



Medway Core Strategy

What it is and how to get involved

Notes

Medway Core Strategy

What it is and how to get involved

What is it?

It is a key part of the Local Development Framework or LDF that will shape development in Medway to 2026 and beyond. It will set out a 'spatial vision' for the area and strategic policies relating to housing, jobs, the environment and more. It will also allocate strategic sites for development.

It will cover the whole of Medway and will affect everyone to some degree or another, so we want to actively involve as many people as possible in its preparation. It needs to reflect local needs and the views of the community.



This leaflet briefly describes the process that will be followed in preparing the Core Strategy and explains how you can get involved and stay up to date with progress.

The process

We will be preparing the Core Strategy in a very open and transparent way with regular updates on progress and forthcoming events being published on our website: www.medway.gov.uk/ldf

Alongside the preparation of the Core Strategy itself, a number of studies are being undertaken and these will inform work at key stages. The studies will form a significant part of what is called the 'Evidence Base' that must be produced to underpin the policies and proposals in the Core Strategy. These too will be published on the website.

In parallel we must also undertake a Strategic Environmental Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal of the baseline situation and the options and policies as they evolve. Reports detailing the process will be published at key stages.

In addition an Infrastructure Plan will be prepared, informing and responding to emerging proposals and policies in the Core Strategy.

We will first be generating and testing Issues and Options and actively involving key stakeholders and the wider community in that process. An Issues and Options Report will then be published and this will be subject to formal public consultation.



After we have fully assessed all responses we will start to scope the Core Strategy itself, again involving key stakeholders and the community throughout. We will then publish the Core Strategy and have a further formal period of public consultation.

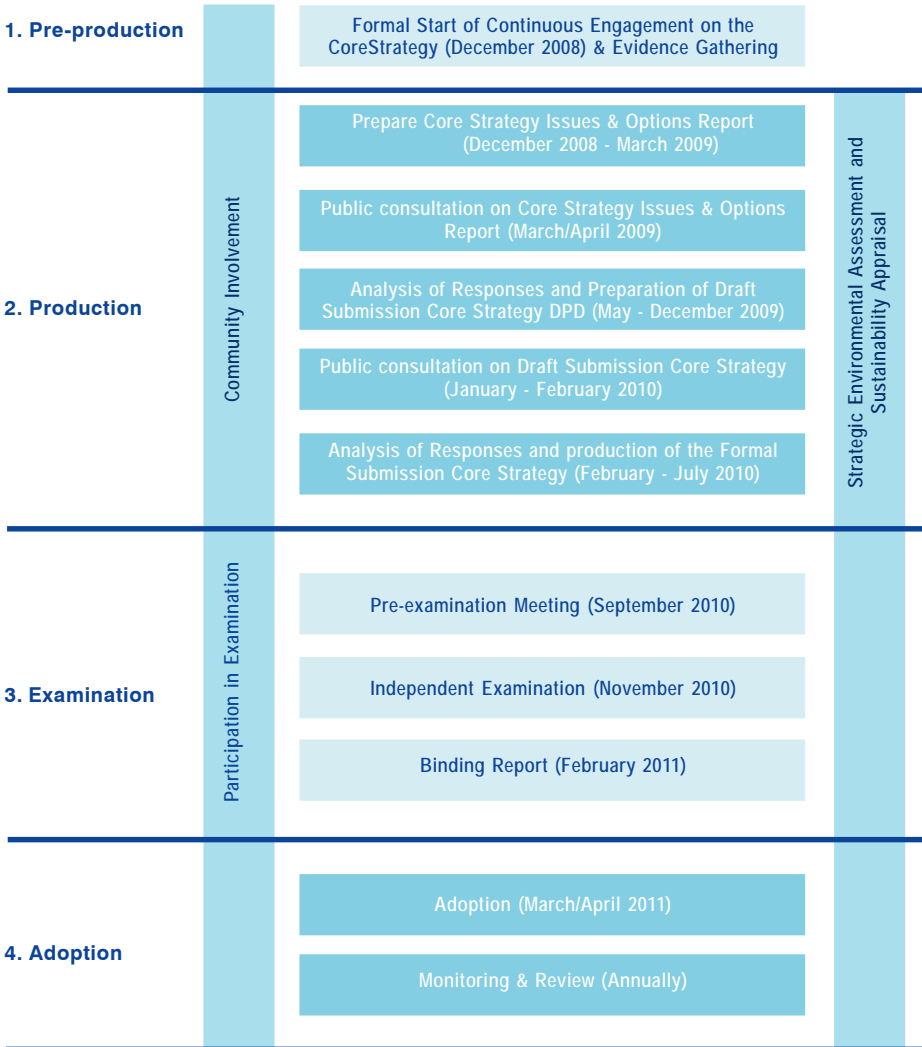
Subject to any final changes, the document will then be submitted to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. There will then be a formal Examination into its 'soundness' by an independent Inspector.

Only after a satisfactory binding report has been received from the Inspector can the Core Strategy be adopted as part of the development plan for Medway.

Timetable

The diagram opposite illustrates the process and the timetable being followed.

An explanation of the LDF process (and indicative timetable):



'Continuous Engagement'

A key principle that must underpin preparation of the Core Strategy is that of 'continuous engagement'. Although this is a formal requirement it is very strongly supported by the Council and we want to do all we can to make it real.

It means that anyone with an interest in the Core Strategy and associated documents can comment, make suggestions and put forward sites or proposals at appropriate stages. In addition we welcome an ongoing dialogue with all interested parties to ensure community and key stakeholder views are fully understood.



At the same time producing the Core Strategy will generate an enormous amount of work and it is important that the timetable is followed and necessary progress made.

To help achieve this, the ways in which you can most effectively become involved are described below.

Some Simple Rules

The Core Strategy will evolve steadily over a number of months and so it is important to keep up to date with the stage that has been reached. We will try to take on board comments and suggestions at any time but letting us know your views early on will help enormously.

Do please try to be clear about what it is you would like to see included or exactly why you are objecting to any particular document or proposal.

Please use our Limehouse system (see below) if at all possible. This will ensure we do not mislay any representations and that all comments relating to a particular stage or document are properly grouped together and recorded. It will also allow you to see our response as soon as it is available.

If you are proposing a site or area for a particular use please illustrate it on a map. If you do not have access to such a map, let us know and we will try to help.

If you do not have access to the Internet it maybe that a friend or colleague might be able to help you. There is free access from all the Council's libraries.

We will willingly accept views by post or in person but you will help a great deal if you use email or the Internet.

We will try to give a formal response to any representations you make but sometimes this can take some time. This is because we may have a large volume of responses to make and some may require additional research or unplanned work to compile.

Getting and Keeping in Touch

There are a number of ways in which you can contact us but regularly reviewing the website is the best way to keep up with progress and to access new publications.

Telephone: 01634 331629 Office hours are 9 am - 5 pm Monday to Thursday and 9 am - 4:30 pm Friday.

Email:

ldf@medway.gov.uk or localdevelopmentframework@medway.gov.uk

Post: Development Plans & Research Team, Regeneration, Community & Culture, Medway Council, Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham, Kent ME4 4TR.

Website: www.medway.gov.uk/ldf This is our front page and you will find numerous links to published documents, Limehouse etc.,

Limehouse: This is an online consultation system and we would strongly encourage you to 'register' as a user. If you do you will receive email alerts when new consultations are underway, you can submit your views in a structured way and see our responses to all representations we receive. To register please go to: <http://medway-consult.limehouse.co.uk/portal>

Want More Information?

For more detail contact the team or follow the following links:

<http://www.planningportal.gov.uk/england/genpub/en/1115311947782.html>

http://www.planning-inspectorate.gov.uk/pins/appeals/local_dev/index.htm

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/planningandbuilding/planning/planningpolicyguidance/planningpolicystatements/planningpolicystatements/pps12>

<http://www.medway.gov.uk/index/environment/developmentplan/ldf.htm>