Medway Local Plan Examination

Consultation on Evidence Documents – October 2026

Appendix B:

Summary of 'Evidence Documents' Consultation Responses

November 2026

Medway Council
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Appendix B: Summary of 'Evidence Documents' Consultation

Overview

Medway Council held the 'Evidence Documents' consultation from 5th October to 26th October 2026. The Council received 8 responses in total from 7 separate organisations and individuals. Responses were received from a range of respondents including;

- 1 Statutory consultee
- 1 Developer
- 1 MP, Member and Parish Council
- 2 Members of the public
- 2 Community/Voluntary Organisations

Appendix A contains all representations received in their original format. This report (Appendix B) provides a summary of the representations received. Appendix C sets out the Council's consideration of the issues raised in the representations.

Several clear themes emerge across the consultation:

Key areas of support from statutory consultees

- Supports stronger water efficiency standards in response to water stress, including more ambitious efficiency targets.
- Supports sustainable drainage measures and amendments to Policy DM1 to improve surface water management.
- Supports the use of SuDS and separation of surface water from foul sewer systems.
- Supports rainwater harvesting, water reuse, and adoption of the National Standards for Sustainable Drainage.

Respondent groups

- The developer supported the stepped housing trajectory but raised concerns about housing delivery, site supply, infrastructure, transport, viability, funding, and the pace of development.

- Members of the public expressed some support for the overall strategy, but raised concerns about infrastructure, transport, flood risk, environmental impacts, and effects on local communities.
- MPs, Members and Parish council supports elements of the evidence base but raised concerns about the Local Plan's deliverability, infrastructure, transport, environmental impacts, and funding.

General consultation themes

Members of the public

The most common issues were:

- Strategic planning and infrastructure delivery
- Lack of transport infrastructure provision
- Road network capacity
- Environmental impacts
- Landscape character
- Groundwater protection and flood risk

MPs, Members and Parish Councils

Key themes:

- Deliverability, timing and funding of infrastructure
- Housing trajectory
- Ecological mitigation measures
- Flood risk and flood defence
- Transport infrastructure and road network
- Green belt release objections
- Impacts of these aspects on the strategy preparation and soundness of the Medway Local Plan

Developers

Key themes:

- Housing delivery timescales
- Infrastructure funding and phasing

- Environmental requirements and development deliverability
- Viability assessments
- Housing trajectory

Statutory bodies

Key themes:

- Broad support for the policy approach to water management and sustainable drainage
- Aligning policy requirements to national SuDs standards
- Viability assessments should account for incentives to support more stringent water efficiency measures

Community and Voluntary Organisations

Key themes:

- Funding and delivery of environmental mitigation measures
- Infrastructure and environmental enhancement proposal detail
- Ecological mitigation evidence
- Wastewater, drainage, and water efficiency impacts
- Stronger policy requirements for mitigation measures and clearer delivery mechanisms

Overall conclusion

The consultation demonstrated broad support for aspects of the evidence base and several elements of the emerging Local Plan strategy. However, respondents consistently raised concerns regarding infrastructure funding and delivery, transport capacity, ecological mitigation, flood risk management, housing trajectory assumptions, and the robustness of supporting evidence. A recurring theme across respondent groups was the need for greater certainty regarding implementation, funding mechanisms, environmental safeguards and the relationship between planned growth and supporting infrastructure.