

1. What does the Core Strategy do?

The Core Strategy is a document which provides a framework for the development of the Maidstone Borough until 2026. The document plans for homes, jobs, shopping, leisure and the environment, with the provision of infrastructure to support these.

2. Why do we have a Core Strategy?

Under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004) we need to have a Core Strategy as part of the Local Development Framework to replace the previous Borough Wide Local Plan. Parts of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act will shortly be replaced by parts of the Localism Bill.

4. Who can comment on the Core Strategy?

Any person or organisation can make comments on any part of the Core Strategy.

5. Where can I read the Core Strategy?

You can read the Core Strategy on the Maidstone Borough Council website www.maidstone.gov.uk, at the Gateway, King Street, Maidstone and at public libraries across the borough.

6. Where is development going?

Development is proposed to happen at the places in the borough that can accommodate it. The details of this can be found in the Core Strategy document. Evidence studies support the Core Strategy and are available on the council website www.maidstone.gov.uk

7. When will the Core Strategy be used in planning decisions?

The Core Strategy will be used in planning decisions when it is adopted. Currently the proposed timetable for the remainder of the Core Strategy process is:

- Informal consultation – autumn 2011
- Formal consultation – spring 2012
- Submission to Secretary of State – summer 2012
- Independent examination – autumn 2012
- Adoption – early 2013

These dates are subject to change.

8. When will sites be allocated?

No specific sites will be allocated for development in the Core Strategy. Work following the Core Strategy examination (proposed autumn 2012) will consider this further. The documents to look for will be the Development Delivery Development Plan Document (DPD) and the Central Maidstone Area Action Plan (AAP).

9. How can I comment on the Core Strategy?

You can comment online at <http://maidstone-consult.limehouse.co.uk/portal>, on the council's paper questionnaire that will be available during the consultation or by sending an email to ldf@maidstone.gov.uk, or letter to the Spatial Policy team, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, ME15 6JQ.

10. How can I find out more information?

Before and during the consultation, the council will provide further information on YouTube www.youtube.com/user/maidstonecouncil, Twitter [@maidstonebc](https://twitter.com/maidstonebc) and Facebook www.facebook.com/maidstoneboroughcouncil, as well as advertising in the local press and on the council website. Officers and councillors from the council will be attending events around the borough, meeting with residents and businesses, speaking to every parish council and getting as much opinion on the Core Strategy as possible.

The timetable of events will be published as soon as it is finalised.