

Next Shropshire Local Plan 'Scoping' Consultation

Agenda

1. Intention to commence plan-making
2. Timetable
3. 'Scoping' consultation
 - Draft site assessment methodology
 - Draft community hierarchy

The agenda reflects the [Cabinet decision](#) of 6 May 2026.

Intention to Commence Plan-Making

- Shropshire Council issued an [intention to commence preparation of the next Shropshire Local Plan](#) on 8 May 2026.
- The Local Plan is to be progressed under Government's new plan-making system, which involves a 30-month preparation period (plus minimum 4-month scoping stage).

Plan-Making Timetable

- A [plan-making timetable and associated project initiation document](#) have been published outlining anticipated timescales & processes for preparing the Local Plan.
- The timetable also addresses:
 - The next Policy Map.
 - An updated CIL Charging Schedule.

Next Shropshire Local Plan Timetable

4 Month Notification and Scoping Period	Publish notice of intention to commence plan-making	May 2026
	Consultation: scoping	May – July 2026
30 Month Plan-Making Period	Plan Progression September 2026 – August 2028	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
	Adoption	March 2029

Local Plan Examination

- The examination of the draft Local Plan will be undertaken by Planning Inspector(or panel of Inspectors) appointed by the Secretary of State.
- The purpose of the examination is to assess whether the plan is 'sound'. A sound plan should satisfy the following tests:
 - A) **Positive** – the plan sets a positive approach to delivering growth to meet development needs of the area.
 - B) **Appropriate** – the plan sets out an appropriate strategy to enable delivery of sustainable development (taking account of reasonable alternatives).
 - C) **Realistic** – the plan sets realistic policies for development, is based on effective cross-boundary working on strategic matters, and there is a reasonable prospect site allocations are capable of delivery at the time envisioned.
 - D) **Consistent** – the plan accords with policies for plan-making in national planning policy and does not duplicate, substantively restate or modify national decision-making policies.
 - E) **Conformity** – the plans in general conformity with any adopted SDS for the area.
- The examination will provide an opportunity for those with concerns about plan 'soundness' to present their concerns to the Planning Inspector.

Local Plan 'Scoping' Consultation

- The ['scoping' consultation](#) runs from **20 May 2026 – 15 July 2026**.
- The consultation focuses on what the Local Plan should contain and our approach to engagement during its preparation.
- Views are sought on:
 - Key priorities for the Local Plan **vision** (aspiration for how an area will change).
 - Determining **measurable outcomes** (monitoring indicators).
 - Key considerations for the Local Plan **spatial strategy** (level & distribution of growth).
 - The **approach to identifying and assessing** potential site allocations.
 - The local issues to be addressed by **planning policies**.
 - How we can effectively **engage** during plan-making.
 - **Evidence** required to support the Local Plan.
- **No growth options or site allocations proposed at this stage.**

‘Scoping’ the Vision and Measurable Outcomes

- The [consultation document](#) identifies various considerations we believe of relevance to the Local Plan’s vision and measurable outcomes - informed by a review of the local / national context and a ‘SWOT’ analysis of Shropshire.
- Views are sought on the importance of these considerations and whether other factors should be reflected.

National Policy Considerations:

- ✓ Delivering **sufficient homes and employment**
- ✓ Promoting **vitality** of **town centres**.
- ✓ Protecting and enhancing our **environment**.
- ✓ **Climate** adaption/mitigation and **net zero**.
- ✓ **Design quality**.
- ✓ **Connectivity**.
- ✓ **Safeguarding minerals** and ensuring a **sufficient supply**.

Local Considerations:

- ✓ **Infrastructure-led**.
- ✓ **Embracing rurality**.
- ✓ **Types and tenures** of housing (including affordable and specialist housing).
- ✓ Supporting **employers**.
- ✓ **Locally responsive design**.
- ✓ **Health, inclusivity and nature recovery** (LNRS).
- ✓ **Connectivity in a rural context**.

‘Scoping’ the Spatial Strategy

Level of development:

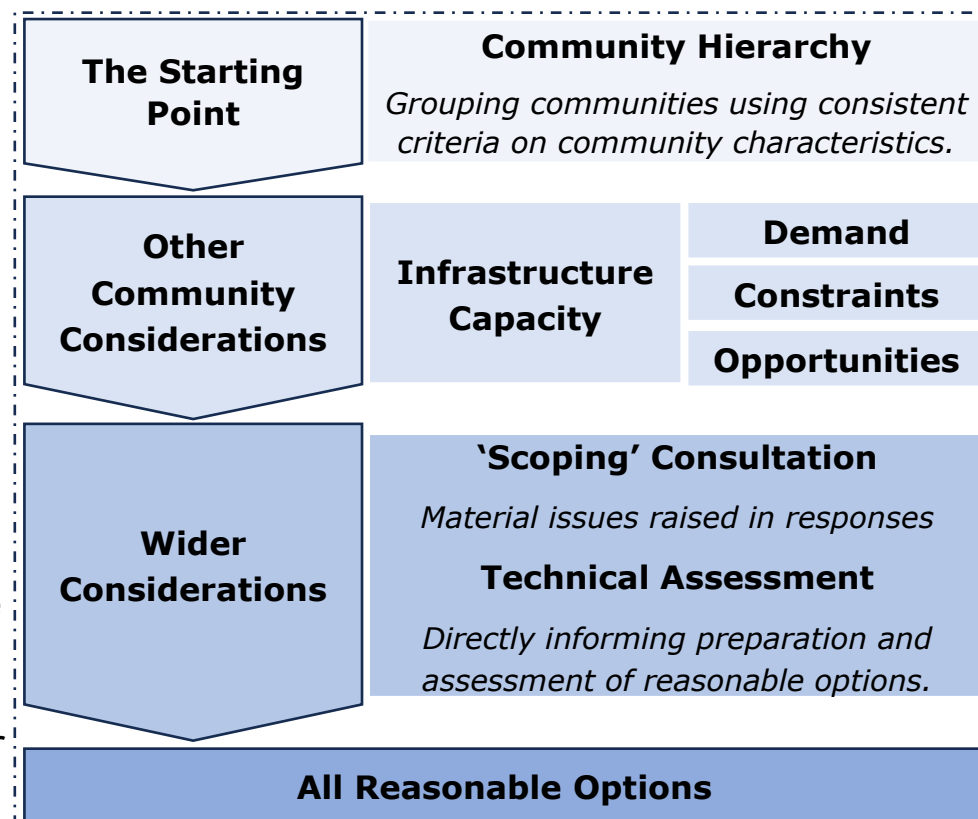
- The [consultation document](#):
 - Confirms the ‘starting point’ for the housing requirement is Local Housing Need calculated using Government’s Standard Method – **2,030 per annum**.
 - Explains the ‘starting point’ for the employment land requirement (local need - to be calculated).
 - Outlines other key considerations we believe of relevance to the level of development.
- Views are sought on the importance of each key consideration and whether there are other factors that should be considered.



Key Principles

- Enabling increased sustainability of **rural communities***
- Supporting the role of our **urban communities***
- Facilitating complementary **new communities***
- Responding to rurality and function of **rural areas***

Key Considerations



'Scoping' the Spatial Strategy

Distribution of development

- The [consultation document](#) outlines key principles and considerations we believe relevant to the distribution of development.
- It specifies the proposed 'starting point' is a [Community Hierarchy](#).
- Views are sought on each principle / consideration (including the Community Hierarchy) and whether other factors should be considered.

Locations to be conserved:

- The [consultation document](#) proposes alignment with the Shropshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy.
- Views are sought on the factors to consider when identifying locations to conserve.

Toward our next Local Plan

Sustainable Growth - Flourishing Shropshire

‘Scoping’ the Assessment of Sites

- The [consultation document](#) indicates allocations are likely to be identified for:
 - Residential (including affordable and specialist housing).
 - Gypsy & traveller pitches.
 - Employment (include waste).
 - Retail and leisure.
- Views are sort on the need for allocations for each of these purposes.
- Views are also sought on whether allocations are necessary for:
 - Mineral extraction.
 - Renewable energy generation.

Draft Site Assessment Methodology

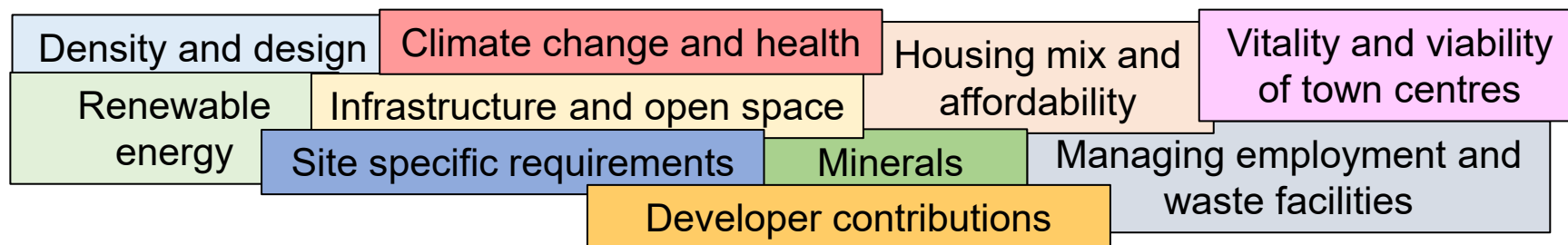
- A proposed [site assessment methodology](#) accompanies the scoping consultation document and views on its suitability are sought through the consultation.

For context, a map of [‘call for sites’ promotions](#) has been published – views on these promotions not sought at this time!

Importantly not all promotions will be allocated for development – the site assessment process will identify proposed allocations, which will be the subject of future consultation.

‘Scoping’ Local Policies

- Government is developing national decision making-policies.
- This will allow Local Plan policies to focus on locally specific issues and objectives.
- The [consultation document](#) identifies potential policy areas for the next Local Plan.
- Views are sought on each identified area and whether other areas should be addressed.



‘Scoping’ Approach to Engagement and Evidence

- The [consultation document](#) outlines our **proposed approach to engagement** during the plan making process, seeking views on its suitability.
- The [consultation document](#) also outlines the **intended evidence base** to support the next Local Plan, seeking views on its suitability.

Draft Community Hierarchy

- **Categorisation of communities** based on an assessment of their characteristics.
- The proposed methodology responds to Shropshire's:
 - Geography – large, diverse, predominantly rural.
 - Communities – varied in size, function and identity.

Stage 1: Identification
of communities

All recognised named
settlements considered.

Stage 2: Analysis of
communities

Analysis considers:

Size (resident population and
number of dwellings).

Connectivity (maximum
'overall connectivity score' of
DfT Connectivity Metric.

Stage 3: Categorisation
of communities

Seven categories with
specific thresholds for
inclusion.

Draft Community Hierarchy

Stage 3: Categorisation

- The table summarises the ‘thresholds’ for each community category:

Community Category	Gateway One			Gateway Two
	Population		Dwellings	Maximum Connectivity Score
Strategic Centre	50,000 or more	&	25,000 or more	75 or more (Band A)
Principal Centre	8,000 or more	&	4,000 or more	60 or more (Band A)
Key Centre	1,500 or more	&	750 or more	29 or more (Band A)
Primary Connected Village	700 or more	&	350 or more	21 or more (Band B or higher)
Secondary Connected Village	300 or more	&	150 or more	14 or more (Band D or higher)
Tertiary Connected Village	150 or more	&	75 or more	9 or more (Band F or higher)
Other Communities	149 or less	&	74 or fewer	8 or less (Band G or lower)

Draft Community Hierarchy Categories 1-3:

Category 1	Community
Strategic Centre	Shrewsbury

Category 2	Community
Principal Centre	Bridgnorth
	Ludlow
	Market Drayton
	Oswestry
	Shifnal
	Whitchurch

Category 3	Community
Key Centre	Albrighton
	Baschurch
	Bayston Hill
	Bishop's Castle
	Broseley
	Church Stretton
	Cleobury Mortimer
	Craven Arms
	Ellesmere
	Gobowen
	Highley
	Minsterley
	Much Wenlock
	Pontesbury
	St Martins
	Wem
	Whittington

Draft Community Hierarchy Category 4 – Primary Connected Villages:

Community	Place Plan
Alveley	Bridgnorth
Bomere Heath	Shrewsbury
Burford	Ludlow
Cosford (including RAF Cosford)	Albrighton
Cross Houses	Shrewsbury
Dorrington	Shrewsbury
Pant	Oswestry
Prees	Whitchurch
Prees Higher Heath	Whitchurch
Ruyton XI Towns	Oswestry
Shawbury	Wem
Ternhill	Market Drayton
West Felton	Oswestry
Weston Rhyn & Preesgweene	Oswestry
Woore, Ireland's Cross & Pipe Gate	Market Drayton

Draft Community Hierarchy Category 5 – Secondary Connected Villages:

Community	Place Plan
Bucknell	Bishop's Castle
Cheswardine	Market Drayton
Chirk Bank	Oswestry
Claverley	Bridgnorth
Clee Hill	Ludlow
Clive	Wem
Clun	Bishop's Castle
Cockshutt	Ellesmere
Conover	Shrewsbury
Cressage	Much Wenlock
Ditton Priors	Bridgnorth
Dudleston Heath	Ellesmere
Eardington	Bridgnorth
Ford	Shrewsbury
Hadnall	Wem
Hanwood	Shrewsbury
Hanwood Bank	Shrewsbury
Harmer Hill	Wem

Community	Place Plan
Hinstock	Market Drayton
Hodnet	Market Drayton
Knowbury	Ludlow
Llanymynech	Oswestry
Montford Bridge	Shrewsbury
Myddle	Wem
Nesscliffe	Shrewsbury
Park Hall	Oswestry
Quatford	Bridgnorth
Tilstock	Whitchurch
Trefonen	Oswestry
Westbury	Shrewsbury
Worthen & Brockton	Bishop's Castle

Toward our next Local Plan

Sustainable Growth - Flourishing Shropshire

Draft Community Hierarchy Category 6 – Tertiary Connected Villages:

Community	Place Plan	Community	Place Plan	Community	Place Plan
Ackleton	Bridgnorth	Halfway House	Shrewsbury	Oreton	Cleobury Mortimer
Acton Burnell	Church Stretton	Hampton Loade	Bridgnorth	Perthy & Welsh	Ellesmere
Adderley	Market Drayton	Hilton	Bridgnorth	Frankton	Ellesmere
All Stretton	Church Stretton	Homer	Much Wenlock	Pontesbury Hill	Minsterley & Pontesbury
Angel Bank & Farden	Ludlow	Ightfield	Whitchurch	Prees Heath	Whitchurch
Annscroft	Shrewsbury	Kemberton	Shifnal	Rhoswel	Oswestry
Ashford Carbonell	Ludlow	Kinnerley	Oswestry	Sheriffhales	Shifnal
Aston-On-Clun	Craven Arms	Knockin	Oswestry	Snailbeach	Bishop's Castle
Beckbury	Albrighton	Knockin Heath, Dovaston & Dovaston Bank	Oswestry	Stanton Upon Hine Heath	Wem
Bicton	Shrewsbury	Little Stretton	Church Stretton	Stoke Heath	Market Drayton
Chelmarsh	Highley	Llynclys	Oswestry	Stottesdon	Cleobury Mortimer
Child's Ercall	Market Drayton	Longden	Shrewsbury	Tetchill	Ellesmere
Chirbury	Bishop's Castle	Longnor	Church Stretton	The Hobbins	Bridgnorth
Clungunford & Abcott	Bishop's Castle	Loppington	Wem	The Sheet	Ludlow
Crickmery & Wistanswick	Market Drayton	Lydbury North	Bishop's Castle	Treflach	Oswestry
Diddlebury	Craven Arms	Lyth Bank & Lyth Hill	Shrewsbury	Upton Magna	Shrewsbury
Doddington	Cleobury Mortimer	Maesbury	Oswestry	Walford Heath & Oldwood	Shrewsbury
Forton Heath & Mytton	Shrewsbury	Maesbury Marsh	Oswestry	Welshampton	Ellesmere
Four Crosses, Shepherds Lane & Calcott	Shrewsbury	Marchamley	Market Drayton	Wollerton	Market Drayton
Grinshill	Wem	Newcastle on Clun	Bishop's Castle	Worfield	Bridgnorth
		Norton In Hales	Market Drayton	Yockleton	Shrewsbury
		Oldbury	Bridgnorth		

Toward our next Local Plan

*Sustainable Growth - Flourishing
Shropshire*

Draft Community Hierarchy

Conclusion:

- Map shows the spatial distribution of communities in the first 6 categories of the hierarchy.

