

Local Plan

Reg 18: Issues and Options Statement of Consultation

January 2024



BasildonCouncil

Local Plan Stages

Reg 18: Issues & Options Consultation

- Our first conversation about the Local Plan.
- High level consultation which will help the Council move forward on the new vision, strategic objectives, key issues and spatial strategy.
- Informs residents about how we propose to develop a new Local Plan.
- Does not contain any policies or allocate any sites for development at this stage.

Reg 18: Draft Local Plan

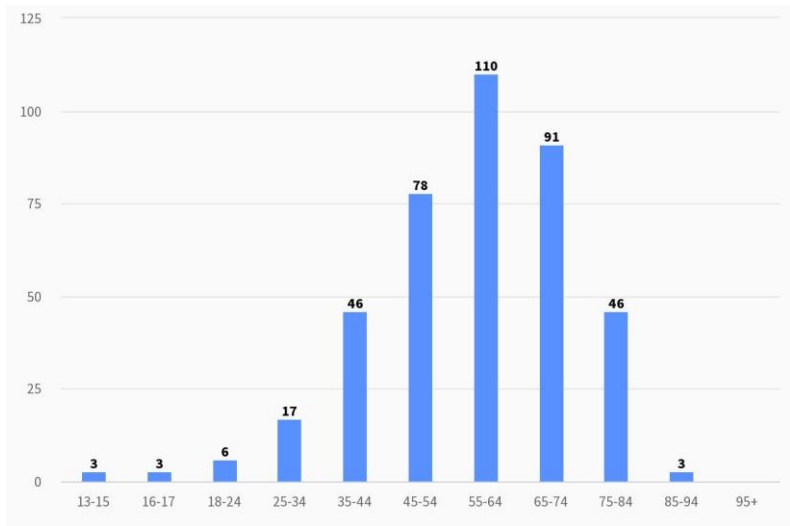
- The Draft Local Plan is informed by the Issues & Options Consultation and the Local Plan Evidence Base.
- Sets out the Council's preferred options and other alternative options considered.
- Residents can help to inform the Council's choices about planning policies and the overall spatial strategy for Basildon Borough.
- Estimated timescale Q3 2024.

Reg 19: Submission Local Plan

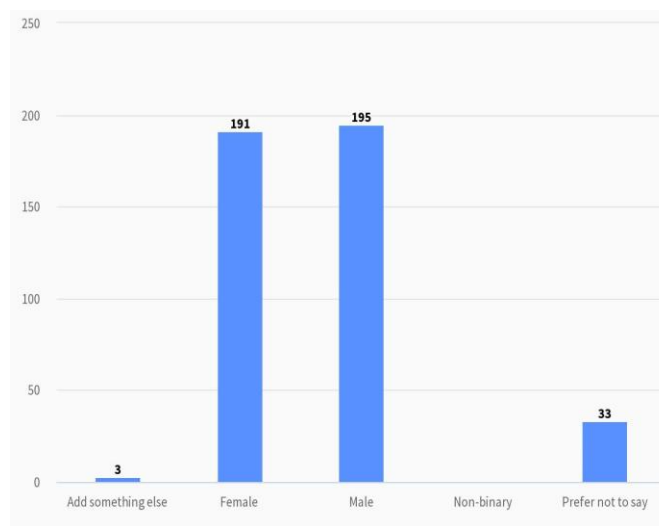
- Publication of the plan the Council intends to submit to Government, informed by the earlier consultation and engagement.
- Limited to considering if the Local Plan has been positively prepared, justified, effective and is consistent with national policy.
- Open to all including statutory consultees and other professionals.
- Comments are provided for the Government Inspector to consider.
- Estimated timescale Q4 2025.

Demographic summary of respondents

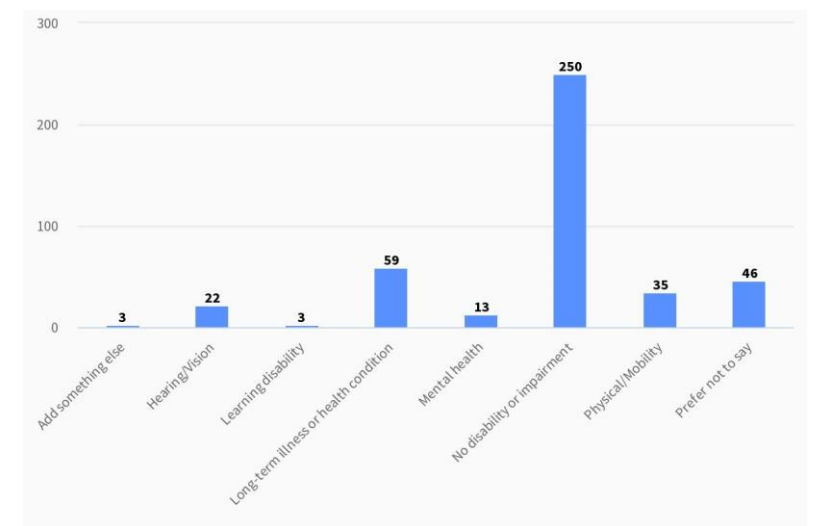
All respondents (720)



What is your Age Group



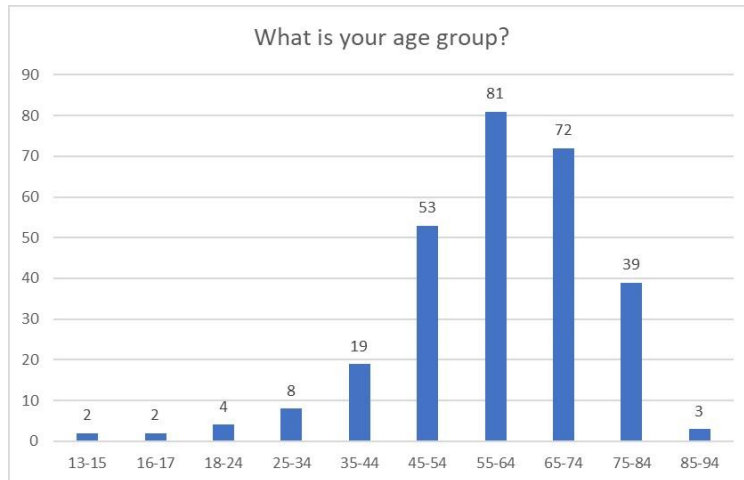
What sex do you identify with?



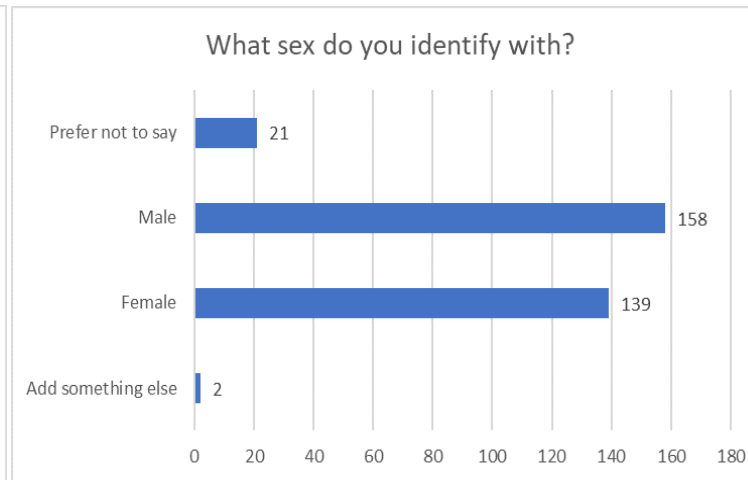
Do you have long-term health problems or a disability

Demographic summary of respondents

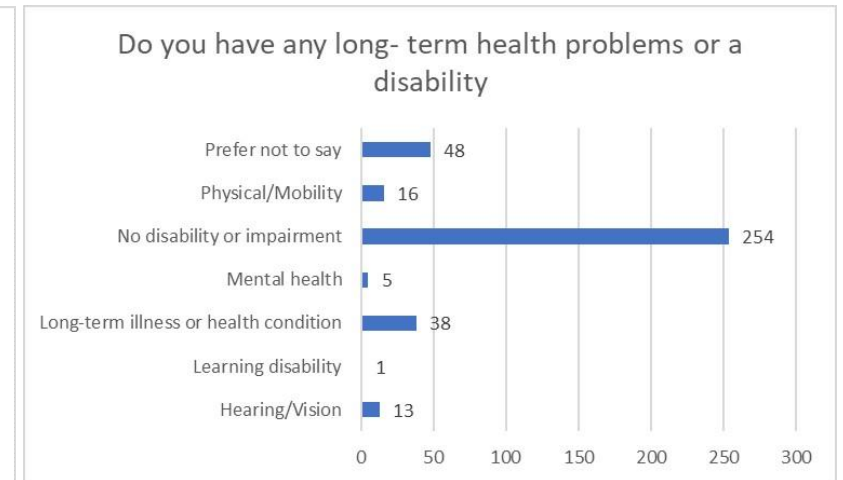
All valid respondents (450)



What is your Age Group

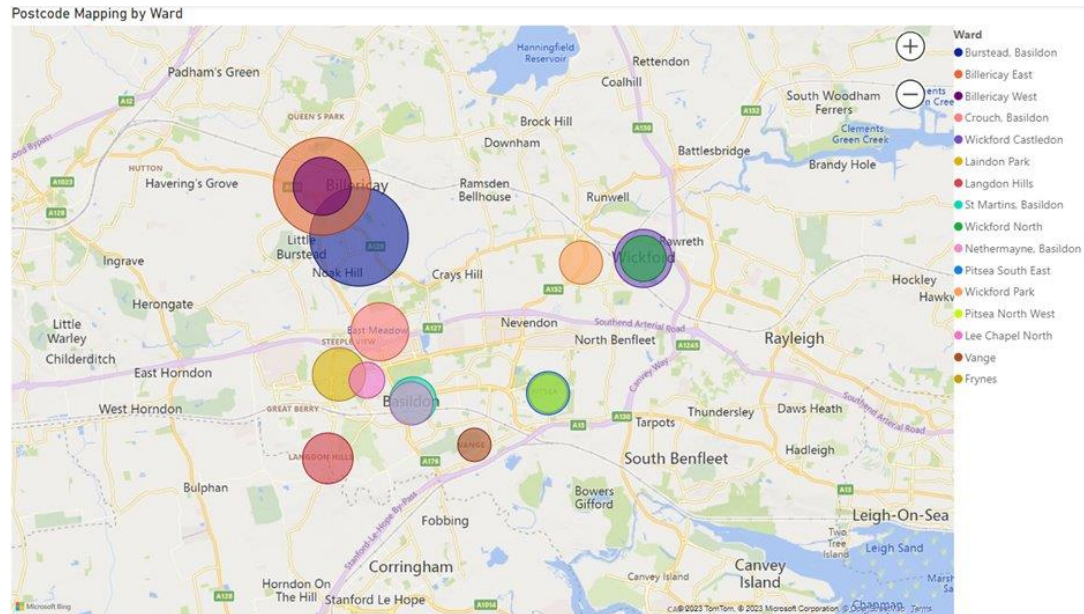


What sex do you identify with?

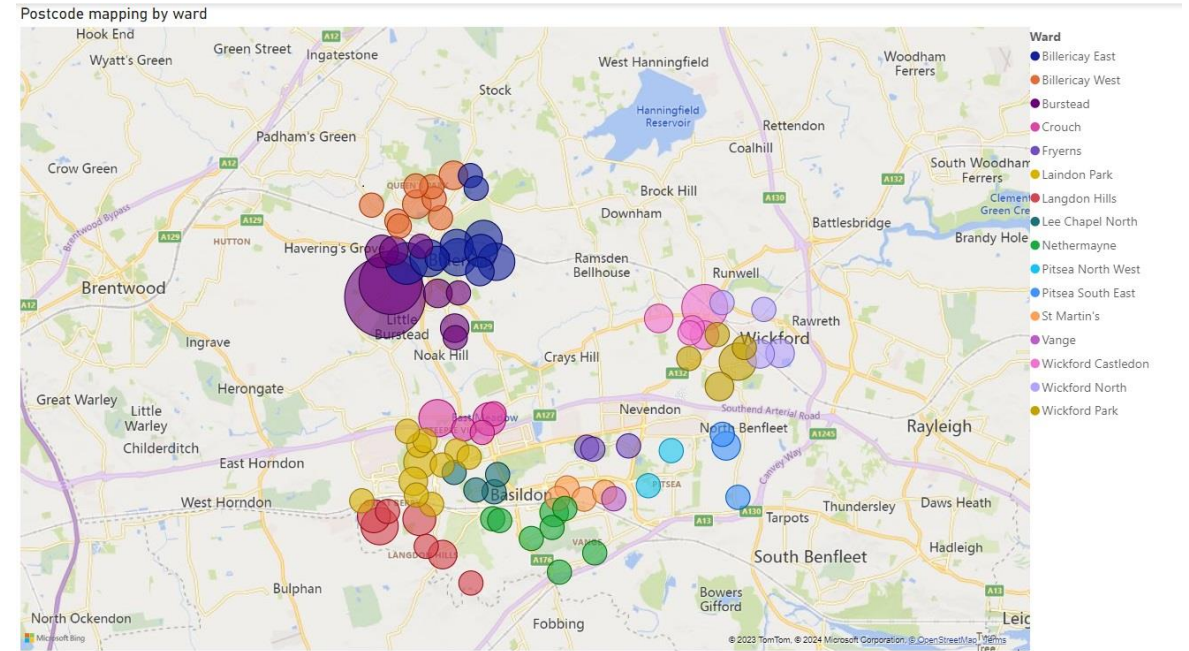


Do you have long-term health problems or a disability

Heat map showing responses from postcodes in the borough



Raw data map 2023



Valid responses map 2024



Our Vision and Strategic Objectives

A new vision for the borough is currently proposed as: 'By 2042, we want to accelerate Basildon Borough's ambition. We want a prosperous economy providing employment for all our residents, including higher value jobs. We need housing and a wider range of housing for all resident's needs. We want to protect and enhance our natural environment and biodiversity. The Borough will be safe, and residents will benefit from high standards of health and wellbeing. There needs to be an improved cultural offer, more vibrant town centres and higher educational attainment and aspirations. We need to encourage more resilient communities, reflecting the diversity within the Borough.'

- Responses were generally supportive of the proposed vision and strategic objectives
- Generally, there were three main themes arising; protecting the environment, delivery of infrastructure and some opposing views between delivering new homes and preserving the Green Belt.
- Generally, protecting the environment and sustainable development should be new themes in addition to the existing people, place and prosperity strategic themes
- Promoting tourism had limited support and should therefore form part of the economic / prosperity theme

Strategic Matters and Key Issues

Issues raised:

- The Local Plan timeframe should be longer, including an earlier start date for the plan period
- The importance of meeting housing need was frequently mentioned, particularly by developers
- Many responses supported the need to get a Local Plan progressed and adopted, to avoid speculative development
- Protecting the Green Belt is considered to be important
- Need for Infrastructure was regularly mentioned as a strategic matter

Delivering growth and continued prosperity

Issues raised:

- Supportive of Brownfield development, in the form of redevelopment of underutilised land and densification
- Generally supportive of preserving the current extent of the Greenbelt
- However, many comments are supportive of a Greenbelt review and limited release for housing
- Some views that agricultural land should be preserved for food production
- Views expressed that open spaces, green areas and ancient woodlands should be protected.

Tackling Climate Change

Issues raised:

- Views were generally supportive of tackling climate change
- Supportive of renewable energy and solar panels on roofs
- Supportive of the concept of net zero carbon development
- However, viability needs to be carefully considered when introducing climate change policies.



Enhancing Biodiversity and Green and Blue Infrastructure

Issues raised:

- Generally supportive of enhancing biodiversity and green and blue infrastructure
- Generally supportive of stronger protections for existing Biodiversity
- Generally supportive of Biodiversity Net Gain, aiming for at least 10% gain on site
- Some concerns by developers on viability of net gain policies above 10%

Healthy and Sustainable Communities

Issues raised:

- Support for active/sustainable transport, high quality public places, green spaces and sports facilities
- However, some comments referred to the private car needing to be facilitated alongside promoting sustainable modes of transport
- Growth should be delivered through large scale development sites to deliver needed infrastructure
- Improvements need to be made to the quality of walking, cycling and wheeling infrastructure
- Improve accessibility to parks, public open spaces, blue infrastructure and public rights of way

Creating Beautiful Places

Issues raised:

- Support for local heritage and conservation issues
- Support for promoting a sense of place and identity through quality design
- Support for providing beautiful design
- General support for adopting design codes
- Some matters outside of the scope of the Local Plan (such as maintenance of public spaces)

Improving Access to Housing

Issues raised:

- Housing provision is a major issue for the local plan.
- Some objections from residents to the 'Standard Method' of calculating housing need.
- Other consultees have emphasised the importance of meeting housing needs.
- There appears to be a range of specialist housing priorities but helping those unable to rent or buy on the open market is showing the greatest level of support.
- There is significant support for the provision of affordable housing, in particular social housing, family size housing, housing for older people and housing for those seeking to downsize.
- For Gypsy and Traveller sites, the preferred options are to expand existing provision and/or deliver on brownfield land
- Generally, there is resistance from residents to wider development in the Green Belt

Prosperous Economy

Issues raised:

- Need to diversify the economy & create better and higher value jobs
- Improved infrastructure provision will help to provide new jobs
- Demand for the facilitation of Energy, Green Technology, Life sciences and Health care jobs
- Generally, the council should be proactive, ambitious and encourage a more diverse local economy
- Use of planning obligations for the creation of employment and skills development
- The importance of training and education was also expressed

Resilient Town Centre

Issues raised:

- The need for better quality shopping and facilities in town centres was a frequent theme
- Concern expressed about shops closing in recent past
- Need for more infrastructure in the town centres
- Need for better public transport to access the town centres
- Some concern around parking charges, business rates and rent levels (outside the scope of the local plan)
- These comments are relevant to the debate about town centre viability and the attraction of out-of-town locations

Promoting Sustainable Transport

Issues raised:

- There is strong support from residents and statutory consultees to prioritise improvement in active travel, such as walking and cycling, and public transport.
- Many of our residents consider that it is important to plan for electric vehicles.
- There is widespread support for factoring in how well connected an area is when considering its potential for growth.

Securing Sufficient Infrastructure

Issues raised:

- The importance of good infrastructure provision was highlighted by all respondents
- The need for a new Infrastructure Delivery Plan was referred to addressing current shortages of infrastructure
- Some recommendations for specific areas for transport infrastructure improvements
- Infrastructure should be provided through the planning process and more detail should be made available in relation to the infrastructure proposals
- Prioritise provision of Transport, Health Facilities and Education facilities

Spatial Options to Delivering Growth

Issues raised:

- New development should be located close to existing infrastructure, and deliver new infrastructure
- Comments endorse densification of existing urban areas as the best spatial option
- Urban extensions were also considered to be a good spatial option
- Many of the comments were promoting a site or area for development
- The overall spatial strategy will require a balance of spatial options, focussing on urban development and urban extensions
- Many comments made on the need to preserve the green belt and green infrastructure

Are you aged 13 - 18 Years Old?

Issues raised:

- Limited number of responses received from young people overall
- Views that tackling climate change is very important
- Considers the need for energy and green technology at employment spaces
- Promotes the presence of higher education facilities in the borough
- Supports the preservation of the current extent of the Greenbelt

Next Steps for the Local Plan

Next Steps	Key Issues
Need to review the Local Development Scheme as directed by DLUHC	Currently working with Planning Advisory Service To be completed by 5 th March 2024. To be supported by a resource plan.
Undertaking an urban capacity assessment which will provide an up to date qualitative and quantitative assessment of the Borough's urban area's potential to accommodate growth	GIS technology Consultancy support may be required
Commission updated evidence on housing need taking account of 2021 Census Data	Requires buy in by the six authorities making up the South Essex Housing Market Area



Next Steps

Next Steps	Key Issues
Complete Green Belt assessment and other ongoing evidence base projects	Timeframe to August 2024
Develop growth and spatial strategy options for the Borough Options for growth levels will include low, medium and high growth scenario's; and use of standard methodology as the starting point for housing need	Consultancy support may be required to help drive this forward Requires the completion of evidence base including on housing and employment needs
Plan for delivering supporting infrastructure including introducing Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)	Consultancy support required to drive forward Exacom software needed