spaces, heritage and natural assets?

#### **Supporting Everyday Life**

What infrastructure, facilities and services are needed to support communities in the future?

#### **A Prosperous Local Economy**

How can planning support jobs, businesses, town centres and sustainable economic growth?

#### **Planning for the right locations**

Deciding where development should – and should not – happen

#### **Before You Respond**

You can engage with the consultation in the way that works best for you.

If you are already familiar with the issues, you may wish to go directly to the questionnaire and share your views.

If you would like more background information before responding, the following documents are available:

**Brief Explainer** <user\_uploads/brief-explainer\_draft\_v3\_14.07.2026.pdf>

Explains what the Plan is.

Sets out why it is being prepared.

Outlines some of the main choices facing the Borough.

Describes the stages of the local plan process.

**Topic Summaries** <user\_uploads/themes-and-issues\_v2\_14.07.2026.pdf> :

Provides further information on some key topics.

Highlights the key issues and challenges being considered.

Explains the context behind the consultation questions.

Whether you choose to read the supporting information first or go straight to the questionnaire we welcome your views.

## Introductory text

### Help Shape the Future of Our Borough

A new local plan is being prepared – and we want your views.

The local plan sets out how our borough will grow and change in the years ahead.

It will guide decisions about how and where homes, jobs, and infrastructure are provided, and how the environment is safeguarded and improved.

The national formula for determining the scale of housing we need to plan for means that this new Plan will need to be planning for a much higher level of growth than in the past. This will mean making difficult choices and needing to balance different priorities. Before we start to develop the Plan we want your views about:

What matters most to you?

Where and how change should happen?

How we should balance different priorities?

How you would like to be involved as we develop the Plan.

### How to complete this survey

You can choose which topics to answer questions on, and you do not need to complete them in order.

The full survey would take around 15-20 minutes to complete, and you can save your response and return to it later if needed.

If you require any assistance accessing or completing the online survey, you can ask for help from staff at any of our libraries.

Thank you for taking the time to share your views,

## Eligibility

## Why are we asking this?

Due to data protection guidance and the need for parental consent, we are unable to accept any information from individuals under the age of 16.

### 1 I confirm that I am over 16 years of age

*(Required)*

*Please select only one item*

- ☐ Yes - I am aged 16 years or over
- ☐ No - I am younger than 16

## Building Communities



**Homes and neighbourhoods for everyone**

We want to create places where people feel connected, supported and proud to live.

This includes:

Providing the right homes in the right places

Addressing affordability of new homes

Ensuring high-quality design

Creating strong, inclusive communities

2 When planning new homes, what matters most to you, and how should different priorities be balanced?

|                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Strongly Agree        | Agree                 | Disagree              | Strongly Disagree     |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| I would prefer the green belt is protected rather than greater numbers of affordable housing being provided<br><i>Please select only one item</i>                                                   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I would prefer more tall buildings are built, rather than green belt released for development<br><i>Please select only one item</i>                                                                 | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I would prefer to see more family homes being built, even if it means green belt has to be released for development<br><i>Please select only one item</i>                                           | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I would prefer to expand existing communities rather than a new settlement be created<br><i>Please select only one item</i>                                                                         | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I would prefer to have taller buildings in suitable locations rather than maintaining existing character/building heights and a greater spread of development<br><i>Please select only one item</i> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I would prefer employment land is redeveloped for housing rather than protect land for local employment<br><i>Please select only one item</i>                                                       | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

### 3 Where should future housing growth go? (Select all that apply)

*Please select all that apply*

- ☐ Within existing towns
- ☐ Within existing villages
- ☐ Expansions of towns into the Green Belt
- ☐ Expansions of villages into the Green Belt
- ☐ New settlements in the Green Belt
- ☐ Redevelopment of Employment Sites (e.g. industrial and office sites)

### 4 What makes a strong and successful community? (max. 2,500 characters)

Your thoughts on what makes a strong and successful community.

# Caring for What Matters



## Protecting our environment and local character

We want to safeguard what people value most about our borough while preparing for the future. Our landscapes, heritage and green spaces are among our most valued assets, contributing to the borough's character, identity and quality of life. The borough also faces environmental challenges, including climate change, biodiversity loss and flood risk, which the new Plan will need to address.

We would like to understand community priorities so future plans take account of what matters to residents.

## 5 Which three environmental priorities should we focus on most?

*Please select all that apply*

- ☐ Renewable energy generation
- ☐ Reducing carbon use and emissions
- ☐ Tighter water efficiency standards in new buildings
- ☐ Better facilities for cycling and walking
- ☐ Safeguarding green spaces
- ☐ Enhancing biodiversity
- ☐ Reducing flood risk
- ☐ Improving air quality
- ☐ Do not prioritise the environment
- ☐ Other

If you selected 'Other', please specify below.

## 6 What places or features should be most safeguarded or improved?

### Supporting Everyday Life



#### Making day-to-day living easier

We want to ensure communities are supported by the right infrastructure and services.

This includes:

Travel by private vehicle

Public transport

Walking and wheeling

Schools, healthcare and community facilities

Utilities

Digital access

7 With each new development, developers must contribute financially to improving infrastructure. Choose three from the options below that we should prioritise spending that money on.

*Please select only one item*

- ☐ Improvements to road network
- ☐ Improvements to public transport
- ☐ Improvements to walking and cycling routes
- ☐ Schools
- ☐ Healthcare services
- ☐ Enhancing open space for sport and recreation
- ☐ Indoor leisure facilities
- ☐ Other community facilities

*Please select only one item*

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- ☐ Improvements to public transport
- ☐ Improvements to walking and cycling routes
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*Please select only one item*

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- ☐ Schools
- ☐ Healthcare services
- ☐ Enhancing open space for sport and recreation
- ☐ Indoor leisure facilities
- ☐ Other community facilities

If you selected 'Other', please specify below.

**8** What improvements to infrastructure would make the biggest difference?

# A Prosperous Local Economy



## Supporting jobs and local businesses

We want to build a strong and resilient local economy that benefits everyone.

This includes:

Supporting town centres

Creating job opportunities

Encouraging local businesses

Promoting sustainable growth

Safeguarding existing land for employment and allocating new sites

## 9 What three things should the Council do to support a strong local economy over the next 15-20 years?

*Please select all that apply*

- ☐ Support local shops and town centres
- ☐ Attract new employers and investment
- ☐ Support small businesses and start ups
- ☐ Provide smaller, more flexible co-working spaces
- ☐ Improve transport connections
- ☐ Improve digital connectivity
- ☐ Encourage new leisure, culture and tourism facilities
- ☐ Encourage environmentally sustainable business growth
- ☐ Other

If you selected 'Other', please specify below.

10 Where should future employment growth be focused?

|                                                                                                       | Yes                   | No                    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Redevelopment and/or intensification of existing town centres<br><i>Please select only one item</i>   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Redevelopment and/or intensification of existing business parks<br><i>Please select only one item</i> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| New locations on the edge of towns and villages<br><i>Please select only one item</i>                 | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

11 What would improve your local high street or town centre?

Please select the town, district or local centre your comments relate to

*Please select only one item*

- ☐ Windsor
- ☐ Maidenhead
- ☐ Ascot
- ☐ Sunningdale
- ☐ Sunninghill
- ☐ Cookham
- ☐ Datchet
- ☐ Dedworth
- ☐ Eton
- ☐ Eton Wick
- ☐ Old Windsor
- ☐ Wraysbury
- ☐ Other

If you selected 'Other', please specify below.

Your suggestions for high street and town centre improvements

## Planning for the Right Locations



### **Making choices for the future**

The new Development Plan for the Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead will need to balance a range of competing priorities. These final questions ask what matters most to you and whether there are any other issues the Plan should address.

**12** Overall, what should be the top priority for the new Plan? Please rank the options below, with number 1 being the most important and number 9 the least important.

[illegible]

### 13 Are there any other issues that should be addressed in the Plan?

Please provide any more details of what you think the Plan should contain.

### Future Local Plan Engagement



Help us design a better way to involve you

We want future stages of the Plan to be as accessible, effective and meaningful as possible.

These questions are about **how you would like to be involved**.

**14** How would you prefer to find out about future consultations? (Select all that apply)

*Please select all that apply*

- ☐ Council website
- ☐ Facebook
- ☐ Email updates
- ☐ Posters or leaflets
- ☐ Word of mouth
- ☐ Other

If you selected 'Other', please specify below.

**15** Which methods would you be most likely to use to share your views?

*Please select all that apply*

- ☐ Online consultation portal
- ☐ Interactive map (commenting on areas)
- ☐ Providing feedback at public exhibitions and drop-in events
- ☐ Workshops
- ☐ Discussion groups/focus groups
- ☐ Virtual events (e.g. online meetings)
- ☐ Written submissions (letter/email)
- ☐ Other

If you selected 'Other', please specify below.

## 16 What might prevent you from taking part?

*Please select all that apply*

- ☐ Lack of time
- ☐ The information is too complex, and the consultation is too technical
- ☐ Not sure how to take part
- ☐ Events are inconvenient
- ☐ Lack of trust that views will be considered
- ☐ Other

If you selected 'Other', please specify below.

## 17 What would make consultation information easier to understand?

*Please select all that apply*

- ☐ Visual content (maps, diagrams, infographics)
- ☐ Videos or animations
- ☐ Plain English explanations
- ☐ Provide more detail
- ☐ Other

If you selected 'Other', please specify below.

## 18 When are you most likely to take part in engagement activities?

*Please select all that apply*

- ☐ Weekday daytime
- ☐ Weekday evenings
- ☐ Weekends
- ☐ Anytime online

## 19 Where would you prefer in-person drop-in and exhibition events to be held?

*Please select all that apply*

- ☐ Shopping centres
- ☐ Village/Community halls
- ☐ Libraries
- ☐ Outdoor events
- ☐ Leisure centres
- ☐ Other

If you selected 'Other', please specify below.

**20** What is the one thing we could do to meaningfully engage with residents and stakeholders on the new Plan?

About you

The questions in this section help us to make sure that everyone is treated fairly and equally and no one gets left out, and allow us to see if different groups have different opinions and experiences. However, if you would rather not provide the information to any of these questions or if you are responding on behalf of an organisation, you could choose 'I prefer not to say'.

**21** What is your gender?

*(Required)*

*Please select only one item*

- ☐ Female
- ☐ Male
- ☐ Non-binary
- ☐ Prefer not to say
- ☐ Prefer to self-define

If you picked 'prefer to self-define', please provide further information

## 22 How old are you?

*(Required)*

*Please select only one item*

- ☐ Under 18
- ☐ 18-24
- ☐ 25-34
- ☐ 35-44
- ☐ 45-54
- ☐ 55-64
- ☐ 65-74
- ☐ 75+
- ☐ Prefer not to say

## 23 Which of these best describes your ethnic group?

*(Required)*

*Please select only one item*

- ☐ Asian or Asian British
- ☐ Black, Black British, Caribbean or African
- ☐ Mixed or Multiple
- ☐ White
- ☐ Other ethnic group
- ☐ Prefer not to say

If you picked 'other ethnic group', please provide more details:

**24** Do you have any physical or mental health conditions or illnesses lasting or expected to last 12 months or more?

*(Required)*

*Please select only one item*

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Prefer not to say