

CHISLET PARISH COUNCIL

Greatstone on Sea

New Romney

03.08.21

Dear Colleague

Local Plan 2040

Chislet Parish Council welcomes the opportunity to comment on Canterbury City Council's draft local plan 2040. We thank all colleagues for their hard work in this process to date.

Our key comments are as follows:

Draft Vision

The term "growth" is used too loosely and needs to clarify how growth is being defined and to whose benefit. There needs to be a greater recognition that change in the future needs to balance the risk / reward between the urban (specifically Canterbury City) and rural communities in this district.

As a strategic comment, we suggest that concepts such as diversity, inclusiveness, flexibility and resilience are given greater prominence in the framework than they are currently.

Growth Options

We strongly disagree with the "preferred" option, also known as Canterbury B, for two reasons.

First, the high-level plans are so substantive that the risks of execution and unintended consequences are enormous. Canterbury will leave itself vulnerable in the delivery to too many entities that may disappoint, either inadvertently or through conflicts of interest. The risk / reward of this option is skewed against the rural communities and towards the city centre. They are further skewed from the public good of the city centre and districts to the vested interests of those who will tender for implementation.

Secondly, the A28 bypass that is a consequence of this plan will be such a environmental and social disaster that the very suggestion is incredible to us.

In terms of the other options, we remain open-minded and believe that more consideration and consultation is required, especially after a lost year that has created uncertain implications for the future. We believed that starting with more modest plans creates more constructive potential to respond flexibly in our rapidly changing world.

At the moment, this leaves the Canterbury A option seeming the best alternative.

We are nervous that whilst we would welcome investment in rural communities via the Rural Focus option, the execution would be vulnerable to the proven trend of building houses and failing on the infrastructure and community resilience that should be built in conjunction. Our concern is reinforced by CCC's weak existing track record for enforcement of all property-related issues.

We think both the Coastal Focus and New Freestanding settlement options could be promising but we would defer to our neighbouring communities to understand the risk / reward better.

In conclusion, Chislet Parish Council welcomes the opportunity to comment on the draft Local Plan and we hope our input will be taken into consideration. We look forward to engaging further.

Yours sincerely

G. Eaton

**Clerk to Chislet Parish Council
On behalf of Chislet Parish Council**