

# Planning Agents Meeting 16<sup>th</sup> January 2023





# Agenda

Local Plan Update, including policy weight

Dover Design Review Panel

Conditions and advertising listed building conditions applications

Q&A





## Local Plan Update

Reg 19 consultation closed 9<sup>th</sup> December

Processing and summarising reps

Preparing for submission before the end of March

Timetable for examination - TBC





# Weight of policies

Plan at a stage that its policies are capable of having more weight as a material planning consideration in the determination of planning applications.

In accordance with paragraph 48 of NPPF, how much weight will be determined by:

the degree to which any objections raised to a policy (through the previous regulation 18 process) are considered to have been resolved the degree to which the policy is considered to be consistent with the policies of the NPPF.





# Policy weight in current decision making

Policies which we will be applying weight and are a change/new policy to the current DP:

Policy SP4 – Residential Windfall Development

Policy SP5 – Affordable Housing

Policy SP12 – Strategic Transport Infrastructure

Policy PM1 – Achieving High Quality Design, Place Making and the provision of Design Codes

Policy PM4 – Sports Provision

Policy H6 – Residential Extensions and Annexes

Policy SP13 – Protecting the District's Hierarchy of Designated Environmental Site and Biodiversity Assets

Policy NE3 – Thanet Coast and Sandwich Bay SPA Mitigation and Monitoring Strategy





# Design Review Panel

Launching in February 2023

Building on current use of Design Review Panels by creating a bespoke Dover panel

Agreed at December 2022 Cabinet meeting

Aligns with best practice, NPPF and planning practice guidance

Compliments requirements of regulation 19 draft Local Plan, Draft policy PM1

Pre-app stage for 100 homes +/ 10,000 sqm and smaller sensitive and/ or complex town centre sites

Role of the Panel and panel members

Process and cost

Future written guidance on website





### Conditions

#### Advertising conditions applications

Applications to approve details pursuant to conditions attached to Listed Building Consent

Applications to approve details pursuant to conditions attached to Planning Permissions, which affect the exterior of a listed building

#### Applications for approval of condition details

Currently split into separate applications for each condition

Applications for multiple conditions will instead be dealt with under one application with one decision letter

Details being finalised, but will be operational shortly



# Planning Agents' Meeting

24<sup>th</sup> April 2023



# Dover District

# Agenda

- 1. Service Update –
- 2. DM Team Structure/Areas –
- 3. Policy Team Structure and Local Plan Update –
- 4. Planning Performance Agreement Approach –
- 5. Thanet Coast and Sandwich Bay SPA Mitigation Tariff –
- 6. Feedback and thoughts? current consultations –
- 7. AOB and next meetings





### Development Management Team Structure

#### North

- Team Leader
- •

#### South

- Team Leader
- •

#### **Strategic Sites**

- Team Leader
- Conditions:



# Policy Team Structure

Planning Policy, Infrastructure and S106

**Heritage and Natural Environment** 





# Local Plan updates

- Local Plan submitted on 31<sup>st</sup> March
- Inspectors appointed

  - •
- Awaiting initial questions from Inspectors
- Hearing Sessions requested to commence from September





#### **Planning Performance Agreement Approach**

Previous approach

Increased interest in PPA's

Standard template

Costs based on backfilling additional resource

DDC Officer led where sufficient capacity can be assured

Collaborative process





#### **Thanet Coast and Sandwich Bay SPA Mitigation Tariff**

Updated approach to Mitigation Strategy implemented in October 2022

Zone of Influence – 9km from the site

Applies to all new dwellings (inc. replacements dwellings where there is an increase in bedroom numbers)

Update to tariff amounts from 1 April 2023

Website has been updated <u>Thanet Coast and Sandwich Bay SPA</u>
<u>Mitigation and Monitoring Strategy (dover.gov.uk)</u>





## **Current Consultations**

Planning fees
Infrastructure Levy





## **AOB** and dates

Next meetings:

12 and 13 June

At Dover District Council Offices, Whitfield





# Developer Forum

Tuesday 23rd April 2024





# Agenda

- 8.30-9am Networking and refreshments
- 9am Welcome -
- Managers' updates
- Local Plan –
- 5 Year Housing Land Supply, Monitoring & S106 monitoring –
- Biodiversity Net Gain –
- Open discussion
- Networking and refreshments
- 11am meeting close





## - Planning Support & Land Charges Manager

#### Planning Support, Building Control admin and Land Charges

- Planning support —
- Building Control Admin -
- LLPG/Street Naming & Numbering –





# - Planning Support & Land Charges Manager

- BC Pre-app/conditions
- Planning Portal BC apps Launch end of this month
- Validation checklist





# - Planning Support & Land Charges Manager

- Building.control@dover.gov.uk 01304 872495
- Developmentmanagement@dover.gov.uk 01304 872150
- Addressmanagement@dover.gov.uk 01304 872011





### - Building Control Manager

#### **Building Control Team:**

- •
- •
- •
- •





### - Building Control Manager

- Registration of the Building Control Profession
- Restricted Activities
- Operational Standards Rules
- Building Control and Dutyholder Relationship
- Culture Change in Practice





### - Building Control Manager

- Quote from CIC:
- "This will mean that the new expectation is that designs presented to the regulators will need to be presented as a confident compliant design rather than an offer for the regulator to consider and offer advice as to whether compliance has been reached or whether change is needed. The regulator will not take a role of providing detailed ongoing commentary to the project team to advise on the emerging design as often happens now. The obvious implications for industry is that any advisory role will need to be provided separately from those providing the regulatory role."





# Manager

### - Planning & Development

#### Introduction

- New(ish) Planning & Development Manager joined in Sept 2023
- Responsible for the three DM planning teams currently set up as:
  - Officers working flexibly across the district
  - A Strategic Projects Team
  - An Enforcement Team
- Soon to be looking to recruit for current vacancies





# Manager

## - Planning & Development

#### Who's in the DM Team?

- team leader (Strategic Sites)
- team leader
- manager for Planning Enforcement (leaving end of May)
  - Enforcement team -
- 4 principal planners -
- 2 Senior Planners –
- 3 Planning Officers –
- 1 trainee planner -
- Conditions officer -



### - Planning & Development

### What's happening in the DM team?

- We introduced a Planning Performance Agreement (PPA) service a year ago
- So far a good response and positive feedback
- Offering two different services
  - **An internal service** a Planning Officer case manages the application from start to finish with an agreed timetable
  - A 'hybrid' approach an external consultant acts as case officer alongside a named case officer at the Council.
  - This can offer additional benefits -
    - Utilises additional expertise from consultancies (e.g. expert landscape advice)
    - Uses their commercial knowledge to assist the smooth processing of the application
    - Includes having an officer to assist with local policies and local knowledge





### - Planning & Development Manager

#### **Conditions & Pre-application Advice**

- We are aware these are hot topics!
- Conditions We have a dedicated conditions officer (although the number of condition submissions we receive is significant for one officer)
- Blitz day Recently held our first 'blitz' session where whole team comes together to 'blitz' a
  particular topic we focussed on planning apps and pre-apps and issued 28 within 1 day. Really
  successful and hoping next session can focus on clearing any backlog of conditions
- External consultees Have had some issues with response times recently. Looking to invite some consultees to team meetings to build working relationships and help improve response times





# - Planning Policy and Projects Manager

Planning Policy, Infrastructure and S106:

Heritage:

**Natural Environment and Climate Change:** 



# Local Plan update

Examination on-going

Main Modifications consultation currently taking place Closes 24<sup>th</sup> May at 5pm

Main modifications

Policies Map modifications

Sustainability Appraisal Addendum

**Updated Habitats Regulations Assessment** 

Additional modifications (not subject to consultation)





# **Housing Land Supply**

- ➤ October 2023 Report (23-28 period) 5.38 Years Supply
- ➤ Update to NPPF and PPG 4 year supply / no buffer
- ➤ Revised 23-28 position to be published soon
  - No 5% buffer
  - 5 year 5.65 years
  - HDT results 106%

- ➤ Local Plan Position 6.32 Years Supply (See MM6)
- ➤ Next Land Supply Report will be updated for 2024-29 based on LP and updated housing monitoring data
- ➤ Phasing emails will be sent





# S106 Monitoring

- •
- Dedicated email address developer.contributions@ dover.gov.uk

#### **Reminders:**

- Notify us when site ownership/s106 agreement transferred
- ➤ Speak to us when approaching trigger points
  - √ Time to process requests / calculate indexation
  - √ Get invoice number to reference
  - √ Correct £ amounts and items listed
  - √ Makes payment process easier for all





# **Biodiversity Net Gain**

Leave the natural environment in a measurably better state than it was beforehand

- > What does mandatory BNG mean for planning?
  - > Every grant of planning permission (with a few exemptions)
  - ➤ Biodiversity Gain Objective
  - ➤ General Biodiversity Gain Condition
  - ➤ No change to existing legal protections for habitats and species







# **Biodiversity Net Gain**

- ➤ What is needed?
  - Planning submission minimum information requirements
  - Additional information how is BNG proposed to be achieved?
  - Biodiversity Gain Condition discharge – Biodiversity Gain Plan

- ➤On-site BNG iterative design process to include BNG
- ➤ Off-site BNG developer-controlled, third party or habitat bank
- ➤ Off-site BNG Statutory credits (last resort)

www.nhbc.co.An ecologist?





# **Biodiversity Net Gain**

"BNG - It's a Team Sport!"

www.makingspacefornaturekent.org.uk/bng/

www.bngonline.org.uk/

www.nhbc.co.uk





#### **Open discussion:**

Feedback...

What are your current pressures/ challenges – how can we help?

What LPA experiences have you had from other authorities that work well?

Any other suggestions?



#### **Meeting Notes/Actions**

Project: Planning Developer and Agents Forum

Meeting: Dover District Council

Time/Date: 5 September 2024 - 8.30 am

Venue: Via Teams

Present: , (Dover District

Council) plus various Major Developers and Agents.

Agenda Item	Action/Note	Responsibility for Action
NPPF Consultation / Local Plan	(Question From TG Designer  Homes) – due to changes coming forward in the NPPF and Local Plan would further help be available prior to pre-app stage?  Response: Advised to contact DMs / in first instance.	No action
Pre-App Process	DDC Planning are going to review the current Pre-App process and asked attendees to let them know any suggestions for changes that would make this work better.	
<b>Design Codes</b> (joint project with East Kent authorities)	(Question From Learn, Lee Evans Partnership LLP) – interested to learn more about Design Code project.  Response: provided further information.	No action
NPPF consultation	(Question From , Savills) – Asking for DDC views on NPPF, what we endorse and have reservations on.  Response: gave an overview and advised they will be looking at the implications of increased fees and providing responses on key areas.	



# Virtual Developer and Agents Forum

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2024





# Agenda

#### 8.30am start

- Welcome –
- Manager updates and
- Local Plan update
- Planning Committee change of dates
- NPPF consultation
- Questions







# - Planning & Development

- Staffing new graduate starting
- Soon to be looking to recruit for current vacancies senior and two principal planners
- Consultee collaboration EA, water companies and highways





# Ashley Taylor – Planning Policy & Projects Manager

#### Team

Planning Policy, Infrastructure and S106:

(Team Leader), (secondment to DM), New graduate – Heritage

**Natural Environment and Climate Change:** 





# **Policy team priorities**

**Infrastructure Funding Statement** 

Conservation Area Appraisals and related Article 4 Directions

Five Year Housing Land Supply Update (post local plan adoption)

BNG processes and procedures, including securing Habitat Banks

**Updating Climate Change Strategy** 

Review of SPDs and guidance supporting new Local Plan

Validation Checklist

Design Codes (joint with East Kent authorities)





# Local Plan update

Expecting Inspector's final report imminently

October Cabinet and Council meetings for Adoption (16<sup>th</sup> October)

Not affected by draft proposals in NPPF consultation in short term

Implications for decision making on current and future applications





# Planning Committee Dates

The **September and October** planning committees have been cancelled and replaced with a single new date **10th October**.





# Feedback and questions



#### **Meeting Notes/Actions**

Project: Planning Developer and Agents Forum

Meeting: Dover District Council

Time/Date: 6 February 2025 - 8.30 am

Venue: Via Teams

Present:

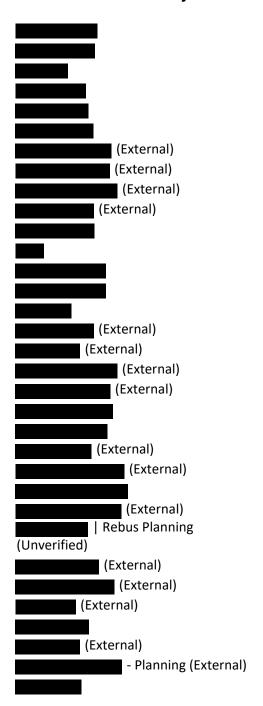
(Dover District Council) plus various Major

Developers and Agents.

Agenda Item	Action/Note	Responsibility for Action
Habitat Banks	Various habitat types available, unit sizes down to 0.25 units  Action: Is this small enough for small sites? Please let us know your thoughts.	All
Pre-app	Trialling a new quicker pre-app route where responses are focussed on specific questions asked by yourselves and responses shorter  Action: Any suggestions of what you would like included/ not included  Any volunteers?	All

#### **Meeting Notes/Actions**

#### Attendance List 6 February 2025 - 8.30 am:





# Virtual Developer and Agent Forum

Thursday 6 February





# Agenda

#### 8.30am start

- Welcome –
- DM and Policy updates –
- Questions





# - Planning Policy & Projects Manager

- Staffing promoted to Senior Planner in DM
- Local Plan Adopted
- Preparing an updated LDS to Cabinet 3 March
- To include SPDs on:
  - Affordable Housing, Developer Contributions, Design Codes, Local Heritage Assets, Dover Town Archaeological Plan, Biodiversity Net Gain, Site Specific Flood Risk Assessments.
- Authority monitoring report, 5 Year Housing Land Supply and Development Newsletter
- Validation Checklist consultation likely March





# Local Plan/ New NPPF

- Revised standard methodology
- Higher need of 746dpa does not apply to Dover due to recently adopted Plan
- Post 1 July 2026 potential requirement for 20% buffer to 5YHLS
- Housing target currently 82% of revised standard method
- No intention to carry out plan review at present
- Focus on delivering sites in adopted Plan and SP4 compliant windfall proposals



# Securing Biodiversity Net Gain

**Non-significant on site** – landscape and ecology management plan condition (no ongoing monitoring)

**Significant on-site** - BNG land secured by planning conditions, habitat management monitoring fees required through S106

Off-site secured through PP – BNG outside of red line but within applicant's land/control. BNG land secured and monitoring through S106

Habitat Bank/Statutory credits – no additional requirements on PP

**Combination** - if one requires S106 obligations these will be used to avoid duplication





# Biodiversity Net Gain Monitoring Fees

	Major applications	Minor applications
Habitat Management Monitoring Fee	£1500 per event	£800 per event
per monitoring event		
S106 monitoring fee per monitoring	£500	£500
event		
Minor applications paying in advance	n/a	Case by case basis

- Monitoring fee to cover costs in monitoring the delivery and management of the BNG.
- The monitoring event timing and frequency is to be determined through the Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan which is required to be submitted by condition.
- Guidance to be prepared on definition of 'significant' and management/monitoring expectations/requirements. Currently envisage around 8 monitoring events across the 30-year period.
- Keep under review costs and timing of fees (would upfront be better?)





# **Habitat Banks**

- First Habitat Bank in the District (potentially Kent) has been secured through S106 – Chalksole Farm
- https://biodiversityandhabitatsolutions.co.uk/chalksole-farm/
- North Downs National Character Area (NCA) stretching from the White Cliffs of Dover to the Hog's Back in Surrey
- Awaiting registration of National Sites Register from Natural England
- Various habitat types available, unit sizes down to 0.25 units
- Is this small enough for small sites?





- Staffing
- Self build and BNG
- Household applications and extensions of time
- Pre-app
- Planning enforcement





# **Staffing**

- joined the strategic planning team at the end August
- has joined the team from Planning Policy as a senior planner
- We have a new principal planner,

  starting in a couple of weeks
- We will be near enough fully staffed at that point





#### Self build

- Massive increase in applications being received involving 'self or custom build' since introduction of BNG
- Raising lots of issues around whether or not they meet statutory definition
- Shortly going to be putting guidance on our website regarding how we will be dealing with these going forward
- Expect all self/ custom build properties to be secured via UU for 3 years for use by the first occupant





## Householder apps and extensions of time

- This idea has been in pipeline for some time advised at agents forum last year
- Message now live on website;

#### Householder applications submitted from 1st February 2025

The Planning team will be striving to determine all householder applications within the 8 week statutory timeframe. This means that we will no longer look to enter into Extensions of Time agreements for householder applications received after 1st February 2025. As a department, we will continue work with applicants and agents proactively, and when required, we will seek minor amendments within an agreed timeframe that enables us to meet the 8 week deadline (where re-consultation is not required).







#### Pre-app

- Shortly going to be trialling a new quicker pre-app route where responses are focussed on specific questions asked by yourselves and responses shorter
- Any suggestions of what you would like included/ not included
- Any volunteers?





# **Planning enforcement**

- Recently been through an audit on the service and working through a list of recommendations
- Have recently introduced new methods of 'managing expectations'
- triaging of cases by TL's & advising complainant of how long it will take for initial investigation
- not setting up cases where they are clearly not a breach





# **Feedback and questions**



#### DDC Planning Developer and Agents Forum - Wednesday, 23 July 2025

# , Cllr Edward Biggs plus various Major Developers and Agents.

Name	Organisation	
	Bloomfields	
	Finns	
N'	Finns	
	Finns	
	Savills	
	Cason Green	
	Cason Green	
	DHA Planning	
	Le Vaillant Owen Consultancy	
	Le Vaillant Owen Consultancy	
	Ez-Plans	
	TRIDAX	
	tgdesignerhomes	
	Lee Evans Partnership	
	How Planning Consultant	
	Hobbs Parker	
	Rebus Planning Solutions	
	Rebus Planning Solutions	
	HCUK Group	
	Citycourt Developments	





# Dover District Council Planning Developer and Agent Forum

23 July 2025



# Agenda



Refreshments and networking (from 8.30)

Welcome (9 am)

**Dover District Council Projects** 

**Planning Policy Update** 

**Development Management & Enforcement Update** 

Planning reform/consultations

@dover.gov.uk

@dover.gov.uk

Planning.policy@dover.gov.uk

@dover.gov.uk

Q&A

All

# **Dover District Council Projects**

#### **Head of Place & Growth**





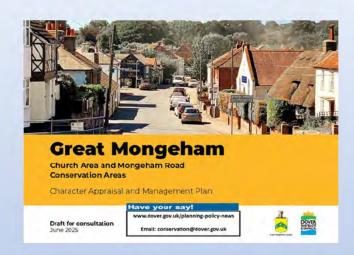




COUNCIL

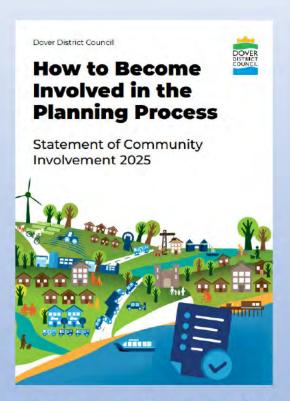


## Planning Policy Update - recent & current consultations



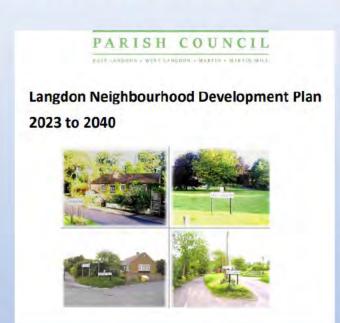
Draft Great Mongeham
Conservation Areas Appraisals
and Management Plan

Consultation Closed 21st July



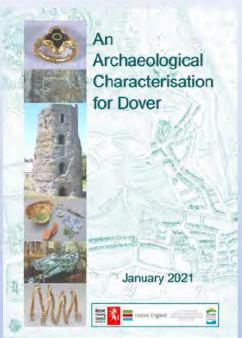
# Statement of Community Involvement

Consultation until 26<sup>th</sup> August



#### Langdon Neighbourhood Plan

Regulation 16 consultation until 4<sup>th</sup> August



#### **Archaeology of Dover SPD**

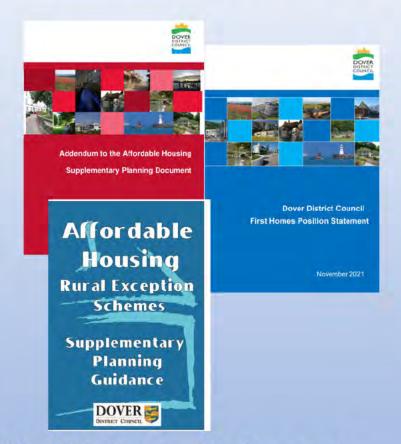
Stakeholder engagement (The questionnaire can be accessed via this link:

https://forms.office.com/e/nvk7j9 AkD3

please email

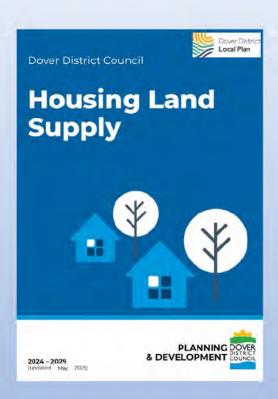
planning.policy@dover.gov.uk for a copy of this document) responses by 14<sup>th</sup> August

## Planning Policy Update - consultations coming soon



Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document

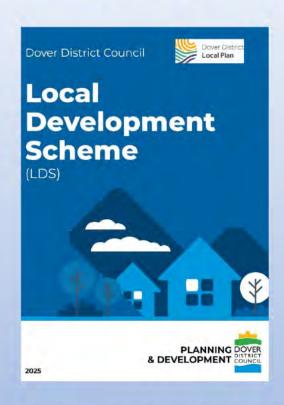
Stakeholder engagement questionnaire



Five Year Housing Land Supply

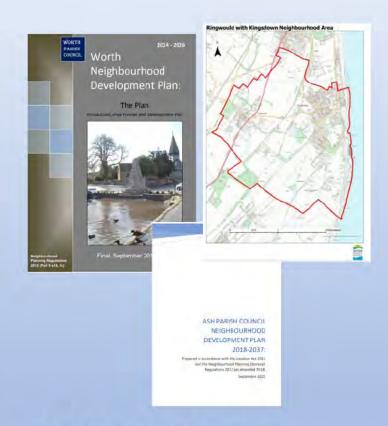
**Developer Phasing survey** 

#### Planning Policy Update - future engagement/consultations



#### **Supplementary Planning Documents:**

- Site Specific Flood Risk Assessment
- Biodiversity Net Gain
- Design Codes
- Local Heritage List
- Developer Contributions



#### **Neighbourhood Plans:**

- NEW Ringwould with Kingsdown
- REVIEWS Ash, Worth



#### Conservation Area Appraisals and Management Plans:

Dover Town

### Planning Policy Update - other work

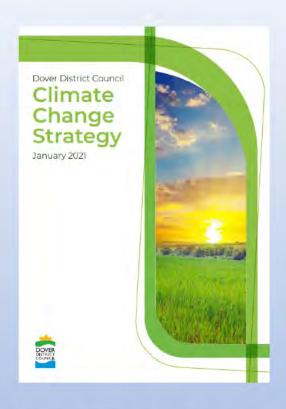


#### **Annual Updates:**

- Authority Monitoring Report
- · Brownfield Register
- Self Build Register



**Development Newsletter** 



Climate Change Action
Plan Update

# **Housing Delivery and Local Plan Site Allocations**

#### Key Stats from 24/25

- 621 completions
  - 80% on Major sites
  - 44% Allocations
    - 115 at Whitfield UE
    - 154 Aylesham
  - 134 Affordable units
- HDT result will remain over 100% as completions were over 700 in 23/24

#### **Land Supply**

- SM changes didn't apply to DDC
- 611 annual target with 5% buffer added (NPPF)
- 5-year need is 3,208
- End of 2024 period (updated with LP sites in 2025)
- 5-year supply was <u>6.4 years</u> (4,132)
- 4,330 Total Extant in May 2025
- Around 600 U/C
- Land Supply position expected to remain 5+ years for 2025-2030

#### Housing Delivery and Local Plan Site allocations

#### **Allocation Progress**

67 LP allocations for housing (5,571 units)

3 strategic sites account for over half of this supply (Whitfield, Aylesham, Elvington/Eythorne)

15 of those sites have consent (673 units)

Larger LP sites with consent:

- SAP9 Barwick Rd Dover (120)
- SAP10 Buckland Paper Mill (135)
- o SAP14 Cross Rd Deal (140)
- o SAP41 Wingham (71)
- o SAP44 Capel-le-Ferne (90)

98 units are under construction in May 2025

14 sites with applications awaiting determination (1,945 units)

This includes strategic allocations at Phase 2 Whitfield (around 700) and Aylesham (around 800)

AMR, Newsletter and Land supply document will include all site details

## **Developer Contributions and Infrastructure funding**

3 bespoke DDC obligations - required from single dwellings

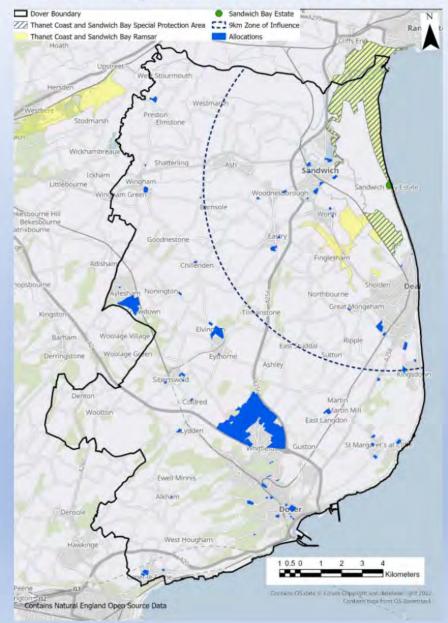
Infrastructure Delivery

#### **Policy CC8**

- Tree Planting 2 new trees per dwelling or 1 new tree for every 500sqm commercial floorspace
- Trees should be native Kent species, of local provenance from a bio-secure source, and should be standard size in specification as a minimum. Details needed of how they will be maintained.
- Payment can be made in lieu if evidenced it cannot be achieved on-site - £2,400 per tree
- Planted and maintained by DDC in accordance with GI strategy







### **Policy NE3**

- Thanet Coast and Sandwich Bay SPA Mitigation
- 9km Zone of Influence
- Applies to all new dwellings
- Replacement dwellings with increase in bedrooms
- Overnight stay tourism development

**Infrastructure Delivery** 

### **Policy SP12**

- Strategic Transport Infrastructure Tariff
- To fund Whitfield and Duke of York Roundabout upgrades
- 4 zones (red, green, blue, yellow)
- Tariff rate depends on zone
- Applies to all new dwellings (if CoU then existing use will be considered)
- Will also apply to other types of development case by case basis

Infrastructure Delivery



#### **NEW ONLINE PAYMENT FORMS**

- Online payments now accepted for developer contributions that may be required for sites of 1 dwelling or more - To streamline process
- To be used on sites where it would not normally require a S106 or Unilateral Undertaking
- Reduce admin and related costs for developers (legal and monitoring fees) - there is a £20 Admin charge
- Online payment can be made for:
  - Policy NE3 Thanet Coast and Sandwich Bay SPA Mitigation
  - Policy SP12 Strategic Transport Infrastructure
  - Policy CC8 Tree Planting
- To be paid prior to decision, where Officer has advised application is to be granted

Home > Planning > Planning Policy > Infrastructure Delivery and S106 Obligations

### Infrastructure Delivery

#### Infrastructure Delivery

5106 Planning Map

Infrastructure Delivery Plan

Infrastructure Funding Statement

#### Section 106 Agreements

FAO's and Guidance.

Discharging S106 Planning Obligations

# Thanet Coast and Sandwich Bay Mitigation Strategy

Information and guidance on residential development in this area.

Online payment form

#### Strategic Transport Infrastructure

Dover Strategic Highway Contributions Tariff

Online payment form

#### Tree Planting and Protection

Off-Site Tree planting Contributions

Online payment form

#### Paying the contributions without a S106 or Unilateral Undertaking Agreement

Online payments for the Strategic Highways Contribution includes tariff calculation plus an admin fee of £20.00

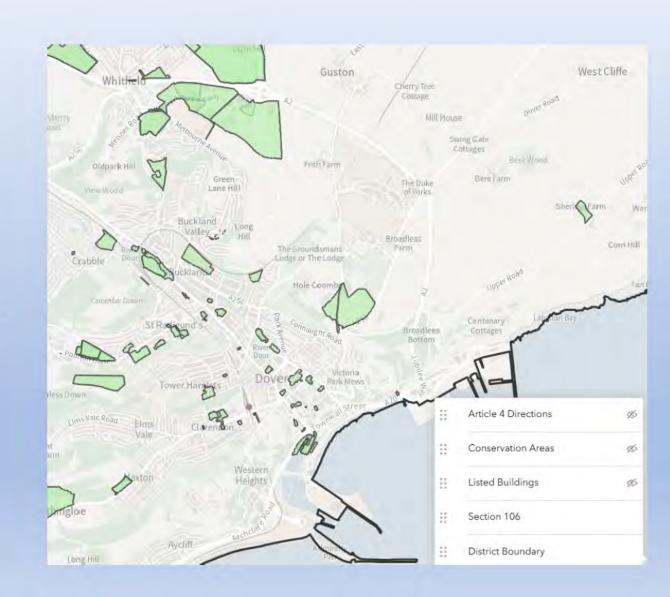
To complete this payment, you'll need:

- » Confirmation from your Case Officer to pay your contribution online
- » The planning application reference number
- » The property or site address of the planning application
- » A description of the development
- » To accept the terms of the Strategic Highways Contribution agreement
- » A credit or debit card and the cardholders details.

Make Payment Online Now

### **NEW ONLINE FORM - Discharge of S106 Obligations**

- Coming Soon
- Online form for both financial and non-financial
- All relevant teams notified
- Non-financial case file set up for officer
- Financial S106 officer can calculate indexation and fees and then send invoice to correct address
- Monitoring fees will be calculated for all
- Decision notice Issued and S106 map updated
- Land Registry update process is faster



- Infrastructure Delivery Plan Update
- Infrastructure Funding Statement
  - Report to Power Bi Dashboard







Please note this is sample data to give an example of what the dashboard could look like.

## **KCC Guidance Updates**

## **New Parking Standards** (Adopted)

 Should be used in Dover in accordance with Policy TI3

# Transport Assessment and Travel Plan Guidance

- Follows new NPPF 'Decide and Provide' vision-led approach
- Greater choice of transport modes assessed from outset
- Informal and being piloted being used in KCC pre-apps etc.
- Requesting feedback and will be reviewed
- To be adopted following formal consultation

## Both part of the Kent Design Guide

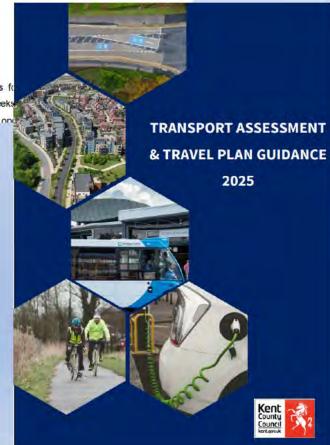


### Kent County Council's Parking Standards

1. Introduction

#### Background

This guidance sets out the parking standards for considers parking for all types of vehicles and seeks appropriate parking provision, ensure the safe on



# - Planning & Development Manager

- Updates on staffing and planning committee
- · Household applications and extensions of time
- Pre-app
- Planning enforcement
- PPAs

**Planning** 

# - Planning & Development Manager

## **Staffing**

- Towards the end of last year we had \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_ join the team.
- We are now currently fully staffed.
- We have 3 team leaders heading up a householder/ minors teams, minor/ majors team and a strategic projects team

## Planning committee

- There have been some recent changes to the planning committee make up
- New chair (Cllr Jeff Loffman)
- Changes in Cllrs serving committee and the political make up now 4 labour inc chair,
   5 conservatives, and 1 independent

# - Planning & Development Manager

## Householder apps and extensions of time

- Since the start of February this year we have been determining householder applications as submitted unless only minor alterations required
- This has been really successful, our 'other' stats have increased drastically in the last quarter – 77% for Q1 2025/26 compared to 46% in the previous quarter (this includes adverts, LDCs etc)
- Of the 113 householder apps 104 approved 9 refused
- This combined with being fully staffed has led to our lowest backlog for as long as we remember!



# Pre-app

- Since our last meeting, we have trialled a couple of 'quick turnaround' pre-apps where responses are focussed on specific questions asked by yourselves and responses shorter. These have worked pretty well. We will be looking into rolling this out further
- If any of you would like to take part in a test case ahead of this being rolled out further, please let me know



## **Planning enforcement**

- It has been over a year now since the enforcement manager left and the enforcement team was 'disbanded'
- We have implemented multiple minor changes over the past year (largely internal) to improve the service we provide such as - managing expectations within letters to complainants, prioritising and triaging cases before setting them up
- We were also audited last year and pretty much finished working through the list of recommendations. Mostly internal changes.
- We have lots more in the pipe line including trying to be more open and transparent where possible - reporting service of notices, appeals relating to enf to planning committee - new webpage providing updates on live enforcement notices, appeals and prosecutions



## **PPAs**

- We continue to offer a very good PPA service!
- Currently this is largely being offered in house due to being fully staffed, however, there remains the option of a hybrid approach
- Working really well and feedback is very positive
- Within PPA we also offer Member briefings where appropriate

## Planning reform and consultations

- Planning and Infrastructure Bill is at Lords Committee stage
- Consultations:
  - Implementing measures to improve Build Out transparency: Technical consultation
  - Reform of planning committees: technical consultation
  - Planning Reform Working Paper: Reforming Site Thresholds
  - Planning Reform Working Paper: Speeding Up Build Out
  - Improving the implementation of Biodiversity Net Gain for minor, medium and brownfield development
- **Building Safety Levy** guidance the levy is a tax on new residential buildings to be collected by local authorities. The guidance explains how the levy will work and what those paying and collecting the levy will need to do. The draft regs were laid in Parliament in July and are subject to parliamentary approval
- **Simplified planning appeal procedures** under the new process the majority of written representation appeals would be based only on the evidence put before the local planning authority during the application process.





