

Place Shaping Options Consultation

Local Plan 2021-2041

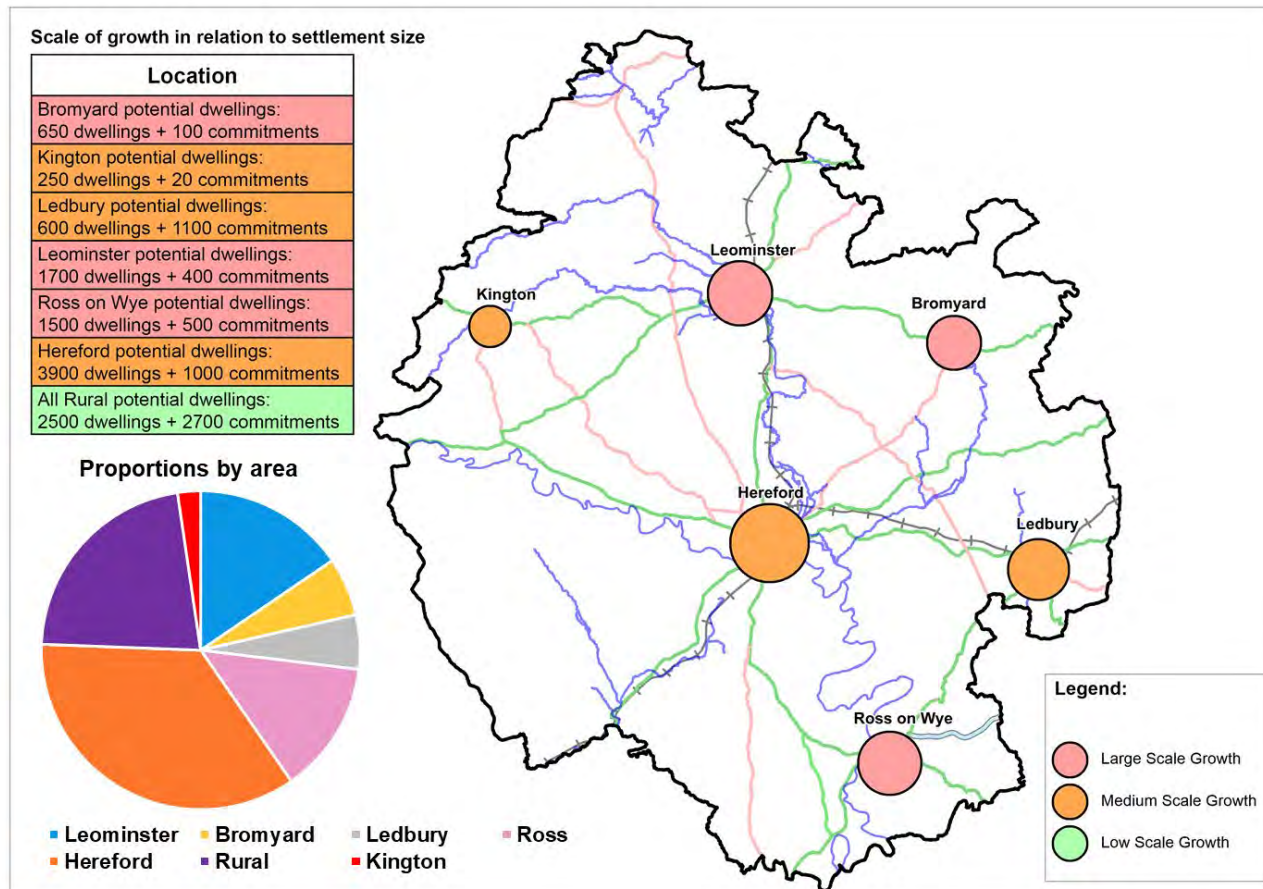
June 2022



Introduction

This is the third public consultation undertaken in 2022, the results of which will help inform the preparation of a new Local Plan for Herefordshire. The consultation sets out possible options and/or potential strategic development areas for Hereford, each of the County's market towns together with a range of alternative settlement hierarchies for rural parts of Herefordshire.

In January 2022 a consultation was undertaken on a set of county-wide spatial options. The approach which gained the greatest level of support was Option 3 which suggested a focus on development within Hereford and the market towns as described in the diagram below.



This consultation has used the indicative targets set out in this option as the basis for considering the Place Based Options and strategic development areas for Hereford and the market towns. In rural parts of the county, there was a general preference expressed in the spatial options to develop a less dispersed distribution of new development. The options suggested for revising the rural settlement hierarchy in this consultation therefore seek to consider ways to distribute development to fewer settlements than currently identified in the Herefordshire Core Strategy.

The [Spatial Options document](#) included a set of draft objectives which were generally supported in consultation responses. These may be subject to further amendment as the Local Plan progresses but the place based options set out in this consultation will aim to address many of these objectives including:

Environment:

- To achieve biodiversity net gain from all developments and significantly increase the tree cover in Hereford and the market towns.
- To ensure high quality design of buildings and spaces taking into account local character and heritage, in order to create attractive and inclusive places.
- To conserve and, where possible, enhance heritage assets and their settings through carefully managed change, and to recognise and elevate the role these assets play in providing a sense of place and local distinctiveness.
- To ensure that development is located and designed in a way which requires less energy use and to increase the amount of energy generated from renewable sources, with a requirement for all new development to be net zero carbon by 2030.

Community:

- To provide connectivity and infrastructure that is designed for inclusion, with factors such as gender, age, and disability considered.
- To provide transport infrastructure, which will support and prioritise active travel and public transport.
- To ensure that all residents have easy access to an appropriate range of nearby services, with community hubs thriving in market town and rural settings, thereby reducing the need to travel and enhancing quality of life.
- To provide a range of housing and tenure types to meet local needs, including affordability and specialist requirements. To provide diverse opportunities for home ownership for all.
- To support good-health and wellbeing, through ensuring easy access to open space, sports facilities, and active travel options.

Economy:

- To ensure that new development is accompanied by fast and reliable digital connectivity.
- To support the transition to a zero carbon and circular economy.

Housing Distribution and Options

The indicative housing targets set out in the options assume that current restrictions on new development in the catchment of the River Lugg due to issues with the level of phosphates will be resolved. However specific place based constraints remain and this may impact on the capacity of places to accommodate new development. Where capacity is limited there may need to distribute any shortfall to other places in the County.

The maps within the accompanying documents show areas with potential for new development and provide a broad indication of the location at this stage. Site boundaries have not been yet been precisely identified.

It is important that this consultation provides the opportunity for everyone to have their say at a formative stage of plan making. The consultation does not set out firm proposals, which will come later in the process, but does look at different ways that Hereford, the market towns and rural areas could be developed over the next 20 years. The responses received to this consultation, together with a number of evidence base studies, will inform the preparation of the draft Local Plan.

The next steps

Following the close of this consultation a draft local plan will be prepared. Much of the evidence base for the plan will be developed over the summer and autumn and, together with the results of the consultations undertaken during 2022, will form the basis to support the plans policies and proposals. Further consultation upon a draft Local Plan will be undertaken in 2023.