How to use this Document

The Local Plan is made up of two documents; this document which sets out the written text and includes the policies and proposals, and a second plans document which contains all the relevant plans, from the wider proposals map to inset plans for individual villages.

Each chapter in this text document includes detailed policies for the development and use of land; the chapters carry equal weight and the topics are not covered in any priority order. The Local Plan policies are highlighted in bold with the reasoned justification set out in italics. In using the Local Plan, it is vital to see the document as a whole. A number of different policies, included in different chapters, may all be relevant to a particular planning proposal. Policy DS1 in the Development Standards Chapter, on development standards, for example, will be relevant to most development proposals. Each policy carries equal weight and one policy should not be preferred over another.

The proposals map is a general map which covers the Council area. This indicates where policies covering a large area will apply, such as areas of high landscape value. More detailed policies are indicated on the inset maps. It is important to note that the settlement boundaries defined on the proposals map show the boundary of the settlement to be used for all planning and development control purposes. They may not necessarily coincide with administrative or parish boundaries.

The Local Plan policies should be read in conjunction with the relevant Supplementary Planning Guidance which is published separately. This provides detailed guidance to developers when coming forward with specific development proposals.

For help interpreting or understanding this document please contact staff in the Development Plans Section, Directorate of Environment and Public Protection, (telephone 01724 297579).