

# Shropshire Council

## Shropshire Local Plan

**Sustainable Growth - Flourishing Shropshire**

### **Scoping Consultation**

May 2026



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# 1. The Local Plan

## *What is the Local Plan*

- 1.1. Our Local Plan is vital – to support our communities, strengthen our economy and enhance our environment.
- 1.2. The Local Plan provides the vision and objectives, the measurable outcomes and the spatial strategy to manage the sustainable development of Shropshire.
- 1.3. The currently adopted Local Plan for Shropshire consists of the Core Strategy (2011) and Site Allocations & Management of Development (SAMDev) Plan (2015) that collectively cover the period 2006-2026.
- 1.4. Alongside the Local Plan, there are a number of 'made' (adopted) Neighbourhood Plans which are prepared by Parish and Town Councils.
- 1.5. Together, these documents form the Development Plan for Shropshire – the starting point when determining planning applications for development.

## *Reviewing the Local Plan*

- 1.6. We are required to regularly review our Local Plan - at least every five years. These reviews are to ensure our Local Plan remains 'up-to-date' and significant weight may be applied to its policies in decision making.
- 1.7. Recent years have seen significant changes to the national planning picture, with the introduction of a new plan-making process and ongoing changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) which sets out Government's planning policies in England. This has led to important contextual changes locally.
- 1.8. **As a result, we have now issued an intention to commence the preparation of the next Shropshire Local Plan.**
- 1.9. This next Shropshire Local Plan will be progressed under Government's new plan-making process, which is characterised by a more efficient 30-month preparation and adoption process (with an additional mandatory minimum four-month scoping stage prior to its formal commencement).
- 1.10. This scoping consultation is the first mandatory consultation which forms part of the four-month scoping stage of the plan-making process.
- 1.11. There are two further mandatory consultation stages in the new plan-making process, offering further opportunities for communities and other

stakeholders to consider and influence the content of our next Local Plan. These consultations play an important role in ensuring our next Local Plan positively manages the long-term sustainable development of Shropshire.

- 1.12. The new plan-making process continues to include an independent examination in its latter stages, undertaken by the Planning Inspectorate. The Examination is also expected to be more efficient – undertaken within a 6 month period. The Examination continues to focus on whether the next Shropshire Local Plan is ‘sound’ – this means it is **positive, appropriate, realistic, and consistent with national policy.**

### ***Scope of the Next Shropshire Local Plan***

- 1.13. The next Shropshire Local Plan will establish the vision, measurable outcomes and a spatial strategy for the sustainable development of Shropshire over the period to **2046.**
- 1.14. It will be informed by assessments of need for housing (including affordable housing and specialist accommodation), employment and other appropriate land-uses. To meet identified needs, the next Shropshire Local Plan will allocate land and provide policies to manage development.
- 1.15. Crucially, the next Shropshire Local Plan will also be informed by an **Infrastructure Delivery Plan**, identifying the infrastructure it is forecast will be required for new planned growth and how the infrastructure will be funded and delivered - ‘on-site, through ‘developer contributions’ and/or from other sources. This infrastructure is likely to include additional school places, highway works, public transport and active travel improvements, new and enhanced GP practices, and leisure and community facilities.
- 1.16. To ensure the delivery of essential infrastructure, the next Shropshire Local Plan will identify the on-site infrastructure required for allocated sites and include policies outlining the ‘developer contributions’ required for the provision of infrastructure from development.
- 1.17. The next Shropshire Local Plan also provides an opportunity to consider and respond to evidenced local issues and opportunities, thereby maximising the potential of development to meet community needs and conserve and enhance our natural, built and historic environment.
- 1.18. As Shropshire Council is also a Mineral and Waste Planning Authority, the next Shropshire Local Plan will also form the **Mineral and Waste Plan for Shropshire.** This allows a joined-up approach to planning in Shropshire.

## ***Policy Map***

The next Shropshire Local Plan will be supported by a policy map which will indicate spatially where the policies of the next Shropshire Local Plan apply. This includes the location and extent of settlements, site allocations, policy designations (such as Green Belt) and historic and natural environment designations.

## ***Supporting Technical Assessments***

- 1.19. To support the preparation of our next Local Plan, we have undertaken initial technical screening. Through this process we have determined that the next Shropshire Local Plan will be informed and evaluated through several technical assessments. These are:
  - a. Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of environmental effects.
  - b. Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) considering effects on the integrity of protected European wildlife sites.
  - c. Equality, Social Inclusion and Health Impact Assessment (ESHIA) to ensure we meet our general equality duty.

## ***Community Infrastructure Levy***

- 1.20. Alongside the preparation of our next Local Plan, we are also intending to review our **Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Charging Schedule**.
- 1.21. The CIL Charging Schedule establishes the amount of CIL payable from new development which is used to fund necessary infrastructure improvements.
- 1.22. Whilst the review of the CIL Charging Schedule is a separate process to the preparation of the next Shropshire Local Plan, these processes are complementary and will share evidence.
- 1.23. The intention of the review of the CIL Charging Schedule is to deliver an appropriate balance between ensuring development remains viable whilst also funding its fair share of infrastructure improvements.

## ***Key Milestones in Plan-Making***

- 1.24. The next Shropshire Local Plan will be prepared using Government's new plan-making process which introduces changes to the process and specific timescale expectations.

1.25. Figure 1.1 provides a succinct summary of the key milestones within the new plan-making process:

**Figure 1.1: Timetable for Plan-Making**

<b>Key Milestone</b>	<b>Summary</b>
Notification: intention to commence	Notification period must be at least four months. Opportunity to promote the plan-making process.
Consultation: scoping	Seeking views on what the plan should contain and how we should engage with stakeholders going forward. This is to occur during the notification period.
Gateway 1: self-assessment	Involves the Council undertaking a self-assessment of its readiness to start the 30-month plan preparation process.
Consultation: content & evidence	Minimum 6 week consultation. Seeking views on the proposed vision, objectives and spatial strategy. This stage will include initial policies and draft site allocations.
Gateway 2: independent review	Seeking observations and advice from the Planning Inspectorate to support early resolution of any potential 'soundness' issues and progress towards meeting Gateway 3 requirements.
Consultation: proposed Local Plan	Minimum 8 week consultation. Seeking views on a fully formed draft Local Plan.
Gateway 3: stop or go	Planning Inspectorate to decide whether the draft Local Plan meets prescribed requirements and ready to be submitted for examination. Prescribed requirements relate to legal compliance, availability of submission documents and whether we and the Local Plan are ready to proceed.
Submission	Formal submission of the draft Shropshire Local Plan for examination. Triggers commencement of the examination.
Examination	Undertaken by the Planning Inspectorate to assess whether the draft Local Plan is legally compliant & sound – meets the tests of soundness in national planning policy. Those who have made representations on the plan during the consultation on the proposed Local Plan will have the right to present their views to the inspector.
Adoption	Subject to conclusions of the examination and decision of full Council. Adoption brings the next Shropshire Local Plan into effect.

## Timetable for Plan-Making

1.26. To support the preparation of the next Shropshire Local Plan we have produced a plan-making timetable, outlining when we anticipate key activities will occur and key milestones will be reached. This programme reflects the Government’s 30-month timeframe for plan production (plus a minimum 4 month notification period). The timetable will be kept under-review throughout the plan-making process.

1.27. This full timetable is available on the Council website via:  
<https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/adopted-local-plan/timetable-and-processes/>.

1.28. A summary of this timetable is provided in Figure 1.2.

**Figure 1.2: Timetable for Plan-Making - Key Activities & Milestones**

<b>4 Month Notification and Scoping Period</b>	Publish notice of intention to commence plan-making	May 2026	
	Consultation: scoping	May – July 2026	
<b>30 Month Plan-Making Period</b>	Gateway 1: self-assessment	September 2026	
	Consultation: content & evidence	May – June 2027	
	Gateway 2: independent review	July – August 2027	
	Consultation: proposed Local Plan	April – June 2028	
	Gateway 3: stop or go	July – August 2028	
	Submission	August 2028	
	Examination	August 2028 – February 2029	
	<b>Adoption</b>	<b>March 2029</b>	
	Plan Progression September 2026 – August 2028		

## 2. Scoping Consultation

### *Purpose of this Consultation*

- 2.1. Before commencing the 30 month programme outlined in our plan-making timetable, we are seeking the views of *our local communities, Town and Parish Councils, organisations and all other interested stakeholders* on the 'scope' of the next Shropshire Local Plan.
- 2.2. Specifically, we are seeking initial views on what the next Shropshire Local Plan should contain and our approach to engagement during its preparation. This includes the 'scoping' of:
  - a. The key priorities for the **vision** and **measurable outcomes** for the delivery of the next Shropshire Local Plan.
  - b. The key considerations for identifying a **spatial strategy** to manage the level and distribution of development in Shropshire.
  - c. The **approach to identifying and assessing** potential site allocations.
  - d. Matters that would benefit from being addressed by **local planning policies** to complement new *national decision-making policies*.
  - e. How we should effectively **engage** communities and wider stakeholders during the plan-making process.
  - f. The **evidence** required to support the next Shropshire Local Plan.
- 2.3. Importantly, as this first consultation seeks views on the 'scope' of the next Shropshire Local Plan, it **does not identify proposed options – including on the approach to the levels and distribution of growth and does not include draft site allocations**.
- 2.4. We anticipate the second consultation on content & evidence will start to identify our preferred options – including on the approach to the levels and distribution of growth and site allocations.
- 2.5. We anticipate that the third consultation on the proposed Local Plan will then seek to finalise our preferred approach – including to the levels and distribution of growth and site allocations.
- 2.6. These two further stages of consultation are scheduled for May 2027 and April 2028 respectively.

## ***Structure of this Consultation***

- 2.7. This Consultation Document includes a section summarising each of the policy areas within the 'scoping' consultation. Each section identifies those initial considerations considered to be 'in scope' and poses questions on each matter for our stakeholders.
- 2.8. The final question of the 'scoping consultation' provides an opportunity to provide views on any other matters of relevance to the 'scope' of the next Shropshire Local Plan.

2.9. *For transparency, each question is numbered and highlighted in a green 'question box'.*

- 2.10. All the questions asked throughout the consultation document are also included in Appendix 3 of this 'scoping' document.

## ***How to Respond to this Consultation***

- 2.11. To support communities and other stakeholders that wish to respond to this consultation, we have prepared an **online response form**, available via the 'get involved' webpage at:  
<https://getinvolved.shropshire.gov.uk/consultations/shropshire-local-plan-scoping-consultation/>.
- 2.12. We believe this online response form makes it quicker and easier for communities and other stakeholders to respond and will also help us to consider responses more efficiently. As such, our preference is that responses are submitted using this online response form.
- 2.13. However, we understand that some may wish to submit their responses in another format. As such, an alternative response form has also been made available via the 'get involved' webpage at:  
<https://getinvolved.shropshire.gov.uk/consultations/shropshire-local-plan-scoping-consultation/>.
- 2.14. Responses made using the **online response form** will be submitted on completion. Responses in other formats can be submitted via email to: [TellUs@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:TellUs@shropshire.gov.uk) or post to: *Tell Us, Shropshire Council, The Guildhall, Frankwell Quay, Shrewsbury, SY3 8HQ*

## 3. The Vision and Measurable Outcomes

### Overview

- 3.1. 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 the monitoring of progress towards delivering the Local Plan vision. National guidance specifies:
  - a. A Local Plan vision is to consist of a **vision statement** and a series of **key aims and objectives** – which should be ambitious but responsive to what the Local Plan can realistically achieve.
  - b. There should be no more than **10 measurable outcomes** in a Local Plan – they should be tangible, locally specific and easy to monitor (linked to quantitative and qualitative targets).

### A Vision for Shropshire

- 3.2. The vision of the next Shropshire Local Plan should be locally distinctive – capturing our aspirations for Shropshire over the period to 2046 and beyond. It should include a Shropshire-specific vision statement supported by ambitious but realistic aims and objectives of relevance to Shropshire.
- 3.3. Our measurable outcomes should ‘flow’ from the aims and objectives of our vision, to outline how the desired changes will be delivered and measured.
- 3.4. Importantly, our vision, the aims and objectives and associated measurable outcomes should provide the framework for preparing the wider Local Plan and provide an effective basis by which to monitor delivery after its adoption.

### Key Priorities

- 3.5. The first step in preparing the vision and measurable outcomes of our next Local Plan will be to identify ‘key priorities’ for Shropshire. To identify these ‘key priorities’, we will consider the following:
  - a. The requirements of national planning policy.
  - b. Collected evidence particularly where it identifies ‘baseline’ conditions and any local issues and opportunities.
  - c. Other Council strategies, including the administration’s ‘New Direction for Shropshire’<sup>1</sup> and the emerging Corporate Plan<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Shropshire Council, (2025), <https://shropshire.gov.uk/committee-services/documents/s42406/Appendix%20A%20-%20New%20Direction%20for%20Shropshire.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Shropshire Council, (2026), <https://getinvolved.shropshire.gov.uk/consultations/corporate-plan-2026-2030/>

- d. Analysis of Shropshire’s strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats.
- e. Responses to consultations undertaken to inform the next Local Plan.
- f. Technical assessments undertaken to inform the next Local Plan.

### National Planning Policy

3.6. Having reviewed the requirements of existing and emerging national planning policy, we believe the most important considerations when identifying ‘key priorities’ for our vision and measurable outcomes are:

- a. Planning to deliver a **sufficient number of new homes** that are of the right size, type and tenure to meet needs and enhance sustainability.
- b. Making available **sufficient new employment land** to enable sustainable economic growth which supports local businesses and inward investment.
- c. Promoting the long-term **vitality and viability** of our **town centres**.
- d. Protecting and enhancing our treasured **natural, built and historic environment**.
- e. Supporting the **transition to net zero** and planning for the mitigation and adaptation of our **changing climate** and the delivery of **clean and renewable energy and water**.
- f. Delivering **safe, healthy, well-designed, high quality and sustainable places** for all.
- g. **Promoting connectivity** supported by effective communication systems and accessible/sustainable/active modes of transport.
- h. **Safeguarding mineral resources** and ensuring a **sufficient supply of minerals** to provide the infrastructure, buildings, green energy and goods the country needs.
- i. Meeting our future needs to **re-use, recycle and responsibly dispose of waste materials** generated in Shropshire.

#### Question 1.

How important do you feel each of the identified national considerations are when determining the ‘key priorities’ of our vision and measurable outcomes?

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

## Local Plan Evidence and Other Council Strategies

- 3.7. A review of collected evidence and other Council strategies confirmed the considerations identified when reviewing national planning policy requirements were relevant in a local context.
- 3.8. However, this analysis identified locally specific considerations we believe to be of significance in identifying the 'key priorities' of our vision and measurable outcomes. Of significant value in this process were the administration's 'New Direction for Shropshire' and the emerging Corporate Plan. Identified considerations include:
- a. **Infrastructure-led:** ensuring sufficient infrastructure is available or provided to support development.
  - b. **Rurality:** embracing the rural characteristics of Shropshire.
  - c. **Meeting housing needs of our communities:** particular priorities are affordable housing, key worker housing and specialist housing that supports independence of older people.
  - d. **Supporting employers:** facilitating the growth aspirations of existing and new employers.
  - e. **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.
  - f. **Nature recovery:** facilitating the **Shropshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy** to benefit biodiversity & our wider environment.
  - g. **Locally responsive design:** Achieving high-quality and sustainable design responsive to the diverse characteristics of our communities.
  - h. **Health and inclusivity:** supporting the well-being and integration of existing and new communities.
  - i. **Town centres:** supporting their vitality and appropriate diversification.
  - j. **Changing climate and net zero:** Supporting the transition to net zero and mitigation/adaptation to a changing climate in a predominantly rural area.
  - k. **Connectivity:** Use of active travel and public transport and access to services and facilities in a predominantly rural area.

### Question 2.

How important do you feel these locally specific considerations are when identifying the 'key priorities' of our vision and measurable outcomes?

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

## Shropshire: Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities & Threats

- 3.9. 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.
- 3.10. Therefore, to support identification of the 'key priorities' for our vision and associated measurable outcomes we have undertaken a SWOT analysis for Shropshire, summarised in Figure 3.1:

**Figure 3.1: Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) Analysis for Shropshire**

<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 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 the A5/M54 and Shrewsbury-Birmingham railway line linking <i>Shrewsbury-Telford-Wolverhampton</i>.</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 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 and impacts on communities and the environment through extreme weather, flooding, over-heating etc.</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>

### **Question 3.**

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.*

### **Consultation**

- 3.11. Through consideration of national planning policy, current 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 – these are detailed in paragraphs 3.6, 3.8 and Figure 3.1.
- 3.12. Importantly, identification of the 'key priorities' of our vision and measurable outcomes will be directly informed by responses to this 'scoping' consultation – we want to understand what our stakeholders consider to be the 'key priorities' for Shropshire.

### **Question 4.**

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.*

- 3.13. The vision of the next Shropshire Local Plan will also be informed by responses to subsequent stages of consultation undertaken to inform it.

### **Technical Assessment**

- 3.14. The preparation of the next Shropshire Local Plan, including its vision, will be informed by technical assessments including SEA, HRA and ESHIA.

### **Next Steps**

- 3.15. Following the conclusion of this 'scoping' consultation we will finalise the 'key priorities' for the vision of our next Local Plan.
- 3.16. Informed by these 'key priorities', an initial vision will be drafted. This will be subject to engagement through the second consultation on the content & evidence for the next Shropshire Local Plan.

- 3.17. Our intention is that the vision will be flexible enough to be refined through the plan-making process, informed by further detailed evidence and responses to Local Plan consultations.
- 3.18. Figure 3.2 summarises the process we intend to follow in order to draft and then subsequently finalise the locally distinctive vision for the next Shropshire Local Plan.

**Figure 3.2: Local Plan Vision – Next Steps**

Step	Process
<b>Finalise 'Key Priorities'</b>	<p><i>Considerations:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Requirements of national planning policy.</li> <li>- Evidence supporting the next Shropshire Local Plan and objectives of wider Council strategies.</li> <li>- Shropshire SWOT analysis.</li> <li>- Responses to this 'scoping' consultation.</li> <li>- Technical assessments undertaken to inform the next Shropshire Local Plan.</li> </ul>
<b>Prepare Draft Vision</b>	<p><i>Vision parameters:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Structured around 'key priorities'.</li> <li>- Shropshire specific vision statement.</li> <li>- Ambitious but realistic aims and objectives of relevance to Shropshire.</li> <li>- Clear and concise.</li> <li>- Flexible to allow refinement through the plan-making process.</li> </ul>
<b>Undertake Engagement on Draft Vision</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Seek views on draft vision of all stakeholders through Consultation on Content &amp; Evidence.</li> </ul>
<b>Finalise Draft Vision</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Informed by responses to the Consultation on Content &amp; Evidence and any further detailed evidence.</li> <li>- Views sought on the final draft vision through the Consultation on the Proposed Local Plan.</li> </ul>

## 4. The Spatial Strategy

### Overview

- 4.1. A spatial strategy provides the 'framework' to achieve the vision and measurable outcomes of a Local Plan.
- 4.2. 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, habitat improvement and containing larger urban areas.

### Amount of Development

- 4.3. The 'starting point' of a spatial strategy is generally the amount of development to be identified in the Local Plan - how much housing and employment should we plan to deliver?

### Housing

- 4.4. The amount of housing planned to be delivered is known as the 'housing requirement'.

### Local Housing Need

- 4.5. When preparing options for the 'housing requirement' the starting point is local housing need, which Government has made clear is the **minimum** amount of housing to be planned for – on this we have no choice.
- 4.6. To assess local housing need, Government have developed a 'mandatory standard methodology'. This involves consideration of two key datasets:
  - a. **Existing housing stock** – how many existing homes there are.
  - b. **The housing affordability ratio** – how 'affordable' is existing housing.
- 4.7. Using this methodology, we have calculated that in Shropshire (at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026) there is an annual local housing need of **2,030 dwellings**, equating to **40,600 dwellings** over the 20-year period to 2046.
- 4.8. This calculation is summarised in our Local Housing Need Assessment, available on our website via: <https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/next-local-plan/evidence-base/>.
- 4.9. Every year, Government updates the two key datasets that inform the 'mandatory standard methodology'. Whilst it is understood there is no

specific requirement for evidence to be updated during the plan-making process, these changes will be kept 'under-review'.

### *Local Considerations*

4.10. We consider there are a number of other relevant local considerations when preparing options for the 'housing requirement' for Shropshire. These are:

- a. **Infrastructure capacity:** Ensuring sufficient infrastructure capacity to support existing and new communities.
- b. **Deliverability:** Reflecting capacity in the market, particularly as local housing need is much higher than both that calculated using previous methodologies and planned for in the adopted Local Plan (an annual average of 1,375 dwellings).
- c. **Natural, built and historic environment:** Conserving and enhancing the assets that make Shropshire unique.
- d. **Housing needs of groups in our communities:** Seeking to meet the needs of groups in our communities – recognising the critical role of affordable and specialist housing in doing so.
- e. **Economic growth:** Recognising the role new housing plays in attracting working age people into the county to support economic growth, providing further employment opportunities for our communities.

### *Other Considerations*

4.11. National policy requires that we consider whether any unmet housing needs are arising in neighbouring areas that would be appropriate and sustainable to accommodate in Shropshire.

4.12. We are committed to undertaking effective co-operation with neighbouring Local Planning Authorities during the plan-making process. However, due to the significant changes that have occurred to the plan-making process and national policy we do not consider that it can currently be determined if unmet housing needs are likely to arise in neighbouring areas and if they do, whether it would be sustainable and appropriate to accommodate them in Shropshire.

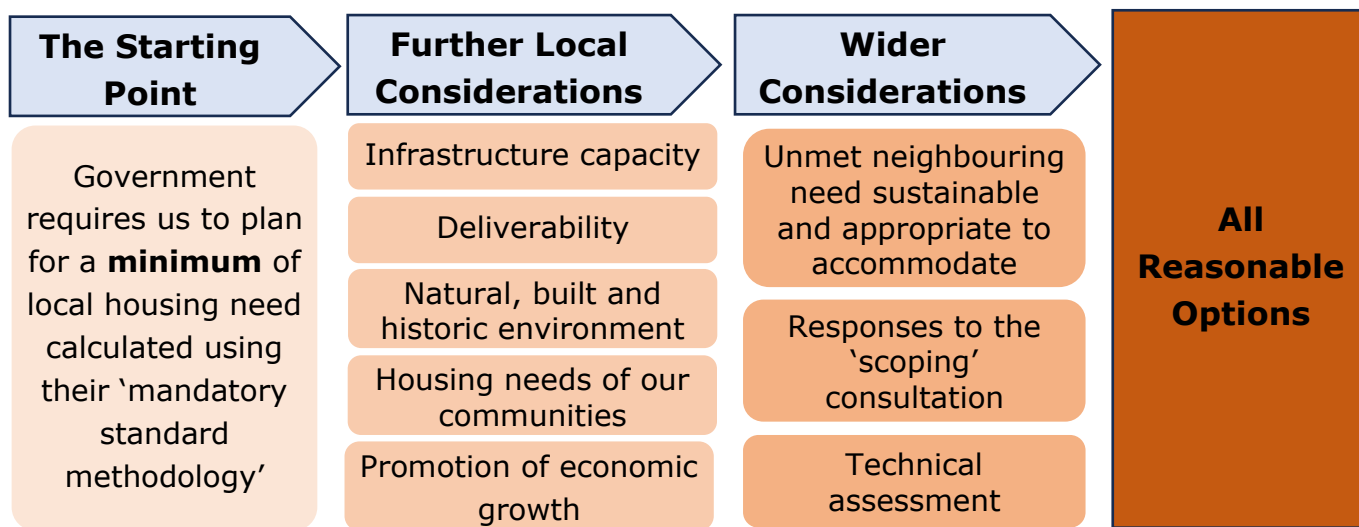
### *Consultation and Technical Assessment*

4.13. The preparation of reasonable options and subsequent identification of the preferred option for the 'housing requirement' will be informed by responses to this 'scoping' consultation and various technical assessments.

## Summary

4.14. Figure 4.1 summarises the various factors we consider should inform the preparation of options for the 'housing requirement' for Shropshire:

**Figure 4.1: Considerations - 'Housing Requirement' Options**



### Question 5.

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

*Please explain your answer, particularly if you disagree with any of the identified considerations.*

### Question 6.

Are there any other considerations you believe should inform the preparation of the housing requirement for Shropshire?

*Please explain your answer.*

## Employment

4.15. The amount of employment land to be made available for economic development is known as the 'employment land requirement'.

4.16. The Local Plan must ensure that the scale of the 'employment land requirement' will meet Shropshire's 'local employment land needs' arising from local business growth and inward investment into Shropshire.

### *Local Employment Land Needs*

4.17. When preparing options for the 'employment land requirement', the starting point is to understand the demands and opportunities for economic growth in Shropshire. This will be achieved through an **Economic Development Needs Assessment** which will describe the

County's 'local employment land needs' and recommend 'reasonable options' for the 'employment land requirement'.

- 4.18. Although there is a standard method for assessing housing need, there is no nationally prescribed approach for assessing 'local employment land need'. The methodology used to assess the County's 'local employment land need' will therefore reflect national guidance and best practice for assessing local business growth, inward investment and the future growth of the local economy in Shropshire.
- 4.19. To ensure the amounts of housing and employment development to be planned for in the spatial strategy will be in balance, the assessment of the future 'local employment land need' will consider the alignment between jobs growth from economic investment and the growth in labour from meeting the housing needs of the County.
- 4.20. This seeks to ensure that businesses and investors in Shropshire will be able to employ people who live in the County and that new households including some existing Shropshire residents, will have the opportunity to live and to work in the County.

#### *Local Considerations*

- 4.21. We believe there are other relevant local considerations when preparing options for the 'employment land requirement' for Shropshire. These are:
  - a. **Balanced growth:** Ensuring that housing and employment growth are balanced and complementary.
  - b. **Infrastructure capacity:** Ensuring sufficient infrastructure capacity to support existing and new businesses and their employees.
  - c. **Deliverability:** Reflecting capacity and demand in the market.
  - d. **Natural, built and historic environment:** Conserving and enhancing the assets that make Shropshire unique.
  - e. **Needs and aspirations of local employers in existing sectors:** Supporting growth of valued local businesses and associated employment opportunities.
  - f. **Attracting new employers into existing sectors and investment into new sectors:** Complementing and diversifying the businesses and employment opportunities in Shropshire.
  - g. **Modernising Shropshire's local economy:** meeting the needs of investors in Shropshire for good quality, accessible investment locations and modern business premises providing contemporary business services and infrastructure with opportunities to access 'new' technologies.

*Other Considerations*

- 4.22. National policy requires that we consider whether any unmet employment land needs are arising in neighbouring areas and also whether it would be appropriate and sustainable to accommodate these 'unmet' needs in Shropshire.
- 4.23. We are committed to undertaking effective co-operation with neighbouring Local Planning Authorities during the plan-making process. However, significant changes are now being implemented in both the plan-making process and in national policy. This makes it difficult to determine whether unmet employment land needs will arise in neighbouring areas and also whether it is appropriate and sustainable to accommodate any 'unmet' needs in Shropshire.

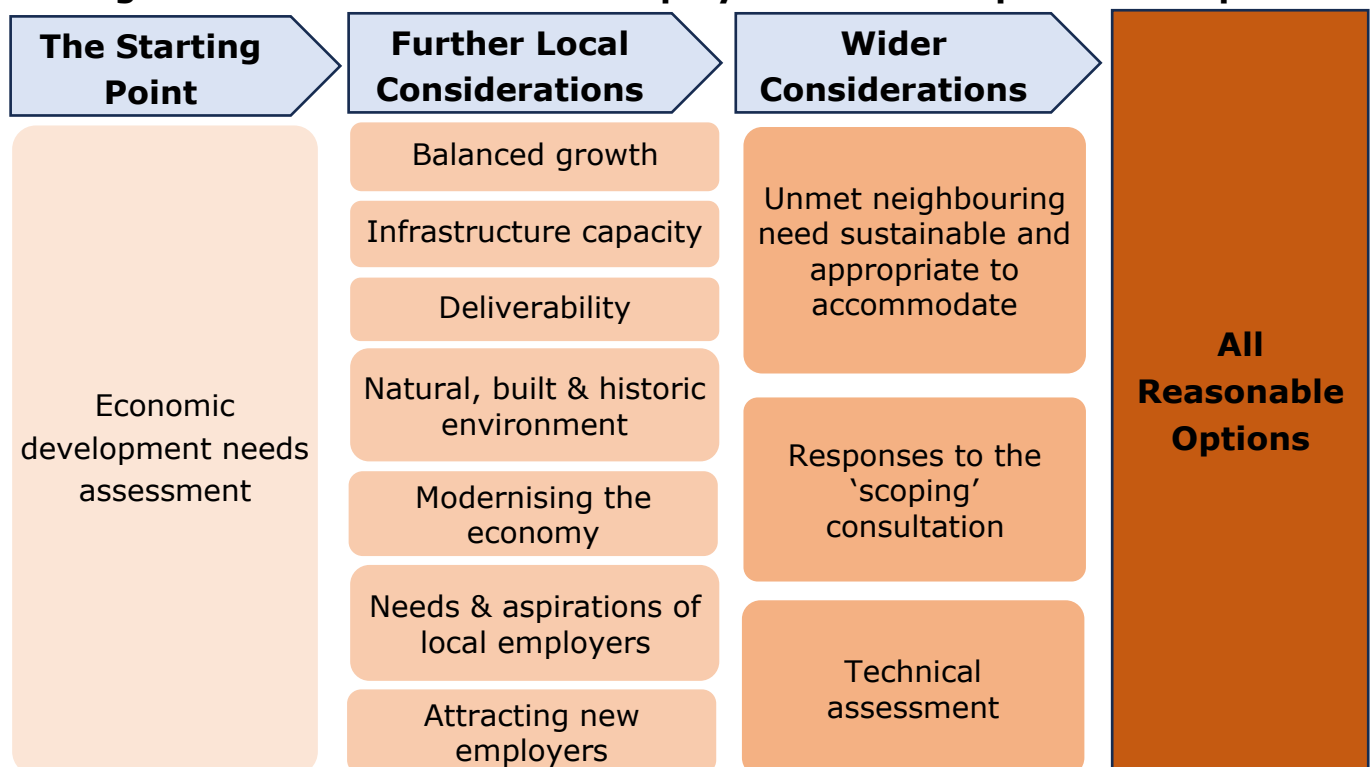
*Consultation and Technical Assessment*

- 4.24. The preparation of 'reasonable options' and the subsequent identification of the preferred option for the 'employment land requirement' will be informed by responses to this 'scoping' consultation and various technical assessments.

*Summary*

- 4.25. Figure 4.2 seeks to summarise the various factors that we consider should inform the preparation of 'reasonable options' for the 'employment land requirement' for Shropshire:

**Figure 4.2: Considerations - 'Employment Land Requirement' Options**



**Question 7.**

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

*Please explain your answer, particularly if you disagree with any of the identified considerations.*

**Question 8.**

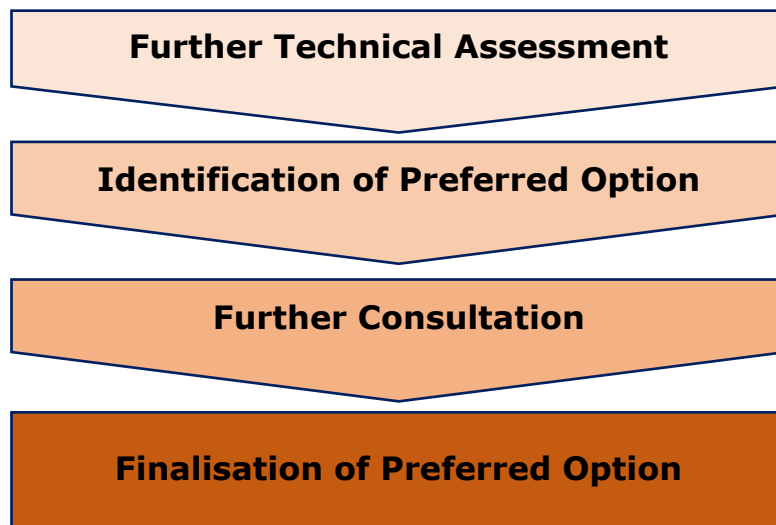
Are there any other considerations you believe should inform the preparation of the employment land requirement for Shropshire?

*Please explain your answer.*

**Next Steps**

4.26. Figure 4.3 summarises the subsequent process we intend to follow to initially identify and then finalise the preferred options for the 'housing requirement' and 'employment land requirement' for Shropshire.

**Figure 4.3: Preferred Options - Housing and Employment Land Requirements**



***Distribution of Development***

4.27. In Shropshire, we consider that central to our spatial strategy will be the approach to the distribution of development – deciding where new development should occur.

4.28. This is because of our geography. Shropshire is large, diverse and predominantly rural and it contains hundreds of communities (including towns, villages, hamlets and other named locations consisting of scattered groups of houses) which are themselves varied in size, function, character and identity.

## Key Principles

4.29. Reflecting the diversity of Shropshire and our communities, we consider the following 'key principles' should underpin our options for the distribution of development:

- a. Enable our **rural communities** to become more sustainable and thrive, particularly those that offer their residents and businesses good connectivity to services and facilities.
- b. 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.
- c. Facilitate appropriate and complementary **new communities** which enhance the sustainability of Shropshire.
- d. Recognise the important role of our **strategic corridors** – the key road and rail links supporting connectivity.
- e. Respond to the **wider rurality** of our County, including enabling appropriate development in the countryside.

### Question 9.

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

*Please explain your answer, particularly if you disagree.*

## Preparing Options for the Distribution of Development

4.30. To prepare options for the distribution of development that are responsive to our proposed 'key principles' we believe they should be informed by consideration of our communities and their attributes:

- a. **Community characteristics:** Including the size of the community and the ability of residents and businesses to access services and facilities.
- b. **Infrastructure capacity:** Existing infrastructure capacity and the ability to enhance capacity to support existing and new residents & businesses.
- c. **Demand:** Understanding of demand for properties.
- d. **Constraints:** Factors that have implications for development capacity including material planning matters, such as... physical features and the historic and natural environment.
- e. **Opportunities:** Factors that can support and enhance development capacity including complementary investment activities, opportunities to support continued/enhanced infrastructure provision, economic opportunities, access to strategic corridors, availability of brownfield land and unique or significant development opportunities.

### *Community Characteristics*

- 4.31. We consider the characteristics of our communities the logical 'starting point' when developing options for the distribution of development. This is because characteristics such as size and access to services and facilities influence the role of our communities and their ability to sustainably support new development.
- 4.32. Consideration of the characteristics of communities is best achieved through the preparation of a Community Hierarchy, which uses specific and consistent criteria on community characteristics to group them based on their similarities.
- 4.33. As such, we have developed a draft methodology for a Shropshire Community Hierarchy which considers community size and connectivity – utilising data that is nationally endorsed but also responsive to and appropriate in a Shropshire context.
- 4.34. This draft methodology and the draft conclusions of its application are summarised in the **draft Shropshire Community Hierarchy Document** which supports this Scoping Consultation and is available on the Council website via:  
<https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/media/n5khad52/draft-shropshire-community-hierarchy.pdf>.
- 4.35. Crucially, whilst we consider the characteristics of our communities the logical 'starting point' we recognise there are a number of other important attributes such as infrastructure capacity, demand, constraints and opportunities that must inform options for the distribution of development in Shropshire.

#### **Question 10.**

Do you agree that the characteristics of our communities form an appropriate 'starting point' when determining the distribution of development in Shropshire?

*Please explain your answer.*

#### **Question 11.**

Do you agree with the methodology and conclusions outlined in the draft Shropshire Community Hierarchy?

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

### *Infrastructure Capacity*

- 4.36. Sustainable development meets the needs of our existing and new residents and businesses - including the need to access necessary infrastructure. Furthermore, we recognise that the capacity of infrastructure is often a concern to communities when faced with new development.
- 4.37. For this reason, we consider that the existing infrastructure capacity of our communities and the ability to sustainably enhance infrastructure capacity should inform the preparation of options for the distribution of development in Shropshire. This would be achieved through proactive 'discussions' with key infrastructure providers.
- 4.38. Complementary to this consideration when preparing options for the distribution of development, it is expected that infrastructure capacity will also inform the wider plan-making process. Infrastructure capacity will inform the identification of proposed allocations and the site guidelines which will manage their development. It will also inform the preparation of policies detailing when 'developer contributions' are required from development and how any contributions are prioritised to support infrastructure provision.
- 4.39. This will be achieved through continued 'discussions' with key infrastructure providers and the preparation of an **Infrastructure Delivery Plan** to identify the infrastructure considered necessary to support new planned growth and the approach to its funding and delivery.
- 4.40. We will also utilise the consultations that form part of the plan-making process to seek views on the infrastructure required to support the achievement of the next Shropshire Local Plan.

### *Demand*

- 4.41. The demand for properties within our communities is a valuable indicator of those that would most benefit from additional growth to meet the needs of residents and support businesses. Therefore, we consider that property demand is a positive consideration when preparing options for the distribution of development in Shropshire.
- 4.42. One effective assessment of property demand is that undertaken by the University of Warwick, which utilises 'Rightmove data' to determine 'housing gaps' and 'tightness ratios'. Their overarching report and conclusions for Shropshire are available on the Council website via: <https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/next-local-plan/evidence-base/>.

- 4.43. Other sources of evidence on property demand include:
- a. The Council's HomePoint - housing waiting list:  
<https://shropshirehomepoint.co.uk/>
  - b. The Strategic Housing Market Assessment to be prepared to inform the next Shropshire Local Plan - assessing the size, type and tenure of housing needed for different groups in our communities.
  - c. Local housing need surveys undertaken over the last 5 years.
  - d. The Economic Development Needs Assessment to be prepared to inform the next Shropshire Local Plan - assessing the employment needs of our communities.

### *Constraints*

- 4.44. Due to Shropshire's diverse geography, there are a range of different factors that have the potential to constrain development. Such factors are generally not 'negatives' often relating to physical features or historic / natural environment assets that help make our communities unique.
- 4.45. Where such constraints exist, they generally affect specific parts of a community rather than the community as a whole. As such, they can be managed through appropriate site selection, effective design and layout of development and/or delivery of appropriate mitigation.
- 4.46. However, there are some instances where these factors can constrain the development potential of a whole community – a good example is where communities are located within the Shropshire Hills National Landscape, which is a treasured landscape that requires a more considered approach to development.
- 4.47. As a result, we feel that constraining factors should be considered when preparing options for the distribution of development in Shropshire. To do so, we intend to:
- a. Identify factors that have the potential to constrain development in Shropshire as part of a 'baselining' process.
  - b. Give consideration to these factors to determine whether any of the factors may reduce a communities development capacity.
- 4.48. This process will be informed by engagement with relevant statutory consultees (such as Historic England, the Environment Agency and Natural England) and specialist input from relevant Council services (such as our Ecologists and Historic Environment Officers).
- 4.49. For the avoidance of doubt, consideration of constraining factors will also inform the identification of proposed allocations and the site guidelines which will inform their development.

### Opportunities

4.50. We believe there are many opportunities unique to Shropshire and that the preparation of options for the distribution of development within it should be responsive to them. Those opportunities we have already identified include:

a. **Strategic Corridors\***: Key rail and road routes within Shropshire which support connectivity within Shropshire and provide links to the wider West Midlands and beyond. They support the connectivity of our communities to employment, services and infrastructure and create opportunities for sustainable growth and investment.

The strategic corridor with greatest potential to support sustainable growth is undoubtedly that formed by the A5/M54 and Shrewsbury-Birmingham railway line, linking *Shrewsbury-Telford-Wolverhampton*.

*\*Further information on the strategic corridors in Shropshire is provided in Appendix 2 of this document.*

b. **Supporting Rural Services**: Proud to be rural, sustainable growth within our rural communities can provide opportunities to support the continued provision of valued rural services.

c. **Supporting Economic Growth**: Our communities, particularly the larger communities, provide the logical focus for economic development and business growth and investment.

d. **Wider Council Strategies**: Opportunities for sustainable growth arising from wider Council strategies or for sustainable growth to facilitate the delivery of wider Council strategies.

e. **Shrewsbury Parkway Station**: A key aspiration of 'Shrewsbury Moves' is a parkway station outside the town to complement existing rail services in the town centre. Feasibility work has been progressed for this project which presents opportunities for complementary sustainable growth.

f. **Capitalising on Infrastructure**: Locations with 'headroom' in existing infrastructure or where significant infrastructure 'investment' is planned may present opportunities for sustainable growth.

g. **Potential for New Settlements**: Any strategically located sites of a sufficient scale to create new self-contained communities, complementary to our existing communities.

They would offer a mix of housing, employment, infrastructure (including schools, health services and transport networks), services (retail and community facilities) and green space.

- 4.51. Further opportunities that may be identified relate to complementary investment activities, availability of brownfield land, unique development proposals and specific sites with potential to form new settlements.
- 4.52. To identify further opportunities, we intend to:
- a. Identify development opportunities in Shropshire as part of a 'baselining' process.
  - b. Give consideration to these factors to determine whether any of the factors increase an existing community's development capacity or establish the potential to develop new communities.
- 4.53. This process will be informed by proactive 'discussions' with key infrastructure providers.

**Question 12.**

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?  
*Please explain your answers, particularly if you disagree.*

**Question 13.**

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

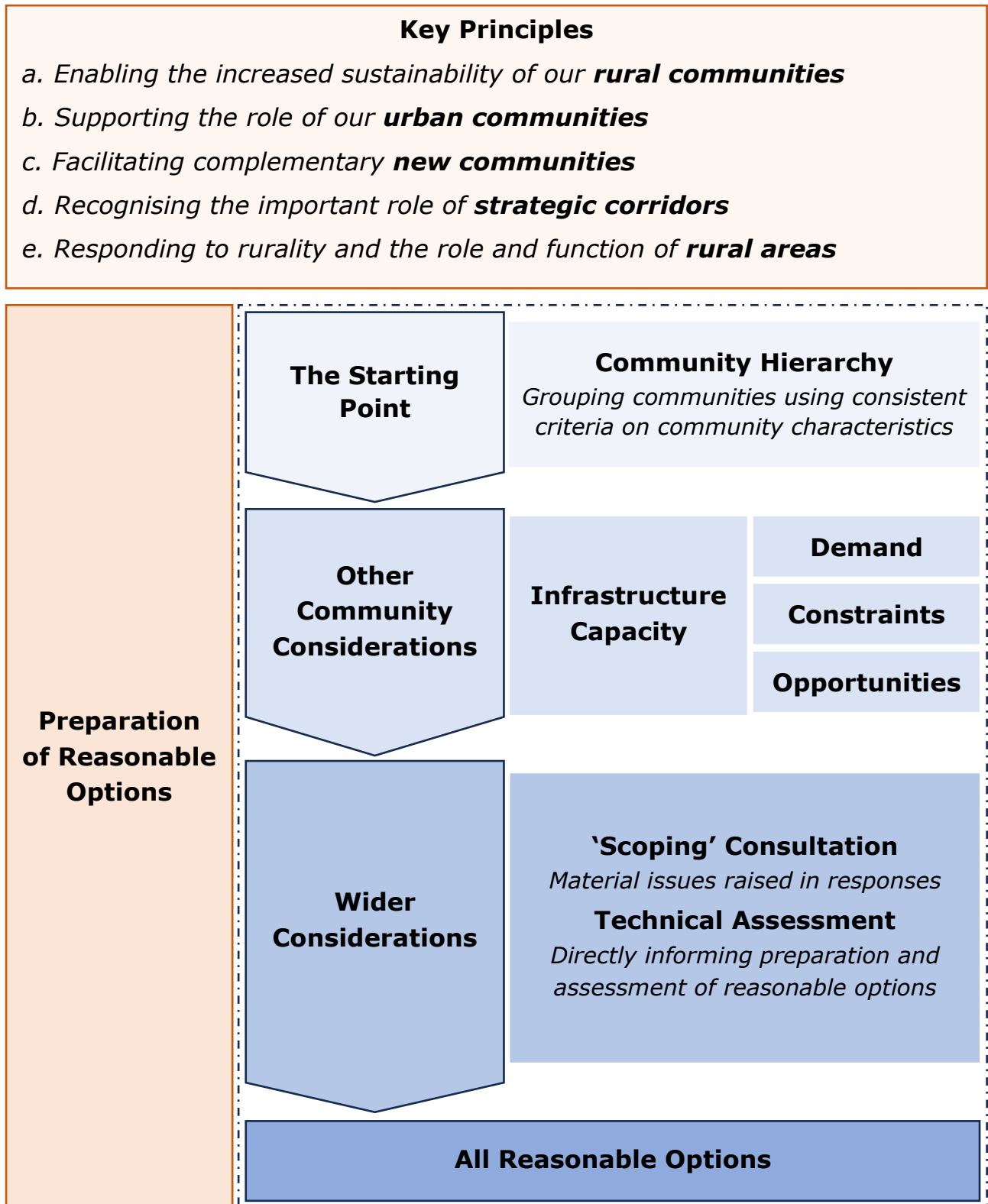
### **Consultation and Technical Assessment**

- 4.54. In addition, the preparation of the next Shropshire Local Plan, including reasonable options for the distribution of development and the subsequent identification of the preferred option for the distribution of development, will be informed by technical assessments including SEA, HRA and ESHIA.

## Summary

4.55. Figure 4.4 summarises the considerations we believe should inform the preparation of options for the distribution of development in Shropshire.

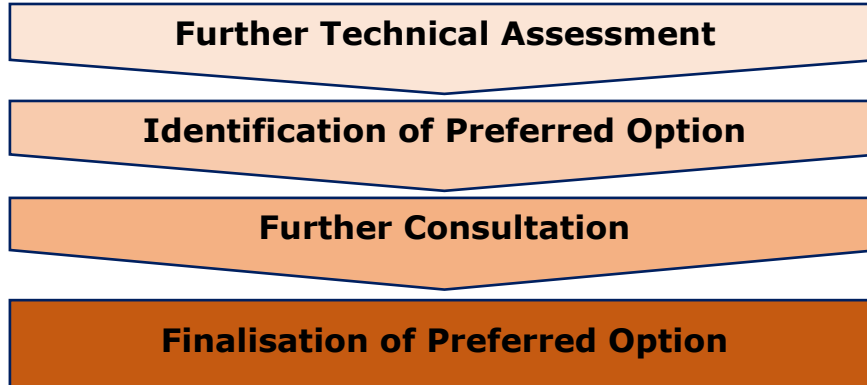
**Figure 4.4: Key Considerations - Distribution of Development Options**



## Next Steps

4.56. Figure 4.5 summarises the subsequent process we intend to follow to initially identify and then finalise the preferred option for the distribution of development in Shropshire.

**Figure 4.5: Preferred Distribution of Development Option**



## *Areas and Assets to be Conserved or Enhanced*

4.57. Within our spatial strategy, complementary to decisions on the amount and distribution of development, is the identification of locations that should be conserved or enhanced.

4.58. In Shropshire, we are very fortunate to have a rich and diverse built, natural and historic environment. As such, consistent with national policy, we consider it is important that our spatial strategy identifies and supports the conservation and enhancement of our:

a. Designated historic environment assets in Shropshire, including:

- i. Two world heritage sites (which are cross-border).
- ii. Registered battlefield.
- iii. 34 registered historic parks or gardens (3 are cross-border).
- iv. 128 Conservation Areas.
- v. Around 440 scheduled monuments.
- vi. Around 7,000 listed buildings.

b. Designated natural environment assets in Shropshire, including:

- i. The Shropshire Hills National Landscape (around 23% of Shropshire).
- ii. 6 special areas of conservation (cross-border assets).
- iii. 2 phases of Ramsar sites (cross-border assets).
- iv. 4 national and 33 local nature reserves.
- v. 111 sites of special scientific interest.
- vi. Ancient woodland (around 2% of Shropshire).
- vii. 1,000's of veteran trees and trees subject to preservation orders.

4.59. Further, we have a wealth of non-statutory, non-designated heritage assets and significant archaeological potential. We consider these assets should be recognised and given proportionate consideration within our spatial strategy.

**Question 14.**

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

*Please explain your answer.*

4.60. To support nature recovery in Shropshire, we have prepared a Local Nature Recovery Strategy. This identifies where action for nature can provide the greatest benefit for biodiversity and the wider environment (known as potential areas of particular importance for biodiversity).

4.61. We consider our spatial strategy provides an important opportunity to maximise the potential of these 'action areas'.

**Question 15.**

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?

*Please explain your answer.*

**Question 16.**

Are there any other areas or assets you believe should be identified for conservation or enhancement within our spatial strategy?

*Please explain your answer.*

## 5. Identifying and Assessing Sites

### *What are Site Allocations*

- 5.1. Site allocations consist of specific areas of land designated in a Local Plan for a particular form of development or land-use.
- 5.2. The purpose of a site allocation is to ensure sufficient land is available in the right locations to achieve the spatial strategy of a Local Plan.

### *Site Allocations in Shropshire - Required Uses*

- 5.3. Decisions on the forms of development or land-uses for which allocations are required is dependent on a range of factors, including:
  - a. The requirements of national planning policy and guidance.
  - b. The Local Plan vision, measurable outcomes and spatial strategy.
  - c. Evidence underpinning the Local Plan.
- 5.4. Based on these factors, we expect the next Shropshire Local Plan to include allocations for the following:
  - a. Residential or residential-led mixed use development.
  - b. Development of specialist housing for older people.
  - c. Gypsy and traveller pitches.
  - d. Employment or employment-led mixed use development (including for waste management).
  - e. Retail and leisure.

#### **Question 17.**

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

- Residential or residential-led mixed use development.
- Development of specialist housing for older people.
- Gypsy & traveller pitches.
- Employment or employment-led mixed use development.
- Retail and leisure development

*Please explain your answer.*

- 5.5. We are also considering whether there is a need to identify areas of search or allocate land for renewable energy generation and mineral working (sand & gravel and crushed rock aggregates).
- 5.6. For renewable energy, this decision on the appropriate approach will be informed by consideration of evidence on renewable energy needs and

opportunities. The preferred approach would be expected to facilitate appropriate renewable energy generation in Shropshire.

- 5.7. For mineral working, this decision will be informed by consideration of the Local Aggregates Assessment (LAA) for Shropshire<sup>3</sup> and ongoing aggregate monitoring undertaken through the West Midlands Aggregate Working Party (a technical group set-up by Government).
- 5.8. Regarding sand & gravel aggregates, the latest Shropshire LAA forecasts sufficient reserves exist to meet demand over the proposed plan period and maintain required reserves at the end of this period<sup>4</sup>.
- 5.9. However, this conclusion includes reserves associated with allocations in the adopted Local Plan, which will not be 'carried over' unless re-allocated in the next Shropshire Local Plan. Countering this is the fact that Shropshire Council has recently reached a 'resolution to grant' planning permission for several proposals which it is anticipated will in due course increase committed reserves by around 6 million tonnes and there are further planning applications pending consideration.
- 5.10. Regarding crushed rock aggregates, the Shropshire LAA forecasts that sufficient reserves exist to meet demand over the proposed plan period, but that insufficient reserves exist to maintain the required level of future reserves from the end of the proposed plan period<sup>4</sup>. However, since the base date for this assessment, planning permission (TWC/2022/0547) was granted for 21.0mt of crushed rock aggregate at Leaton Quarry. It is considered this additional provision is sufficient to maintain the required reserves from the end of the plan period.
- 5.11. The next Shropshire Local Plan could provide the opportunity to complement identified reserves of sand & gravel and crushed rock aggregate to provide greater certainty of supply into the future.

### **Question 18.**

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

- Sand & gravel aggregate working.
- Crushed rock aggregate working.
- Renewable energy generation.

*Please explain your answers.*

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<sup>3</sup> The latest LAA for Shropshire is available on the Council website via:

<https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/monitoring/local-aggregates-assessment/>

<sup>4</sup> The Shropshire LAA considered the period to 2045 rather than 2046, but it is considered the conclusion remains applicable.

## Identifying Sites

- 5.12. It is important that we consider as many sites as possible, as this will provide greater choice when determining proposed site allocations.
- 5.13. To ensure the identification of sites is comprehensive, we have produced a proposed site identification methodology<sup>5</sup>, which includes consideration of a range of sources.
- 5.14. This proposed site identification methodology is summarised in the **draft Site Identification and Assessment Methodology Document** which supports this Scoping Consultation and is available on the Council website via: <https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/media/o0tlfw2t/draft-methodology-site-identification-assessment.pdf>.
- 5.15. *Please Note: Not all identified sites will be proposed for allocation. Proposed allocations will be identified through a site assessment process.*

### Question 19.

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

*Please explain your answer.*

### Question 20.

Are there any other sources of site we should consider?

## Call for Sites

- 5.16. As detailed in the **draft Site Identification and Assessment Methodology Document**, a key process we have already undertaken to identify sites is the '**call for sites**'.
- 5.17. Through this '**call for sites**' we invited stakeholders (including developers, landowners, public bodies and the general public) to propose land they think is right for development.
- 5.18. We have now [mapped all the sites promoted through the 'call for sites' process](https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/next-local-plan/evidence-base/) and they can be viewed on the Council website at: <https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/next-local-plan/evidence-base/>.
- 5.19. *Please Note: Not all sites promoted through the 'call for sites' will be proposed for allocation. Proposed allocations will be identified through a site assessment process.*

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<sup>5</sup> The methodology focuses on the identification of housing and employment sites. It would be appropriately adapted for out uses such as gypsy and traveller pitches and mineral extraction.

## Ongoing Invitation: Promotion of Sites

- 5.20. Another key process in our **draft Site Identification and Assessment Methodology Document** we are currently using to identify sites is an **'ongoing invitation'** to promote sites.
- 5.21. This 'ongoing invitation' provides a further opportunity for stakeholders to propose land to be considered for development.
- 5.22. Further information on this 'ongoing invitation' and details of how to promote a site are available at: <https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/next-local-plan/promoting-a-site-for-allocation/>.
- 5.23. *Please Note: Not all sites promoted through the 'ongoing invitation' will be proposed for allocation. Proposed allocations will be identified through a site assessment process.*

## Ongoing Invitation: Minerals

- 5.24. We are also continuing to invite stakeholders to promote land for potential mineral working.
- 5.25. Further information on this 'ongoing invitation' and details of how to promote land is available via: <https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/next-local-plan/promoting-a-mineral-working-opportunity/>.
- 5.26. *Please Note: Not all land promoted through the 'ongoing invitation' will be proposed for allocation for mineral working. Proposed mineral working allocations will be identified through a site assessment process.*

## Assessing Sites

- 5.27. 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<sup>6</sup>, informed by:
- Government guidance on 'Selecting Sites for Development'<sup>7</sup> 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.

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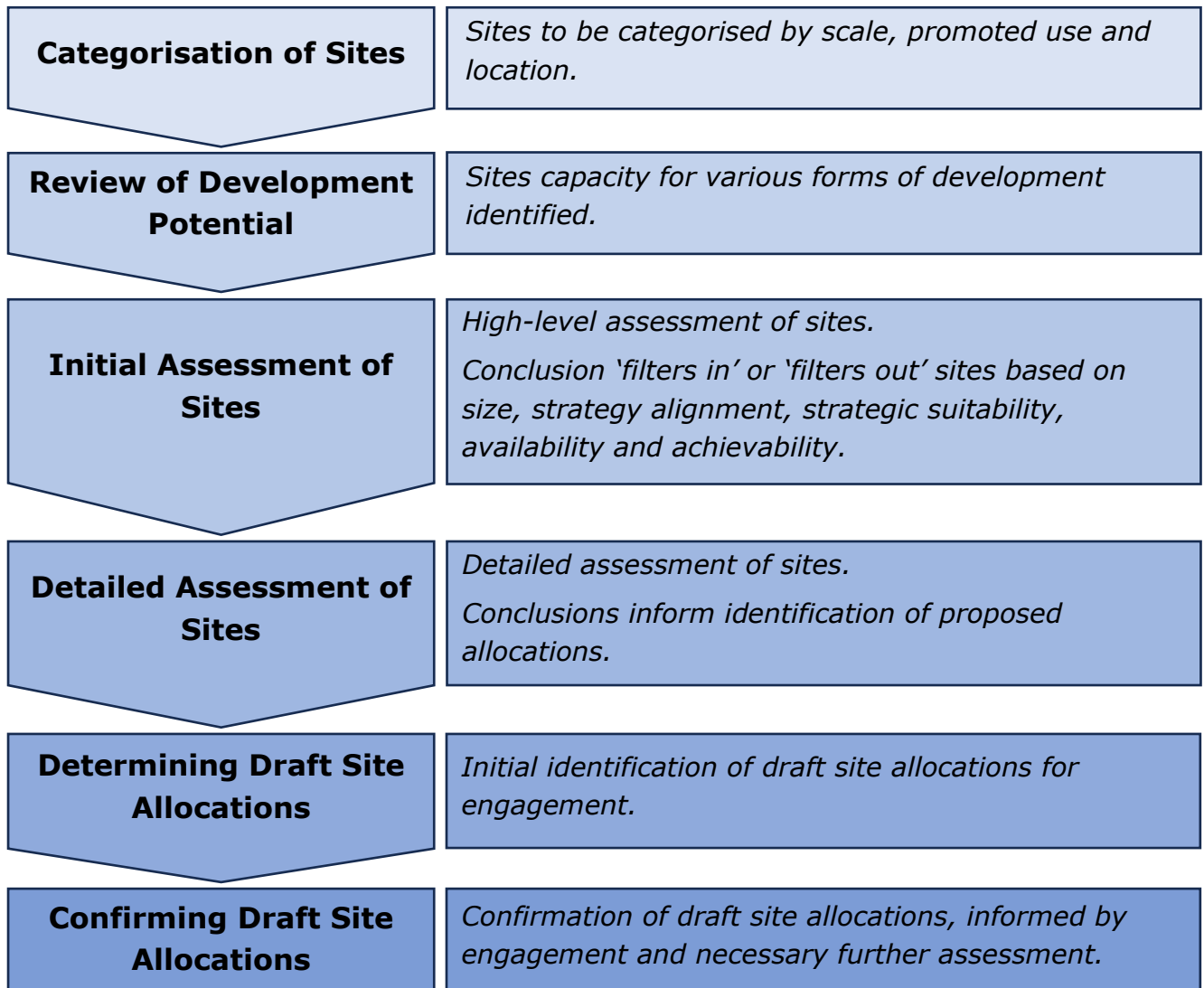
<sup>6</sup> The methodology focuses on the assessment of housing and employment sites. It would be appropriately adapted for out uses such as gypsy and traveller pitches and mineral extraction.

<sup>7</sup> MGCLG, (2025), <https://gov.uk/guidance/selecting-identifying-and-assessing-sites-for-local-plans>

5.28. This proposed site assessment methodology is summarised in the **draft Site Identification and Assessment Methodology Document** which supports this Scoping Consultation and is available on the Council website via: <https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/media/o0tlfw2t/draft-methodology-site-identification-assessment.pdf>.

5.29. The key stages of this proposed site assessment methodology are summarised in Figure 5.1:

**Figure 5.1: Key Stages in the Draft Site Assessment**



**Question 21.**

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

*Please explain your answer.*

**Question 22.**

Are there any other factors we should consider within our assessment?

## **Next Steps**

5.30. Informed by the responses to this 'Scoping Consultation', we will finalise the Site Identification and Assessment Methodology. The methodology will then be applied to:

a. Identify further sites for consideration.

b. Assess identified sites.

c. Determine draft site allocations.

d. Undertake engagement on draft site allocations.

*This may be through the consultation on content & evidence and/or the consultation on the proposed Local Plan.*

e. Review responses to engagement and undertake any further necessary assessment.

f. Confirm draft site allocations.

## 6. Policy Areas

### *What are Planning Policies*

- 6.1. Planning policies set out the standards and expectations of development proposals. They form the 'starting point' when making decisions on planning applications and can support achievement of the vision, measurable outcomes and spatial strategy of a Local Plan.

### *The Role of National Policy*

- 6.2. Alongside the introduction of a new plan-making process, Government is undertaking wider changes to the planning system. One such change is the introduction of *national decision-making policies*.
- 6.3. These *national decision-making policies* will provide consistent policy on key planning issues that are relevant across England and thereby reduce the need for local policies on these issues within Local Plans.
- 6.4. Draft *national decision-making policies* were recently the subject of consultation as part of a draft NPPF. Further information on this consultation is available at:  
<https://gov.uk/government/consultations/national-planning-policy-framework-proposed-reforms-and-other-changes-to-the-planning-system>.
- 6.5. Crucially, *national decision-making policies* do not remove the need for nor the value of policies in Local Plans. Rather, *national decision-making policies* allow the policies in Local Plans to be **more focused** on locally specific issues and objectives that can support achievement of the vision, measurable outcomes and spatial strategy of the next Shropshire Local Plan.

### *Scope of Local Planning Policy*

- 6.6. The scope of policies in our next Local Plan will be informed by a range of considerations, including:
  - a. The scope of the *national decision-making policies* that were recently the subject of consultation by Government.
  - b. Evidence informing the next Local Plan - both existing and emerging.
  - c. Technical assessments undertaken to inform the next Local Plan.
  - d. Objectives of wider Shropshire Council strategies.
  - e. Responses to consultations undertaken to inform the next Local Plan.
- 6.7. As plan-making progresses, these considerations will provide further clarity on the policy areas of value in the next Shropshire Local Plan.

6.8. Based on an initial consideration, we have identified 'broad areas' where policies could support achievement of locally specific issues and objectives and achievement of the vision, measurable outcomes and spatial strategy of the next Shropshire Local Plan. This includes:

**a. Density, design, climate adaptation/mitigation and health:**

- *Prioritisation of brownfield land.*
- *Appropriate minimum densities of development.*
- *Locally-specific design and layout expectations.*
- *Promotion of health and social interaction.*
- *Water efficiency.*
- *Accessibility requirements for housing.*
- *Approach to nationally described space standards for housing.*
- *Identify environmental opportunities and safeguards in Shropshire.*

**b. Infrastructure, open space and developer contributions:**

- *Local communications and transport objectives.*
- *Local parking standards for residential and non-residential development.*
- *Contributions expected from development towards infrastructure.*
- *Standards on the amount and quality of green infrastructure and open space.*
- *Make provision for appropriate infrastructure development.*
- *Considerations for infrastructure to avoid operation and potential future expansion constraints.*

**c. Housing mix - size, type and tenure:**

- *Appropriate mix of dwelling sizes.*
- *Proportions and tenures of affordable dwellings required.*
- *Proportions of specialist housing for older/disabled people required.*

**d. Approach to affordable housing:**

- *Opportunity locations and approaches to deliver affordable housing.*

**e. Managing new and existing employment and waste facilities:**

- *Our economic vision and strategy.*
- *Appropriate safeguarding of existing employment sites.*
- *General range of uses appropriate on employment land.*

**f. Vitality and viability of town centres:**

- *Town centre hierarchy and opportunity areas within them.*
- *The strategy for our town centres – including appropriate uses.*
- *Approach to town centre development in other locations.*

**g. Renewable energy:**

- Identify locations with potential for renewable/low carbon energy.
- Considerations for renewable and low carbon energy development to avoid operation and potential future expansion constraints.

**h. Mineral safeguarding and supply:**

- Ensuring a sufficient supply of minerals.
- Safeguarding of mineral resources.

**i. Site specific requirements:**

- Specific expectations for each site allocation.

6.9. **Importantly, any policies that have implications for the viability of development will be 'tested' through a Viability Assessment, which forms an important part of our next Local Plans evidence.**

6.10. This Viability Assessment will inform the simultaneous review of the CIL Charging Schedule, ensuring a 'joined up' approach.

6.11. The Council's aim is to ensure that policy requirements in the next Shropshire Local Plan and the CIL contributions required under a new CIL Charging Schedule, will maximise the benefits for our communities whilst ensuring the viability of development.

**Question 23.**

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

*Please explain your answers.*

**Question 24.**

Are there any other 'broad policy areas' that would benefit from being addressed in our next Local Plan?

*Please explain your answer.*

**Next Steps**

6.12. Following the conclusion of this 'scoping' consultation we will finalise the list of 'broad areas' that local policies should address.

6.13. These 'broad areas', will inform decisions on the evidence required to inform the next Shropshire Local Plan and the development of policy.

6.14. In due course, draft policies will be subject to consultation. This may be through the second consultation on content & evidence and/or the third consultation on the proposed Local Plan.

## 7. Effective Engagement

### *Value of Engagement*

- 7.1. We recognise the significant contribution that our local communities, Town and Parish Councils, organisations and all other interested stakeholders can make to the next Shropshire Local Plan. We also understand that the next Shropshire Local Plan will affect everybody who lives, works or visits Shropshire and that planning can be emotive.
- 7.2. For these reasons, we understand the value and importance of proactive engagement during the preparation of the next Shropshire Local Plan.

### *The Need for Effective Engagement*

- 7.3. One of the key characteristics of the Government's new plan-making process, is a more efficient 30 month preparation and adoption process (with an additional mandatory minimum four month scoping stage prior to its commencement).
- 7.4. As this is a much more prescriptive timescale than the previous system, we need to be more targeted and effective with our engagement.

### *Our Proposed Approach to Engagement*

- 7.5. Reflecting both the **value** of engagement and our need to undertake more **targeted and effective** consultation, we have prepared draft stakeholder engagement 'parameters' in our **Project Initiation Document**, available on our website via:  
<https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/adopted-local-plan/timetable-and-processes/>.
- 7.6. To inform and finalise our engagement 'parameters', we are keen to use this consultation to understand the views of our stakeholders.

### *Stages of Engagement*

- 7.7. Government guidance<sup>8</sup> indicates engagement to inform plan-making is to be undertaken through three stages of consultation.
- 7.8. Consistent with this guidance and to inform the preparation of the next Shropshire Local Plan, we wish to engage with stakeholders through the

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<sup>8</sup> MHCLG (2025), <https://gov.uk/guidance/30-month-local-plan-process-an-overview>

three statutory consultations (of which, this Scoping Consultation is the first).

7.9. These three stages of consultation are summarised in Figure 7.1:

**Figure 7.1: Stages of Consultation**

<b>Consultation</b>	<b>Summary</b>
Scoping (this consultation)	Seeking views on what the plan should contain and how we should engage with stakeholders going forward.
Content & evidence	Minimum 6 week consultation. Seeking views on the proposed vision, objectives and spatial strategy. May include initial policies and draft site allocations.
Proposed Local Plan	Minimum 8 week consultation. Seeking views on a fully formed draft Local Plan.

### **Clear Engagement**

7.10. We understand that planning can be technical and this can sometimes lead to uncertainty. As such, we want to ensure our consultations are as clear as possible. To do so, we will aim to:

- a. Use plain-English and avoid 'jargon' and unnecessary acronyms. Where required, include a glossary of terms and acronyms.
- b. Undertake consultations at appropriate stages, informed by sufficient evidence to support proposals and enable effective responses.
- c. Provide clear details on how to respond to each consultation and in what time period.
- d. Publicise consultations in a cost effective manner.
- e. Publicise any events that form part of a consultation on the Council's website and hold them at appropriate and accessible locations (including appropriate disabled access).
- f. Provide a summary of responses received.

### **Publicising Engagement**

7.11. We believe that digital means of communication are the most effective and efficient way to publicise consultations to our communities. This view is consistent with the increasing emphasis placed on digital communication in national guidance on plan-making<sup>8</sup>.

7.12. Therefore, the main ways we intend to publicise our engagement activities is through digital means of communication. This includes:

- a. Notifications on the Council's **Planning Policy webpage** via: <https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/>.
- b. Notifications issued via **email** to those on the Planning Policy consultation database.  
*You can register for inclusion on our consultation database at:*  
<https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/remain-informed-on-plan-making-in-shropshire/>.
- c. Creation of dedicated consultation webpages within the Council's '**Get Involved**' engagement platform:  
<https://getinvolved.shropshire.gov.uk/>.
- d. Facilitating further publicity of the consultation by the media through **digital 'press releases'** issued via the Council's newsroom platform:  
<https://newsroom.shropshire.gov.uk/>.
- e. Use of **social media** to further raise awareness of consultations.

7.13. However, we recognise digital means of communication may not always reach all our interested stakeholders. Therefore, we intend to complement them through other means. This may include:

- a. Issuing notification emails to **Town and Parish Councils** and rely on them to circulate – recognising they are so effective at keeping their communities informed on consultations and the importance placed on effective working relationships with Town and Parish Council's in the administration's 'New Direction for Shropshire'.
- b. Use of **Shropshire Association of Local Council meetings** to further publicise consultations to Town and Parish Councils and rely on them to circulate – recognising they are so effective at keeping their communities informed on consultations and the importance placed on effective working relationships with Town and Parish Councils in the administration's 'New Direction for Shropshire'.
- c. Where appropriate, displaying leaflets or posters in public buildings such as our head office, libraries and Shropshire Local's.
- d. Where appropriate, undertaking community meetings and/or drop-in events to publicise consultations.

7.14. Where appropriate, we will also utilise complementary measures to help overcome barriers that can prevent hard to reach groups from 'getting involved'.

## Providing Access to Engagement Materials

- 7.15. We believe the most effective and efficient way to provide access to engagement materials is digital. This view is consistent with the increasing emphasis placed on digital communication in national guidance on plan-making<sup>8</sup>.
- 7.16. As such, we are proposing that engagement materials will primarily be made available through the Council website. Specifically:
- a. Consultation documents will be made available on a dedicated consultation webpage in the Council's '**Get Involved**' engagement platform: <https://getinvolved.shropshire.gov.uk/>.
  - b. A Link to the dedicated consultation webpage will be provided from the Council's **Planning Policy webpage** via: <https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/>.
- 7.17. To facilitate digital access to the consultation documents, we will:
- a. Liaise with colleagues operating 'Shropshire Local' facilities to support stakeholder access to consultation documents via their public computer/tablet facilities during their open times. Information on 'Shropshire Local' facilities is available via: <https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/customer-services/>.
  - b. Liaise with colleagues operating Shropshire libraries to support stakeholder access to consultation documents via their public computer/tablet facilities during their open times. Information on Shropshire libraries is available via: <https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/libraries/find-a-library/>.
- 7.18. We recognise there may be limited circumstances where digital access to consultation documents may not be appropriate. Therefore, we intend to complement digital access by providing:
- a. A hard copy of consultation documents at Shropshire Council's head office: [Guildhall, Frankwell Quay, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY3 8HQ](#).

## Supporting Responses to Engagement

- 7.19. To support stakeholders wishing to respond to our consultations, we will:
- a. Prepare **guidance** summarising the purpose of the consultation and providing details of how to respond and in what time period.
  - b. Provide a **consultation response form**<sup>9</sup> in an appropriate format. It will detail required information and support structuring of responses.

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<sup>9</sup> Whilst respondents will be encouraged to use this response form, we will accept responses in other formats.

- 7.20. Our preference is that consultation responses are submitted digitally, either using an **online response form**, as this makes it quicker and easier for stakeholders to respond and will also help us to consider responses more efficiently.
- 7.21. However, we understand that some may wish to submit their responses in another format. As such, we will also provide a response form in another format which can be submitted via email or post.
- 7.22. In the limited circumstances where response material exceeds 20mb in size, the Council will facilitate digital submission via our Microsoft SharePoint file sharing system (the Council is unable to access files shared via alternative file sharing facilities).
- 7.23. We also recognise that submitting consultation responses digitally from home is not always possible. In such circumstances, responses can be submitted digitally using public computer/tablet facilities at:
- a. 'Shropshire Local' facilities, information on which is available via: <https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/customer-services/>.
  - b. Shropshire libraries, information on which is available via: <https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/libraries/find-a-library/>.
- 7.24. Furthermore, whilst our preference is that responses are submitted digitally, we will also accept responses by post. As such, a postal address will be provided to submit responses to each consultation.

### **Summarising Responses to Engagement**

- 7.25. Following the conclusion of each consultation undertaken to inform the next Shropshire Local Plan, we will give due consideration to the responses received, prepare a summary of the consultation responses, and then publish the summary of responses.
- 7.26. Responses to the scoping consultation and content & evidence consultation will inform the ongoing development of the next Shropshire Local Plan.
- 7.27. Responses to the proposed Local Plan consultation will be submitted to the Inspectors to inform examination of the next Shropshire Local Plan.
- 7.28. *It is important to note that when undertaking plan-making it is not uncommon for draft proposals to be controversial and often lead to significant levels of objection. Whilst all consultation responses will of course be considered, it is the material planning considerations identified*

*through the consultation which are of most importance, and not necessarily the volume of responses made.*

**Question 25.**

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

- Proportionate, with three stages of consultation consistent with Government guidance.
- Clear, though use of plain English and avoidance of acronyms where possible.
- Well publicised, through 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.*

**Question 26.**

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.*

## **Monitoring the Effectiveness of Engagement**

7.29. Our approach to consultation is considered sufficiently flexible to respond to new ways of engaging that may emerge during preparation of the next Shropshire Local Plan. This flexibility means regular alterations of approach may not be necessary, but the Council is committed to monitoring effectiveness and where necessary will update its approach.

7.30. It is anticipated such updates could be made in response to:

- a. Alterations to the types of groups who should be consulted.
- b. New methods for informing and involving the public, such as changes to technology or responding to emerging best practice.
- c. Responding to the emerging practices of locality working by the Council.
- d. Responding to low turnouts at consultation events, or low response rates to consultations.

## 8. Evidence

### *Evidence*

- 8.1. 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’.
- 8.2. Government specifies Local Plan evidence should be *relevant, proportionate, not unnecessarily extensive and drawn from suitable up-to-date sources.*

### *Our Evidence*

- 8.3. 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.
- 8.4. The evidence to inform the next Shropshire Local Plan will be made available on the Council website via:  
<https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/next-local-plan/evidence-base/>.

### **Reviewing Existing Evidence**

- 8.5. To ensure the efficient use of our resources, our starting point was to review the evidence base prepared to inform previous Local Plans in Shropshire and other work undertaken by the Council.
- 8.6. Through this review, we have identified key evidence we consider is appropriate to inform the next Shropshire Local Plan. This includes:

- a. Green Infrastructure and Open Space Assessment
- b. Playing Pitch Strategy
- c. Indoor Leisure Facilities Strategy
- d. Historic Farmsteads Characterisation
- e. Historic Landscape Character Assessment
- f. Shrewsbury Battlefield Heritage Assessment
- g. Landscape Typology
- h. Landscape and Visual Sensitivity Assessment
- i. Strategic Employment Sites Assessments
- j. Mineral Safeguarding Assessment
- k. Town Centres Study
- l. Renewable Energy Opportunity Mapping

## Reviewing Wider Strategies

- 8.7. Another source of existing evidence for our next Local Plan is wider Council strategies. Such strategies can provide important context and justification for proposals. Perhaps more importantly, their consideration provides an opportunity to enable delivery of their ambitions through our next Local Plan.
- 8.8. A summary of wider strategies that may inform and support preparation of our next Local Plan is provided in Appendix 1 of this document.

## Completed Evidence

- 8.9. In advance of issuing our notification of an 'intention to commence' plan-making, we have secured several new key pieces of evidence to inform our next Local Plan. This includes:
  - a. Local Housing Need Assessment
  - b. Supported Specialist Housing and Accommodation Needs Assessment
  - c. Housing Demand Assessment
  - d. Gypsy & Traveller Accommodation Assessment

## Emerging Evidence

- 8.10. Alongside the evidence completed in advance of issuing our notification of an 'intention to commence' plan-making, we have also begun preparing other key pieces of evidence to inform our next Local Plan. This includes:

- a. **Baselining and monitoring:** Compiling demographic, economic and environmental data detailing the needs, opportunities, constraints and the wider context of Shropshire.  
*Initial baselining is available via our information, intelligence and insight webpages at:*  
<https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/information-intelligence-and-insight/>.  
*The Council's latest Local Plan monitoring reports (Authority Monitoring Report, Five Year Housing Land Supply Statement, Brownfield Land Register and Local Aggregates Assessment) are available via:*  
<https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/monitoring/>.
- b. **Economic Development Needs Assessment:** Determining the County's local employment land needs and recommending reasonable options for the 'employment land requirement'. A brief for the preparation of an Economic Development Needs Assessment has been prepared and a tender to seek appropriate consultants will be issued soon.

- c. **Place Plans and Infrastructure Delivery Plan:** Identifying key infrastructure needs and aspirations and the infrastructure it is forecast will be required to support growth and how it is intended to be funded and delivered.  
*Our Place Plans are 'live' documents updated on a rolling basis. Further information is available on our website via:*  
<https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/place-plans/>.  
*The Infrastructure Delivery Plan will be informed by our Place Plans and wider evidence and engagement to support our next Local Plan.*
- d. **Green Belt Study:** Assessing the performance of Green Belt in Shropshire against nationally defined purposes and determining components that meet the definition of 'grey belt'. Land Use Consultants (LUC) have been commissioned to undertake this Study, which is expected to be completed and published in summer 2026.
- e. **Community Hierarchy:** Assessing our communities' characteristics to gain a greater understanding of their function and to group them based on their similarities.  
*A draft Community Hierarchy has been prepared and views on its methodology and conclusions are sought through this 'scoping' consultation.*  
*The draft Community Hierarchy is available on the Council website via:*  
<https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/media/n5khad52/draft-shropshire-community-hierarchy.pdf>.
- f. **Site Identification and Assessment Methodology:** Detailing the proposed approach to the identification and assessment of sites, culminating in the initial identification and subsequent confirmation of proposed allocations.  
*A draft Site Identification and Assessment Methodology has been prepared and views on it are sought through this 'scoping' consultation.*  
*The draft Site Identification and Assessment Methodology is available at:* <https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/media/o0tlfw2t/draft-methodology-site-identification-assessment.pdf>.

## Further Evidence

- 8.11. To ensure the evidence shaping and underpinning our next Local Plan is **proportionate and robust** we have identified additional evidence we intend to prepare during the plan-making process.

8.12. Further evidence we intend to prepare includes:

- a. **Strategic Environmental Assessment:** Assessing environmental effects of proposals - undertaken alongside preparation of the next Shropshire Local Plan to inform and evaluate.  
*The need for and value of this assessment was determined through 'Initial Screening', available on the Council website via:  
<https://getinvolved.shropshire.gov.uk/consultations/shropshire-local-plan-scoping-consultation/>*
- b. **Habitat Regulations Assessment:** Evaluating potential impacts on protected European wildlife sites (Special Protection Areas, Special Areas of Conservation and Ramsar sites).
- c. **Equality, Social Inclusion and Health Impact Assessment:** Ensuring 'due regard' is being given to equality, equity, social inclusion and health and wellbeing within the next Shropshire Local Plan. Supports us in meeting our general equality duty.
- d. **Outputs of Monitoring Processes:** Engagement undertaken on housing, aggregates and employment land supply.
- e. **Strategic Housing Market Assessment:** Analysing the size, type and tenure of market, affordable, and specialist housing needed to meet the needs of the different groups in our communities.
- f. **Site Assessment Process:** Applying the finalised Site Identification and Assessment Methodology to identify proposed allocations for inclusion in the next Shropshire Local Plan.
- g. **Strategic Flood Risk Assessment:** Assessing flood risk from all sources, current and future.
- h. **Water Cycle Study:** Analysing impacts on water supply, wastewater collection and treatment and water quality.
- i. **Viability & Market Absorption Study:** Assessing the viability of development and the ability of the market to absorb new development – thereby informing any local standards and policy requirements (including affordable housing contributions).  
*This Viability Assessment will inform the parallel review of the CIL Charging Schedule, ensuring a 'joined up' approach.*

**Question 27.**

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.*

**Question 28.**

Please provide comments on other matters of relevance to the 'scope' of our next Local Plan.

## Appendix 1: Shropshire's Wider Strategies

These wider strategies may inform and support the preparation of a new Local Plan.

Strategy	Date	Period	Theme	Purpose	Access
Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin Local Nature Recovery Strategy	2025	2025 - 2030	ENVIRONMENT	The vision for county-level nature recovery to establish priorities and measurable targets for restoring nature in Shropshire.	<a href="https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/environment/shropshire-and-telford-wrekin-local-nature-recovery-strategy/">https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/environment/shropshire-and-telford-wrekin-local-nature-recovery-strategy/</a>
Corporate Climate Strategy: Towards Net-Zero Carbon	2020	2020 - 2030	ENVIRONMENT	The vision for the Council to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2030.	<a href="https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/climate-action/our-strategy-policy-and-progress/climate-strategy-and-action-plan/">https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/climate-action/our-strategy-policy-and-progress/climate-strategy-and-action-plan/</a>
Corporate Climate Action Plan & Project Pipeline with Monitoring Report 2025	2020	Ongoing	ENVIRONMENT	The portfolio of projects and actions to reduce carbon emissions.	<a href="https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/climate-action/our-strategy-policy-and-progress/climate-strategy-and-action-plan/">https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/climate-action/our-strategy-policy-and-progress/climate-strategy-and-action-plan/</a>
Shropshire Hills Management Plan	2025	2025 - 2030	ENVIRONMENT	The vision for the sustainable future for the National Landscape of the Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty to conserve and enhance this landscape and its communities.	<a href="https://www.shropshirehills-nl.org.uk/a-special-place/management-plan/2025-30-management-plan">https://www.shropshirehills-nl.org.uk/a-special-place/management-plan/2025-30-management-plan</a>
New Direction for Shropshire	2025	Ongoing	STRATEGY	Setting out the Administration's proprieties for the Council.	<a href="https://shropshire.gov.uk/committee-services/documents/s42406/Appendix%20A%20-%20A%20New%20Direction%20for%20Shropshire.pdf">https://shropshire.gov.uk/committee-services/documents/s42406/Appendix%20A%20-%20A%20New%20Direction%20for%20Shropshire.pdf</a>

Strategy	Date	Period	Theme	Purpose	Access
Shropshire Corporate Plan (currently under review)	2026	2026 - 2030	STRATEGY	<p>Setting out what the Council intends to focus on over the next 4 years and what we aim to achieve with our partners and communities.</p> <p>To provide a clear basis for our business planning and prioritisation, helping us to plan our services and activity in the context of the overall ambitions we want to see achieved for Shropshire and its residents.</p>	<a href="https://getinvolved.shropshire.gov.uk/consultations/corporate-plan-2026-2030/">https://getinvolved.shropshire.gov.uk/consultations/corporate-plan-2026-2030/</a>
Shrewsbury Big Town Plan	2018	2018 - 2038	STRATEGY	<p>The vision for how the town of Shrewsbury should evolve over the two decades to 2038 as the Strategic Centre of the County.</p>	<a href="https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/media/16707/shrewsbury-big-town-plan.pdf">https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/media/16707/shrewsbury-big-town-plan.pdf</a>
Shropshire Local Transport Plan (currently under review)	2011	2011 - 2026	TRANSPORT	<p>The vision, objectives, and policies for managing and improving all aspects of transport and highways in Shropshire to support economic growth, reduce carbon emissions from transport, and improve access to services for rural communities.</p>	<a href="https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/roads-and-highways/local-transport-plan/">https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/roads-and-highways/local-transport-plan/</a>

Strategy	Date	Period	Theme	Purpose	Access
Shropshire Bus Service Improvement Plan	2024	Ongoing	TRANSPORT	The vision for bus travel in Shropshire which highlights a programme of investment in the current bus offer in the county to create opportunities for bus travel to be a realistic first choice of travel for residents and visitors.	<a href="https://newsroom.shropshire.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/Shropshire-Bus-Service-Improvement-Plan-June-2024.pdf">https://newsroom.shropshire.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/Shropshire-Bus-Service-Improvement-Plan-June-2024.pdf</a>
Shropshire Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan	2023	2023 – 2032	TRANSPORT	The vision for improving the safety, comfort and attractiveness of walking and cycling in the county.	<a href="https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/active-travel/local-cycling-and-walking-infrastructure-plan-lcwip/">https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/active-travel/local-cycling-and-walking-infrastructure-plan-lcwip/</a>
Shrewsbury Movement and Public Space Strategy	2024	2024 - 2034	TRANSPORT	The vision to prioritise pedestrians, cyclists, and public transport and to reduce the use of private motor vehicles within central Shrewsbury to make the town a more attractive place to live, visit, and conduct business.	<a href="https://shropshire.gov.uk/committee-services/documents/s39384/Shrewsbury%20Movement%20Public%20Space%20Strategy-01112024%201019.pdf">https://shropshire.gov.uk/committee-services/documents/s39384/Shrewsbury%20Movement%20Public%20Space%20Strategy-01112024%201019.pdf</a>
Shropshire Economic Growth Strategy	2022	2022 - 2027	ECONOMY	The vision for a connected, competitive and sustainable economy and outlines key priorities and targets for economic development.	<a href="https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/business-support/shropshire-economic-growth-strategy-2022-2027/">https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/business-support/shropshire-economic-growth-strategy-2022-2027/</a>
Shropshire Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy	2022	2022 - 2027	ECONOMY	The vision for a “healthy and fulfilled population” in Shropshire with key priorities to improve health outcomes and reduce inequalities.	<a href="https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/public-health/health-and-wellbeing-board/joint-health-and-wellbeing-strategy/">https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/public-health/health-and-wellbeing-board/joint-health-and-wellbeing-strategy/</a>

<b>Strategy</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Period</b>	<b>Theme</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Access</b>
Best Start in Life Plan	2021	2021 - 2024	ECONOMY	The vision for improving outcomes in the critical early years of a child's life to ensure every baby and young child has a strong start to their life journey.	<a href="https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/early-years-and-childcare/shropshire-best-start-in-life-programme/shropshire-best-start-in-life-plan/">https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/early-years-and-childcare/shropshire-best-start-in-life-programme/shropshire-best-start-in-life-plan/</a>
Shropshire Education Excellence Strategy	2022	2022 - 2025	ECONOMY	The vision to support schools and education to raise standards and achieve the best outcomes for children and young people.	<a href="https://shropshire.gov.uk/committee-services/documents/s43267/Item%20Appendix%20Shropshire%20Education%20Excellence%20Strategy.pdf">https://shropshire.gov.uk/committee-services/documents/s43267/Item%20Appendix%20Shropshire%20Education%20Excellence%20Strategy.pdf</a>
Shropshire Housing Strategy	2020	2020 - 2025	HOUSING	The vision for everyone to have the "right home in the right place" with objectives and actions to meet local housing needs.	<a href="https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/media/22599/housing-strategy-2020-2025.pdf">https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/media/22599/housing-strategy-2020-2025.pdf</a> [shropshire.gov.uk]
Shropshire Independent Living & Specialist Accommodation Strategy	2023	2023 - 2028	HOUSING	The vision for improving choice and access to housing and independent living opportunities for older people, adults with disabilities, and other vulnerable groups.	<a href="https://shropshire.gov.uk/committee-services/documents/s36997/Appendix%20I%20Draft%20Independent%20Living%20and%20Specialist%20Accommodation%20Strategy.pdf">https://shropshire.gov.uk/committee-services/documents/s36997/Appendix%20I%20Draft%20Independent%20Living%20and%20Specialist%20Accommodation%20Strategy.pdf</a>
Shropshire Social Care Market Position Statement	2024	2024 - 2027	HOUSING	The vision for commissioning local care services in Shropshire from social care providers.	<a href="https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/media/27821/shropshire-market-position-statement-24-27.pdf">https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/media/27821/shropshire-market-position-statement-24-27.pdf</a>

<b>Strategy</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Period</b>	<b>Theme</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Access</b>
Shropshire Assistive Technology & Telecare Strategy	2023	Ongoing	HOUSING	The vision for assistive technology and telecare in Shropshire to support older and vulnerable people's independence, preventative care, timely hospital discharge, and safeguarding of older adults.	<a href="https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/adult-social-care/schemes-and-teams/assistive-technology/">https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/adult-social-care/schemes-and-teams/assistive-technology/</a>
Shropshire Cultural Strategy	2021	2021 - 2031	LEISURE	The ambition and strategic priorities for the cultural sector in Shropshire for the ten years to 2031.	<a href="https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/vibrant-shropshire/">https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/vibrant-shropshire/</a>

## Appendix 2: Shropshire's Strategic Corridors

Strategic Corridors form a branching network of strategic, major and local road routes. The road routes are supported in the north, east and west of Shropshire by four Rail Routes to Birmingham, Manchester, Chester, Cardiff and Llanelli.

Transport Network	Strategic Corridors	Strategic Routes	Local Routes
<b>Trans-European Strategic Road Network and Midlands Rail Network</b>	M6 - M54 - A5 with the Birmingham to Shrewsbury Rail Route	M6 Junction 10A at Wolverhampton to Chester for A55 Jnc. 38 for North Wales and Holyhead Seaport, Anglesey and M56 Jnc. 15 and M53 Jnc. 11 into North West and rail services from Birmingham, Wolverhampton & Chester	Shifnal to Oswestry by-passing Shrewsbury connecting with A41, A464, A442, B5061, A49, A458, A488 & A483
	A483(T) with the Shrewsbury to Chester Rail Route & potential to link Oswestry to Gobowen on the Cambrian Heritage Railways line	M56, M53 & A55 at Chester to M4 at Llanelli for South Wales & the South-West and rail services from Chester	Oswestry and Chirk Bank to Llandrindod Wells connecting with A458, A490 & A489
<b>English Strategic &amp; Major Road Networks</b>	A49(T)south & A49north with the Manchester to Cardiff Rail Route via Shrewsbury and other stations in the County	M6 & M56 at Warrington to M50 & A40 at Ross on Wye	Whitchurch to Ludlow by-passing Shrewsbury connecting with A41, A495, A53, A5, A489, A4113, A4117 & A456
	A53	Shrewsbury to Newcastle Under Lyme for A500 Stoke on Trent & M6 Jnc. 15	Shrewsbury to Market Drayton connecting with A41 & A51
	A51	M56, M53 & A55 at Chester to M42 at Sutton Coldfield	Connecting A525 Whitchurch and A53 Market Drayton to Woore, Nantwich, Stoke on Trent & Stone
	A456	A49 at Ludlow to M5 & A4540 at Birmingham city centre	Woofferton (Ludlow) to Burford, Bewdley & Kidderminster

<b>Transport Network</b>	<b>Strategic Corridors</b>	<b>Strategic Routes</b>	<b>Local Routes</b>
<b>West Midlands to Wales Strategic, Major &amp; Local Road Networks and Welsh Rail Network</b>	A458(T), A458 & A454	A470 Conwy, A487 Bangor, A489 Machynlleth to Halesowen & the M5	Welshpool to Bridgnorth bypassing Shrewsbury connecting with A5, A4169, A442 & A454
	A489 with Heart of Wales Craven Arms to Llanelli Rail Route	A489 at Craven Arms to A487 at Machynlleth	Craven Arms to Newtown connecting with A488, A490, A483, A470 & A487
	A488	A5 at Shrewsbury to A44 & A483 at Llandrindod Wells	Shrewsbury to Bishop's Castle, Clun and Knighton connecting with A489 & A4113
<b>Shropshire to West Midlands Major &amp; Local Road Networks</b>	M54 - A464 - A4169 - A442	M54 at Shifnal to A456 at Kidderminster	Shifnal to Bridgnorth and Much Wenlock connecting with A464, A4169, A458
	A41	M56, M53 & A55 at Chester to A4150 in Wolverhampton city centre	Whitchurch to Albrighton connecting with A49, A53, A518, A442, M54, A464 & A454
<b>Shropshire Local Road Network</b>	A495	A49 at Whitchurch to A483 at Oswestry	connecting with A49, A41, A525, A528 & A5/A483

## Appendix 3: 'Scoping' Consultation Questions

This appendix provides a consolidated list of the questions asked through the consultation document.

### *The Vision and Measurable Outcomes*

#### **Question 1.**

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

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

#### **Question 2.**

How important do you feel these locally specific considerations are when identifying the 'key priorities' of our vision and measurable outcomes?

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

#### **Question 3.**

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.*

#### **Question 4.**

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*

#### **Question 5.**

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

*Please explain your answer, particularly if you disagree with any of the identified considerations.*

**Question 6.**

Are there any other considerations you believe should inform the preparation of the housing requirement for Shropshire?

*Please explain your answer.*

**Question 7.**

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

*Please explain your answer, particularly if you disagree with any of the identified considerations.*

**Question 8.**

Are there any other considerations you believe should inform the preparation of the employment land requirement for Shropshire?

*Please explain your answer.*

**Question 9.**

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

*Please explain your answer, particularly if you disagree.*

**Question 10.**

Do you agree that the characteristics of our communities form an appropriate 'starting point' when determining the distribution of development in Shropshire?

*Please explain your answer.*

**Question 11.**

Do you agree with the methodology and conclusions outlined in the draft Shropshire Community Hierarchy?

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

**Question 12.**

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?

*Please explain your answers, particularly if you disagree.*

**Question 13.**

Are there any additional matters we should consider when determining the distribution of development in Shropshire?

*Please explain your answer.*

**Question 14.**

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

*Please explain your answer.*

**Question 15.**

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?

*Please explain your answer.*

**Question 16.**

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***

**Question 17.**

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

- Residential or residential-led mixed use development.
- Development of specialist housing for older people.
- Gypsy & traveller pitches.
- Employment or employment-led mixed use development.
- Retail and leisure development

*Please explain your answer.*

**Question 18.**

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

- Sand & gravel aggregate working.
- Crushed rock aggregate working.
- Renewable energy generation.

*Please explain your answers.*

**Question 19.**

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

*Please explain your answer.*

**Question 20.**

Are there any other sources of site we should consider?

**Question 21.**

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

*Please explain your answer.*

**Question 22.**

Are there any other factors we should consider within our assessment?

## ***Policy Areas***

**Question 23.**

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

*Please explain your answers.*

**Question 24.**

Are there any other 'broad policy areas' that would benefit from being addressed in our next Local Plan?

*Please explain your answer.*

## ***Effective Engagement***

**Question 25.**

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

- Proportionate, with three stages of consultation consistent with Government guidance.
- Clear, through use of plain English and avoidance of acronyms where possible.
- Well publicised, through 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.*

**Question 26.**

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****Question 27.**

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.*

**Question 28.**

Please provide comments on other matters of relevance to the 'scope' of our next Local Plan.