What’s the right route for Thanet?
What is the new Local Plan?

The plan will set out policies and proposals that will guide decisions and investment on growth, development and regeneration over the period to 2031. It will set out how and where the homes, jobs, community facilities, shops and infrastructure will be delivered and the type of places and environments we want to create. It will also identify land to be protected from development, such as open space. The plan will form the local statutory planning framework for determining planning applications.

What does the plan say?

• We have a flexible strategy in order to provide for 5,000 additional jobs across all sectors of the economy including tourism, leisure and the green economy

• The airport and surrounding area is proposed as an opportunity area for which the council will prepare an Area Action Plan to guide its future development

• The housing provision over the plan period is 12,000 additional homes

• Development will be focused in accessible areas with existing infrastructure and services, either within or on the edge of existing urban areas.

• Greenfield housing allocations are proposed at Westwood, Birchington, Westgate-on-Sea and Manston Green

• Important countryside, open spaces, heritage and the built and natural environment will be protected for their character and contribution to sense of place

• The green wedges that separate Thanet’s towns will be protected

• A new parkway station is promoted for wider economic benefit to the district
The consultation closes at **MIDNIGHT** on **Friday 6 March 2015**. Please ensure you have submitted your comments to us by this time.

The quickest and easiest way for you to respond is through our online consultation portal. You will need to register to comment. If you have already registered during a previous consultation simply enter your username and password.

To comment this way go to [https://consult.thanet.gov.uk](https://consult.thanet.gov.uk)

You can also download the draft plan or you can view a paper copy of the consultation document at Thanet’s Gateway Plus, Cecil Street, Margate, and at public libraries in the district.

If you are not able to respond through the consultation portal, you can download the questionnaire and send it to us.

If you require a paper copy of the questionnaire please contact Strategic Planning on **01843 577591** or [local.plans@thanet.gov.uk](mailto:local.plans@thanet.gov.uk)

Please send completed questionnaires to [local.plans@thanet.gov.uk](mailto:local.plans@thanet.gov.uk) or Strategic Planning, Thanet District Council, PO Box 9, Cecil Street, Margate, Kent, CT9 1XZ.

Please be advised that comments submitted to us will be made public along with your name and the name of the organisation you are representing (if relevant). Your address and any other personal details you provide to us will remain confidential.
The process for adopting a Local Plan is set out below. Following on from last year’s “issues and options” consultation we are seeking views on whether our preferred approach is correct.

**Issues and options consultation**
Following evidence gathering the council held an issues and options consultation in 2013. This dealt with strategic issues including overall levels of development and the broad strategy for the location of development.

At this stage we did not identify a preferred strategy or select a particular option.

**What happened next?**
We considered all of the representations received. Comments were used to inform decisions as to the most appropriate strategy and decide on preferred options. We considered sites for allocation. A draft Local Plan was then produced for consultation.

**This consultation**
We are consulting on our preferred strategy. This draft proposes site allocations and detailed policies. We are seeking views on whether our preferred approach is correct.

**What happens next?**
Based on comments received the next version of the plan will be written and submitted to the Secretary of State. A further “pre-submission” consultation will be held at this stage.

The plan will go through an examination where an Inspector will consider whether the plan has been positively prepared, and that its policies are justified, effective, pass the legal tests and conform with national policy.

**Adoption of the Plan**
Following the examination the Inspector may recommend changes to the plan. At this stage a further consultation will be carried out.

The council will then adopt the Thanet Local Plan which will form part of the development plan for Thanet to 2031.

The next stage of the process is to consider comments received on the draft plan and prepare a version of the plan to submit to the Secretary of State for adoption. So this is your chance to have your say.
The Strategic Planning team is here to help you understand the plan and facilitate the consultation.

Additional information can be found on the Local Plan pages of the council’s website and the team will be available to talk to you by telephone and email.

We are also holding a number of consultation events throughout January and February where you can meet the team and ask questions.

Tuesday 13 January – 1pm to 7pm  
The Centre, Birchington

Wednesday 21 January – 1pm to 7pm  
Broadstairs Baptist Church, Broadstairs

Thursday 29 January – 1pm to 7pm  
Custom House, Ramsgate

Saturday 31 January – 9am to 5pm  
Westwood Cross

Tuesday 3 February – 1pm to 7pm  
Hartsdown Leisure Centre, Margate

Tuesday 10 February – 12pm to 2pm  
The Gateway, Margate

thanet.gov.uk/localplan
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