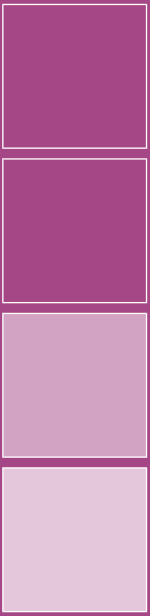
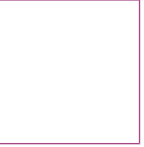


Appendix 4 Press Notice and Press Releases



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Working for you

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION: DRAFT
HARROGATE TOWN CENTRE STRATEGY AND
MASTERPLAN SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING
DOCUMENT (SPD), 4 SEPTEMBER –
16 OCTOBER 2015**

The Harrogate Town Centre Strategy and Masterplan (HTCSM) Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) sets out Harrogate Borough Council's strategy for the development of Harrogate town centre in the period to 2025. The masterplan seeks to deliver town centre improvements, attract inward investment and inform development management decisions within the town centre.

Consultation period:

The consultation will run from Friday 4 September until 4.30pm on Friday 16 October 2015; the Draft Harrogate Town Centre Strategy and Masterplan SPD can be inspected during normal opening hours at the following locations:

- Council Offices, Crescent Gardens, Harrogate, HG1 2SG
- Knaresborough House, High Street, Knaresborough
- Ripon Town Hall, Market Place, Ripon
- Libraries throughout the district

Consultation information and the arrangements for public exhibitions can also be viewed at: www.harrogate.gov.uk and <http://consult.harrogate.gov.uk>

How to submit comments:

Please tell us what you think by:

- Responding online at <http://consult.harrogate.gov.uk>
- Letter to HTCSM Consultation, Planning and Development, Harrogate Borough Council, P.O. Box 787, Harrogate, HG1 9RW
- Email at planningpolicy@harrogate.gov.uk (please provide your name and postal address when responding via email)

**CLOSING DATE FOR COMMENTS IS 4.30PM FRIDAY
16 OCTOBER 2015**

Press Releases



MEDIA RELEASE

MEDIA RELEASE

MEDIA RELEASE

DATE PRESS RELEASE ISSUED: Friday 28 August 2015

Council seeks public views on a Draft Harrogate Town Centre Strategy and Masterplan

Residents, businesses and community groups have the opportunity to share their views on the future development of Harrogate town centre during a six week public consultation between 4 September and 16 October 2015.

In light of the challenges facing town centres nationally, such as the growth of online shopping and out of centre retailing, Harrogate Borough Council appointed planning consultancy Peter Brett Associates and urban designers Environmental Associates, to prepare a Harrogate Town Centre Strategy and Masterplan.

The main objective of the strategy and masterplan is to provide an assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of the town centre and to develop a vision and design for the future, which will ensure Harrogate's continuing economic prosperity.

The Draft Harrogate Town Centre Strategy and Masterplan features:

- a summary of the findings of a comprehensive assessment of the current situation in the town centre
- a vision of what the town centre could be like in 2025 along with a number of strategic objectives that would be necessary to achieve that vision
- a masterplan for the centre of the town and an outline of the projects and proposals relating to the plan
- policy recommendations for how to manage the town centre and
- a plan for implementing the changes proposed in the draft masterplan

The draft strategy and masterplan sets out a number of projects and proposals that form the core of the physical masterplan under three broad themes:

- a public realm strategy – for the many and varied public areas in the town centre
- a visitor strategy – for people coming to, and spending time in Harrogate town centre and
- a movement strategy – for how people, cars and public transport can better move around the town centre

Throughout the six-week consultation process there will be a number of ways that the public can find out more about the scheme and give their views.

From Friday 4 September through until 16 October the consultation document and supporting baseline report will be available on the council's website.

Officers from the council's Planning Policy team will be available to answer any questions at public exhibitions on:

- Thursday 10 September, 9am-4pm – Harrogate Farmers Market, Cambridge Street Harrogate
- Saturday 26 September, 10am-3pm – St Peter's Church, Cambridge Road, Harrogate

There will also be an unmanned public exhibition in the glazed foyer at St Peter's Church on Cambridge Road in Harrogate from Tuesday 22 September to Sunday 4 October. This will provide an opportunity for people to see the draft vision and objectives for the town centre, along with information on a number of the proposed projects.

Once the public consultation closes, the responses received will be carefully considered and the document amended to take account of the views received. The strategy and masterplan will then be adopted as a Supplementary Planning Document forming part of the development plan for the district and holding weight when making decisions on future planning applications in the town centre.

It will also play a key role in delivering town centre improvements and attracting inward investment to the centre.

Councillor Rebecca Burnett, the council's Cabinet Member for Planning and Sustainable Transport, said: "Harrogate town centre plays a pivotal role in driving the local economy. It is the district's largest retail, leisure, business and tourist destination, a major conference and exhibition venue, and an important source of local employment.

"Towns around the country are facing a number of challenges such as the pressure from out of centre retailing and reduced town centre footfall. It is crucial that we do all we can to ensure the future of Harrogate town centre – and part of this must be the design of the town itself and how we can encourage more people to visit and improve their experience of Harrogate.

"In preparing a town centre strategy and masterplan for the centre we are acknowledging the significance of the centre to the district's economy and the importance of maintaining a thriving centre that continues to compete strongly with its regional and national competitors.

"It is important to point out that it is not the purpose of the masterplan to provide the detailed designs or costing of the projects identified but simply to highlight the opportunities available and any particular considerations or constraints that should be factored into those detailed designs. Once adopted the council will need to decide how and when projects can be brought forward, with partners, and subject to available funding."

The public consultation will be available on the council's website from Friday 4 September at: <http://consult.harrogate.gov.uk>, where people can respond online. Responses can also be sent to planningpolicy@harrogate.gov.uk or posted to Planning Policy, Planning and Development, Harrogate Borough Council, P.O. Box 787, Harrogate, HG1 9RW (please provide your name and postal address).

The closing date and time for responding to the consultation is 4.30pm on Friday 16 October 2015.

---ENDS---

Notes to editors

Please find attached:

- a copy of Harrogate Borough Council's Draft Harrogate Town Centre Strategy and Masterplan and
- a series of conceptual images relating to a number of the masterplan projects that are included in the document to illustrate what could be achieved in the town.

MEDIA CONTACT:

Giles Latham, Communications and Media Manager on 01423 556825

Alison Lister, Communication Assistant on 01423 500600 (ext 58060)

MEDIA RELEASE

MEDIA RELEASE

MEDIA RELEASE

DATE PRESS RELEASE ISSUED: Tuesday 8 September 2015

Consultation on future of Harrogate town centre comes to Farmers' Market

Officers from Harrogate Borough Council's Planning Policy team will be on hand to answer questions about the draft Strategy and Masterplan for the town centre at this Thursday's Farmer's Market. **(10 September)**.

The public exhibition at the market in Cambridge Street will run from 9am – 4pm. It forms part of a six week consultation giving residents, businesses and community groups the opportunity to share their views on the future development of Harrogate town centre.

In light of the challenges facing town centres nationally, the council appointed planning consultancy Peter Brett Associates and urban designers Environmental Associates, to prepare a draft Harrogate Town Centre Strategy and Masterplan.

The draft strategy and masterplan provides an assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of the town centre and suggests a vision and design for the future, which will ensure Harrogate's continuing economic prosperity.

The draft strategy and masterplan features:

- a summary of the findings of a comprehensive assessment of the current situation in the town centre
- a vision of what the town centre could be like in 2025 along with a number of strategic objectives that would be necessary to achieve that vision
- a masterplan for the centre of the town and an outline of the projects and proposals relating to the plan
- policy recommendations for how to manage the town centre and
- a plan for implementing the changes proposed in the draft masterplan

The document sets out a number of projects and proposals that form the core of the physical masterplan under three broad themes:

- a public realm strategy – for the many and varied public areas in the town centre
- a visitor strategy – for people coming to, and spending time in Harrogate town centre and
- a movement strategy – for how people, cars and public transport can better move around the town centre

Throughout the six-week consultation process, which began on Friday 4 September, there will be a number of ways that the public can find out more about the scheme and give their views.

As well as being at the public exhibition at the Farmers' Market this Thursday, the council's Planning Policy team will also be at the exhibition at St Peter's Church on Cambridge Road on Saturday 26 September between 10am and 3pm.

The exhibition itself will be at the church until Sunday 4 October and will provide an opportunity for people to see the draft vision and objectives for the town centre, along with information on a number of the proposed projects.

Between now and 16 October the consultation document and supporting baseline report will be available on the council's website.

Once the public consultation closes, the responses will be carefully considered and the document amended to take account of the views received. The strategy and masterplan will then be adopted as a Supplementary Planning Document forming part of the development plan for the district and holding weight when making decisions on future planning applications in the town centre.

It will also play a key role in delivering town centre improvements and attracting inward investment to the centre.

Councillor Rebecca Burnett, the council's Cabinet Member for Planning and Sustainable Transport, said: "Harrogate town centre is the district's largest retail, leisure, business and tourist destination, a major conference and exhibition venue, and an important source of local employment.

"In preparing a town centre strategy and masterplan for Harrogate we are acknowledging the important role it plays in the district's economy and the vital need to maintain its position as an area that continues to compete strongly with its regional and national competitors.

"It is important to point out that the draft masterplan doesn't provide detailed designs or costing of the projects; it simply highlights possible opportunities for developing the town centre. Once adopted the council will need to decide how and when projects can be brought forward, with partners, and subject to the necessary funding being available."

The public consultation is currently on the council's website at: <http://consult.harrogate.gov.uk>, where people can respond online. Responses can also be sent to planningpolicy@harrogate.gov.uk or posted to Planning Policy, Planning and Development, Harrogate Borough Council, P.O. Box 787, Harrogate, HG1 9RW (please provide your name and postal address).

The closing date and time for responding to the consultation is 4.30pm on Friday 16 October 2015.

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Notes to editors:

For a copy of the Draft Harrogate Town Centre Strategy & Masterplan or artist's impressions from the document please contact Giles Latham or Alison Lister; details below.

MEDIA CONTACT:

Giles Latham, Communications and Media Manager on 01423 556825

MEDIA RELEASE

MEDIA RELEASE

MEDIA RELEASE

DATE PRESS RELEASE ISSUED: Wednesday 23 September 2013

Council's planning team on hand at town centre consultation event

Harrogate Borough Council's Planning Policy Team will be at St Peter's Church in Harrogate this Saturday (**26 September**) to answer questions and discuss proposals for the future of the town centre.

The drop-in session is the latest in a series of events that are part of a six-week public consultation on the council's Draft Harrogate Town Centre Strategy and Masterplan.

The main objective of the strategy and masterplan is to provide an assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of the town centre and develop a vision and design for the future that will ensure the area's continued economic prosperity.

An exhibition displaying the draft vision for the town centre, as well as information panels and an artist's impressions of what some of the proposals could look like will be available in the glazed foyer at St Peter's Church on Cambridge Road in Harrogate between Tuesday 22 September and Sunday 4 October.

And on Saturday 26 September, officers from the council's Planning Policy Team will be on hand to answer questions on the background and purpose of the strategy and masterplan and the various projects it contains, as well as providing details of how people can take part in the consultation.

Councillor Rebecca Burnett, the council's Cabinet Member for Planning and Sustainable Transport, said: "Harrogate town centre plays a pivotal role in driving the local economy; by preparing a strategy and masterplan we are acknowledging that role, and the importance of maintaining a thriving centre that continues to compete strongly with its regional and national competitors.

"It is crucial that we do all we can to ensure the future of Harrogate town centre, and part of this must be to look at the design of the town itself as well as how we can encourage more people to visit and improve their experience of the town."

Once the public consultation closes, the responses received will be carefully considered and the document amended to take account of these views. The strategy and masterplan will then be adopted as a Supplementary Planning Document forming part of the development plan for the district and holding weight when making decisions on future planning applications in the town centre.

It will also play a key role in delivering town centre improvements and attracting inward investment to the centre.

The public consultation is available on the council's website at <http://consult.harrogate.gov.uk>, where you can respond online.

Responses can also be sent to planningpolicy@harrogate.gov.uk or posted to Planning Policy, Planning and Development, Harrogate Borough Council, P.O. Box 787, Harrogate, HG1 9RW (please provide your name and postal address).

The closing date and time for responding to the consultation is 4.30pm on Friday 16 October 2015.

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Images attached: Artist's impressions of potential projects from the draft Harrogate Town Centre Strategy and Masterplan:

- Cenotaph and Montpellier Parade
- Princes Square
- Montpellier Parade and Prospect Gardens

MEDIA CONTACT:

Giles Latham, Communications and Marketing Manager on 01423 556825

Alison Lister, Communication Assistant on 01423 500600 (ext 58060)

MEDIA RELEASE

MEDIA RELEASE

MEDIA RELEASE

DATE PRESS RELEASE ISSUED: Tuesday 6 October 2015

Still time to have say on improvements to Harrogate town centre

Residents, businesses and community groups still have time to share their views on the future development of Harrogate town centre as part of a six week public consultation which closes on Friday 16 October 2015.

Having looked at the future challenges facing town centres across the UK, including the growth of online shopping and out of centre retailing, Harrogate Borough Council appointed planning consultancy Peter Brett Associates and urban designers Environmental Associates, to prepare a Harrogate Town Centre Strategy and Masterplan.

The main objective of the strategy and masterplan is to provide an assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of the town centre and to develop a vision and design for the future, which will ensure Harrogate's continuing economic prosperity.

The Draft Harrogate Town Centre Strategy and Masterplan features:

- a summary of the findings of a comprehensive assessment of the current situation in the town centre
- a vision of what the town centre could be like in 2025 along with a number of strategic objectives that would be necessary to achieve that vision
- a masterplan for the centre of the town and an outline of the projects and proposals relating to the plan
- policy recommendations for how to manage the town centre and
- a plan for implementing the changes proposed in the draft masterplan

The draft strategy and masterplan sets out a number of projects and proposals that form the core of the physical masterplan under three broad themes:

- a public realm strategy – for the many and varied public areas in the town centre
- a visitor strategy – for people coming to, and spending time in Harrogate town centre and
- a movement strategy – for how people, cars and public transport can better move around the town centre

Over the last month a series of exhibitions and events have taken place to enable local people to find out more about the plans and proposals included in the draft document. These include a stall at Harrogate's weekly farmers market, an opportunity to meet the planning team at St Peter's church, where there has also been a two week exhibition of the draft masterplan proposals, and a 'stakeholders' event which saw town centre business owners and representatives come together for a presentation and discussion session.

The draft strategy and masterplan is still available in council buildings and libraries across the district and on the council's website until Friday 16 October.

Once the public consultation closes, a report on the responses the council receives will be produced by the end of the year. That report will look at what changes need to be made, if any, to the draft document and then the document itself will be discussed by the Council's Cabinet in the new year.

Once adopted, the strategy and masterplan will play a key role in delivering town centre improvements and attracting inward investment to Harrogate town centre.

Councillor Rebecca Burnett, the council's Cabinet Member for Planning and Sustainable Transport, said: "Harrogate town centre plays a pivotal role in driving the local economy. It is the district's largest retail, leisure, business and tourist destination, a major conference and exhibition venue, and an important source of local employment.

"Towns around the country are facing a number of challenges to their continued survival, and it is crucial that we do all we can to ensure the future of Harrogate town centre.

"Part of this must be the design of the town itself and how we can encourage more people to visit and improve their experience of Harrogate.

"In preparing a town centre strategy and masterplan we are acknowledging the significance of the centre to the district's economy and the importance of maintaining a thriving centre that continues to compete strongly with its regional and national competitors.

"It is important to note that the draft masterplan doesn't give detailed designs or costings of the suggested projects included in it; it simply highlights the opportunities available and any particular considerations or constraints that would need to be considered in any more detailed designs.

"We are keen to hear from as many people as possible and would urge people to take a look at the consultation document and let us have your views.

"Once the final version of the masterplan has been adopted by the council, we will need to decide how and when projects can be brought forward, with partners, and subject to available funding."

The draft documents and the public consultation are on the council's website at: <http://consult.harrogate.gov.uk>. The documents are also at the council's Crescent Gardens offices in Harrogate, at Knaresborough House and Ripon Town Hall.

Responses can also be sent to planningpolicy@harrogate.gov.uk or posted to Planning Policy, Planning and Development, Harrogate Borough Council, P.O. Box 787, Harrogate, HG1 9RW (please provide your name and postal address).

The closing date and time for responding to the consultation is 4.30pm on Friday 16 October 2015.

---ENDS---

MEDIA CONTACT:

Giles Latham, Communications and Marketing Manager on 01423 556825

Alison Lister, Communication Assistant on 01423 500600 (ext 58060)