

[REDACTED]

Further to my email, I am writing to you to inform you that the District Council will be re-opening the "call for sites". This is the first stage in producing a Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (HELAA), an important evidence document to inform the next local plan. I have enclosed a poster which provides further details, and I would be grateful if this could be placed on your parish/ town notice board for the public to view.

We are inviting new sites to be submitted by a wide range of people, such as landowners, planning agents, public bodies, local community groups and individuals. We are also inviting your parish/town council to suggest any sites you think may be suitable.

We are seeking land for a range of uses, such as for residential (including plots for self-build homes, community housing projects and Gypsy and Travellers pitches), employment and community uses. In addition, we are also seeking sites for green infrastructure, such as land that could be used for open space, contribute to nature, or be formally designated as 'local green spaces' (green areas of particular importance to local communities).

## Dates

The call for sites re-opened on the 13th March and will run for 6 weeks, closing at 5pm on the 24th April 2025.

## How to submit sites

Sites can be submitted online, via our PlaceMaker site, a map-based system that will allow those submitting to draw the land they want to be considered directly onto a map. This is the preferred method for submitting land to enable accuracy and to reduce administrative work.

For more information and to submit a site, please visit <https://www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/planning-policy/call-sites>

## What happens after the consultation?

Once submitted, sites will be subject to a detailed assessment to evaluate whether they are suitable, available and deliverable, with input from statutory bodies, such as Kent Highways, Kent Downs National Landscapes Unit and the Environment Agency. When the assessment is complete, the promoters of the sites will be given the opportunity to fact check the information contained in the assessments for their own sites and respond accordingly. The results will be published in the HELAA together with any other assessment work carried out by the team as part of the evidence base for the new local plan.

**It should be noted that the HELAA does not in itself determine whether a site should be allocated for development.** The role of the HELAA is to provide information on the range of sites potentially available to meet the local authority's identified requirements. Any sites that are allocated in the local plan must go through a rigorous process of assessment,

including two public consultations and an examination before independent planning Inspectors, where local people can put their views across.

To ensure the evidence base is kept up to date, we may repeat the call for sites as the local plan progresses - new sites may come forward or existing sites may be withdrawn if, for example, the landowner's plans for the site change.

## New local plan

The HELAA will provide evidence to support the allocations in the council's new local plan. The 2023 Levelling Up and Regeneration Act introduced a new local plan system, which was designed to speed up the plan-making process. Supporting secondary legislation and guidance has not yet been published, however the government has said that this will likely be in 'summer/autumn 2025'. It is therefore difficult to give a timetable for the preparation of the new local plan at this time, and the new government may introduce further reforms to the system.

If you have any questions, please contact the Strategy & Planning Policy Team.

Kind regards,

Strategy & Planning Policy Team

# CALL FOR SITES

This is your chance to nominate land in the district to be developed for different uses, such as:

- Housing
- Employment
- Leisure
- Community
- Open space

**[folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/  
planning-policy](https://folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/planning-policy)**



Visit our website before **24 April 2025** for more information and to put forward your ideas