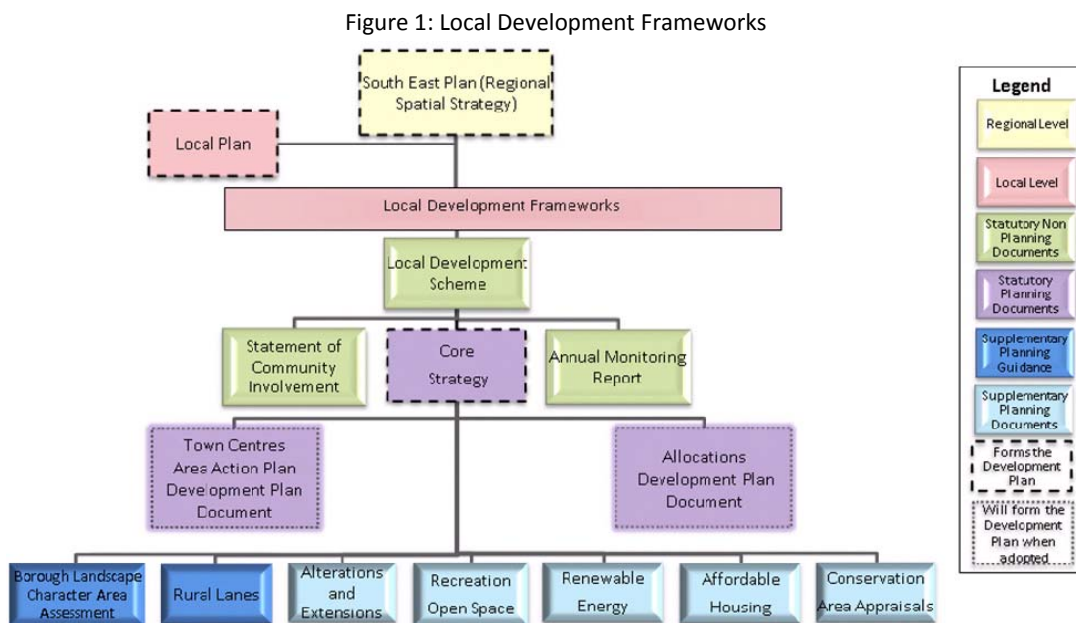


Briefing Note for Royal Tunbridge Wells Town Forum (31st March 2011)

1. Introduction

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council (TWBC) is responsible for preparing planning policy documents to guide long-term strategic development decisions in the Borough and to enable planning applications to be determined in a robust and consistent way.

In accordance with the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (updated in 2008), TWBC are preparing a number of documents which together form the Local Development Framework (please see figure 1 below).



As can be seen from the diagram above, the Development Plan is a document or a series of documents containing planning policies that the local planning authority will take into account when determining applications for development.

2. Why is this relevant to the Town Forum Group?

The Core Strategy (seen above) is an overarching planning strategy for the Borough which, for example, sets out how much housing is required in the Borough. The adopted Core Strategy 2006-2026 is currently under review.

The purpose of this briefing note is to make you aware of the forthcoming consultation on the Core Strategy Review, which is due to happen on:

16 May 2011 to 24 June 2011

It has been noted that the Town Forum has previously commented on the Borough Council's planning policy documents, and you will receive a letter / email detailing the consultation closer to the time. Furthermore, the Planning Policy team is hoping to attend the Town Forum meeting on the 26th May 2011.

3. The Town Centres Area Action Plan and Allocations DPD

We are aware that the Town Forum made comments on the last consultation that ran from June – September 2010 on the site specific planning policy document, the Town Centres Area Action Plan and Allocations DPD. Over 4,000 responses were received and each has now been considered and the main issues have been identified. Due to the scale of the consultation, issues have been considered broadly by topic and do not contain details of comments made about every site. Summaries of these issues can be viewed www.twbc-apps.co.uk/committee/cabinet/agendas/10-11/16dec10/CAB010.pdf

4. Contact Details:

If you require any further information, then please do not hesitate to contact planning policy on planning.policy@tunbridgewells.gov.uk, or telephone 01892 554056.

