

Canterbury City Council - Our future district 2040

We want to hear what you think...

We want to hear your views about the issues for the district from now to 2040.

The first three questions are for you to **tell us what you think is important** for the future of the district.

The rest of the questionnaire is for you to **tell us more about what you think** on each of the five topic areas:

- ***Housing and new communities***
- ***Local economy and employment***
- ***Movement and transportation***
- ***Town centres and local facilities***
- ***Historic and natural environment***

You can answer as many or as few questions as you wish.

Our future district

What are the good things about the local area where you live and what could be improved? (1000 words)

What main changes would you like to see in the district over the next 20 years? (1000 words)

The County Council would like to promote and support the need for continued commitment to the delivery of truly sustainable growth, with a focus on delivering communities that are resilient to the challenges presented by climate change. KCC recognises that with the pressure of growth in a changing environment, this will require changes in the way that new communities are planned, delivered and sustained.

The County Council considers that the most successful sustainable communities are achieved when appropriate infrastructure to serve the community is delivered, where necessary, ahead of housing growth. The County Council encourages the importance of the Local Plan review process to put infrastructure first – a place-making approach that will ensure that planned residential and commercial growth will bring with it new connectivity, opportunities for local people and deliver high quality and sustainable developments that enhance the distinctive Kent environment and to create the places people want to live. This infrastructure first approach is embedded in the Kent and Medway Infrastructure Proposition, a deal with Government for new infrastructure investment that will enable housing delivery, which is focussed on building the right homes in the right places and providing the public services, transport infrastructure, jobs and homes that residents will need now and in the future.

Community, health and education, cultural, digital and waste infrastructure should be delivered in a timely manner to support communities, with sustainable transport infrastructure supporting a significant modal shift. Growth should also support net-zero carbon targets, seeking to deliver net biodiversity gain and providing outdoor recreational opportunities to support the health and wellbeing of communities and the environment.

Communication between key stakeholders, including the County Council will help achieve this ambition to deliver sustainable growth in the Canterbury District.

The County Council puts forward the following areas as examples (but by no means an exclusive list) of the areas of change that it would like to work closely with Canterbury City Council on as its Local Plan review progresses, in order to deliver sustainable growth across the district over the next twenty years:

- Greater emphasis on climate change, ensuring the district is resilient to the challenges presented by climate change for environmentally sustainable growth throughout the district.
- A shift towards sustainable modes of transport, with good levels of transport infrastructure providing opportunities to travel sustainably - resulting in a reduction in congestion within the main conurbations in the District. During the Plan period, KCC anticipates a rapid transformation in vehicle use towards electric, alternatively fuelled and autonomous vehicles and increasing use of shared/on demand vehicles which must be considered when designing growth in the district.
- A proactive response to the challenges arising following the COVID-19 pandemic, with consideration of a sustainable recovery in the district. Focus should be on locking in short/long term positive impacts; both socially and economically.
- Greater emphasis on an infrastructure first approach to development, with consideration of all types of necessary infrastructure to support development. Infrastructure multifunctionality where appropriate (e.g. SuDS). Funding and deliverability (and phasing of each) must also be identified.
- A net-zero approach to development. The Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy sets out how the County Council, in partnership with Canterbury City Council, Government and other councils in Kent and Medway, will respond to the UK climate emergency and drive clean, resilient economic recovery across the county. The Strategy sets targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the county to net-zero by 2050, eliminate poor air quality and fuel poverty and deliver a clean, affordable and secure energy supply. Achieving net-zero ambition will require momentous effort and action by all sectors and across all areas of life. The new Local Plan must ensure the buildings and infrastructure constructed today are fit for a zero-carbon future; supporting good quality sustainable and climate resilient design and promoting low carbon travel, transport and digital connectivity. It is recommended that Canterbury adopts the Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy to support our shared vision of reducing greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050.
- Low emissions and greener development should also be focused on wider issues for a well-rounded approach. Consideration should be given to the design of new homes as well as the sustainable development of employment spaces. Furthermore, consideration should be given to alternative heating options. There is expected to be a transformation in how energy is generated and supplied in the years ahead. Gas heating supplied to new homes will be banned from 2025 and national energy generating infrastructure will continue to move away from large fossil-fuelled power stations, towards a greater use of smaller, community scale low/zero carbon power generation. The Local Plan presents an opportunity to support

the shift to low carbon energy infrastructure, which could include options such as district heating schemes, hydrogen grids and decentralised heat and energy centres supplied by locally produced renewable energy sources

The County Council considers that sustainable communities are delivered successfully when supporting infrastructure is delivered, where necessary, ahead of housing growth. Taking an infrastructure first approach is key to ensuring that this is achieved. As a key infrastructure provider, the County Council would welcome continued engagement, following this consultation, with the City Council and other relevant government departments and agencies, in the production of its Local Plan review, to ensure that an infrastructure first approach is taken to considering the Local Plan strategy right through to the delivery of schemes and to ensure that the necessary infrastructure to support development is adequately funded and delivered in a timely manner so the ambition of sustainable development is realised during the lifetime of the Plan.

What are the climate change challenges for our district and how might these be addressed? (1000 words)

Climate change will present new and significant challenges for the Canterbury district. Environmental impacts, such as rising sea levels, could lead to greater chances of flooding and extreme weather could result in overheating in homes issues resulting from colder temperatures.

By addressing the challenges presented by climate change, the Local Plan can help to ensure the resilience of new development within the district and will ensure long term sustainable growth.

As part of this, it is suggested that Canterbury City Council sets principles for developers to address these challenges – including the installation of energy efficiency measures and improvements the fabric of housing and non-domestic buildings to help adapt to climate changes. Natural flood defences that can double as attractive public green space should also be considered and promoted with developers. The City Council should also explore if these could be delivered as part of section 106 agreements or CIL projects.

The location of development should also be a consideration in how growth might address the challenges from climate change. This should include the accessibility of the site to necessary infrastructure, as well as the environmental suitability of a site – including flood risk. The County Council would recommend that development should not take place, in so far as possible, in areas which have an increased flood risk, due to the inherent challenges and likely impact on these areas resulting from climate change.

Changes in the local climate (as well as social changes resulting from the pandemic) may result in additional tourism in the Canterbury district. Local infrastructure will need to be in place to support this.

Housing and new communities

Our article [Housing and new communities - making places for people](#) introduces some of the housing issues we think will need to be addressed over the next 20 years in the new District Plan, but we want to hear from you.

What are the issues for housing and creating new communities over the next 20 years? (You can identify up to five issues for housing and new communities.) Would you like to tell us about an issue for housing and creating new communities?

Q. Issue 1 (1500 words)

Taking a sustainable approach to growth in the district.

Q. What do you think should be done to address this issue? (1500 words)

Sustainable Business and Communities

Growth in the Canterbury district should support net-zero carbon targets, whilst delivering resilient and robust communities that are able to adapt to the challenges arriving from climate change.

The Local Plan should encourage high quality growth that embraces future proofed and resilient technology that can address issues and impacts of climate change - including the use of district heating systems in new developments. The County Council recommends consideration of how heat pumps and other emerging technologies, that can achieve additional environmental benefits, could be designed into growth and development in the future, and incorporated into Local Plan policy.

The County Council works closely with Canterbury City Council and other partners in delivering on the Kent Environment Strategy themes and priorities. The Kent Environment Strategy seeks to support economic growth, whilst protecting and enhancing the natural and historic environment and creating and sustaining communities that are vibrant, healthy and resilient. The County Council recommends that the Local Plan should have consideration of these themes and priorities.

It is also recommended that the Local Plan ensures that a natural capital approach is taken to development and growth. This will ensure that development will contribute to the long term sustainability of the environment through (for example) the creation of new green areas, pocket parks or allotments into existing communities. This approach can significantly increase the health and wellbeing of residents in existing areas and can ensure the benefits of green space are not only limited to new development.

The County Council would be keen to work with Canterbury City Council to ensure that sustainable development principles are embedded in all discussions around growth and Local Plan policies with developers and other partners, in the delivery of growth in Canterbury.

The County Council would also welcome discussions on the potential input that developer contributions could have in supporting renewable energy provision and carbon emission reductions.

Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS)

The consultation document has identified the role and importance of the water environment in development of new communities, drawing particular attention to flood risk and water supply.

Recognition and consideration of the total water cycle (from when rainfall falls, where it flows across the land surface and its collection for water supply) should be an integral part of planning for growth across the district. This includes the adoption of integrated water management infrastructure. Measures such as controlling surface water flows, managing extreme events, improving water quality in some development areas and water conservation measures should be considered in tackling some of the major climate change challenges that will be faced across the district.

The integration of water within open spaces needs to be fully considered and promoted, alongside the need to balance water supply and demand. The Local Plan should promote specific design decisions, such as green roofs and bio-attenuation, for small scale developments and strategic growth. Consideration will need to be given to examine how larger spaces can be designed to integrate and maximise the role of surface water management, water quality, biodiversity and amenity.

Stodmarsh National Nature Reserve is a key environmental feature of the city, county and country, providing high quality habitat for a range of species and an important and highly regarded green space for residents. It is currently in an unfavourable condition due to poor water quality in the River Stour, largely due to discharges from sewage treatment works. Any further development in the catchment will prevent the site from recovering from this unfavourable condition, unless they achieve nutrient neutrality. It is understood that this issue is complex and it is unfortunate that it is putting development under pressure, however, KCC also recognises that it presents an opportunity to deliver sustainable growth that can support the recovery of this important site, as well as improve water quality generally in the River Stour, and deliver green and sustainable infrastructure that provides multiple benefits, including habitats and amenity space and water recycling. KCC would support Canterbury City Council to encourage developers to utilise green solutions to this problem to deliver these wider benefits. KCC would recommend adopting a policy in the Local Plan to ensure that any development undertakes an appropriate assessment that ensures it is delivering nutrient neutrality, and that the policy promotes multiple benefits in delivering any measures to achieve nutrient neutrality.

Heritage Conservation

The historic environment has a significant role to play in the conservation of resources required for development, and also in energy efficiency. It can play a central role in the delivery of sustainable development and should be protected and enhanced, as necessary. Old buildings can sometimes be more energy efficient than newer ones and, of course, have

an advantage in having already been built. Thus, it may take fewer overall resources to adapt an old building than to demolish it and build a completely new one. Historic England has produced guidance ('Climate Change and the Historic Environment', 2008¹) that reviews the threats to the historic environment posed by climate change (more recent guidance can also be found in 'Climate Change Adaptation Report' (Historic England, 2016)²). The guidance demonstrates that historic structures, settlements and landscapes can in fact be more resilient in the face of climate change, and more energy efficient than more modern structures and settlements. This has also been updated in the HE report 'There's no Place Like Old Homes: re-use and Recycle to Reduce Carbon' (Historic England 2019).

Minerals and Waste

Housing and communities should be delivered in sustainable locations – which includes having consideration of the impact of development close to and/or coincident with safeguarded land-won minerals, safeguarded minerals, waste management and transportation facilities. The Local Plan should consider, on a strategic scale, how to conserve finite mineral resources for future generations and ensure permitted facilities are not lost or their lawful operation compromised. The County Council, as Minerals and Waste Planning Authority, would welcome further discussions with Canterbury City Council as options for development are progressed. This should potentially include discussions with third parties (such as mineral and waste operators) to assess the nature and extent of the land-won mineral resources and any affected facility's continued operational requirements.

Public Health and Prevention

Sustainable growth must also address health and wellbeing for new and existing communities. This can be achieved not only considering healthcare and leisure facility provision, but also by consideration of the wider determinants of health, such as access to green space, air quality and economic opportunity, and planning them into growth accordingly.

Growth should seek to improve health and wellbeing of the district's residents and visitors, particularly through the wider determinants of health and ensure that the dispersal of new settlements / major extensions do not widen health inequalities between local communities. It should allow access to green and blue spaces for leisure – which would have positive effects on mental and physical health by providing opportunities for physical activity.

In addition, sustainable growth must seek to improve air quality through all means, including engineering solutions, reduction in emissions from vehicles and buildings as well as access to cleaner forms of transport, including electric vehicles.

¹ <https://www.rbkc.gov.uk/pdf/73%20Climate%20Change%20and%20the%20Historic%20Environment%202008.pdf>

² <https://research.historicengland.org.uk/Report.aspx?i=15500>

Q. Issue 2 (1500 words)

An infrastructure first approach to development will help to ensure that facilities to support sustainable development are an integral part of growth, delivered to a high standard in a timely manner to support communities.

Q. What do you think should be done to address this issue? (1500 words)

Provision and Delivery of County Council Community Services

Growth should be planned with infrastructure that is adequately funded and delivered to a high standard. All development options should ensure that education, health and community, cultural, digital and waste facilities are delivered in accessible locations, supporting both existing and new communities. An infrastructure first approach is key to ensuring that communities are sustainable, with all the necessary facilities delivered for the residents.

In respect of education provision, there is a requirement for a secondary school site to the north of the district (8-10ha) to meet the needs of the populations in Whitstable and Canterbury and to reduce travel and congestion in Canterbury central. It is also worth noting that thought should be given to the location of student housing and the number of dwellings, given the potential to undermine school rolls. Where development does not meet the full cost of new/expanded education provision, this has an impact on the KCC capital budget and ability to bring infrastructure forward in a timely manner.

The County Council would welcome engagement with Canterbury City Council to discuss how best the Local Plan can incorporate an infrastructure first approach to ensure that developments are catered for with all the necessary services and facilities at the right time and to ensure that the infrastructure required to support growth will be funded and phased to ensure it is delivered as needed.

The County Council would request that a policy is included in the Local Plan that requires all new builds to have gigabit-capable broadband connections (in line with current Government policy) – similar to the fibre-to-the-premise policy (EMP6) developed by Ashford Borough Council in its Adopted Local Plan to 2030.

Waste Management

KCC, as Waste Management Authority, would emphasise the need for Waste Management to be considered as necessary infrastructure to support development. Recognition of the impact that new development has on existing waste facilities is key to ensuring a sustainable service for all is maintained.

Whilst KCC has currently secured waste transfer station capacity for the short term, an increase in demand for this service over the lifetime of the Local Plan period, up to 2040, is likely to require investment in infrastructure. Demand on the Household Waste Recycling Service in East Kent is already high, with projects identified at several sites to help increase capacity. A need for a Materials Recycling Facility to process dry recyclate has also been

identified. KCC is currently compiling a Developer Contribution Guide, which looks to request financial contributions for these essential waste infrastructure projects.

Sports and Recreation

The County Council would also like to see the delivery of infrastructure to support opportunities for sport and physical activity. The infrastructure should be accessible via sustainable transport infrastructure.

Culture

The district's heritage, including the City of Canterbury, provides a strong narrative and a starting point for the cultural offer within the district. The Marlowe Theatre for example adds cultural value through its continued growth and diversification.

Culture contributes to placemaking by creating attractive, culturally vibrant and authentic places. It can build community bonds and cohesion, support individual health, wellbeing and resilience and foster civic identity and encourage stewardship. The night time economy is also a main driver of tourism that can deliver a rich quality of life to residents when delivered considerately. Cultural infrastructure must therefore be in place to support growth, offering opportunities for cultural tourism and the night time economy.

Cultural infrastructure can be delivered as multifunctional spaces that offer opportunities for community services and affordable creative work spaces alongside cultural offerings. The cultural sector also provides local employment opportunities, with the role of high and further education facilities developing skills in the cultural and creative industries. The Local Plan must therefore consider the delivery of necessary cultural infrastructure to support sustainable development in the district.

Q. Issue 3 (1500 words)

To ensure that a diverse and adaptable range of housing types and typologies is provided to meet the evolving needs of the local community.

Q. What do you think should be done to address this issue? (1500 words)

The County Council, as infrastructure provider, considers that all housing typologies should be delivered with accessible and sustainable connectivity to local services. Local amenities should in place to develop inclusive and resilient communities that can seamlessly integrate with and benefit existing communities in the Canterbury district.

The County Council recommends that the Local Plan has consideration of the KCC Adult Social Health Care and Health 'Your life, your wellbeing – A vision and strategy for adult social care 2018-2021'³. Housing choices in the district should support independence, be accessible and include 'extra care housing' that is flexible and responsive to the changing needs of individuals.

³ <https://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/adult-social-care-policies/your-life-your-wellbeing>

To ensure that existing and new communities are diverse and inclusive, a variety of affordable housing typologies should be delivered, supporting residents with differing economic needs, as well as a range of housing types and sizes offered to support diversity within the housing stock.

Q. Issue 4 (1500 words)

Delivering growth that is of a high standard of design.

Q. What do you think should be done to address this issue? (1500 words)

New development should be of high quality design – ensuring that it integrates new and existing communities seamlessly, incorporates the character of the local area, the historic environment and provides multifunctional infrastructure to deliver sustainable growth. It should be developed and secure approval of local communities and factor in consideration of community safety.

The Kent Design Guide⁴, and Secured by Design guidance should be considered in the preparation of the Local Plan to help achieve this. Central Government guidance, including Approved Document M: “Access to and use of buildings” should also be taken account of when considering design, as well as the wide ranging emerging guidance and policy context on the matter of design.

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) identified in June 2019 Guidance ‘Housing for older and disabled people’, that the need to provide housing for older and disabled people is critical. Accessible and adaptable housing enables people to live more independently and safely. It provides safe and convenient homes with suitable circulation space and suitable bathroom and kitchens. In consideration of the County Council’s statutory responsibilities around Social Care, KCC requests these dwellings are built to Building Reg Part M4(2) standard to ensure they remain accessible throughout the lifetime of the occupants to meet any changes in the occupants’ requirements. Well-designed housing can have long term benefits, including the meeting of market demand in an area that has a lack of supply, but also health and wellbeing opportunities for residents.

High quality design should also be accessible, taking into account the varying needs of the evolving community. The County Council would recommend that this should include consideration of dementia friendly design within the Local Plan. Small design changes to housing and infrastructure can help someone living with dementia to be more independent by providing a home and environment that is clearly defined, easy to navigate, and feels safe.

High quality design should seek to deliver energy efficient homes. KCC would encourage the adoption of high levels of building sustainability that go beyond current Building Regulation requirements; with the setting of more stringent energy and water standards to help achieve the net-zero carbon ambitions of Canterbury and more widely across Kent. Whilst the Future

⁴ <https://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/regeneration-policies/kent-design-guide>

Homes Standard is expected to improve the energy efficiency of new homes in 2025, it will not achieve net-zero. Other planning authorities have already successfully incorporated net-zero policies into their Local Plans (Reading for instance), with many other authorities stipulating energy efficiency targets higher than those set out in the Future Homes Standard. Such a policy will be essential to achieve shared net-zero commitments.

The latest UK climate projections indicate that Canterbury will be increasingly vulnerable to climate change impacts, so it is important that the Local Plan considers future climate risks - not just the weather extremes currently experienced. Detailed information and evidence on the future risks for Kent are included in KCC's recently published Climate Change Risk and Impact Assessment.

To ensure homes are warm in winter and cool in summer, homes should be designed to minimise the need for mechanical regulation of internal temperatures. For instance, this could be achieved by increasing natural shading on buildings and at street scene level.

In respect of environmentally sustainable development, the County Council would draw the City Council's attention the Kent Design Guide and the Kent Environment Strategy. These documents provide valuable resources as well as suggestions for design details, such as solar panels, to be included within new developments to boost sustainability credentials - as well as overarching principles regarding the delivery of sustainable growth across the County.

Local economy and employment

Our article [Local economy and employment - supporting new jobs and growth](#) introduces some of the employment issues we think will need to be addressed over the next 20 years in the new District Plan, but we want to hear from you.

What issues need to be addressed for our local economy and employment over the next 20 years? (*You can identify up to five issues for our local economy and employment.*) Would you like to tell us about an issue for our local economy and employment?

Q. Issue 1 (1500 words)

Supporting the low carbon sector and promoting sustainable businesses within the area.

Q. What do you think should be done to address this issue? (1500 words)

The economic recovery from COVID-19 presents an opportunity to provide support to the low carbon sector and boost energy efficiency measures. The Local Plan should seek to continue to identify ways to boost support for this sector, with consideration of the current skills gap, to ensure economic and employment benefits during and beyond the COVID-19 recovery.

Q. Issue 2 (1500 words)

Ensuring that planning for growth builds in adaptability in response in seen and unforeseen challenges (including, for instance, climate change and pandemics), to continue to support economic prosperity across the district.

Q. What do you think should be done to address this issue? (1500 words)

It is widely acknowledged that, as a result of COVID-19, there are likely to be changes in future working patterns and this will need to be considered alongside changing demands for employment space. The impact of COVID-19, both in the long and short term, should be considered within the Local Plan. Although the long-term impacts are unclear, there may be a shift in the demand for office spaces, instead potentially replaced with demand for shared workspaces and meeting spaces for Small to Medium Enterprises (SMEs), with further demands from entrepreneurs. Shared workspaces and accessible employment locations have the added benefit of reducing the level of commuting out of the local area. The Local Plan should be adaptable to accommodate these changing trends in work patterns, as the long-term influence of COVID-19 becomes apparent.

Given the recent requirement to work from home where possible, the County Council recommends a renewed consideration of the design of homes, ensuring that they allow for safe and reasonable home working areas. Ensuring that suitable spaces for home working are designed in to new development will have positive benefits by boosting the resilience of this area of the local workforce and their ability to continue working.

To deliver resilient economic growth, there must be consideration of the current availability of local employment and the skills of the current workforce. The importance of opportunities within the public sector, such as with Highways England, NHS and church related employment must be acknowledged. Further training and opportunities to boost the skills of the workforce will also resultingly boost its resilience.

Agriculture, horticulture and viticulture

The County Council notes that there may be a change to the landscape as viticulture grows and more land is given over from arable and pasture to vines – this is a growing sector and could lead the need to develop new skills and new businesses like contract wineries. Many of the bigger producers are at production capacity and sometimes find it difficult to process wine for smaller vineyards who find it uneconomical to invest in their own processing equipment for the amount of wine they produce. Contract wineries (like Defined Wines in Bridge) can do this for these smaller producers, but even Defined Wines is now reaching capacity.

The landscape changes could have a distinct impact on the appeal of rural tourism - from the current traditional countryside landscape, to one that becomes more synonymous with acres of vines. This is not necessarily a negative impact, as wine tourism generates employment and tourism opportunities, but the Local Plan will need to consider and adapt to this possible change. It needs to be managed by looking at the impact, opportunities and threats to rural tourism. It is expected that viticulture may overtake fruit as the primary production in twenty years.

Farmers are expected to continue to have to diversify and adapt to current challenges resulting from the pandemic and climate change – either into tourism or the development of local produce. COVID-19 has shown the importance and resilience of local producers who have been forced to switch from supplying commercial customers to local people, as residents began sourcing local produce more during the pandemic. There is an expected growth in retailing, wholesaling, manufacturing and catering, which farmers can look to benefit more of this supply chain activity. The Local Plan should reflect the need for the agricultural economy to adapt and diversify through development of redundant farm buildings, erection of new buildings in rural areas and the possible aesthetic and transport implications this may have on local areas.

The Local Plan should also explore how renewable energy forms can be incorporated to allow this industry to adapt to the challenges presented by climate change, whilst managing conflicts between the use of land for growing food and generating sustainable forms of energy. The County Council would also draw attention to the Kent Environment Strategy, which includes targets for the delivery of energy through renewable sources; the need for careful management of land to balance conflicting demands from food production, quality of water supply and energy; and the delivery of appropriate energy infrastructure.

To adapt to the changing needs of the agricultural industry, farming needs to become more productive and the new Agriculture Bill may help with this. Farmers will need to adapt to embrace new technology and more efficient ways of farming. There is a need to develop

skills in the agricultural industry to fully benefit from the new technology – the Local Plan should seek to support this.

In terms of horticulture in particular, but also relevant for all agriculture, there will be issues around water resources in the future, with further pressure likely from the increase in house building. The Local Plan should ensure full consideration of the impact of housing growth on water resources to ensure there is no negative impact on the agricultural industries; whilst also supporting the industry to deliver any appropriate water conservation measures.

The role of farmers is changing and the Local Plan should accommodate this change and support farmers in delivering and increasing productivity, jobs and nutritional security and develop a vibrant rural economy delivering on Net Zero.

Q. Issue 3 (1500 words)

Increasing the resource efficiency of the local economy to boost the sustainability credentials of employers within Canterbury.

Q. What do you think should be done to address this issue? (1500 words)

The Local Plan should be shaped to encourage the development of a circular economy to reduce waste from industry across the district. Energy efficiency measures of non-domestic buildings should also be incorporated.

The County Council acknowledges that the public sector, including schools, hospitals and local Government are amongst the largest employers in the district and must also seek to boost their sustainability principles and reduce emissions. Conditions which are placed on employers to improve the sustainability of their businesses must be applied fairly across the district.

Q. Issue 4 (1500 words)

Ensuring that employment allocations are planned in highly accessible areas, with opportunities for active travel, supported by adequate sustainable transport infrastructure.

Q. What do you think should be done to address this issue? (1500 words)

The Local Plan should seek to allocate employment sites that reflect future needs of employers, ensuring the promotion of a modal shift towards sustainable transport modes. The Local Plan should make reference to the KCC Rights of Way Improvement Plan⁵ (ROWIP), which includes an aim for Public Rights of Way (PRoW) to contribute towards robust infrastructure that both that enables development, and encourages economic growth – leading to regeneration and the attraction of new businesses into an area.

⁵ https://www.kent.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0005/90491/Rights-of-Way-Improvement-Plan-2018-2028.pdf

Businesses, schools, health services and leisure industries all need the support of sustainable transport infrastructure. The County Council, as Local Highway Authority, would welcome further engagement with Canterbury City Council to ensure opportunities for sustainable transport are delivered alongside economic and employment growth. Furthermore, KCC would draw attention to the design details and measures considered within the Kent Design Guide as guidance in the delivery of mitigation on this issue.

Q. Issue 5 (1500 words)

Ensuring that digital infrastructure is planned to support broadband connectivity to boost employment opportunities across the district.

Q. What do you think should be done to address this issue? (1500 words)

The Local Plan should include for appropriate planning of digital infrastructure to support broadband connectivity, to further boost employment opportunities within Canterbury.

The Government's Future Telecom Infrastructure Review states that all new homes and developments should be provisioned with full-fibre broadband connections (i.e. fibre-to-the-premise). These connections should also offer business tenants and residents a choice of broadband services that they can subscribe to. Provision should also be made for multiple broadband infrastructure providers to maximise the choice of broadband services.

It is important that digital infrastructure, including broadband and mobile connectivity, is designed and planned for at an early stage, with consideration included within the Local Plan.

It should be noted that most broadband infrastructure providers require between nine to twelve months' notice to install connections so that they are available for use once the build is completed. Broadband infrastructure providers will often provide full-fibre connections free of charge as long as sufficient notice is given to avoid the need for more expensive and disruptive retrofitting.

Given the importance highlighted by COVID-19, new communities must have excellent digital connectivity as well as suitable and safe spaces to allow for home working where possible.

Movement and transportation

Our article [Movement and transportation - how we get around](#) introduces some of the movement issues we think will need to be addressed over the next 20 years in the new District Plan, but we want to hear from you.

What issues need to be addressed for movement and transportation over the next 20 years? *(You can identify up to five issues for movement and transportation)* Would you like to tell us about an issue for movement and transportation?

Q. Issue 1 (1500 words)

Traffic congestion within Canterbury.

Q. What do you think should be done to address this issue? (1500 words)

The Local Plan must address the issue of traffic congestion and its related negative impacts upon air quality and health for the population within Canterbury, as further growth in the district will exacerbate this issue. Congestion on the ring road is a key concern of the County Council as the Local Highway Authority. It will be challenging to overcome through engineering solutions to gain increased road capacity to accommodate more vehicles. In line with the latest government directives, the County Council would welcome engagement with the district council to consider ways of achieving accelerated and higher volumes of modal shift and more radical solutions to encourage active travel to the city centre and outlying commercial/retail areas.

Active Travel can only be achieved by prioritising safe and pleasant environments for pedestrians and cyclists on segregated routes into the city centre.

Public transport is likely to become a key form of transport following COVID-19 recovery. Key strategic corridors and facilities should be provided for buses in order that the journey by bus offers the incentives of both time and economic saving over the private car. Increased use of rail should also be developed as a sustainable way to travel across the district and wider area. The Local Plan will need to include consideration on how to boost the accessibility of rail stations, both within the City and the wider area. Measures could include parking facilities with adequate electric vehicle charging and secure cycle storage. The County Council would welcome engagement on this.

The County Council, as Local Highway Authority, considers that the longer term aspiration should be for a transportation system that supports an active and healthy community and provides a significant improvement to air quality through encouraging modal shift within Canterbury. This could include incentives to promote sustainable transport options, including through incorporating safety improvements and the provision of facilities such as secure cycle parking, EV charging and the further expansion of the popular and commercially successful inner city traffic free zones.

Q. Issue 2 (1500 words)

The Local Plan must ensure adequate sustainable transport infrastructure for existing and new communities, with a shift towards sustainable transport modes, both within Canterbury city centre and the main conurbations within the district.

Q. What do you think should be done to address this issue? (1500 words)

The Local Plan must ensure that adequate sustainable transport infrastructure is made available to support existing communities and visitors, and that of any new developments and communities in the district – encouraging a shift towards sustainable transport modes.

The County Council would welcome engagement with Canterbury City Council regarding the delivery of sustainable transport infrastructure to support growth. The Local Plan should include the integration of cycle storage and EV chargers (including for ebikes) at workplaces and local facilities to make sustainable journeys more feasible, whilst further capitalising on the increase in active travel and modal shift to walking and cycling. The PRoW network is a key contributor to getting people out of their cars to take on more active travel for everyday journeys and recreation and leisure. An improved network can provide high quality routes to connect rural villages to towns and new communities to existing communities.

PRoW also provide opportunities to reduce short car journeys for work. The Local Plan should reflect partnership with KCC on projects such as quiet rural lanes linking to PRoW network. The rural road network provides vital connections between off-road PRoW routes, enabling cyclists and equestrians to access PRoW with higher access rights. However, the increasing frequency and speed of vehicles along these roads (e.g. increased number of delivery drivers) can deter non motorised users due to safety concerns. The Local Plan should aim to create improved cycle routes into City Centre and improve public safety for all non motorised users (NMUs).

Q. Issue 3 (1500 words)

Providing connectivity within existing and new communities to allow for sustainable movement across the district.

Q. What do you think should be done to address this issue? (1500 words)

Canterbury is ideally placed for active travel. Growth must ensure a good network of footpaths/cycle paths to allow for ease of movement between places of employment, home and local services, reducing reliance on cars. The County Council would welcome investment in the PRoW network, which covers over 600km in Canterbury district, across the City centre and wider area to create active travel links throughout the district.

High quality green spaces should also be accessible through green corridors, designed into new developments from the outset.

There should be a requirement for developments to masterplan active travel routes to new school/community provision to provide this as the infrastructure is delivered.

Q. Issue 1 (1500 words)

Strategic highway connections to the Kent and Canterbury Hospital.

Q. What do you think should be done to address this issue? (1500 words)

The issues surrounding the ageing buildings of the Kent and Canterbury Hospital have been longstanding and reached a point of national debate. The interrelation between the three main hospitals of the East Kent Trust, the William Harvey, the Kent and Canterbury and the Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother creates significant emergency and other vehicular traffic along the A28 corridor. Appointment-related and emergency traffic results in significant movements through the congested central Canterbury ring road, causing stress to vulnerable members of the community. The County Council would request consideration for Local Plan options to include a more strategically located hospital site to the south east of the City that could be accessed both sustainably from the City and directly off the A2 and/or an improved and more strategic A28. This should facilitate rapid emergency transit between the East Kent Trust hospitals and significantly reduce hospital bound traffic from having to use the central ring road.

Town centres and local facilities

Our article [Town centres and local facilities - at the heart of our communities](#) introduces some of the town centres and local facilities issues we think will need to be addressed over the next 20 years in the new District Plan, but we want to hear from you.

What issues need to be addressed for our town centres and local facilities over the next 20 years? (*You can identify up to five issues for our town centres and local facilities*). Would you like to tell us about an issue for town centres and local facilities?

Q. Issue 1 (1500 words)

Ensuring that adequate and adaptable local facilities are available, supporting existing and new communities across the Canterbury district.

Q. What do you think should be done to address this issue? (1500 words)

The County Council, as an infrastructure provider, would welcome early engagement with Canterbury City Council on infrastructure matters to ensure adequate infrastructure is planned for, funded and delivered in a timely manner – and that an infrastructure first approach is taken in delivering local facilities. The County Council would ideally like to see developers provide all appropriate infrastructure within new developments, in accessible locations.

The County Council recognises that there has been an evolving shift in the role of town and city centres, which has been further affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. It will be important for local facilities to be developed to generate activity in town centres, whilst also responding to any potential long term decline or changes in retail. Alongside other stakeholders, the County Council would welcome engagement with the City Council on the planning of a reimagined town centre that is sustainable, adaptable and resilient, through the Local Plan.

Historic and natural environment

Our article [Historic and natural environment - Our heritage, landscapes and biodiversity](#) introduces some of the historic and natural environment issues we think will need to be addressed over the next 20 years in the new District Plan, but we want to hear from you.

What issues need to be addressed for our historic and natural environment over the next 20 years? (*You can identify up to five issues for the historic and natural environment.*) Would you like to tell us about an issue for our historic and natural environment?

Q. Issue 1 (1500 words)

Addressing the need to protect and enhance the local natural environment and biodiversity within the district.

Q. What do you think should be done to address this issue? (1500 words)

The Local Plan must ensure that development does not result in the isolation of habitats, in particular (but not limited to) existing locally, nationally and internationally protected sites. The Local Plan should aim to increase connectivity between habitats within Canterbury and Kent. In the preparation for the evidence base of the Local Plan, there is need for an understanding as to where habitat creation and management is being carried out across the district to enable further works to enhance it.

The Local Plan needs to ensure that ecological mitigation and enhancements that are secured as part of a planning application will be retained and enhanced in the long term.

The Local Plan must also consider the pressure of recreational activity on local biodiversity. An increase in growth, and resulting tourists and residents, will increase the number of people accessing nature areas and open space. There is need therefore to ensure that the natural environment will be managed appropriately to minimise the damage and impact from recreation. The Local Plan should also ensure that habitats and open spaces are managed appropriately to balance benefits for biodiversity, wildlife and people.

New and existing communities must have accessible connectivity to the wealth of natural assets in Canterbury. The Local Plan should reflect this need by promoting an improved PRoW network that allows for access to the natural environment and green spaces within the district.

Q. Issue 2 (1500 words)

Ensuring the appropriate consideration of the historic landscapes within the Canterbury district.

Q. What do you think should be done to address this issue? (1500 words)

The historic landscape of Canterbury is an asset for the district. The landscape that is visible today is the result of many centuries of evolution and the pattern of roads, tracks, field

boundaries and hedgerows that gives the modern landscape its character is firmly rooted in the past. The Kent Historic Landscape Characterisation (2001)⁶ is a tool for understanding this historic context and should be used to inform decisions taken regarding the landscape character of Canterbury. Ideally, however, this county level study should be both updated and deepened to be more relevant at the district and local level, as has happened recently in Tunbridge Wells and on the Hoo Peninsula. This will allow more effective decision-taking and assist the application of key landscape principles on a case-by-case basis. KCC would also encourage the city council to ensure that the historic aspects of landscape character are fully integrated into considerations of more general character within the Local Plan. This is in consideration of the role that the past has played in establishing the modern character and the extent to which historic features survive and need consideration in development control and agricultural practice.

Q. Issue 3 (1500 words)

Ensuring the appropriate consideration of the Canterbury district's design and character.

Q. What do you think should be done to address this issue? (1500 words)

Growth allocations in the Local Plan must take account of any existing historic character of area surrounding proposed development sites. This is crucial to ensuring high quality developments are properly integrated into the existing towns and villages. The Local Plan should require that development is largely sympathetic to any existing structures and in character with other buildings. Development should be in scale with the surroundings and in character with any existing traditional and historic buildings on the site. Where possible, materials used within development should be appropriate to the existing character, and where available, by using locally sourced and traditional materials.

Sustainable Drainage Schemes (SuDS) may have both direct and indirect impacts on the historic environment. Direct impacts could include damage to known heritage assets – for example if a historic drainage ditch is widened and deepened as part of SuDS works. Alternatively, they may directly impact on unknown assets such as when SuDS works damage buried archaeological remains. Indirect impacts are when the ground conditions are changed by SuDS works, thereby impacting on heritage assets. For example, using an area for water storage, or improving an area's drainage can change the moisture level in the local environment. Archaeological remains are highly vulnerable to changing moisture levels which can accelerate the decay of organic remains and alter the chemical constituency of the soils. Historic buildings are often more vulnerable than modern buildings to flood damage to their foundations.

When SuDS are planned it is important that the potential impact on the historic environment is fully considered and any unavoidable damage is mitigated. This is best secured by early consideration of the local historic environment following consultation with the Kent Historic Environment Record (HER) and by taking relevant expert advice. KCC has recently produced guidance for SUDS and the historic environment. It provides information about the potential impact of SuDS on the historic environment, the range of mitigation measures

⁶ https://www.kent.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0014/56210/Kent-Historic-Landscape-Character-volume-1.pdf

available and how developers should proceed if their schemes are believed likely to impact on heritage assets.

Q. Issue 4 (1500 words)

Taking account of the impact of rural development on heritage assets in the Canterbury district.

Q. What do you think should be done to address this issue? (1500 words)

It should be noted that much of Kent has historically had a dispersed settlement pattern. Development between villages and hamlets and among farm buildings would in many places be consistent with the historic character of those areas. Historic England, KCC and Kent Downs AONB have published guidance on historic farmsteads in Kent that considers how rural development proposals can be assessed for whether they are consistent with existing character. The Kent Farmsteads Guidance⁷ has been endorsed by the County Council and it is recommended that Canterbury City Council considers adopting the guidance as Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), as part of the Local Plan process. KCC would be happy to engage on this matter further.

Canterbury's historic parks and gardens will have an important role to play in the future life of the district. Historic parks are not only important as visually attractive heritage assets but also contribute to leisure, health and well-being. To ensure this historic resource fulfils its potential, there is a need to ensure a sound evidence base. At present the main information resource for the local (as opposed to Registered) historic parks and gardens of Canterbury is the 1996 Compendium of Historic Parks and Gardens (KCC and the Kent Gardens Trust (KGT)). The Compendium needs reviewing in order to ensure that it is brought up to date and that the significance of the district's gardens is properly assessed. It can then be used to manage and enhance this asset within Canterbury. KCC has recently been working on a number of such reviews with the KGT and would be happy to discuss an update for Canterbury with the City Council.

Q. Issue 5 (1500 words)

Ensuring consideration of the archaeology with Canterbury.

Q. What do you think should be done to address this issue? (1500 words)

Within the historic core of Canterbury, in particular, and the district more widely, are extensive and important archaeological remains. Canterbury district includes some of the oldest archaeological remains in Kent in the form of Palaeolithic flints finds from the Fordwich area. There are also extensive prehistoric sites that can still be observed in the form of cropmarks on the Downs, many being protected as Scheduled Monuments.

⁷ <https://www.highweald.org/downloads/publications/land-management-guidance/historic-farmsteads/1165-part-5-kfg-design-guidance-2014/file.html>

Canterbury itself has iron age origins and is of international fame as a Roman town. The city, together with several of the smaller urban centres, still contains numerous medieval buildings (including the outstanding Christ Church Cathedral, St Augustine's Abbey and St Martin's church collectively recognised as a World Heritage Site) and medieval road patterns and, in addition, survivals of the post-medieval, industrial and more recent past. Away from the city, the Roman fort at Reculver and the extensive coastal heritage, including remains from the Second World War along the north Kent coast, all contribute to the district's remarkable and valuable heritage. As such, the archaeological assets of the district are diverse and widespread, offering much to assist with regeneration and growth.

The Local Plan should contain a policy specifically on archaeology that commits the Canterbury City Council to promoting the enjoyment of Canterbury's archaeological resource through the protection and enhancement of archaeological sites, monuments and historic landscape features. Policy should also seek to encourage and develop educational, recreational and tourism potential through research, public access, management and interpretation.

Where possible developers should seek to use Canterbury's archaeological assets to shape their development proposals, provide interest and character and protect the assets.

The framework for the management and enjoyment of Canterbury's archaeological heritage is the Canterbury Heritage Strategy.

Development proposals affecting heritage assets with an archaeological interest should be accompanied by a desk-based assessment and, if appropriate, by archaeological fieldwork, that:

- Characterises the nature, extent and condition of the archaeological deposits in the development area;
- Assesses the significance of the deposits and the contribution made by their setting;
- Describes and assesses the impact of the development proposals on the archaeological deposits, their significance, and their setting; and
- Describes how the archaeological deposits will be protected during development.

Where this is not possible, the assessment should clearly justify why this is not possible and should describe the proposals for mitigating any impacts

Development proposals leading to substantial harm to the archaeological interest of designated heritage assets such as Scheduled Monuments, Registered Parks and Gardens, Protected Military Remains or heritage assets of comparable significance should normally be refused.

Where development proposals affect non-designated heritage assets with an archaeological interest, Canterbury City Council should expect the archaeological remains to be preserved in-situ. Where this is not possible clear justification will be required. Where the justification is accepted a programme of archaeological excavation and recording will be likely to be required. The fieldwork will be appropriate to the significance of the archaeological deposits and must be carried out by an appropriately qualified contractor following a written

specification agreed by Canterbury City Council. The programme will include all phases of desk-based and fieldwork, post-excavation analysis, publication of the results and deposition of the site archive in an appropriate repository.