



## Introduction

Kennet is preparing a series of planning documents to guide growth and change in the District for the next 20 years.

- Where should new homes be built?
- Is it possible to make homes more affordable?
- How do we encourage local jobs and a thriving economy?
- How do we plan for a living and working countryside?
- Are there opportunities to promote more sustainable communities?
- How do we protect the District's valuable cultural, natural and historic heritage?

There are many more issues facing the District that will need to be addressed by Kennet's planning policy documents. We need the views of all sections of the community to help us identify what issues are most important to you. The issues you believe should be central to Kennet's future planning policies.

## South West Regional Spatial Strategy 2006-2026

A draft for consultation was published May 2006. It sets the regional context for the scale and location of development, the economy, transport, the environment and use of natural resources. Specifically, it contains a

target of 5000 new homes in Kennet over the next 20 years. (For more information [www.southwest-ra.gov.uk](http://www.southwest-ra.gov.uk)) Kennet's Local Development Framework has to be consistent with the regional spatial strategy and cover the same timescale. Revised household projections recently published by the Government may mean amendments to the 5000 target but these are still being discussed.



# Shaping the Future

## What are the challenges facing Kennet?

### The New Planning System

The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 made changes to the planning system. Local Plans and Structure Plans have been replaced by Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Frameworks.

Policies within the adopted Kennet Local Plan 2011 have been saved until September 2007. The Council has requested the Secretary of State to extend the saved period until the local development documents have been adopted.

CONTEXT PAPER

## Kennet Local Development Framework

The Local Development Framework is a series of documents that together will provide the planning policy framework for the District. In the future all policies will not be contained within one document but spread over a series of documents each with a different focus. Kennet is currently proposing to prepare a Core Strategy.

Over the last twelve months the Council has been gathering information as background to the core strategy and on development opportunities throughout Kennet.

*(All of the completed documents and evidence gathered are available on the Forward Planning pages of the Council's web [www.kennet.gov.uk](http://www.kennet.gov.uk))*

Components of the LDF

**Local Development Scheme** ✓ Sept 2006

**WHEN** documents will be prepared

**Statement of Community Involvement** ✓ May 2005

**HOW** documents will be prepared

**Annual Monitoring Report** ✓ Dec 2005 / Dec 2006

**WHAT** has happened

**Sustainability Appraisal** ✓ Begun Apr 2006

**HOW** sustainable development is to be assessed

**Development Plan Documents**

**WHERE & WHAT** planning policies to apply

**Supplementary Planning Documents**

**HOW** policies are to be implemented

## Involving the Community

We are asking for community views on key issues by approaching appropriate organisations directly and raising awareness throughout Kennet. The Community Area Partnerships' are a key consultees in the consultation process.

The purpose of this paper is to draw your attention to how important the consultation on the Core Strategy is - an opportunity for you to make sure the issues important to your local communities are addressed in planning policy.

Please complete the attached issues paper questionnaire and return it by 16th April 2007.

Please contact any member of the Forward Planning Team on 01380 734873 or [www.kennet.gov.uk](http://www.kennet.gov.uk) to find out more.

## The Core Strategy - Issues Raising

The Core Strategy will set out Kennet's vision and strategic objectives for the District along with a spatial strategy. It is the key component of the LDF. The Council is at the early stages for preparing this strategic planning document that will cover the period until 2026 in line with the Regional Spatial Strategy. To begin the

debate Kennet is preparing 4 issues papers:

- Housing
- Environment
- Economy
- Community Development

These are not statements of future policy but seek to provide a general overview of the issues the authority has identified as being important to address in the Core Strategy. They will draw attention to existing evidence and highlight key questions that need to be discussed to help inform future policies. The purpose of the consultation on these issues papers will be:

- To examine the robustness of the evidence available.
- To gauge the level of support for conclusions drawn from the evidence.
- To understand priorities within the local community.
- To identify issues important to the local community that have not been addressed.

At this stage an issues paper covering transport has not been prepared although Kennet does recognise this is a fundamental question in parts of the District. Wiltshire County Council is commissioning research on traffic growth and movements generally in the District and specifically in Devizes. Once this work is complete the results will be fed into the discussions surrounding the Core Strategy.

Planning Services

- Development Control & Conservation
- Forward Planning & Transportation
- Building Control & Property Management

