

# Policy Options Consultation Results

We received over 250 responses to questions asked during the Policy 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.

## **1) Which Climate Change option would you like to see taken forward?**

22% said CC1 - Retain an overarching strategic climate change policy

23% said CC2 - Integrate climate change into other policies

55% said CC3 - A combination of options 1 and 2

## **2) Which Biodiversity and Geodiversity option would you like to see taken forward?**

18% said BD1 - Maintain existing policy with updated information

48% said BD2 - New policy approach with a stronger emphasis on securing benefits

34% said BD3 - Devolve policy to Neighbourhood Development Plans and/or design codes

## **3) Which Historic Environment option would you like to see taken forward?**

33% said HE1 - Continue with existing policy, but update supporting text

67% said HE2 - New policy approach with a strengthened requirements

## **4) Which Landscape and Townscape option would you like to see taken forward?**

32% said LT1 - Update the current policy and add further detail to the supporting text

45% said LT2 - Include separate Townscape policy and Landscape Policy

23% said LT3 - Integrate townscape into the overarching design policy

**5) Would you like to see a separate dark skies policy (light pollution)?**

77% said Yes

14% said No

9% said Not sure

**6) Which Green and Blue Infrastructure option(s) would you like to see taken forward?**

30% said GI1 - Update the policy to reflect new evidence and guidance

34% said GI2 - Devolve policy to Neighbourhood Development Plans and/or design codes

36% said GI3 - Include a new specific policy on trees and hedgerows

**7) Which Design option would you like to see taken forward?**

71% said D1 - Strategic policy supported by NDP policies

29% said D2 – Strategic policy supported by design codes

**8) Would you like to see either of these policies added?**

60% said D3 - Additional specific Hereford and Market Towns strategic design policy supported by Design Code in rural areas

40% said D4 - Additional policy criteria focussing on specific topic areas

**9) Which Water Management option(s) would you like to see taken forward?**

31% said WM1 - Continue with existing policy approach, but update to reflect current situation

69% said WM2 - Include a separate policy dealing with nutrient neutrality issue

**10) Which Transport option(s) would you like to see taken forward?**

32% said TR1 - Update existing policy to reflect current transport priorities

43% said TR2 - Add additional policy to specifically address the climate emergency

25% said TR3 - Greater emphasis on design guidance in relation to transport

**11) Which of these AHS Housing Affordability and Balanced Communities options would you like to see taken forward?**

31% said AHS1 - Update existing policy to reflect national guidance

23% said AHS2 - Lower the affordable housing thresholds within AONBs

46% said AHS3 - Reflect possible future designation of parishes as 'rural areas'

**12) Which of these MHS Housing Affordability and Balanced Communities options would you like to see taken forward?**

27% said MHS1 - Retain existing policy approach

73% said MHS2 - A more prescriptive mix/range of housing

**13) Would you like to see a specialist housing type policy added? (e.g. student, older persons, care)**

49% said Yes

20% said No

31% said Not sure

**14) Which Gypsy and Travellers Accommodation option would you like to see taken forward?**

54% said GT1 - Continue with the existing policies and allocated undeveloped sites in the DPD

46% said GT2 - Combine the existing policies within a single policy

**15) Would you like to see a policy to provide pitches or plots within strategic urban extensions/strategic development added?**

19% said Yes

35% said No

46% said Not sure

**16) Which Health Issues, Social and Community Facilities option would you like to see taken forward?**

40% said HC1 - Create one strategic policy

23% said HC2 - Continue with current policy and address health issues through additional policies

37% said HC3 - Include a social and community facilities policy and a separate health policy

**17) Which Access to Open Space option would you like to see taken forward?**

43% said OS1 - Maintain the overall approach of the existing policies, but updated with the benefit of new evidence

57% said OS2 - Include more detail of the requirements within the policy

**18) Would you like to see the existing approach to housing in the countryside continuing?**

38% said Yes

37% said No

25% said Not sure

**19) Which option you like to see taken forward regarding an adaptable living policy?**

41% said RPH2a - Additional Policy recognising changeable needs for adaptable living

59% said RPH2b - Devolve policy area to Neighbourhood Development Plans

**Which Rural Areas option(s) would you like to see taken forward regarding agricultural, forestry and other occupational dwellings?**

18% said AFOD1 - Continue with existing policy approach, updated to reflect national policy

29% said AFOD2 - Consider the inclusion of space standards, design and carbon reduction criteria

24% said AFOD3 - Consider an additional policy for seasonal workers accommodation and dwellings

29% said AFOD4 - Develop a policy for local distinctiveness

**20) Which option(s) would you like to see taken forward regarding the re-use of rural buildings?**

46% said RRB1 - Continue with existing policy approach, updated to reflect national policy

54% said RRB2 - Additional criteria to demonstrate the buildings are genuinely redundant

**21) Which of the three options would you like to see taken forward as the role for Neighbourhood Plans going forward?**

67% said NP1 - Continue with the current approach

25% said NP2 - Local Distinctive policies and design codes in NDPs with the site allocations and settlement boundaries within the Local Plan

8% said NP3 - Design codes only with all other policies within the Local Plan

**22) Which Rural Economy option(s) would you like to see taken forward?**

36% said RE1 - Update the rural economy policy to reflect changes to national policy

31% said RE2 - Include specific criteria for agricultural developments

33% said RE3 - Include a new separate policy specifically for large scale agricultural and land based developments

**23) Which Supporting Jobs option(s) would you like to see taken forward?**

53% said SJ1a - Update Policy to reflect new evidence base

47% said SJ1b - Update policy to help deliver a net zero economy

**24) Which SJ2 Protecting Economic Opportunities option would you like to see added?**

67% said SJ2a - Update policy to reflect new evidence base

33% said SJ2b - Update the policy but only safeguard good quality sites

**25) Which SJ3 Home Based Employment option would you like to see taken forward?**

56% said SJ3a - Integrate home working into other plan policies

44% said SJ3b - Include home working criteria within design policy

**26) Would you like to see a specific policy regarding home working within the plan recognising the increased popularity of remote working?**

51% said Yes

31% said No

18% said Not sure

**27) Should the current policy approach to Town Centres and retail be taken forward?**

44% said Yes

19% said No

37% said Not sure

**28) Where should the town centres and primary shopping areas be defined?**

40% said TC2a – Define within the Local Plan

60% said TC2b – Define within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

**29) Would you like to see an additional policy to be drafted to the use of permitted development in the upper floors of town centres taken forward?**

76% said Yes

8% said No

16% said Not sure

**30)Which Tourist Accommodation option would you like to see taken forward?**

26% said TM1a - Include specific glamping / holiday park site criteria

74% said TM1b - An Additional policy for a range of holiday accommodation types

**31)Which Locations for Tourism Growth option would you like to see taken forward?**

34% said TM2a - Focus new tourism development in Hereford and the market towns

66% said TM2b - Develop flexible policies to define sustainable tourist locations

**32)Which Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal option would you like to see taken forward?**

29% said TM3a - Continue to safeguard the Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal route

71% said TM3b - Designate the route of the Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal as a green infrastructure corridor