

Please find below details on the South Gloucestershire new Local Plan drop-in engagement events:

South Gloucestershire new Local Plan

Later this year, the four West of England Councils are aiming to publish a final draft proposal for a further round of consultation in Winter 2017, on the West of England Joint Spatial Plan. This plan, together with the consultation responses will be submitted to Government for a public examination in Spring 2018.

This follows on from the West of England Joint Spatial Plan consultation which occurred in November 2016. This previous consultation identified-five locations in South Gloucestershire – **Buckover Garden Village, Charfield, Coalpit Heath, Thornbury, Yate and Chipping Sodbury** as suitable and sustainable locations for new strategic development.

Once adopted, the JSP will become a statutory Development Plan Document and will guide the four Councils in the development of their own Local Plans.

South Gloucestershire Strategic Development Locations events

Final decisions on the scale and location of housing and employment growth will be confirmed through the West of England Joint Spatial Plan, outlined above. However, we need to make sure that our local planning policies within South Gloucestershire are developed alongside the JSP process, to make sure there is the shortest possible gap between the JSP and local policies which will apply in South Gloucestershire. This is the best way to ensure we have plan-led development and that we minimise the risk of speculative development proposals.

Whilst the scale and location of development may still be subject to change, as it is tested through the JSP consultation and the examination in public, we would like to consult with you on how we plan for these new communities. This will help us to deliver the number of new homes, land for employment purposes and the supporting infrastructure in these areas.

While developers often run their own public engagement events in advance of submitting major planning applications, we feel it is essential that as a council we hear from communities directly about the things they want us to consider in planning decisions. In the context of the Local Plan, this vital information from residents and other stakeholders helps us to plan for the whole council area.

You are invited to our engagement events to review our initial proposed plans and give us your comments. Your feedback will help shape the vision and policies for the South Gloucestershire new Local Plan. It will also help support neighbourhood plans as appropriate.