



Charnwood 2021: Planning for Our Next Generation Core Strategy Preferred Options February 2006

“We all need to decide on the best way to meet our future needs”



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Foreword

Part of the job of your local council is to plan for the expected future needs for homes and jobs in the Borough (alongside all the more obvious things like collecting your rubbish and recyclables, running the leisure centres, keeping the streets clean etc.)

Planning to meet the need for new homes and jobs involves balancing the needs of people who want places to live and work with those people who already have places to live and work. Often these needs are conflicting. Most people agree that we need decent affordable homes and good well paid jobs for this generation and the next. But when it comes to discussing where new homes and new businesses are situated the discussions take on a new character.

For a long time now Charnwood like most other councils has adopted a piecemeal approach to planning for new homes. We need and are required to build a set number of new homes every year and we have generally taken the approach of spreading development around or if you like we have bolted on small numbers of houses to existing towns and villages.

However this approach eventually puts pressure on infrastructure like roads, GP surgeries, schools and leisure facilities. Eventually by adding new layers of housing and places to work the infrastructure begins to creak. The bolt on approach can also threaten the individual character of our towns and villages...and I know that some people are worried that their community will gradually be taken over by larger, neighbouring settlements.

Charnwood 2021 sets out a different vision for the future growth of the Borough. Rather than the piecemeal development of old we take a better approach which plans for new communities with new schools, surgeries and play areas built in from the start. We want to find ways in which we can deliver the homes that we are going to need over the coming years whilst still preserving the nature and character of our existing towns and villages.

We also want to site new businesses in places where they have the greatest potential to succeed and become world beaters...thus securing good employment prospects for children. As part of Charnwood 2021, we aim to boost local business and job opportunities through the development of a new Science Park for Loughborough.

Charnwood 2021: Planning for our Next Generation is one of the most important issues facing the borough over the next 15 years...what we do now will decide what our towns and villages will look like in 2021. It will become the blueprint for the borough.

I hope you will read this Core Strategy document and also the separate document setting out our preferred option for a Loughborough Science Park, and take the time to give us your views on this most important of subjects.

Councillor Cameron MacLeod
Cabinet Lead Member for Development

How to Comment:

Complete the response form and return to Director of Development, Charnwood Borough Council, Southfields, Loughborough, LE11 2TN.

Forms are available from the Council Offices, Southfields, Loughborough and local libraries

The form can be completed online at www.charnwood.gov.uk/charnwood2021

Email your views to charnwood2021@charnwood.gov.uk

ALL COMMENTS SHOULD BE SENT TO US BY FRIDAY 31ST MARCH 2006