

Form A: Local Plan Consultation Response Form

15c) Should the plan encourage 'community-led' based housing schemes?

YES

Question 16: Gypsy and Travellers

Government's overarching aim is 'to ensure fair and equal treatment for travellers' The Council will assess the needs of the Gypsy and Traveller community through a needs assessment to be prepared over the coming months and ensure their needs are met through the Local Plan.

16a) The Local Plan must meet the needs of the Gypsy and Traveller community. Accordingly, should large scale housing sites be required to include an element of Gypsy and Traveller provision as part of the masterplanning of the site?

NO

16b) What other suitable locations for Gypsy and Traveller pitches are there?

ALLOW EXISTING SITE IN CHATTERIS TO GROW.

Question 17: Park Homes and Houseboats

The government recently introduced new requirements for Local Plans to review the need for moorings for houseboats and sites to accommodate permanent caravans such as park homes.

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17a) Is there a need for moorings for houseboats or sites for caravans in Fenland? Any evidence to support your comments would be welcome, or suggestions as to how such need could be identified in Fenland.

YES - THERE IS A DEMAND AND IN OTHER AREAS THEY WORK WELL AND ARE POPULAR.
THERE COULD BE MOORINGS ALONG THE 40 FOOT DRAIN.

Question 18 - Plots for Custom and Self-Build

The government has introduced new rules that place a requirement on councils to maintain a register of people who wish to find land to build their own homes (known as self-build or custom build homes). Councils are also required to grant planning permission on sufficient serviced plots of land to meet the identified need for self-build and custom build.

18a) Should we require larger housing sites to provide serviced plots for self-build and custom build?

NO

18b) Should we allocate sites which are set aside only for self-build and custom build?

NO - TOO RESTRICTIVE

Question 19: Employment

Fenland's economy has seen a continued shift away from the land-based sector, where employment has reduced due to productivity improvements and new working methods. However, its association with the food based industry has continued. The majority of employment in Fenland is manufacturing, wholesale and retail, business services, healthcare, and education sectors. Together these account for a large proportion of overall total employment.

19a) Should the Local Plan retain existing employment areas in employment use, or should other

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uses be allowed in these areas?

OTHER USES SHOULD BE ALLOWED

19b) Do any employment sectors in Fenland have specific locational requirements which should be addressed through the Local Plan?

N/A

19c) Are there any barriers to employment growth which the Local Plan could help to address?

TRANSPORT - ~~BETTER~~ BETTER ROADS INFRASTRUCTURE AND
BETTER PUBLIC TRANSPORT

19d) How should the Local Plan support the rural economy?

GETTING THE MIX OF HOUSING RIGHT WITH BETTER
QUALITY HOUSING, SUPPORTING FOOD PRODUCTION,
AGRICULTURAL DIVERSIFICATION AND RURAL
TOURISM AND LEISURE.

Question 20: Retail and Other Town Centre Uses

Shopping habits and the wider retail economy are changing. The prevalence of online shopping is creating a very challenging environment for high street retailers. Such changes mean the role and function of our town centres are also changing. National policy says that Local Plans need to consider a range of uses to help provide a positive strategy for the future role of town centres.

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20a) Do you agree that the Local Plan should strengthen the role of town centres to encourage people to shop and visit?

YES

20b) Should existing shops be protected or do you think other types of development such as leisure and recreation should be encouraged in the town centres?

SHOULD BE MORE FLEXIBLE AND OPENING HOURS
OF SHOPS SHOULD BE MORE FLEXIBLE.

20c) Should the retail hierarchy be amended? What changes should be made and why?

IN AN IDEAL WORLD YES BUT REALISTICALLY NO.

20d) Do you think the boundaries of any Town Centres, District Centres, Local Centres and Primary Shopping Areas need to be extended or reduced? If so, which and why?

SUPPLY AND DEMAND WILL SET THE SIZE OF THE
TOWN CENTRE.

20e) Should the new Local Plan set a threshold for when an Impact Assessment for out of centre retail is required, such as 500 sq m in the current Plan? If so what should the threshold be?

THE THRESHOLD SHOULD BE INCREASED TO 2,500 sq m.