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# Bath & North East Somerset Council

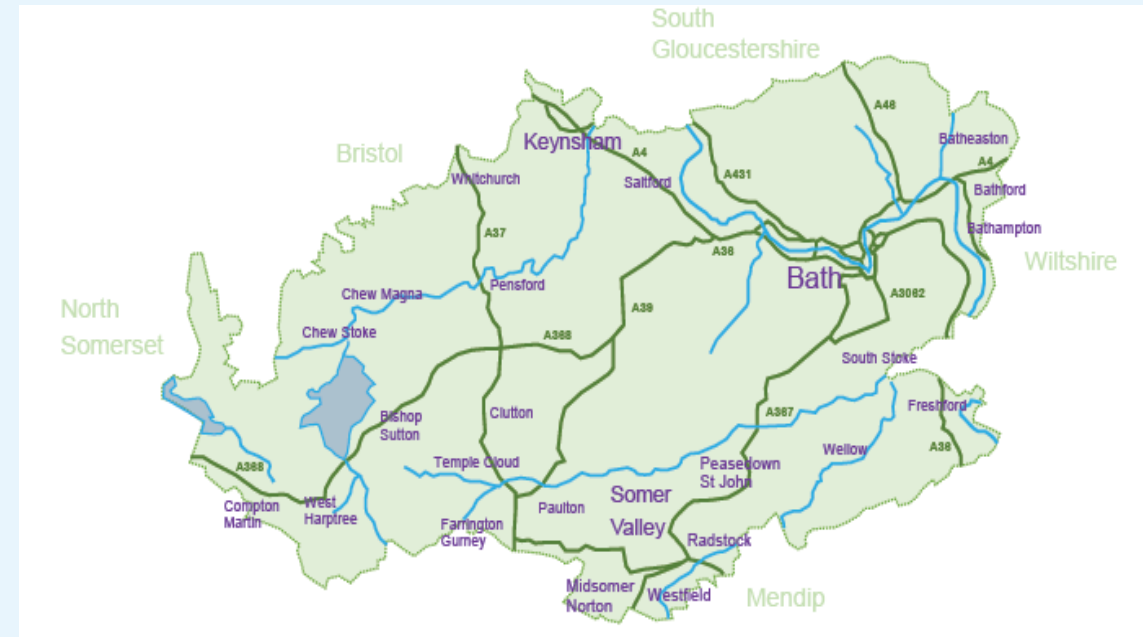
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**Improving People's Lives**

Somer Valley Area Forum  
Local Plan Update & Next Steps

# The new Local Plan

- Sets out the planning framework for the next 20 years
- Spatial priorities and strategy, including site allocations and Development Management policies
- Reflects corporate priorities, relevant evidence and strategies, recent consultations and stakeholder engagement.



# Local Plan Process



# Somer Valley Stakeholder Workshop – 6th Feb 2023

## Key values/issues & priorities

- Green space in new developments, renewable energy
- Limited public transport leads to reliance on car travel, road networks are congested
- Access to food growing, access to the countryside and improvements to watercourses
- Mining heritage should be promoted, each settlement has its own identity
- Area is popular with commuters, there is not enough infrastructure to support housing development
- Limited employment opportunities, strong sense of community should be preserved



# Evidence

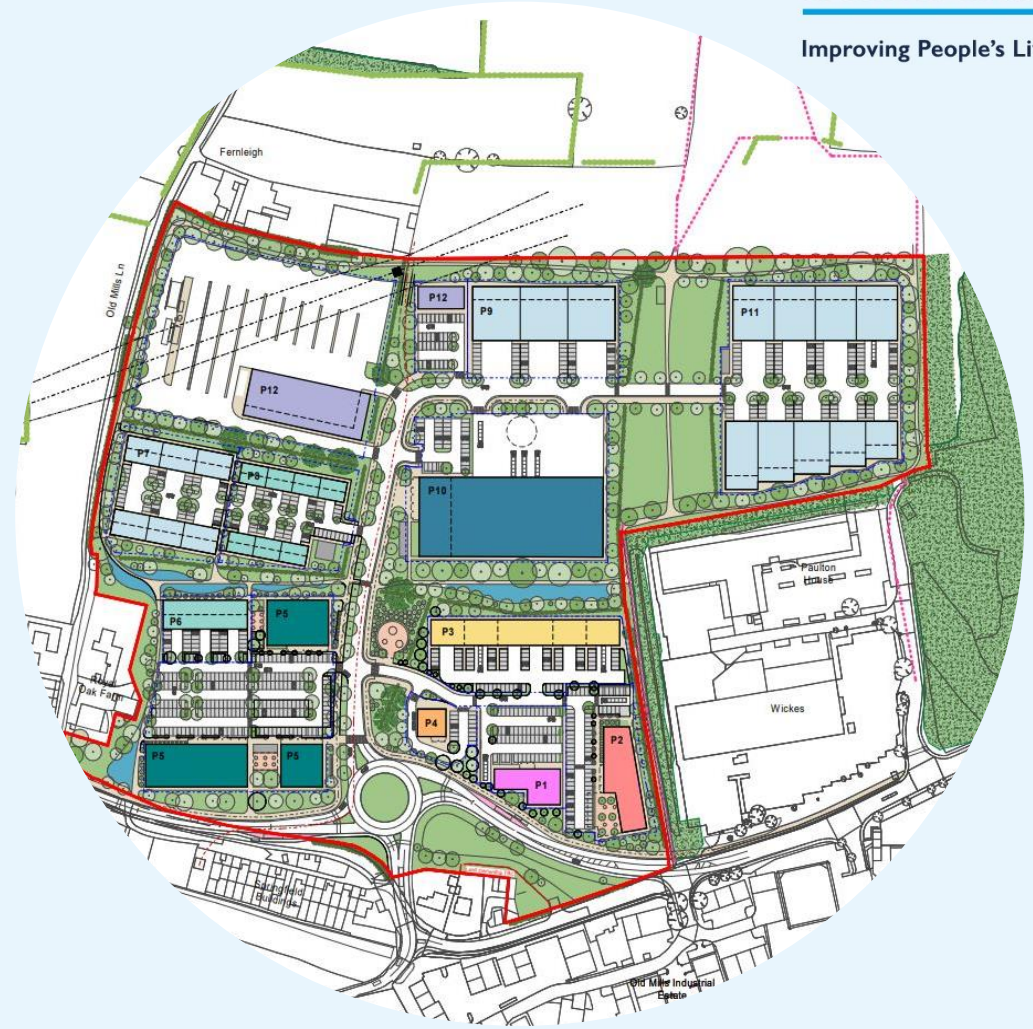
- **Local Housing Needs Assessment (LHNA)**
  - Identify the overall level of housing need: standard method figure = 725 per annum
  - More detailed work:
    - Breakdown of housing need by dwelling size, type and tenure (including different types of affordable housing need and First Homes)
    - Housing accessibility requirements
    - Need for different forms of older persons housing
    - Affordable housing – income profile of need





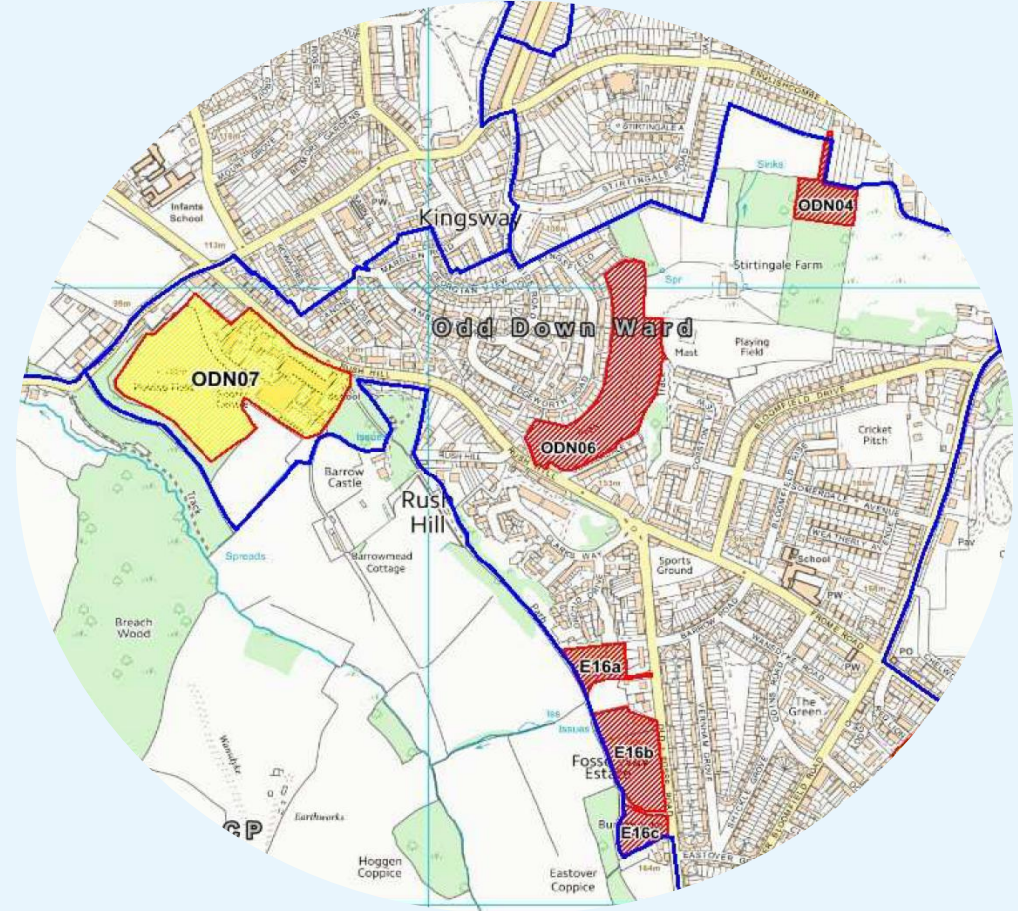
# Evidence

- **Economic growth and office and industrial market assessment**
  - Assessment of future growth of different economic sectors and resultant demand for different types of employment space
  - Review of current supply of office, industrial and other types of employment space and current demand (allow to monitor impacts/effectiveness of the current strategy and policies)



# Evidence

- **Housing & Employment Land Availability Assessment**
  - Call for sites – landowners/communities/stakeholders submit potential sites
  - Technical assessment of suitability, availability and achievability
  - Informs spatial strategy/identification of potential sites (options) to meet housing requirement



# Evidence

## **District-wide, includes:**

- Renewable energy potential/strategy
- Green Spaces Strategy and Local Green Spaces
- Visitor Accommodation
- Strategic Flood Risk Assessment update

...and more

## **Place specific, includes:**

- Strategic Place Assessment/Sustainable Transport Strategy
- Facilities audit/transport accessibility



## Next steps

- Place based community representatives/stakeholders' workshop later in July and September
  - *Confirmation of issues & priorities – place vision*
  - *B&NES strategies/wider context*
  - *Strategic place assessments - evidence*
  - *Identify & discuss potential opportunities*
- Generated options to be assessed
- Evidence work to be completed
- Options document prepared for consultation

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