

# Shropshire Local Plan

## Sustainable Growth - Flourishing Shropshire

### Introduction

The Council has issued an intention to commence preparation of the next Local Plan for Shropshire.

A Local Plan is a statutory document created by local planning authorities that guides future development, land use, and infrastructure in their area.

This next Local Plan will establish a vision, measurable outcomes and a spatial strategy for the sustainable development of Shropshire over the period to 2046. To support achievement of this spatial strategy the next Local Plan will include site allocations and local planning policy.

Before commencing the formal 30 month plan-making period, we are seeking the views of our local communities, Town and Parish Council's, organisations and all other interested stakeholders on the 'scope' of the next Local Plan.

To inform this process, we have prepared a 'scoping' consultation document available via the 'get involved' webpage at:

<https://getinvolved.shropshire.gov.uk/consultations/shropshire-local-plan-scoping-consultation/>

*If you do not have access to the internet at home, then you can access this link and others provided in this form using computer/tablet facilities at a Shropshire library or Shropshire local during their open times. A hard copy of the 'scoping' consultation document is also on display at the Guildhall, Frankwell Quay, Shrewsbury, SY3 8HQ.*

**This 'scoping' consultation runs from 20 May 2026 – 15 July 2026.** Please ensure that the response is submitted and received by the Council by the **15 July 2026**.

To support respondents, an online response form is available via our 'get involved' webpage. However, we understand some may wish to submit their response in another format, to support this we have prepared this **alternative version of the response form** - details of how to submit this form to the consultation are provided at the end of the form.

When responding, if necessary please continue your answer to any question(s) on an additional page, noting the question number to which it relates, and enclose it with your response form.

### About You

#### 1. Please tell us your name

#### 2. Please tell us your organisation (if applicable)

#### 3. Please tell us your email address

#### 4. Please tell us your home address

Please note: These details are required for verification and transparency purposes. We cannot accept anonymous responses to planning consultations. Your personal data will be processed in line with our [Planning Policy Privacy Notice](https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/media/eggiembp/planning-policy-privacy-notice-june-2025.pdf): <https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/media/eggiembp/planning-policy-privacy-notice-june-2025.pdf>

## The Vision

The purpose of a Local Plan vision is to set out aspirations for how an area will change. The purpose of the associated measurable outcomes is to support monitoring of progress towards meeting the Local Plan vision.

We want the vision of our next Local Plan to be locally distinctive – capturing our aspirations for Shropshire over the period to 2046 and beyond. It will include a Shropshire-specific vision statement supported by ambitious but realistic aims and objectives of relevance to Shropshire.

Our measurable outcomes will 'flow' from the aims and objectives of our vision, outlining how desired changes will be delivered and measured.

The first step in preparing the vision and measurable outcomes of our next Local Plan will be to identify 'key priorities' for Shropshire.

Information on the considerations when determining the 'key priorities' of the vision and measurable outcomes is available [here](https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/shropshire-local-plan-scoping-consultation/the-vision-and-measurable-outcomes/): <https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/shropshire-local-plan-scoping-consultation/the-vision-and-measurable-outcomes/>

### 5. How important do you feel each of the identified national considerations are when determining the 'key priorities' of our vision and measurable outcomes?

	Very important	Important	Neither important or unimportant	Unimportant	Very unimportant
Planning to deliver a sufficient number of homes that are of the right size, type and tenure to meet needs and enhance sustainability.					
Making available sufficient employment land to enable sustainable economic growth.					
Promoting long-term vitality and viability of our town centres.					
Protecting and enhancing our treasured natural, built and historic environment.					
Supporting the transition to net zero and planning for the mitigation and adaptation of our changing climate.					
Delivering well-designed, high quality and sustainable places.					
Promoting connectivity and sustainable/active modes of transport.					
Safeguarding minerals and ensuring a sufficient supply of minerals to provide the infrastructure, buildings, green energy and goods the country needs.					

Please explain your answers, particularly if you have commented that any of the identified considerations are unimportant

**6. How important do you feel these locally specific considerations are when identifying the ‘key priorities’ of our vision and measurable outcomes?**

	Very important	Important	Neither important or unimportant	Unimportant	Very unimportant
Infrastructure-led: ensuring sufficient infrastructure is available or provided to support development.					
Rurality: embracing the rural characteristics of Shropshire.					
Meeting housing needs of our communities: particular priorities are affordable housing, key worker housing and specialist housing that supports independence of older people.					
Supporting employers: facilitating the growth aspirations of existing and new employers.					
Complementary development: recognising the importance placed on housing and employment development nationally, providing for other complementary land-uses (including open space) and infrastructure to create sustainable places.					
Nature recovery: facilitating the Shropshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy to benefit biodiversity & our wider environment.					
Locally responsive design: achieving high-quality and sustainable design responsive to the diverse characteristics of our communities.					
Health and inclusivity: supporting the well-being and integration of existing and new communities.					
Town centres: supporting their vitality and appropriate diversification.					
Changing climate and net zero: supporting the transition to net zero and mitigation/adaptation to a changing climate in a predominantly rural area.					
Connectivity: use of active travel and public transport and access to services and facilities in a predominantly rural area.					

Please explain your answers, particularly if you have commented that of the identified considerations are unimportant

## Shropshire: Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities & Threats

A strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) analysis provides a 'structured' way to understand and present the context of an area. National guidance specifies that SWOT analysis may support the preparation of a Local Plan vision and measurable outcomes.

<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Weaknesses</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- The number and the diverse characteristics of our communities.</li><li>- Rural communities with connectivity to services and facilities.</li><li>- Network of interconnected towns providing services and facilities.</li><li>- Rurality valued by our residents, businesses and visitors.</li><li>- Rich and diverse natural/historic environment.</li><li>- High-levels of economic activity – amongst those seeking employment.</li><li>- Valued mineral working infrastructure and significant committed mineral reserves.</li><li>- Recognition of Shropshire as a leading tourism destination.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Ageing demographic of our population.</li><li>- Low wage economy.</li><li>- High levels of worklessness – people not seeking employment.</li><li>- Affordability of housing – particularly in our rural communities.</li><li>- Potential locations with infrastructure capacity constraints – transport, education and health.</li><li>- Significant reliance on private transport due to our rurality.</li><li>- Impacts of rurality on the delivery of new electronic communications technologies</li><li>- Constraints on road and rail networks providing connectivity beyond Shropshire.</li></ul>
<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Threats</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Embracing rurality and supporting rural services.</li><li>- Capitalising on locations with 'headroom' or potential to increase infrastructure capacity.</li><li>- Strategic corridors: particularly that of the A5/M54 and Shrewsbury-Birmingham railway line linking Shrewsbury-Telford-Wolverhampton.</li><li>- Potential parkway station at Shrewsbury.</li><li>- Potential for new self-contained communities.</li><li>- Extensive site promotions during call for sites.</li><li>- Opportunities promoted for further mineral working if required to ensure sufficient supply.</li><li>- Wider renewable energy use through greater access to technologies and enhanced supply.</li><li>- Improving distribution of electric vehicle charging and uptake of electric vehicles.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Our changing climate.</li><li>- Challenges in providing services due to our large and predominantly rural geography.</li><li>- Ageing demographics with implications for labour supply and housing/support needs.</li><li>- Residential market capacity and absorption rates.</li><li>- Material and labour supply constraints.</li><li>- National and international events that impact on Shropshire.</li></ul>

**7. Are there any other strengths, weaknesses, opportunities or threats we should consider when determining the 'key priorities' of our vision and measurable outcomes? Please explain your answer.**

Through consideration of national planning policy, local plan evidence, other Council strategies and the Shropshire SWOT analysis we have identified considerations we believe to be of relevance in identifying the 'key priorities' of our vision and measurable outcomes - addressed in questions 5 to 7.

**8. Please identify any additional considerations you believe to be of relevance when identifying the ‘key priorities’ for the vision and measurable outcomes of our next Local Plan. Please explain your answer.**

**The Spatial Strategy**

A spatial strategy provides the ‘framework’ to achieve the vision and measurable outcomes of a Local Plan.

To do so, it establishes clear expectations for the amount and distribution of development, whilst also identifying locations that should be conserved or enhanced for specific purposes such as landscape conservation and habitat improvement.

*Housing requirement*

The amount of housing planned to be delivered within a spatial strategy is known as the ‘housing requirement’. Further information on the preparation of the housing requirement as part of the Spatial Strategy for Shropshire is available [here: https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/shropshire-local-plan-scoping-consultation/the-spatial-strategy/](https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/shropshire-local-plan-scoping-consultation/the-spatial-strategy/)

**9. Do you agree with the considerations we have identified to inform preparation of the housing requirement for Shropshire?**

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Local Housing Need - calculated using Government's mandatory standard methodology					
Infrastructure capacity					
Deliverability					
Natural, built and historic environment					
Housing needs of our communities					
Promotion of economic growth					
Unmet neighbouring need sustainable and appropriate to accommodate					
Responses to the 'scoping' consultation (this survey and related feedback)					
Technical assessment					

Please explain your answers, particularly if you disagree with any of the identified considerations

**10. Are there any other considerations you believe should inform the preparation of the housing requirement for Shropshire? Please explain your answer.**

***Employment Land Requirement***

The amount of employment land to be made available for economic development within a spatial strategy is known as the ‘employment land requirement’. Further information on the preparation of the employment land requirement as part of the Spatial Strategy for Shropshire is available [here](https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/shropshire-local-plan-scoping-consultation/the-spatial-strategy/): <https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/shropshire-local-plan-scoping-consultation/the-spatial-strategy/>

**11. Do you agree with the considerations we have identified to inform preparation of the employment land requirement for Shropshire?**

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Local Employment Land Needs - calculated within an Economic Development Needs Assessment					
Balanced growth					
Infrastructure capacity					
Deliverability					
Natural, built and historic environment					
Modernising the local economy					
Needs and aspirations of local employers					
Attracting new employers					
Unmet neighbouring need that is sustainable and appropriate to accommodate					
Responses to the 'scoping' consultation (this survey and relevant feedback)					
Technical assessment					

Please explain your answers, particularly if you disagree with any of the identified considerations

**12. Are there any other considerations you believe should inform the preparation of the employment land requirement for Shropshire? Please explain your answer**

*Distribution of Development*

The distribution element of the spatial strategy involves deciding where new development should occur. Further information on the preparation of the approach to the distribution of development as part of the Spatial Strategy for Shropshire is available [here: https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/shropshire-local-plan-scoping-consultation/the-spatial-strategy/](https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/shropshire-local-plan-scoping-consultation/the-spatial-strategy/)

**13. Do you agree with these 'key principles' for the approach to the distribution of development in Shropshire?**

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Enable our rural communities to become more sustainable and thrive, particularly those that offer their residents and businesses good connectivity to services and facilities.					
Support the continued role of our urban communities as centres for services, facilities and economic development that serve both their residents and businesses and those of their rural hinterlands.					
Facilitate appropriate and complementary new communities which enhance the sustainability of Shropshire.					
Recognise the important role of our strategic corridors – the key road and rail links supporting connectivity.					
Respond to the wider rurality of our County, including enabling appropriate development in the countryside.					

Please explain your answer, particularly if you disagree

**14. Do you agree that the characteristics of our communities form an appropriate ‘starting point’ when determining the distribution of development in Shropshire?**

Strongly agree  Agree  Neither agree nor disagree   
 Disagree  Strongly disagree

Please explain your answer

**15. Do you agree with the methodology and conclusions outlined in the draft Shropshire Community Hierarchy?** If you wish to see the Shropshire Community Hierarchy document, please follow the [link](https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/media/n5khad52/draft-shropshire-community-hierarchy.pdf):

<https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/media/n5khad52/draft-shropshire-community-hierarchy.pdf>

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
The methodology outlined					
The conclusions outlined					

Please explain your answer, particularly if you disagree with the methodology and/or conclusions of the draft Shropshire Community Hierarchy

**16. Do you agree that the infrastructure capacity, demand, constraints and opportunities associated with our communities should form an important consideration when determining the distribution of development in Shropshire?**

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
The infrastructure capacity					
Property demand					
Constraining factors					
Significant opportunities					

Please explain your answers, particularly if you disagree

**17. Are there any additional matters we should consider when determining the distribution of development in Shropshire? Please explain your answers.**

**18. Do you agree our spatial strategy should ensure proportionate consideration is given to non-designated heritage assets and areas of archaeological potential?**

Strongly agree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Agree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Neither agree nor disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Strongly disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Please explain your answer

**19. Do you agree our spatial strategy should support achievement of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy - maximising the potential of the locations identified where action can provide the greatest benefit for biodiversity and the wider environment?**

Strongly agree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Agree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Neither agree nor disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Strongly disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Please explain your answer

**20. Are there any other areas or assets you believe should be identified for conservation or enhancement within our spatial strategy? Please explain your answer.**

## Identifying and Assessing Sites

Decisions on the forms of development or land-uses for which allocations are required is dependent on a range of factors, including:

- The requirements of national planning policy and guidance.
- The Local Plan vision, measurable outcomes and spatial strategy.
- Evidence underpinning the Local Plan.

Further information on the identification and assessment of site allocations is available [here](https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/shropshire-local-plan-scoping-consultation/identifying-and-assessing-sites/):  
<https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/shropshire-local-plan-scoping-consultation/identifying-and-assessing-sites/>

### 21. In your opinion, how important is it for the Local Plan to include allocations for these uses?

	Very important	Important	Neither important or unimportant	Unimportant	Very unimportant
Residential or residential-led mixed use development					
Development of specialist housing for older people					
Gypsy and traveller pitches					
Employment or employment-led mixed use development					
Retail and leisure development					

Please explain your answer

### 22. In your opinion, how important is it for the next Local Plan to include allocations or areas of search for these uses?

	Very important	Important	Neither important or unimportant	Unimportant	Very unimportant
Sand and gravel aggregate working					
Crushed rock aggregate working					
Renewable energy generation					

Please explain your answer

### Identifying Sites

It is important that we consider as many sites as possible, as this will provide greater choice when determining proposed site allocations.

To ensure the identification of sites is comprehensive, we have produced a proposed site identification methodology, which includes consideration of a range of sources.

This proposed site identification methodology is summarised in the draft Site Identification and Assessment Methodology Document and can be accessed by clicking this [link](#):

[next.shropshire.gov.uk/media/o0tfwf2t/draft-methodology-site-identification-assessment.pdf](https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/media/o0tfwf2t/draft-methodology-site-identification-assessment.pdf)

### 23. Do you agree with our proposed site identification methodology outlined in the draft Site Identification and Assessment Methodology Document?

Agree

Disagree

Please explain your answer

### 24. Are there any other sources of site we should consider?

### Assessing Sites

We recognise the importance of ensuring proposed allocations are identified through a comprehensive site assessment process.

As such, we have produced a proposed site assessment methodology, informed by:

- Government guidance on 'Selecting Sites for Development' and use of the Department for Transport Connectivity Tool.
- Consideration of local circumstances – recognising the characteristics of Shropshire.
- Responses to a targeted engagement exercise with selected statutory consultees and infrastructure providers.

This proposed site assessment methodology is summarised in the draft Site Identification and Assessment Methodology Document and can be accessed by clicking this [link](#):

<https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/media/o0tfwf2t/draft-methodology-site-identification-assessment.pdf>

### 25. Do you agree with our proposed site assessment methodology outlined in the draft Site Identification and Assessment Methodology Document?

Agree

Disagree

Please explain your answer

**26. Are there any other factors we should consider within our site assessment?**

**Policy Areas**

Planning policies set out the standards and expectations of development proposals. They form the ‘starting point’ when making decisions on planning applications.

Government will shortly be introducing new national decision-making policies, which will provide consistent policy on key planning issues, allowing policies in Local Plans to be more focused on locally specific issues and opportunities.

We have identified ‘broad areas’ we believe policies, in the next Local Plan, could either positively contribute towards addressing a local issue or support achievement of a local objective.

Further information on the potential 'broad areas' that planning policies in the next Shropshire Local Plan could address is available [here: https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/shropshire-local-plan-scoping-consultation/policy-areas/](https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/shropshire-local-plan-scoping-consultation/policy-areas/)

**27. Do you agree with these identified 'broad policy areas' that would be addressed in our next Local Plan?**

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Density, design, climate adaptation/mitigation and health					
Infrastructure, open space and developer contributions					
Housing mix - size, type and tenure					
Approach to affordable housing					
Managing new and existing employment and waste facilities					
Vitality and viability of town centres					
Renewable energy					
Mineral safeguarding and supply					
Site specific requirements					

Please explain your answers

**28. Are there any other ‘broad policy areas’ that would benefit from being addressed in our next Local Plan? Please explain your answer:**

**Effective Engagement**

We recognise the significant contribution that our local communities, Town and Parish Councils, organisations and all other interested stakeholders can make to the next Local Plan for Shropshire. We also understand that the next Local Plan will affect everybody who lives, works or visits Shropshire and that planning can be emotive.

For these reasons, we understand the value and importance of proactive engagement during the preparation of the next Local Plan.

Further information on the proposed engagement strategy for preparation of the next Shropshire Local Plan could address is available [here: https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/shropshire-local-plan-scoping-consultation/effective-engagement/](https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/shropshire-local-plan-scoping-consultation/effective-engagement/)

**29. To what extent do you agree with our proposed approach to ensuring engagement on the next Local Plan is:**

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Proportionate, with three stages of consultation consistent with Government guidance.					
Clear, through use of plain English and avoidance of acronyms, where possible.					
Well publicised, though a digital-led approach.					
Accessible, through a digital-led approach.					
Convenient, supported by a digital consultation response form.					
Transparent, with a summary of responses provided.					

Please explain your answers

**30. Are there any other criteria we could use to ensure our consultations are clear, well publicised, accessible, convenient and transparent - particularly where they can support us engaging hard to reach groups? Please explain your answer.**

**Evidence**

Evidence shapes and underpins Local Plans. It shapes them by providing an understanding of local context (needs, opportunities and constraints) thereby informing proposals. It underpins them by providing justification for proposals – necessary to demonstrate ‘soundness’.

Government specifies Local Plan evidence should be relevant, proportionate, not unnecessarily extensive and drawn from suitable up-to-date sources.

We want to ensure the evidence shaping and underpinning our next Local Plan is proportionate and robust. Reflecting this, we are drawing on a variety of sources in forming our evidence base.

Further information on the evidence base to inform the next Shropshire Local Plan is available [here](https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/shropshire-local-plan-scoping-consultation/evidence/): <https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/shropshire-local-plan-scoping-consultation/evidence/>

**31. Is there any other evidence you feel we may need to inform our next Local Plan that would be relevant and proportionate? Please explain your answer.**

**32. Please provide comments on other matters of relevance to the ‘scope’ of our next Local Plan.**

**Thank you for taking the time to complete this response.**

Please return to:

**Email:** [TellUs@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:TellUs@shropshire.gov.uk)

**Drop off:** Reception, Guildhall, Frankwell Quay, Shrewsbury, SY3 8FT

**Post:** Tell Us, Feedback and Insight Team, Shropshire Council, PO Box 4826, Shrewsbury, SY1 9JL

