

We received over 1200 responses to questions asked during the Spatial Options Consultation. Thank you so much to all those who took part. All the comments made have been considered during the next stage in the Local Plan preparation.

There is a lot of information to digest so we have set out key findings below.

Vision and Objectives

Vision

Q1 - Do you agree with the vision and does it reflect your priorities for the county?

64% said yes

17% said no

19% said not sure

Objectives

Q2 - Do you agree with the objectives and do they reflect your priorities for the county?

63% said yes

26% said no

11% said not sure

Strategic Spatial Options

Option 3: (39%) Focus Growth across market towns and Hereford

Option 1: (23%) Housing Need Baseline

Option 2: (15%) Focus on Market Towns and Rural Based Growth

Option 5: (11%) New Rural Settlement With Growth Focused in Leominster and Bromyard

Option 4c: (5%) Ledbury as a Growth Town

Option 4a: (5%) Leominster as a Growth Town

Option 4b: (2%) Ross-on-Wye as a Growth Town

Rural Options

Rural Areas Option 4: (30%) Focus growth within settlements outside AONBs and conservation areas.

Rural Areas Option 2: (25%) Focus on larger settlements.

Rural Areas Option 1: (23%) Current Strategy. Dispersed approach across settlements.

Rural Areas Option 3: (22%) Focus growth on rural hubs.

There were lots of recurring themes. Here are a few of the most common ones:

Travel

- Investment in infrastructure and transport links
- Support of the increased use of electric vehicles
- Consideration of the disabled and elderly in safety of routes and methods of transport
- Difference between practicalities of Active Travel urban and rural
- New development around railway stations

Environment

- Relationship between protection of habitats for wildlife and natural infrastructure and Climate Change
- Improved drainage and flood defences
- Drive for renewable energy sources and sustainable heating methods for new development
- Enabling communities to cope with effects of Climate Change
- Importance of sustainable farming practises and protection of soil

Housing and Design

- Emphasis on good quality, sustainable affordable housing
- Opportunity to address all aspects of environmental issues
- Recognition of new technologies and changed working lifestyle practices
- Right house, right place
- Second homes making housing unaffordable
- Consideration of need for key services where there is development