Dear Clerk/Councillors

Re:  Forest of Dean District Council – Local Plan 2041, Second Preferred Option Consultation

We would like to give you advance notice of an important consultation in connection with the new Local Plan.

The Forest of Dean District Council is preparing a new Local Plan which must look forward to 2041.  It needs to show how the needs of the district will be provided for over the next 20 years and these include how the environment will be protected, how the Plan will help reduce the impacts of climate change and how and where new development will be expected to take place.  It will need to show how the substantial changes expected over that time will be best provided for.

In 2019 we identified and consulted on a range of issues and options and later in 2020, we consulted on a Preferred Option Strategy. Taking into account feedback received from those events, we have now developed a Second Preferred Option strategy, which would supersede the first. It is, however, still subject to evaluation including possible alternatives, potential sites and policies.  At this stage specific sites are not identified although general areas considered appropriate for development are referred to.

The draft document will be available from [www.fdean.gov.uk](http://www.fdean.gov.uk/) (Council Meetings and Minutes webpages) from the 7th July 2022 but this version will be subject to any changes made by the Council’s Cabinet on the 14th July 2022 and Full Council on the 21st July 2022, and is subject to their approval.

Your town/parish council’s views will be invited on the contents of the document and in particular the questions within it.

It is anticipated that further to the document being agreed to by the Council’s cabinet, the formal consultation period will start on **week commencing 25th July**and will last until **mid September 2022.**

Your town/parish council will be sent an email informing you that the consultation period has begun and how to make your representations. You will also be provided with electronic versions of the following:

·       The full Second Preferred Option Document

·       A summary of the document

·       A poster for you to print out and display.

All of the above will also be available at the Council Offices, on the Council’s website ([www.fdean.gov.uk](http://www.fdean.gov.uk/)) and an electronic version will be sent to the local libraries.

Drop-in sessions will also be available for members of the public to attend and it is expected that these will take place at Coleford District Offices, Newent, Lydney and Sedbury during the consultation period. Again, we will confirm the details of the dates and venues when the consultation begins.

If you would like the Local Plans team to visit your town/parish council to discuss the process, please advise us early on in the consultation period and we will be happy to meet with you.

If you would like to discuss anything at this stage or during the formal consultation period, please do not hesitate to contact a member of the Local Plans team on (01594) 810000. You can also email localplans@fdean.gov.uk. However, formal representations must be made during the consultation period only.

We very much look forward to your town/parish council’s involvement in the continued development of the new Local Plan.

Yours faithfully

Anna Welsh
Planning Policy Officer​

