



**Forest of Dean**  
— DISTRICT COUNCIL —

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Contact: **CLLR T Gwilliam**  
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Date: **26 July 2022**

Dear Neil & Forest Economic Partnership Colleagues

Last Thursday the Forest of Dean District Council agreed to begin a full consultation on a new preferred strategy for its Local Plan (a copy of the draft strategy and cover report is available [here](#) at item 8 on the agenda.

This is a bold and innovative strategy. It shares an ambition to meet future housing needs by delivering over 7,000 new homes by 2041 (2460 in Lydney), together with the viable and sustainable infrastructure and regeneration to sit alongside it. Beyond that it animates a future that protects the environment and addresses the climate emergency, celebrates our culture and heritage, provides aspiration and opportunities, and above all gives Forest of Dean people pride and choice in their area.

'OUR Plan' as we have called it is about building strong, vibrant and healthy communities and giving those communities what they need to flourish. It's about working with our residents, parish and town councils, businesses and developers to collectively deliver positive community led development.

It will focus on creating a true Gateway to the Forest of Dean and growing a principal lower Severn town at Lydney that can attract investment from several sectors. Lydney is a natural choice for growth as it currently has a train station and a bus station that with regeneration could attract better service provision, celebrates an excellent geographic location and has a high level of investment interest.

If we are to deliver OUR Plan, the 7,000 houses and associated development we need to address all our current and projected infrastructure issues.

Clearly (and I know you are aware of this more than anyone) infrastructure provision for The Forest of Dean and for Lydney has been a contentious issue for some time. It would be of enormous value if you could offer FEP views on the Plan as well as the current and planned infrastructure provision for Lydney and the Forest.

May I also request your assistance in doing anything or use any contacts that can help in attracting those key businesses and organisations to consider Lydney and the Forest for investment.

We have the workforce, we have the way of life and you have my word that we now have a progressive and Business supporting Council.

We are open for Business and this plan states that quite emphatically . Invest in Gloucestershire and Invest in the Forest of Dean in particular something I am hugely keen to promote.

When collated we can then feed this information into our evidence base that will support the strategy.

FEP input into OUR PLAN is vital as it will offer confidence to many other organisations that will collectively play a role in the plans production.

I look forward to hearing from you and please feel free to contact me for any information.

This is a plea from me as Leader of the FODDC on behalf of The Forest of Dean District Council, Our Town and Parish Councils and the Communities and Businesses who wish to use this opportunity to secure sustainable , viable but significant growth that can affect not only this district but Gloucestershire and the region..

Yours sincerely



**Tim Gwilliam**  
**Leader of Council**