

Breckland Local Plan: Full Update Issues and Options

Summary

Breckland Council is preparing an update to its Local Plan. The Local Plan is a set of documents that will set out how Breckland should develop in the future to best meet the vision that the local community has for the district. This includes setting out how much development there should be and where it should go and what infrastructure is needed to support that growth. It will also help to guide future decisions on planning applications, including what should be allowed where, and what it should look like.

Each local planning authority is required by national government policy to prepare a Local Plan, in order to deliver sustainable development that reflects the vision and aspirations of local communities.

The key stages for the production of the Full Update of the Local Plan are as follows:

Regulation 18 consultations

- Call for Sites and June 2022 – December 2022
- First Conversation Consultation (Issues and Options) March 2023
- Preferred Options and draft Plan Consultation December 2023 2024

Regulation 19 consultation

- Publication Draft Plan consultation July 2024 –September 2024

Submission for examination December 2024

Examination: Q2 2025 – Q3 2026

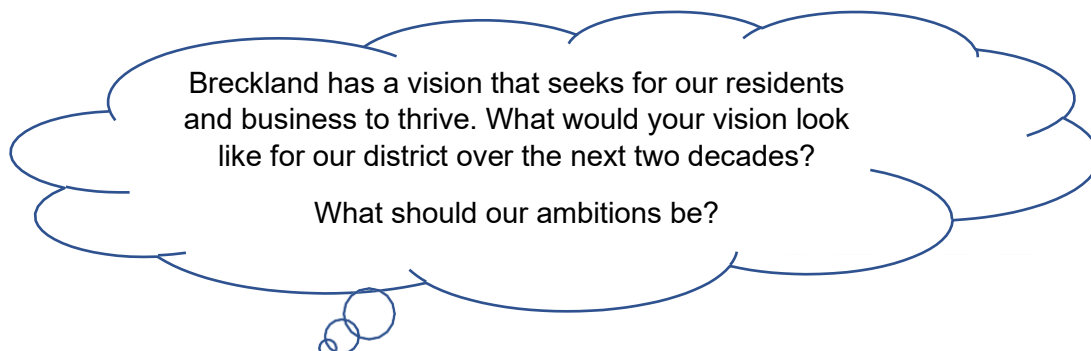
Adoption Q4 2026

The Issues and Options Document is the first stage in preparing this new Local Plan and is an opportunity for local residents, businesses and other interested stakeholders to help shape the vision for the future development of Breckland at an early stage.

What is the Issues and Options Document?

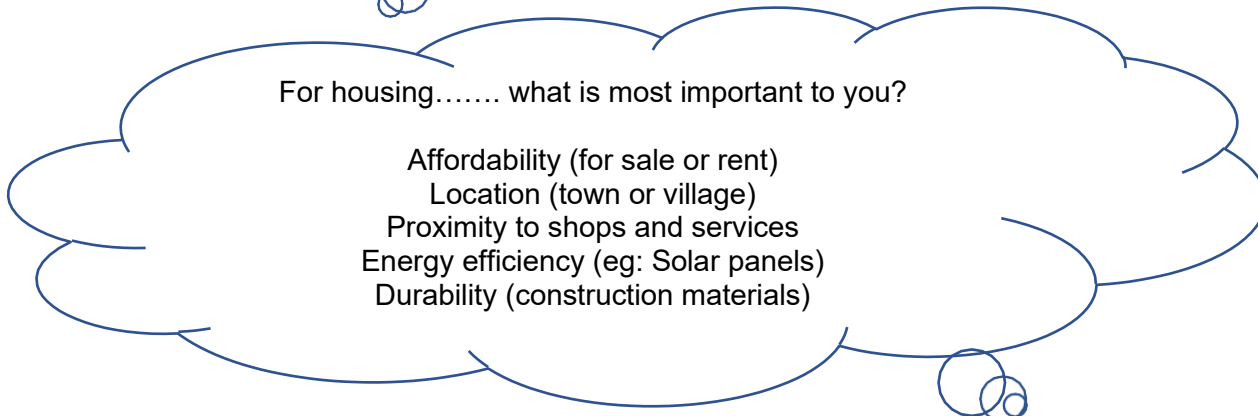
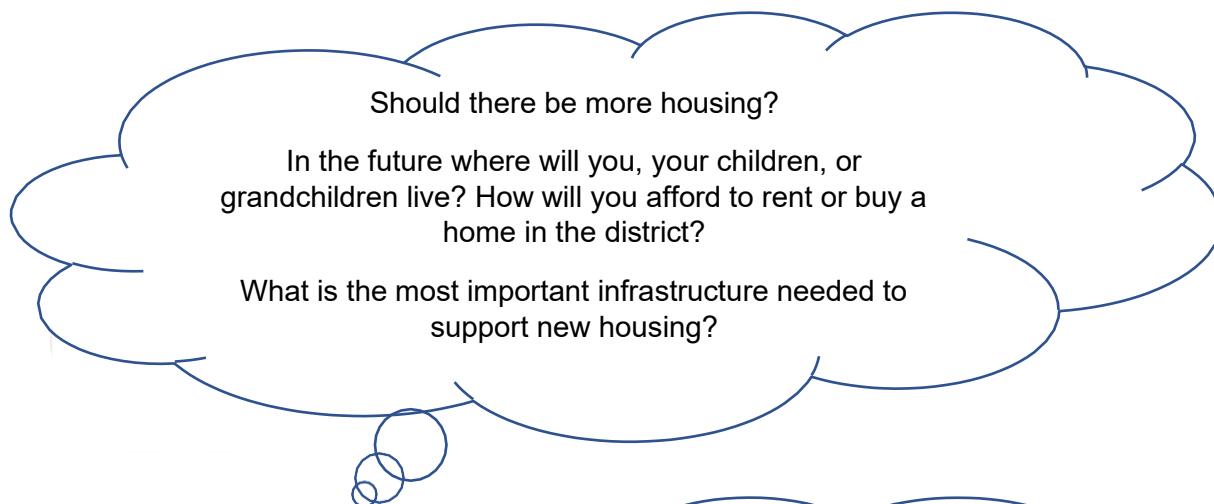
The Issues and Options Document sets out a range of key issues that have been identified on a number of themes from housing and infrastructure to healthcare and community facilities. We have also included a number of options on how each of these issues could be addressed in the future. The Issues and Options Document includes questions to help us understand your thoughts on how we might plan for the future of the district, and in particular whether you think the

issues and options we have identified are the correct ones. The document covers a range of topics, and asks questions about: We have tried to identify what the main issues and challenges are for the district, and what our environmental, economic and social ambitions should be for the district. We also need to consider our relationship to other areas in Norfolk (for example Norwich) and how they function, as well as further afield. What should be our vision?



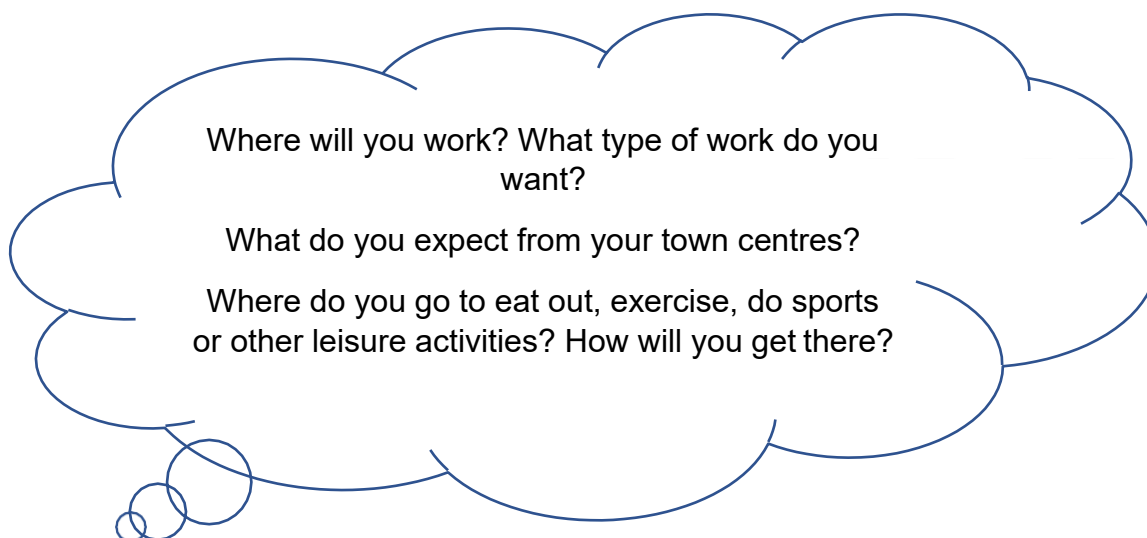
Delivering Homes and Jobs

We have a responsibility to deliver new homes and jobs in the district to meet the needs of current and future residents through planning 25 years ahead. This is based on technical modelling work to identify what our need is, and how we can meet this need. We have to consider the types of homes that will be needed, how people can afford them (particularly for those unable to buy or rent private accommodation), where people want to live, and where they want to work. How can we do this?



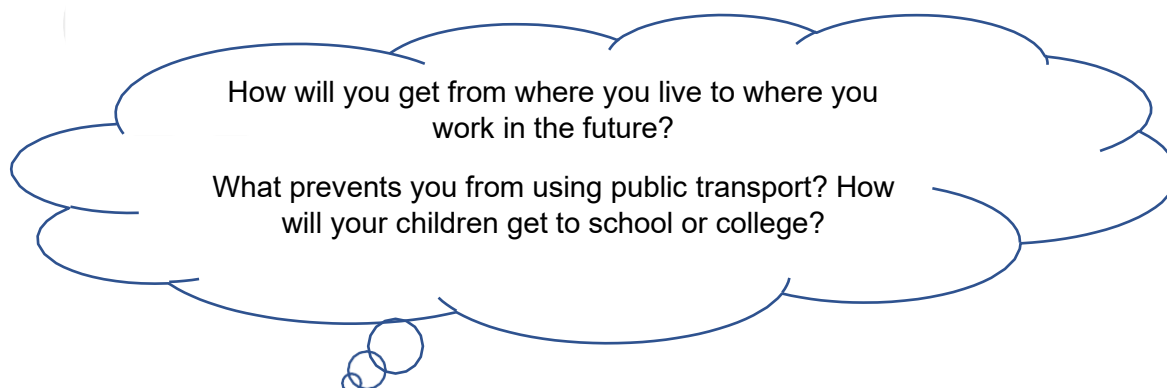
Supporting Commercial Development

We need to consider where people will shop in the future, both for everyday goods such as food, and for consumables such as electronic items, cars etc., and accessing leisure activities. Although we have small, distinctive towns and villages in the district, how do we ensure their growth and survival, and encourage people to continue to visit them. How can we best maintain, grow and attract the best possible commercial and leisure opportunities to support our district's local economy?



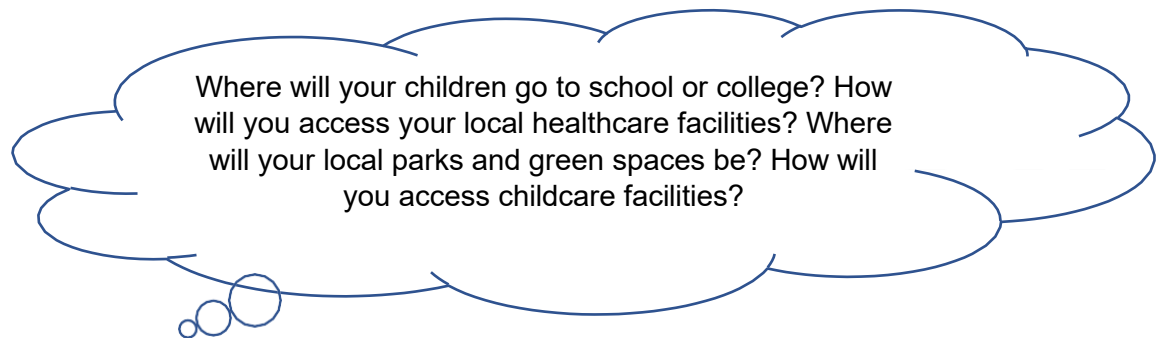
Delivering Infrastructure

Infrastructure includes a whole range of facilities that we use everyday such as roads, footpaths, public transport, utilities, health, education, community centres, pubs etc. We need to ensure that these types of infrastructure across the district meet the needs of residents, businesses and visitors in the future. We need to work with infrastructure providers and neighbouring areas to ensure a joined-up planning approach. What types of infrastructure should we be focussing on to support our needs now and in the future?



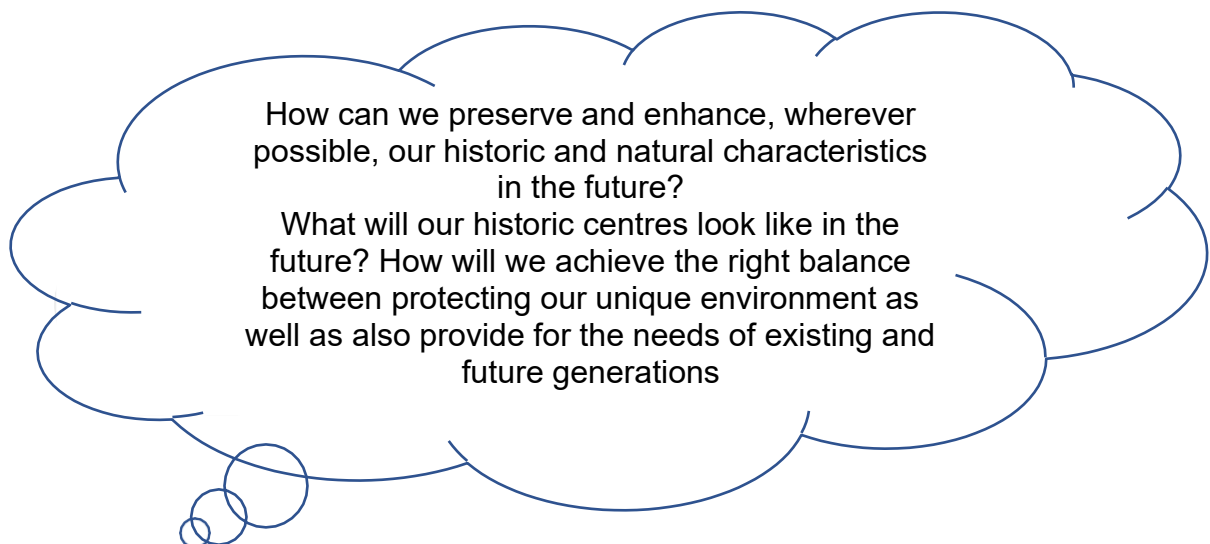
Supporting Health, Community and Culture

Health and well-being is important. These can be improved not just by improving access to physical healthcare facilities such as doctors and dentists, but also to opportunities for physical activity such as open spaces. Access to education and childcare, as well as facilities for the wider community, young people and children are also vitally important for our communities. How should we plan to ensure that our communities are healthy, active and social in the future?



Protecting and Enhancing our Environment

The district is characterised by small towns and villages set in a rural environment, which is defined by the heritage and culture of the area. There are many areas which are protected by environmental designations, including The Brecks and there are many valued landscapes. We have Conservation Areas, and hundreds of Listed Buildings, highlighting the unique history of the district.



You can view the full Issues and Options Document at [WEBLINK HERE](#)

Why do we need to plan?

Our current adopted documents are delivering homes, jobs and infrastructure to meet the current needs of the District, but if not reviewed, these documents may become out of date. Having an up-to-date plan is a requirement of national planning policy, and without one, we would not have a robust, relevant or well-informed policy framework to assess planning applications against, or meet the needs of local residents and businesses.

How can you give us your views?

Involvement of local residents and businesses is fundamental to effective plan-making to ensure that we not only plan effectively to meet local needs but ensure that we plan for the right development in the right places. We want to hear from both local residents and businesses to make sure that we are able to represent the needs of all in our local community.

It is important to note that the current Local Plan that was adopted in November 2019 remains up to date and relevant. The Full Update of this Plan does not mean that the whole Plan will need to be re-written. There may be parts of the Plan that remain up to date and appropriate and these can be carried forward into the new Plan. Where appropriate, this Issues and Options Report therefore includes options to continue with the current Plan for comment.

There is a lot of information in the Issues and Options Document and you may only want to look at one or two sections depending on which issues you are interested in. You can respond to as many or as few issues as you like. The future of the district is important for everyone who lives, works or visits so now is a great opportunity to get involved and have your say.

What happens next?

After this consultation on the Issues and Options Document, we will review and respond to the comments that have been received. We will then continue developing the evidence base to support our plan-making and, taking the comments received into account, will be working towards the preparation of a draft new local plan that sets out our preferred options for the future of the district. This will be available for further public consultation in the future.