Residents in North Somerset have another opportunity to help shape the future growth of the area.

New housing and jobs are needed across North Somerset to cater for its future population increase.

North Somerset is a popular place to live so there is a demand for new homes and jobs.

Richard Kent, head of development management at North Somerset Council, said: “We need to plan ahead for these homes because it is essential that infrastructure, such as new roads, schools, parks and health services, is delivered alongside the housing.”

The overall number of houses, jobs, and infrastructure needed across the West of England to 2036 and the main locations for strategic growth are contained in the Joint Spatial Plan. Following previous consultations, this document is currently being examined by an independent inspector with public hearings anticipated next May.

While the Joint Spatial Plan will provide the overall planning context, detailed proposals will be brought forward in a new Local Plan.

This is at an early stage of development but will be key to shaping the approach to a wide range of issues such as the role of different settlements, settlement boundaries, new employment opportunities and the future of our town centres.

As part of this process the council is inviting residents to give their opinions on a document it has produced looking at the issues raised by the planned housing growth and the options available to address these issues.

About 25,000 new homes are needed over the next 20 years. Just under 14,000 are already earmarked, so just over 11,000 still need to be allocated.

The majority of the proposed new homes are in two new separate villages north of Banwell and Langford, and as extensions to Nailsea and Backwell. These strategic development locations will also include new facilities and job opportunities.

It is also proposed to make better use of land in towns, primarily Weston Super Mare, which will have about 1,000 new homes on brownfield land over and above what’s already planned.

Sites for a further 1,000 homes are also needed around the rest of North Somerset.

When planning for new housing, the council must consider…

- the need to protect landscapes, the natural environment, historic buildings and places
- how close a community is to services, facilities and jobs
- opportunities to create more jobs and support local businesses
- whether additional homes may support local schools and services
- traffic on roads and getting around
- the energy efficiency of the new homes and opportunities for renewable energy
- high-quality design and place making

Nov 2017 – Jan 2018

Generating ideas

The first thoughts on the four proposed new communities proposed in the Joint Spatial Plan

Sept – Dec 2018

Issues and options

Planning for the next 20 years across North Somerset, and further thoughts on the new and expanded communities

Summer 2019

Full plan consultation draft. Detailed policies and site allocations

Autumn/winter 2019 – 2020

Final consultation and independent examination

Summer 2020

Local plan adopted

How you can get involved

Tell us what you think of the issues that this new growth will bring and the options available to address them.

You can read the Local Plan 2036 Issues and Options document and make comments on the council’s website at www.rsomerset.gov.uk/localplan2036.

The document is also available to view at the council offices at the Town Hall in Weston super Mare and Castlewood in Clevedon and at all North Somerset libraries.

There will be more opportunities to have your say on the future growth of the area over the coming months.

North Somerset Council is also developing its plans for future transport and infrastructure investment and will be consulting on the details of these in the near future.