



Responses to the Strategic Issues & Priorities Consultation

Local Plan

Local Plan Objectives, Carbon Neutrality, Biodiversity & Natural Env, Conserving & Enhancing the Historic Environment, Homes for All (Housing Needs), Creating a Vibrant Economy and General Comments)



Where we are with the Local Plan.



RESPONDENT BREAKDOWN

2202

TOTAL NUMBER OF RESPONSES, INCLUDING:

603

CITIZENSPACE
RESPONSES:
'C' NUMBERS

1183

EMAIL RESPONSES:
'E' NUMBERS

50

RESPONSE
LETTERS:
'L' NUMBERS

366

SOCIAL MEDIA
RESPONSES:
'H' NUMBERS



Sustainable Development Objectives – ANALYSIS & WAY FORWARD

Summary of the key points raised:

- There are currently 23 objectives which is considered to be too many objectives
- Many of the factors are out of council control
- Having a target of being carbon neutral by 2030 is unrealistic
- There is too much focus on sustainable development and achieving carbon neutrality/ carbon zero and this may overshadowing a number of other issues that need to be addressed
- The targets are very general and specific targets and performance measures would be required to ensure they are achieved

Sustainable Development Objectives – ANALYSIS & WAY FORWARD

General comments on environmental objectives:

- Emphasis should be on building on brownfield sites
- Consideration needs to be given to sustainable design and zero carbon constructions
- Need to make recycling easier
- There is support for renewable energy but it needs to be in keeping with building and surrounding environment

Sustainable Development Objectives – ANALYSIS & WAY FORWARD

General comments on economic objectives:

- Disagreed with the objective of discouraging out of town retail development. Good for certain retailers
- Retail is likely to change and unlikely to thrive without other uses
- The objective should place less emphasis on office accommodation due to change in working from pandemic
- Concern about public transport for travelling to work, dependent on where live and work
- Concern about attracting high quality, well paid employment. We should be attracting a wide range of jobs and shouldn't limit the sectors we aim to attract
- The objective should promote the reuse of existing empty shops and offices and the need to consider existing infrastructure before adding more
- Concern were raised regarding encouraging more tourist to the area due to the impact it has on local residents and carbon neutrality

Sustainable Development Objectives – ANALYSIS & WAY FORWARD

General comments on social objectives:

- Concerned about the objective about moving away from the reliance on private car due to inadequate public transport in areas
- There is too much focus in the objectives on walking and cycling.
- Too many students within the area who do not integrate with local population. University source of traffic and pollution, loss of local housing to students
- Emphasis needed on type of housing that was required and a key emphasis on affordable and housing for younger people.
- No more housing needed

Sustainable Development Objectives – WAY FORWARD

- The number of objectives needs to be simplified and pulled back to potentially 10 -12 key overarching objectives
- The objectives need to be measurable and be less wordy
- The current objectives are trying to do or say something for everyone which loses the whole purpose of what they should be doing

CARON NEUTRALITY– ANALYSIS & WAY FORWARD

1: If the Local Plan includes a Strategic Policy on Climate Change what are the key issues that this policy should cover?

If the Local Plan included a strategic policy on climate change what should be the key components?

0 4 5

Sustainable transport

energy
low consumption

Housing retrofit

EVs
interim period
shortening journeys

Zero carbon housing

Resilience
monitoring
passivhaus
data
Travel

zero carbon

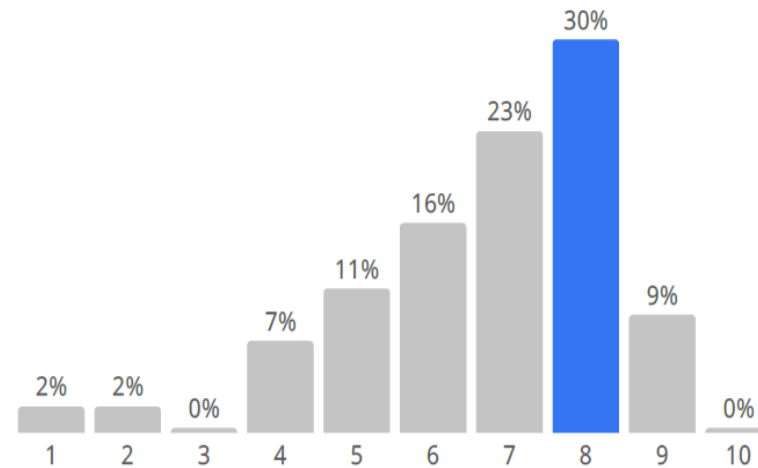
POE
overheating
passivehaus
good bus services

renewable energy

How ambitious are the ideas that have been currently included in the SIP about addressing carbon neutrality on a scale of 1-10?

0 4 4

Score: 6.6



Carbon Neutrality – ANALYSIS & WAY FORWARD

1: If the Local Plan includes a Strategic Policy on Climate Change what are the key issues that this policy should cover?

Summary of the key points raised:

- General support that carbon neutrality should be at the heart of the new LP but there was a mixture of different views whether the LP policy approaches in the SIP were ambitious enough
- General support for the inclusion of an overarching strategic policy but it will be important that a policy is realistic but also resilient for the future as the LP covers the period up to 2039
- Comments were made that a strategic policy should consider lifetime and environmental costs of a building in terms of CO₂ / use of local raw materials / costs to run, replace / recycle and embodied carbon in a holistic way
- The strategic policy would need to address the impacts of climate change in a realistic, viable and precise way (where possible) so that the policy can be easily understood, assessed and monitored

Carbon Neutrality – ANALYSIS & WAY FORWARD

1: If the Local Plan includes a Strategic Policy on Climate Change what are the key issues that this policy should cover?

Summary of the key points raised:

- In terms of measuring energy efficiency standards comments were made they would need to be specific, measurable and include heat loss standards
- There was support for the need to consider standards on embodied carbon, life-cycle emissions and for developers to consider overheating as part of the application process
- Any policy in the new LP would need to be carefully worded so that it did not make development unviable/unattractive, align with Government policy, focus on reduce, reuse, recycle, renewables, use local evidence, sustainability appraisal and promote the use of brownfield over greenfield land
- The cost of carbon neutral is not insignificant and higher costs may have an impact on the delivery of homes, open space, affordable housing and contributions towards infrastructure
- Whilst there were some comments that there was no evidence to go beyond the national 2025 Building Regulations standards some people commented that the LP policies were not ambitious enough in this regard and the LP should go higher than the Building Regs

Carbon Neutrality – ANALYSIS & WAY FORWARD

1: If the Local Plan includes a Strategic Policy on Climate Change what are the key issues that this policy should cover?

Summary of the key points raised:

- It must be acknowledged that the Local Plan has a key role to play but it is only one of the ‘tools’ that we have to address this pressing issue
- There was support for SUDS, increasing water efficiency and integrating the ability for people to grow their own food
- There were mixed views on the use of a carbon offsetting fund - principle, whether it could be monitored/enforced

Analysis & Way Forward:

- A cost of introducing any additional requirements that go beyond the existing Building Regulations would need to be fully considered and assessed through the LP Viability Assessment
- A strategic policy needs to not only clearly sets out the council’s expectations for how developers consider and respond to climate change and adaptation measures but it also the process that we want developers to follow so that this is at the forefront and a key priority in their minds when considering the development of a site or a building

Carbon Neutrality – ANALYSIS & WAY FORWARD

1: If the Local Plan includes a Strategic Policy on Climate Change what are the key issues that this policy should cover?

Analysis & Way Forward:

- The LP policy needs to make it clear about the implications of climate change for development in terms of design/layout/runoff etc very early on in the planning process and promote low carbon design approaches
- As carbon neutrality crosses over a number of topics the principles will need to be incorporated into a number of other policies/topics in the LP
- A strategic policy may need to be accompanied by further guidance on the interpretation and expectation of how this priority needs to be translated into practice as part of the planning application process
- The council should refer to a growing number of examples of best practice that are already out there and Officers are really keen to continue to work with WinAcc to ensure that climate change is at the heart of the new Local Plan

Carbon Neutrality – ANALYSIS & WAY FORWARD

2. If you agree with the establishment of a carbon offsetting fund, how should this money be used?

Summary of key points made:

- The majority stated they disagreed with the statement, arguing that there should be no carbon offsetting.
- If a carbon offsetting fund was set up, it should only be used as a last resort.
- Planting trees, improving energy efficiency in public buildings as well as investing in public transport were all suggested as ways in which a carbon offsetting fund could be spent.
- Others stated that considerations would need to be met if a carbon offsetting fund was to be established.
- There were many individual responses which suggested ways in which this fund could be spent.

Carbon Neutrality – ANALYSIS & WAY FORWARD

1: If the Local Plan includes a Strategic Policy on Climate Change what are the key issues that this policy should cover?

Analysis & Way Forward:

- The TCPA and RTPI has just updated its guidance on ‘The Climate Crisis – A Guide for Local Authorities on Planning for Climate Change’ <https://www.tcpa.org.uk/planning-for-climate-change>
- Key message is that in order to be effective policies on climate change and adaptation should be embedded and integrated throughout the LP
- We are awaiting the Government’s Future Homes Standard and whether will be any further changes as a result of COP26

CONSERVING AND ENHANCING THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

1: Is there any need for any additional heritage policies over and above those that are already included in the existing Local Plan?

2: Do you have any suggestions for how the Local Plan can be used to support energy efficiency improvements to Listed Buildings?

Summary of the key points raised:

- One of the key points was that when you are dealing with a LB it is more complicated in terms of what you can / cannot do to the structure/fabric and the setting of a building when compared to other housing stock
- Need to think very carefully so that any proposal does not have an impact of the very reason why a building has been listed
- Whilst the energy use of LB may be high, the embodied carbon calculated over the whole lifetime of the LB building will be low and the number of LB's in the district only represent a very small proportion of the total housing stock (4%)

CONSERVING AND ENHANCING THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

- Historic England, in their role as a statutory consultee, made a number of points about the need for:
- A strategic policy for the historic environment and a suite of development management policies for individual cases
- Clarification needed on non designated heritage assets
- A policy of battlefields
- Local list of heritage at risk register
- Link between design and the heritage environment and supportive policies towards energy efficiency
- Acknowledge that LB's make up a small proportion of the buildings in Winchester (not all will be dwellings), only around 4% are dwelling stock
- Acknowledged that energy usage and carbon emissions are emitted when a building is constructed – important to consider this over the lifetime of a home
- Develop a similar policy to the SDNPA (Policy SD14)

CONSERVING AND ENHANCING THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

- LP policies must be in accordance with the NPPF which requires a positive strategy towards the historic environment and a complete list of non-designated heritage assets is essential
- Expect references to the historic environment in a range of other LP policies, throughout the Plan and in the vision for new Local Plan
- Develop Local Plan policy that addresses potential listing over the plan period of as yet unidentified historic assets, importance of retaining or restoring historic shopfronts, specific policy on the inclusion of renewable energy technologies within Conservation Areas and the wider historic environment.

Key issues:

- There were a cross section of different and sometimes conflicting views, on how you can use technology to improve the energy efficiency measures of a LB (air source heat pumps/underfloor heating, solar panels etc) but the key message was that in the case of LB you may need to think about wider solutions

CONSERVING AND ENHANCING THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

Key issues:

- There was support for the LP being used in a positive way to signpost people to existing best practice / guidance that is already out there on energy efficiency improvements to Listed Buildings
- There was also support for the LP promoting the need to update Conservation Area Appraisals, build on the work of the Winchester Future Fifty project, update and extended design guidance for shopfronts, signs and advertisements and create an addendum document to the adopted High Quality Places SPD so that they are more energy efficient and able to accommodate new uses without compromising the historic character of the area

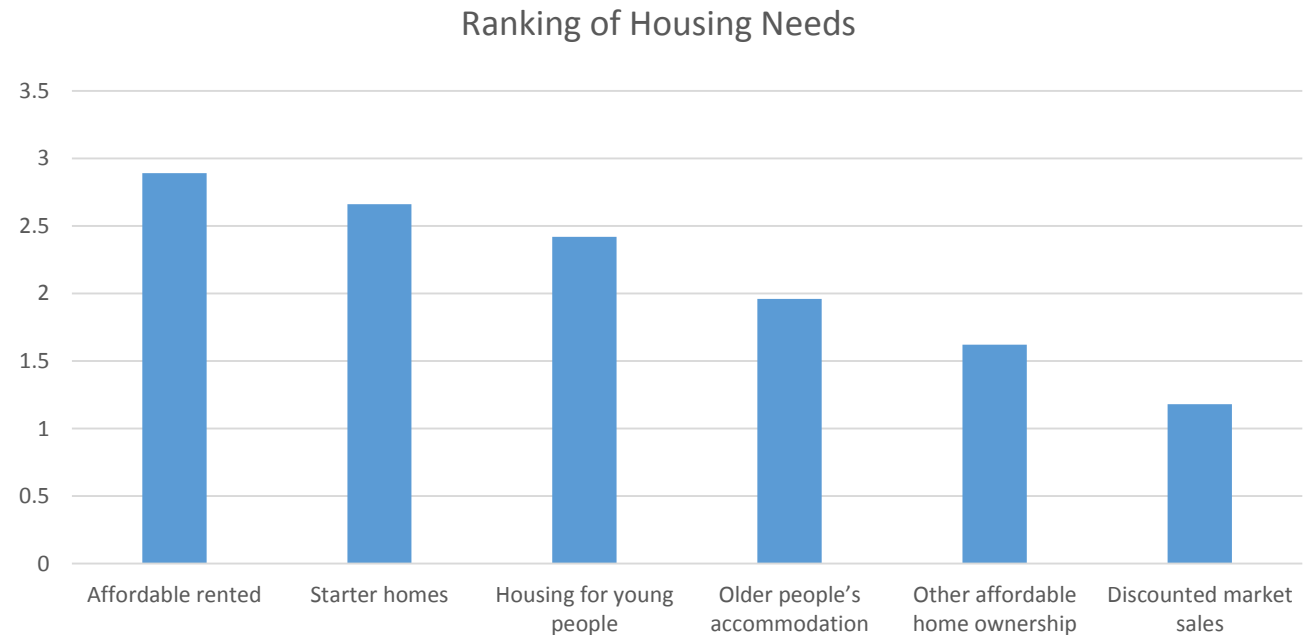
ANALYSIS & WAY FORWARD

- It is important to not solely focus on for example, one dimensional measures such as 'double glazed windows' but we need to think about the use and operation of the whole building and its surrounding environment and what positive measures you could do without damaging the integrity of a LB.
- Develop a permissive policy in the new LP that sets out the detailed criteria for development proposals that seek to adapt or mitigate the effects of climate change and review the existing development management policies for LB's and consider the need for any additional policies
- Ensure that there is a clear link between design and the heritage environment
- Signpost people in the Heritage Topic to any best practice / where they can go for information and/or have this information on the WCC website
- Overall, there was a clear message that the LP must think in a more rounded way about energy efficiency and how to adapt or mitigate the effects of climate change in relation to LBs.

HOMES FOR ALL - Question 2: Housing Needs

We must try to meet all housing needs but, if this is not viable, which needs are the most pressing? Please score in order (1 being the most important and 4 the least)

- Affordable rented housing (at least 20% below market rents)
- Starter homes (shared ownership, equity loans, low cost homes for sale)
- Discounted market sales (sold at least 20% below market values)
- Other affordable home ownership (see Glossary for definitions)
- Housing for young people
- Older people's accommodation



HOMES FOR ALL - Question 2: Housing Needs

Have we identified all of the possible approaches – are there any missing that we have not considered?

Summary of the key points raised :

- The Local Plan must meet all housing needs, social rented housing should be mentioned / provided
- Housing needs to be genuinely affordable
- Some comments on affordable housing delivery and viability
- Some support for allocating sites for older person's housing or the needs of particular communities

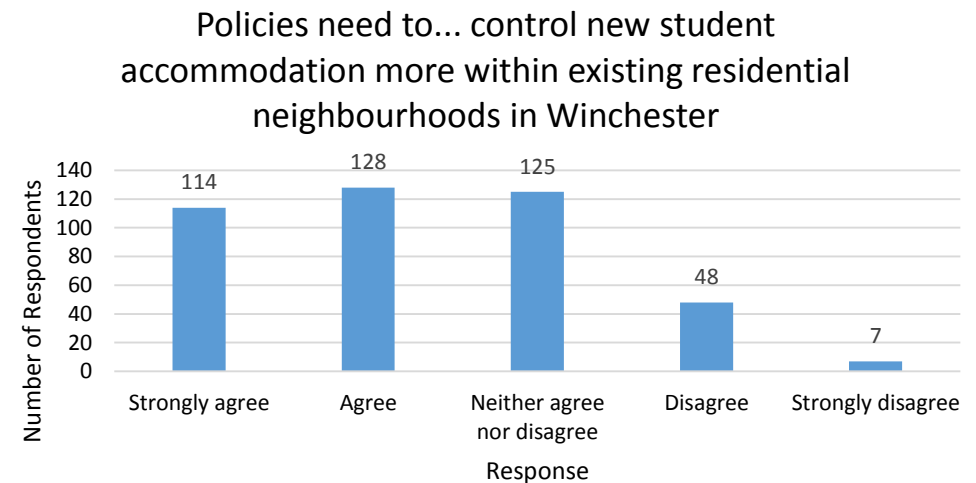
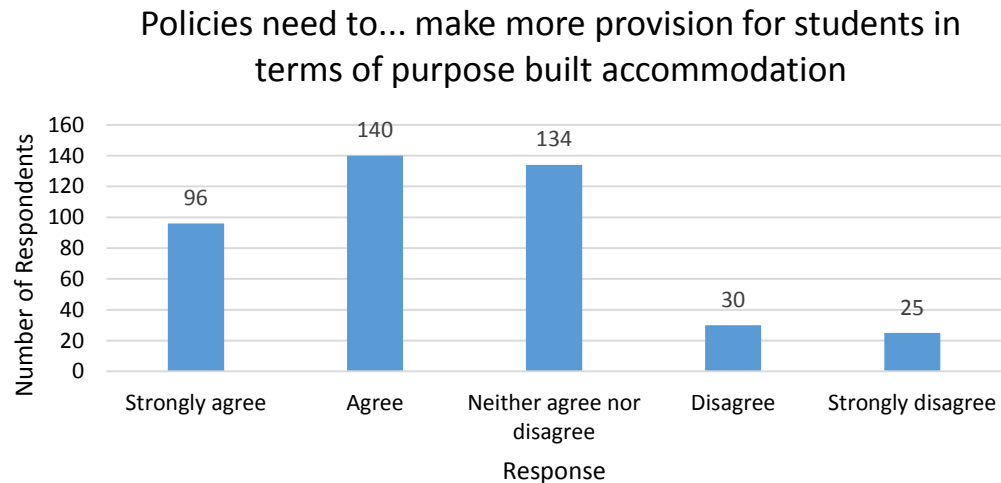
Analysis & Way Forward:

- Affordable Rented Housing (including social rented) was identified as the most pressing housing need, then Starter Homes and Housing for Young People.
- The Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) looks in detail at the quantity of housing of various types that is needed , but this will need updating
- The Local Plan viability assessment will test different percentages of affordable housing provision

HOMES FOR ALL - Question 3: Student Accommodation

"Policies on student housing and houses in multiple ownership in Winchester need to...

...make more provision for students in terms of purpose built accommodation
...control new student accommodation more within existing residential neighbourhoods in Winchester?"



HOMES FOR ALL - Question 3: Student Accommodation

Summary of the key points raised :

- Many respondents agreed / strongly agreed that there should be more provision for student accommodation and more controls over it within residential areas
- A few individual comments promoting specially designated areas, a strategy for student housing, giving priority to affordable housing, or pointing out that HMOs don't provide only for students

Analysis & Way Forward:

- There is currently a combination of Article 4 Directions and a Local Plan policy controlling HMO development. Directions can be made / updated outside the Local Plan process
- The Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) identified no notable plans to expand student numbers, with existing plans (2020) able to make the provision required – but this needs updating
- There was a significant 'pipeline' of purpose built student accommodation – 300+ current / recent
- Need to get updates on the plans of the Universities, which may require further provision
- Subject to the outcome of the updates, a criteria-based policy approach is likely to be most appropriate, possibly identifying suitable areas for development or allocating sites

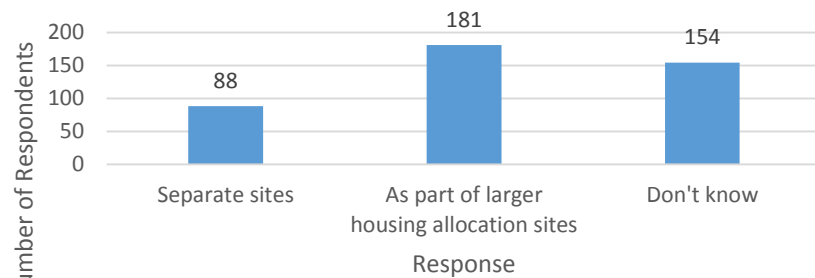
HOMES FOR ALL - Question 4: Specialised Housing

Where specialised types of housing (such as for self-build, the elderly, or travellers) are required, should these be provided on...

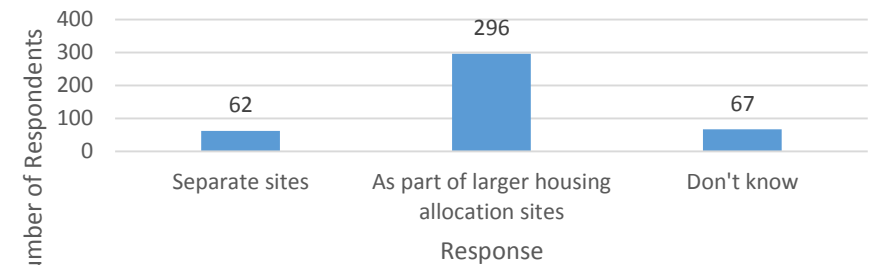
...separate sites;

...as part of larger housing allocation sites?

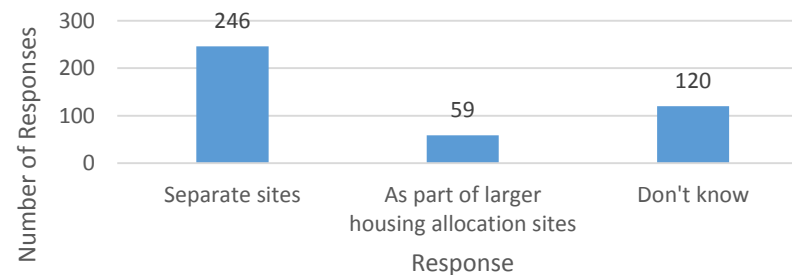
Where specialised types of housing for **self-build** are required should these be provided on...



Where specialist types of housing for **the elderly** are required should these be provided on...



Where specialised types of housing for **gypsies and travellers** are required should these be provided on...



HOMES FOR ALL - Question 4: Specialised Housing

Summary of the key points raised :

- Support for providing elderly persons' housing as part of larger housing developments, also self-build to a lesser extent, but not traveller accommodation
- Some comments on the challenges of integrating self-build or promoting policies on self-build, strong support for integrating older persons' housing within communities and close to facilities

Analysis & Way Forward:

- The SHMA recommends a Local Plan policy to encourage delivery of self and custom build, to provide for serviced plots to be delivered in larger schemes as well as on suitable smaller sites. But self-build does not constitute affordable housing provision and should satisfy other planning policies
- The SHMA identified a large need for housing for the elderly (e.g. dementia care, extra care, retirement villages, etc) so more proactive Local Plan policies needed - seek a proportion of housing for older / disabled people on larger housing sites, or allocate specific sites
- An updated Gypsy & Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) and pitch deliverability study have been commissioned as traveller needs must be identified and met – most needs likely to be for existing traveller families, but provision as part of larger allocations could be needed
- Comment that MOD service personnel accommodation may be needed – if so, Sir John Moore Barracks

CREATING A VIBRANT ECONOMY– ANALYSIS & WAY FORWARD

Q1: What types of economic development do we need to consider?

Please add industries and professions that should be supported throughout the district

Summary of the key points raised:

- Start up/small businesses across all industries; require suitable and affordable accommodation
- key sectors of the district's economy highlighted were:
 - IT, digital & media
 - Hi tech/research & development industries (life sciences & biomedical - build on local university links)
 - Arts & creative industries
 - Agriculture and food processing etc activities
- Support for development of a circular green economy. Links with R&D, high tech industries, local food production. Support for new industries eg sustainable building techniques and materials, renewable energy equipment etc

How can the LP support these industries?

- Working locally – the LP should give support to measures that enable local working (good broadband, community hubs with shareable spaces and digital facilities) and supporting services (eg cafes, local shops, post offices meeting places)

CREATING A VIBRANT ECONOMY— ANALYSIS & WAY FORWARD

2a: Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

“The town centre policies should be flexible in order to reflect changes that are taking place to the retail and leisure sector, people’s shopping habits and the decline in the number of office based jobs that are located in town centres”

Summary of the key points raised:

- Flexibility of key importance. Uncertainty over future direction of town centre economy. Mixture of uses best
- Reuse/redevelopment - boosts local economy (variety, customers etc) sustainable use of brownfield, reduces commuting, preserves countryside from development
- Importance of vibrant, attractive town centres
 - More residential
 - More mixture of uses include leisure and food and beverage
 - Outdoor events and entertainment
 - High quality built environment
 - Green spaces in towns for visitors and new residents
 - Indoor markets/emporium in redundant buildings

CREATING A VIBRANT ECONOMY– ANALYSIS & WAY FORWARD

Q2b: Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

“The Local Plan should be more encouraging and supportive of the use of vacant upper floors in town centres above shops for other uses?” If you agree what uses would be acceptable?

Summary of the key points raised:

- Greater variety of uses would add to vitality and viability of the centre
- Any use is better than a vacant building, so long as site is suitable

Preferred uses:

- Residential was the most common suggested use, including specialist forms such as student accommodation, elderly, homeless, temporary accommodation
- Offices/business and shared workspace facilities
- Art studios, exhibition spaces
- Pop up shops, Indoor markets/emporium in redundant buildings
- Variety of supporting uses –
 - Food and drink
 - Gyms and leisure space
 - Professional supporting services – eg beauty and personal care, healthcare
 - Spaces for community activities

CREATING A VIBRANT ECONOMY– ANALYSIS & WAY FORWARD

**Q3: Should the rural employment policies in the Local Plan be:
less restrictive allowing for a wider range of employment options in the rural areas and provide a wider range
of uses;**

and how does this fit with moving towards carbon neutrality?

Summary of the key points raised:

Answers	Comments
Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Would allow people to work nearer to/from home and so reduce carbon footprint from commuting• Need supporting structure – Broadband, Better buses, local facilities• Shared workspaces/community hubs for business and meeting spaces• Reuse of existing buildings better use of embodied carbon than building new• Use of rural brownfield sites preferable to new greenfield development
No	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Protect rural environment.• Utilise cityspace more effectively
Don't know	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Depends on environmental impact/amenity issues

CREATING A VIBRANT ECONOMY– ANALYSIS & WAY FORWARD

Q4: How can the Local Plan support home working and move towards a green economy?

Summary of the key points raised:

- High speed broadband and optimum mobile signal
- Sustainable transport (Better/cheaper bus services, use of electric vehicles – electric vehicle charge points, vehicle sharing, safe and comprehensive walking/cycling networks)
- Hubs, shared workspaces etc
- Facilities near to dwellings or workplaces - eg meeting places, cafes, shops etc
- Access to greenspace
- Home offices/extensions to dwellings - sufficient garden space, dwelling sizes large enough to accommodate workspace
- Positive planning policies – fast track for home offices and annexes, flexible uses in rural areas, greater mix of uses generally
- More dwellings on brownfield land/in town centres
- Affordable dwellings in rural settlements
- Energy efficient buildings, small scale local renewable energy generation
- Working from home will not suit all and the need to ensure the vitality and viability in town centres

CREATING A VIBRANT ECONOMY— WAY FORWARD

- Develop strategies that link with WCC's Carbon Neutrality Plan and the Green Economic Strategy – consider policies and possible site allocations in association with this
- Review existing employment and rural policies of the plan to consider increasing flexibility whilst protecting countryside and the local amenity
- Develop strategy for Winchester town centre to encourage residential and greater mix of uses.
 - Review existing town centre uses policies to update in view of changes in government guidance (increased PD rights, new Class E) and changes in economy (retail and office accommodation requirement) (Consider existing/potential site allocations/design coding)
- Need to consider the need and timing of, any updated Employment Land Review and Retail & Town Centre Uses studies
- Consider need for a home working policy to take account of requirements for larger dwellings and gardens and local amenity issues
- Wider issues of broadband provision, sustainable travel, affordable housing, facilities and services in settlements to be considered as part of overall local plan strategy.

Biodiversity and the Natural Environment Q1.

Question 1 Do you agree or disagree with the following biodiversity and natural environment statements? - Where biodiversity net gain cannot be provided on-site, it should be allowable to offset this by enhancing biodiversity off site

Summary of key point raised:

- The responses were evenly split between those who thought it should be provided onsite and those who thought that offsetting should be an option.
- It was clear that offsetting should not become the “easy option”.
- Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) offsetting should be provided before existing biodiversity is damaged by development.
- Offsetting could allow for a flexible approach to be taken where needed, it could allow acceptable sites to be brought forward where there is a genuine reason why BNG cannot be provided on site.
- Providing BNG on site could lead to lower density development which might not be appropriate in certain circumstances particularly on highly sustainable sites where best use of land approach is needed.
- BNG could take years or never recover if it is relocated offsite. Existing networks are particularly vulnerable.

Biodiversity and the Natural Environment Q1b

- **Question 1b:** Do you agree or disagree with the following biodiversity and natural environment statements? - We should allocate land specifically for open space or for biodiversity net gain, to provide opportunities for off-site mitigation of the effects of new development?
- Summary of key point raised:
- 60% of the respondents agreed that land should be allocated specifically for open space or BNG. This approach was also supported by Natural England (statutory consultee) who are particularly supportive of land to mitigate the impacts of nutrients from new development on the River Itchen SAC and Solent marine designated sites.
- Even those respondents who agreed with the approach of allocating land were clear that this should be a last resort.
- It was also commented that some flexibility needs to be retained with options to offset on other land as well as sites allocated for the purpose.
- The provision of more multi functional green space is needed and supported.
- Providing the potential to offset will weaken the case for trying to get developers to provide BNG on site which should be the preferred option.

Biodiversity and the Natural Environment – Q2

- Question 2: Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Current development management policies for the protection of the countryside are adequate.
- Summary of points raised:
- The majority of respondents (77%) disagreed with this statement and said that the current policies did not protect the countryside adequately.
- In their view the current policies have allowed for too much greenfield and countryside development with the resulting loss of habitats and conversely that the policies had not achieved sufficient brownfield development or protected gaps between settlements.
- There was a feeling that developers “get away” with damaging biodiversity and not providing properly sustainable development with the right infrastructure. Some sites have been overdeveloped with damage to environmentally sensitive areas.
- There are too many proposals for development of new towns on greenfield sites and development of farmland and golf courses.
- 33% of respondents said they did think the policies were good and had protected the countryside.

Biodiversity and the Natural Environment – Q2b

- Question 2b: Please explain your view on what new policy measures should be adopted:
- Summary of key point raised
- Most of the respondents identified that they considered that a Green Belt policy was needed to provide adequate protection for the countryside.
- It was suggested that Local Green Spaces should be identified, allocated and protected.
- Countryside protection policies should recognise the importance of landscape character and valued landscapes and the links to good health and wellbeing as well as the environment.
- There should be a brownfield first development strategy with no or restricted development on any green field sites.
- Policy should require all new developments to have open space and biodiversity included in them.
- There was a suggestion that a policy is needed for MOD sites in the countryside.
- A Nature Recovery Network policy was suggested.

Biodiversity and the Natural Environment – Q3

- **Question 3:** Do you think a new Green Belt is needed in the south or north of the district?
- Summary of key point raised:
- 84% of respondents said that they thought a new Green Belt designation was needed.
- Natural England (statutory consultee) advises that work on establishing a Green Belt in the south of the district should ensure it considers the value of green belt land for the provision of multifunctional greenspace in close proximity to existing development. This should include opportunities for providing publicly accessible natural greenspace, enhanced wildlife value and ecological connectivity, reduced nutrient runoff including treatment wetlands and carbon sequestration.
- It was also pointed out that a new Green Belt would limit the amount of land available for development which could effectively price people out of the district.
- Some questioned if a Green Belt is needed as 40% of the district is already in the National Park.

Biodiversity and the Natural Environment – Q3b

- **Question 3b** If so (a Green Belt is considered necessary), what changes in circumstances make this 'exceptional measure' necessary?
- Summary of key points raised:
- The majority of respondents said that they thought the change in circumstances that warranted designation of a green belt were concerned with the need to protect land from development, stop urban sprawl, protect gaps between settlements, protect the countryside from aggressive developers and retain agricultural land for food growing
- The second highest stated reason was that green belts are needed to protect biodiversity and provide connectivity.
- The next most stated reason was to preserve the setting of Winchester and protect it from further development
- A number of respondents noted that designation of a green belt would aid urban regeneration and encourage a brownfield first approach to development therefore making best and most efficient use of the land available.
- Another popular reason was that green belts are needed to protect green space and to protect the natural environment and countryside which has become all the more important after the covid pandemic.
- Several respondents indicated that a green belt designation could help stop the formation of new towns in the countryside and take away the incentive for developers to keep promoting land for development in the countryside.

Biodiversity and the Natural Environment – Q3c

- Question 3c: How would a Green Belt designation contribute to achieving sustainable development in the district and adjoining areas?
- Summary of key points raised:
- green belt designation would force developers to build in a sustainable, brownfield first manner with urban regeneration focus and the landscape respected.
- Several respondents considered that a green belt could lead to higher density mixed use developments with more imaginative housing solutions which could enhance a sense of community and result in sustainable development.
- Respondents also considered that it could protect green space and countryside close to communities which would be a benefit for health and wellbeing, maintain the attractiveness of the area as a place to live and work and increase the quality of life for residents.
- Several respondents made the point that the green belt needs to be sustainably managed for biodiversity, carbon capture, recreation in order to be successful.
- Conversely some commented that a Green Belt designation will not necessarily achieve sustainable development, can have unintended consequences and can put pressure on land outside the designation.

Biodiversity and the Natural Environment – Conclusions and Way Forward.

- Consider introducing a policy in respect of BNG.
- Consider allocation of sites to provide an opportunity for offsetting BNG where it is not possible to provide it on site.
- Review the existing countryside policies and ensure they are up to date with legislation, NPPF etc.
- Look at the potential for allocating Local Green Spaces to protect them.
- Adopt a clear brownfield first development strategy policy.
- Further investigation into whether or not a new Green Belt designation is needed. The Partnership for South Hampshire is currently investigating this for the wider area and it is hoped the conclusions will be available next year.

General Responses

If you would like to make any general comments about local plan strategic issues and priorities, please do so in the space provided below.

Summary of the key points raised:

- There were comments which stated South Winchester needs a greenbelt
- Many commented on the complexity of the consultation process/survey
- Brownfield development should be prioritised before any greenfield development
- Many supported option 5 and but opposed options 2 & 3 for housing development
- Oppose Royal Down development
- Transport is an important issue for many
- Others made suggestions for the Local Plan and process

Analysis and way forward:

As many of the comments made in this section of the consultation are covered within other topics such as homes for all, biodiversity, carbon neutrality and transport this analysis will focus on comments made about the consultation process and suggestions for the Local plan process going forward.

- Comments were made in reference to the survey stated that it was too complex and time consuming to complete. When designing future Local Plan consultations we will be using all the suggestions for improvements and understanding what didn't work in order to optimise the survey to ensure it is easier for all to understand and complete.

THANK YOU –
QUESTIONS?

**YOUR PLACE
YOUR PLAN.**

Winchester District Local Plan

