

## **North Wiltshire Local Development Framework**

### **Core Strategy – Issues and Options December 2005**

### **Consultation Comments - Questionnaire Results & Council's Responses**

The following results to the questionnaire represent the comments received within the consultation period, the 8<sup>th</sup> February 2006 - 5<sup>th</sup> April 2006.

106 – Questionnaires were submitted  
28 – Leaflets (Matrix only)  
22 – Online forms (Matrix only)

156 Total responses

Detailed in this document is a summary of the comments received.

Additionally 5 consultation forums were run and the reports from each can be found online ([http://www.northwilts.gov.uk/index/env/planning/localplans/ldf/core\\_strategy.htm](http://www.northwilts.gov.uk/index/env/planning/localplans/ldf/core_strategy.htm)).

Within this report where appropriate a response has been detailed or an indication is given of the intention that North Wiltshire District Council has for the Preferred Options document. These responses are highlighted in Italics.

The comments received through the questionnaires, leaflets, online forms and consultation forums are being considered as the Preferred Options document is being prepared.

Whilst this is not a formal consultation stage if you have any matters you want to draw to our attention after reading this report please can they be sent to us by the 16th June. Please email comments to:

[corestrategy@northwilts.gov.uk](mailto:corestrategy@northwilts.gov.uk)

Or send them in writing to:

Spatial Planning Team  
North Wiltshire District Council  
Monkton Park  
Chippenham  
Wiltshire  
SN15 1ER

**Q1. Do you agree with the statements made in the Spatial Portrait?**

Yes – 37

No – 13

## Consultation Comments:

People were generally in agreement with the statements made in the Portrait, however, more detail was requested to fully convey the true picture of North Wiltshire.

*NWDC Response: It should be recognised that the Spatial Portrait should highlight the main points that create a picture of North Wiltshire. Within advice guidance, it is stated that the Spatial Portrait:*

*“...need not be longer than five or six paragraphs, it should show clearly what are the main attributes of an individual area in terms of its geography, economy, environment, social and cultural characteristics, patterns of movement etc.”<sup>1</sup>*

## Consultation Comments:

Clarity was sought on a number of points –

- Why is daily out commuting from North Wiltshire considered unsustainable?
- AONBs are designated to “protect the historic landscape”, but to conserve and enhance the special qualities of that area.
- Where does 81% rural come from?
- Help if the points were numbered.
- North Wiltshire should only compete with other larger Urban areas (Swindon, Bath, Bristol) if the services and infrastructure can cope and when the proposed development doesn't threaten the loss of countryside, market identity, and properly confront the lack of affordable housing.
- Should Wootton Bassett be named as strategically important, as a result of comments in the RSS.
- Recognise – increasing numbers of single people, higher divorce rates and an ageing population – not just in migration.
- Bath is to the West of Chippenham
- “Least Deprived” is confused – what are the “least deprived” area deprived of?
- The role of the M4 should be more clearly defined.
- Average income, average household price – creates a confused picture when considering the difficult position that First Time Buyers are in.
- Great emphasis should be placed on the emerging Regional Spatial Strategy.

Request for a ‘functional analysis’ of settlements to be undertaken.

*NWDC Response: A sustainability appraisal for the main settlements of the District is now underway, along with an appraisal of the ‘Business as Usual’ scenario<sup>2</sup>. The publication of the consultation version of the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) and the adoption of the Structure Plan 2016 will be reflected upon in the Preferred Options draft of the Authority’s Core Strategy. Many of the above points will be used to provide clarity to the Spatial Strategy, with the profile of the district moved to an appendix.*

<sup>1</sup> Planning Officer Society - Policies for Spatial Plans: A guide to writing the policy content of Local Development Documents (2005) (<http://www.planningofficers.org.uk/article.cp/articleid/66>).

<sup>2</sup> As described in Government guidance: Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents (<http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1161341>)

**Q2. Are there other areas/points you wish us to cover?**

Yes – 42

**Consultation Comments:**

A number and range of points were requested for clarification or additional description to be introduced.

For example:

- Include more about the Natural Environment, e.g. the water environment.
- More detail on the Rivers, along with reference to the topography, geology or hydrology of the District. These may all impact future developments.
- Employment - identify key sectors.
- Transport - use of cars and public transport - i.e. x% of people travel x miles for y (y=work, leisure etc.).
- Correction, Bath is to the West.
- More statistical correlation, in order to better understand and address issues.
- Using the term "designation" in terms of rural buffer and Green Belt is misleading.
- The statement in paragraph 6.7 about mean house prices in the District being higher than the surrounding areas appears to be incorrect. Kennet District and Bath & North East Somerset for example have higher average house prices than North Wiltshire District (Land Registry figures for Oct-Dec 2005).
- Reference to the District's economy being "eroded" by Bristol, Bath and Swindon in paragraph 6.5 gives the wrong impression.
- More info required in respect of the influence of other settlements in the District.
- Sustainability appraisals should be conducted for each of the main settlements within the District, to assist in agreeing a suitable spatial strategy for N Wilts.
- Could cover the value of recreation, leisure and tourism to the district.
- No reference made to the number and type of businesses in existence, the number of job they create, whether these are increasing/decreasing.
- Should make clear that Wootton Bassett and Cricklade are dormitories and should not have major growth.
- The list of main settlements should be ordered in terms of their relative population size.
- Essential that new job growth at Wootton Bassett and elsewhere is encouraged.
- Employment needs of other main towns such as Calne, Corsham and Malmesbury should also be addressed.
- Subdivided as Tourism in North Wiltshire merits its own paragraph and should not be included in the same paragraph as wording on deprivation in North Wiltshire.

*NWDC Response: Careful consideration is being given to the above points, many of which will be addressed in the Preferred Options. Figures, where possible, will be updated. Tourism will be covered in a separate paragraph. Corrections will be made and changes introduced to remove ambiguous or unclear statements.*

**Q3. Is there information, which you have, that describes the district better?**

Yes – 12

**Consultation Comments:**

- Village shops suffering as consequence of out of town centre shopping complexes.
- Difference between aspirations of residents in the main settlements and those living in the small towns, larger villages and rural areas - How can these be reconciled?
- Look to the building pattern - number and % new builds in last 10 years in Chippenham.

- PUA/Market Town/Village-rural structure is key to the character of the area and this should not be eroded.
- No more housing required.
- Better public transport links to villages.
- The attractive nature of the district, high employment opportunities.
- The settlements identified within the text should be listed in population order.
- The district is growing at a slower rate than in the past and is not meeting the priority of providing housing of mixed tenure and employment to meet the needs of its population.
- The future influence that Swindon has on N Wilts should be recognised in the LDF.

*NWDC Response: The above will be considered in order to provide clarity to the Core Strategy. Some of the points, whilst not appearing in the spatial portrait, will be highlighted in the spatial strategy or other sections of the core strategy.*

*It is agreed that the district is growing at a slower rate. It is acknowledged that historic housing building rates will have to drop if we are not to exceed the housing figures of the Structure Plan 2016 and the emerging Regional Spatial Strategy. This presents a challenge for the phasing of development and the Council's ability through its current approach to deliver the required number of affordable homes. Consideration will be given in the Housing and Employment DPD to the options of, allocating exception sites for affordable housing, and increasing the proportion of affordable homes required from housing developments.*

*There clearly is a requirement for housing, affordable and market in the district, however the planned level of growth will be lower than in the past. This is in order to facilitate the Regional planning agenda for directing growth at the largest urban centre, to maximise their sustainability.*

**Q4. Do you have any impressions of the community and district of North Wiltshire, which are not highlighted in paragraph 6.9?**

Yes – 26

Consultation Comments:

- Rural population ageing steadily. Village facilities are reducing as shops are closing and PH converting to private homes.
- The 2nd bullet point is in contradiction to the statistics of para 5.5 and 5.7 and should be deleted. Diversity is important for the reasons stated.
- The district is made up of diverse communities; towns; villages and hamlets all have different views and needs.
- Affordability must be addressed with due regard to the availability of local employment. Matching employment and housing growth seems sensible.
- In-migration will have an impact on many of the options highlighted.
- Second home owners will not have full time commitment to the overall prosperity of the future of N Wilts.
- Settlement of Oaksey is considered to be an area for potential development/growth.
- In the area of the Swindon PUA the people want to keep the identity of North Wiltshire. Do not want Swindon to develop and for villages to lose individuality.
- Socio/economic divide is unusual, rich villages and some towns versus larger towns, very working class, poor shopping except supermarkets
- Be vigilant in protecting the Rural Buffer Zone against Swindon's plans for a city.
- Yes, reword to - 'There are pockets of severe social and economic deprivation within the district'.
- Military.
- 6.9 - No 5 The statement is weak in that it refers to perceptions. It should address the reality.
- Inadequate public transport - very little alternative to the car

- This section is a series of broad statements which could apply to almost anywhere in the south of England. The background and justification for their statements need to be provided.
- The district economy relies on a wide diversity of employment with no core industry being identifiable.
- Growth in household formation through divorce, ageing pop, single people, housing need is not recognised. Stagnation of small towns and villages with ageing pop and declining provision of services and facilities caused by low house building rates.
- Villages are becoming dormitories in M4 corridor and young people can no longer afford a home in their local community.
- More emphasis is needed on providing work in rural areas so that communities become more self contained. Issues regarding greener energy and better public transport should be included in the Portrait.
- Lack of employment in North Wiltshire District is excluding many from entering the employment locally, forcing them to either commute to the PUA's or to potentially leave North Wiltshire District.

*NWDC Response: Whilst a number of points were highlighted to be included in this section, the general view was that it fairly reflected North Wiltshire, albeit that the points could be applicable to all areas. There are general points that would also be relevant to other authorities, this is somewhat unavoidable, however it is important that the issue specific to North Wiltshire are covered. A careful balance needs to be struck between providing too much or too little detail; it will be difficult to satisfy every reader.*

*The use of this paragraph allows some of the complexities of the district to be highlighted. A number of the above points will be covered – the employment sectors of the district, the diverse needs and views of communities, and the perception that lack of employment is affecting people choice to live and work within the district. The emphasis of many of the other points will be covered in other areas of the preferred options document.*

#### **Q5. Are there any themes missing?**

Consultation Comments:

- The Themes should link with the objectives of the Core Strategy.
- Theme 1, needs to include: the water environment, flood risk, water resources, source protection zones and groundwater protection, climate change, waste, contaminated land etc.
- Should include environmental impact of foul and surface water drainage.
- Sustainability is an over-arching aim/theme.
- Cultural Well-being and public health services - hospitals in particular.
- Necessity to protect the validity of affordable housing construction (approved plans) for extensions make values rise thus taking a property out of the affordable bracket.
- Services relating to policing urban and rural areas.
- Education, Leisure and Recreation.
- Education (Too much travelling to primary schools), developments of further/higher education. Youth opportunity.
- No, but themes are too narrow and some topics overlap or need re-arranging.
- Does theme 3 include retailing, commercial leisure?
- More emphasis on delivering "open market housing" as well as affordable housing.
- The combination of all three themes is a theme in its own right and should be recognised.
- Old and young people.
- Need for Core Strategy to be in 'General Conformity' with the RSS and the strike a balance between sustainability considerations.
- General theme of partnership working, agencies in a more joined up way to provide holistic services. Focus on sustainability is a bit narrow what about waste, energy, general culture change.
- Community Life.

- Services relating to policing urban and rural areas.
- Theme 1 should also consider those archaeological features whether they be Scheduled Monuments or not.
- The need to provide everybody with a home.
- Suggest the need for open market housing should be included within Theme 2. There should be no difference in overall themes between open market and affordable housing as housing should not necessarily be tenure specific.

*NWDC Response: Many of the comments received asked for additional points to be raised under the 'Theme' headings. It is recognised that some points need further clarification and additional information should be provided where control lies outside of NWDC.*

*The 'Themes' provided a way of highlighting some of the main issues facing North Wiltshire, the ordering of the issues would provide clarity, however each issue is important. It is likely that this section will be heading based and no longer split down into individual 'Themes'. This change is to better reflect the integration of the issues to be addressed. More detail will be given on the delivery of market housing, retailing, education, and water resources in the appropriate sections of the preferred options document.*

#### **Q6. Are there any issues we have missed that should be within the themes?**

Consultation Comments:

- Groundwater Source Protection Zones.
- All public health issues.
- Over 55's accommodation
- The future of MOD sites is an issue itself.
- Theme 1: Separate Landscape sensitivity and biodiversity. Should include sensitive landscape, rural buffer, river valleys and Brynards Hill. All landscape is sensitive, more emphasis on the importance of local landscape and local distinctiveness.
- Theme 2: Include improvements to other forms of sustainable transport, cycling and car sharing. Reference to sports recreation facilities should be made under infrastructure (social). The young. Transport across district border especially to employment.
- Theme 3: Sustainable environmental build in new and restored development. No explanation of how to reduce unemployment. Regeneration and Growth needs to be addressed in more detail. Housing provision for break-up in relationships. Importance of tourism to local economy
- Retailing.
- Assess the employment and local economic market, to gauge if there is indeed a shortfall in employment land.
- Lacks reference to open market housing and the current shortfall.
- Development by Change of Use
- Where are the cultural themes - Theatre, Arts, Music, and Heritage?
- More evidence of support from local authorities in regard to the retention of much valued health facilities - and more protection of open space.
- More bypasses for towns like Wootton Bassett.
- Infrastructure - waste + landfill pressures.
- Employment growth must match housing growth, particularly at Chippenham - to prevent out commuting to Bath/Bristol/Swindon.
- Change in employment, more service less manufacturing. Growth and impact of the internet.
- Restoration of the Canal.
- The issue of keeping real rural buffers so that smaller communities keep their characters and identities.
- The Issues section should refer to the Local Plan 2011 Inspector's Report, the Adopted Wiltshire and Swindon Structure Plan 2016, the Regional Economic Strategy, RSS10 and the Regional Housing Strategy. The 2005 Housing Needs survey will be superseded by the Swindon Housing Market Assessment in due course.

*NWDC Response: Careful consideration of the above comments is being taken in order to provide appropriate detail to the document. The Core Strategy however is not designed to identify every activity that is taking place in the District.  
The Authority has commissioned an Employment Land Audit.  
The publication of the consultation version of the Regional Spatial Strategy and the adoption of the Structure Plan 2016 will be reflected upon in the Preferred Options draft of the Authority's Core Strategy.*

#### **Q7. Is more detail needed in the Background to each of the issues?**

Consultation Comments:

- Wiltshire and Swindon Structure Plan 2016 (adopted 1 April 2006) and Local Transport Plan Expand descriptions.

Theme 1 –

- Expand biodiversity as a sub-theme
- Background on the direct and indirect effects of development on the historic environment and natural environment

Theme 2 –

- B. Reference should be made to how changes in delivery (i.e. opening times, location of service) of essential public services (health, education, food shops, leisure) can improve accessibility.
- C. Make specific reference to RAF Lyneham
- D. Infrastructure services.

Theme 3

- A. Unemployment rates too low to justify job need however need for a buoyant local economy.
- More detail on Economic Development.
- Allocation of employment is inadequate in Chippenham. More flexibility in provision of employment land to meet the needs of the market for employers.
- Issues Common to All Themes (Point A): It is misleading to suggest that in-migration can be “managed”.
- Under migration, it should explain that jobs should come first.
- Housing, impact of inward migration on demand pattern.
- Needs to include appraisal of the relative sustainability of settlements within the District, to identify the opportunities and constraints to any future development within the area.
- Further info about how N Wilts towns will be self-contained.
- Water services. Current and future capacity and the effect on global warming.
- More detail/evidence should be provided in an appendix.

*NWDC Response: Careful consideration of the above comments is being taken in order to provide appropriate detail to the document. Explanations will be given for the appropriate regional and local strategies and policy documents.*

*Increased level of detail will be found in the revised SA Scoping Report, which will include an appraisal of the main settlements. It is important that the Core Strategy is based on facts and the policies and objectives are reflective of the 20 year timescale of the document, up to 2026.*

#### **Q8. Which Vision do you feel is the most appropriate for North Wiltshire? 1 – 17**

2 – 8

3 – 8

None – 35

**Q9. If you ticked, 'None', could you suggest what should be highlighted within the Vision Options?**

*NWDC Response: It is clear that most thought the Vision should encompass all three of the presented options in a combined vision, or mission statement. It was also highlighted that the Local Plan 2011, which is soon to be adopted, has a Vision and the question was raised why this could not be used? The Authority believes that the Local Plan 2011 vision, would provide a suitable vision for the LDF Core Strategy (albeit with some minor amendments). This vision will appear in the preferred options draft.*

**Options – Location of Housing Development**

- |  |   |            |
|--|---|------------|
| 1. Concentrate development at the PUA of Swindon and Chippenham?               | 15 + 7 for RSS position                         |            |
| 2. Distribute housing development across the main settlements of the District? |   | <u>25</u>  |
| If you select 2 please can you indicate your suggested main settlements:       | A. Chippenham?                                  | 20         |
|  | B. Calne?                                       | 20         |
|  | C. Wootton Bassett?                             | 19         |
|  | D. Suggestions for additional main settlements? |            |
|  |   | Corsham    |
|  |   | Malmesbury |
|  |   | Cricklade  |
|  |   | Lyneham    |
|  |   | Purton     |
|  |   | Oaksey     |
|  |   | MOD sites  |
| 3. Distribute housing growth across all the settlements of the District?       |   | 16         |

*NWDC Response: It is clear from the results of these Options and those presented in [Question 41](#) (the 'Options Matrix') that there is no consensus for an option for the spatial distribution of housing.*

*The emerging RSS, Development Policy A indicates that Chippenham should be a named settlement for growth, receiving the largest amount of growth of any of the settlements in North Wiltshire and recognised as a town of regional importance.*

*Development Policy B, of the emerging RSS allows for the identification of other settlements that can act as the focal point for locally significant development. The intention of development at these settlements would be to increase their self containment by providing the appropriate scale and mix of development to accomplish this aim. Three criteria must be fulfilled for a settlement to be considered, these are:*

- there is an existing concentration of business and employment, or realistic potential for employment opportunities to be developed and enhanced;*
- shopping and cultural, religious and faith, educational, health and public services can be provided to meet the needs of the town and surrounding area whilst minimising car dependence;*
- there is potential to maintain and develop sustainable transport modes.*

*Development Policy C recognises the role that small towns and villages have in rural areas across the South West. These settlements are lower in the hierarchical consideration of settlements. The emerging RSS states that in order to enable rural communities to thrive, small*

*amounts of development (particularly economic development) may be appropriate in villages and small towns. Development will be permitted where it:*

- supports small scale economic activity, fitting in the scale of the settlement and can accommodate the future growth of businesses in the development permitted;*
  - extends the range of services available;*
  - does not significantly increase traffic on local roads and where traffic implications can be demonstrated to be acceptable;*
  - promotes self containment, strengthens local communities, and helps to support key services.*
- Development of housing in these settlements would be permitted where it relates to requirements identified in housing market studies and other assessments of local needs for housing verified by the Local Authority or where housing development is necessary to support employment provision locally.*

*The hierarchical criterion for the identification of settlements detailed above is similar to the approach adopted in the Structure Plan 2016. The results from Question 41, the Options on the Location of Housing, Housing provision, and the Location of Employment developments have been taken into consideration within the context that is set out by the adopted Structure Plan 2016 and the emerging RSS.*

*The Sustainability Appraisal (SA) currently underway for the main settlements of the district will establish the hierarchy of settlements across the District and indicate which settlements will correspond with three Development Policies, A, B and C of the emerging RSS and be in general conformity with Policy DP3 of the Structure Plan 2016.*

*It is the intention, subject to the finalisation of the SA, that the following settlements be identified within the hierarchical framework of the adopted Structure Plan 2016 and the emerging RSS:*

*Strategic Service Centres/Development Policy A (SSTC):*

- Swindon, North Wiltshire will continue to support Swindon's role.*
- Chippenham*

*Local Service Centres/Development Policy B:*

- Calne*
- Wootton Bassett*
- Corsham*
- Malmesbury*
- Cricklade*

*Small Towns and Villages/(Development Policy C)*

- Those small towns and villages not listed above.*

*Additional detail will be included within the Preferred Options document. However, it is noted that the emerging RSS states that housing growth that would exacerbate a settlements dormitory relationship with Swindon, where such a relationship currently exists, will not be permitted. The emerging RSS states that Wootton Bassett and Cricklade currently perform a largely dormitory function to Swindon, as do Lyneham and Purton.*

**Q10. Is it correct that the options presented are based upon the Social and Cultural Well-being Theme? YES – 33**

NO – 6

**Q11. Why?**

Consultation Comments:

- Provision of resources and transport demand.
- Creation of sustainable communities.
- Of particular relevance to N Wilts.
- The most important single issue. However the issues surrounding housing should not be ignored when considering the other themes.
- Need to meet the needs of the community.
- Affordable housing is almost non-existent in NW.
- The Council and its partners should collaborate with the mod regarding their vacant housing stock.
- To achieve community support, planning must be seen to be seeking to maintain or improve the community's quality of life and assist the achievement of their aspirations.
- Too narrowly focused, more emphasis required on 'delivery' of development.
- Because this reflects our commitment to building communities and neighbourhoods not just properties.

*NWDC Response: Most responses were in support of the importance of addressing the social and cultural well-being of the North Wiltshire community. One of the key principles for development plans in delivering sustainable development, as set out in PPS1, is that local authorities should ensure that development plans promote outcomes in which environmental, economic and social objectives are achieved together over time.*

**Options – Housing Requirement**

- |   |    |
|---|----|
| 1. Should we only seek to meet the Strategic housing requirement?   | 9  |
| 2. Provide for a level above the strategic requirement; in order to aid the delivery of affordable dwellings?                 | 25 |
| 3. Be realistic and seek only additional funding sources to deliver as many Affordable units across the District as possible? | 22 |

*NWDC Response: Careful consideration needs to be given to the responses to these Options. The Core Strategy is required to be in general conformity with the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) and the Structure Plan 2016. However, reflection needs to be given to the Governments aim to improve affordability and help future generations to get a foot on the housing ladder by requiring housing supply to become more responsive to demand. The government response to the Barker Review to Housing Supply details the outcome that there will be:*

*“Further reforms to the planning system to ensure that local and regional plans prepare and release more land, in the appropriate places, and at the appropriate time, to meet our future housing requirements...”*

*The Authority can confirm that it will plan to meet the Structure Plan 2016 additional provision for housing numbers and employment land. Longer term the Authority will provide the appropriate allocations to meet the RSS emerging provisions. Identification of sites and appraisal of development options will be made within the Housing and Employment DPD, in accordance with the emerging Core Strategy.*

*In respect of the recognised shortage of affordable homes, consideration will be given in the Housing and Employment DPD to the options of, allocating exception sites, and increasing the proportion of affordable homes required from housing developments.*

**Options – Location of Gypsy and Traveller Transit and Permanent Sites**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 4. Allocate sites on the edge of the PUA of Swindon and Chippenham?                                  | 20   |
| 5. Allocate sites on the edge of the main settlements and larger villages with appropriate services? | 17   |
| If you select 5 please can you   | A. Chippenham? 7                                   |
| Indicate your suggested main settlements:  | B. Calne? 8  |
|  | C. Wootton Bassett? 10                             |
|  | D. Suggestions for additional main settlements? A4 |
|  | No longer used Industrial Sites                    |
|  | Close to M4 junctions                              |
|  | Cricklade and Minety                               |
|  | MOD sites  |
| 6. Distribute sites within rural areas?  | 6  |

*NWDC Response: The Authority has commissioned a study, Wiltshire Gypsy and Traveller Housing Needs, the outcomes of which will be published in September 2006. The results will be considered in the Housing and Employment DPD. The importance of providing all sectors of the community with decent housing accommodation will be identified as a spatial objection.*

**Options – Retention of Employment Sites**

1. Safeguard employment sites, currently in use, or committed for that use.
  2. Retain employment sites within the main settlements of the District
- And/Or:
3. Recognise that there will be losses and assess the requirement for additional employment land to combat any shortfall, accepting that non-viable, uneconomic sites should be released for housing.

Results:

Option 1 = 9	Option 2 = 9	Option 3 = 18	Options 1 & 3 = 6	Total = 53
			Options 2 & 3 = 6	
			Options 1 & 2 = 3	
			Options 1, 2 & 3 = 2	

*NWDC Response: The importance of employment is clear within the adopted Structure Plan 2016 and the emphasis given within the emerging RSS. The provision of appropriate sites and the retention of existing site are together critical elements in creating or preserving sustainable communities. It is therefore the intention of the Authority to promote the policies to retain all employment sites in accordance with national policy guidance. Where employment sites are deemed to be appropriate for another use and therefore lost from employment use, the Authority, through it's Annual Monitoring Report, will assess the need for additional allocations to be made.*

**Options – Location of Employment Development**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. Concentrate development at the PUA of Swindon and Chippenham?                  | 16   |
| 2. Distribute employment development across the main settlements of the District? | <u>24</u>  |
| If you select 2 please can you indicate your suggested main settlements:          |  |
| A. Chippenham?  | 19   |
| B. Calne?   | 17   |
| C. Wootton Bassett?   | 13   |
| D. Suggestions for additional main settlements?                                   | All six main towns = 2<br>Corsham = 2<br>Swindon = 3<br>Malmesbury |
| 3. Distribute employment development across all the settlements of the District?  | 22   |

*NWDC Response: The Authority's response to the Options for Housing Development (above) is similarly appropriate for the location of employment developments. Underlying the development policies A-C of the emerging RSS and the adopted Structure Plan 2016, is the requirement for settlements to support economic activity, of an appropriate scale. Employment developments should be focused on increasing a settlement's self containment and continuing the district's low unemployment level.*

**Q12. Is there a shortage in the provision of recreational facilities?**

YES = 34

NO = 13

**Q13. If Yes, what facilities are needed?****Q14. And where would you like this facility located?**

## Consultation Comments:

- Recreation and Sport (Cricket, hockey, tennis, bowls and social) - Westinghouse, Recreation Ground, Bristol Road, Chippenham
- More extensive gym/pool/sporting facilities at both local and regional level. Expanded village communities' amenities. - Chippenham and Kingston St Michael. Suggest complete redevelopment of the Olympiad to Olympic standards.
- Mobile skateboard, retention and improvement of swimming/leisure facilities. - Spread evenly across the District.
- Need for a theatre/ performing arts centre – Chippenham.
- There seems to be adequate sporting facilities, but other options would be advantageous.
- Youth activities - Across main settlements.
- Children's sport - across all areas.
- Flat playing fields, swimming pools, multi-use sports buildings offering a variety of sports - in rural areas
- Various - across district
- Tennis courts, football pitches, changing and toilet facilities - Cricklade, leisure centre, Fairview fields
- Sports fields and football pitches - adjacent to main settlements
- Kids activities and music-drama etc. - Wide-distribution
- Chippenham Skateboard Park in central area and indoor meeting places for teenagers and residential areas.
- Sports fields, so many have been used for housing - Near the main settlements.

- Sports pitch provision, open space and play area for young children and over 11's. Team sports are particularly poorly provided for as is recreational provision for 'older' teenagers. - Main settlements, where access from public transport is available.
- More facilities over all plus more for youth and villages - main settlements + villages
- Skateboard Park - In full public view – in local places
- Better public transport needed
- Offer to make land available Off Castle Walk Calne, if development is allowed.
- Skateboard park, public netball court - The Worthies Sports Association are working on this.
- Better sports centre and pool etc - edge of Chippenham.
- Tennis courts, bowling greens – Chippenham.
- Shortage of recreation facilities that cater for older children such as skate parks and proper football pitches.
- The recommendations from the Open Space strategy should be incorporated into the Core Strategy as policy. - There is a need for existing quality open space, open space earmarked for an upgrade in management and planned open space, such as new local nature reserves protected from development. This 'new' and enhanced open space should be shown on proposals maps and masterplans such as the one in preparation for the Cotswold Water Park.
- More facilities for youth and old people.
- All sporting and leisure facilities - all settlements.
- Swimming pool, tennis courts, athletics facilities, cricket pitches – Chippenham.
- All age groups, places to sit and enjoy countryside.
- Sports facilities and swimming pools - In rural areas, but not necessarily new facilities but better use of existing ones (e.g. at schools).
- The Core Strategy should take account of the resources available for enhanced recreational facilities. The role of new artificial pitches should be taken into account. The facilities sought to be provided linked to new development must be in accordance with the Planning Obligations circular and the emerging planning gain supplement. The opportunities for additional informal open space at West Swindon and Wootton Bassett that can be secured through new development should be acknowledged in the Core Strategy.
- Important to ensure that open space provision is allocated in association with mixed use development proposals, particularly at the PUA of Chippenham. Land adjoining the urban area, closely related to the town centre, within the flood plain, would be the ideal location for the provision of public open space.

*NWDC Response: The comments received have shown that provision for major facilities should be based at the main settlements of the District. Where there is an identified shortfall in provision, the Authority will seek to address this in the relevant DPDs (Rural Area Action Plan and the Chippenham and Main Towns Area Action Plan).*

**Q15. Is there a shortage of high quality publicly accessible Open space?**

YES = 22

NO = 23

**Q16. If Yes, where?**

Consultation Comments:

- Westinghouse Recreation and Sports Ground.
- Make Good Use of existing sites (Westinghouse, Sports Ground), Generally in Chippenham.
- Some large housing developments.
- Wootton Bassett.
- Cricklade.
- Chippenham.
- Urban areas, especially around major settlements.
- River walks should be developed.

- Around main settlements and urban areas where land has been acquired for housing.
- Open space area and equipped children's play areas within settlements should be included as part of any housing development, regardless of scale. Open space recreational areas should be carefully planned and maintained.
- Efforts to increase the amount of publicly accessible open space, and in particular natural greenspace, should aim to meet ANGST targets.

*NWDC Response: The Authority has an up to date audit of public open space in the district. It will continue to use the Open Space Study to address identified shortfalls in provision and/or address issues of quality, it will also work to establish Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) at identified sites. The consultation comments are focused on providing access to open space in and around the main settlements of the District. This Authority's Local Development Scheme includes a programme for the production of a District-wide Open Space Supplementary Planning Document.*

**Q17. Do you want existing open space and Recreational facilities protected from development?** YES = 42 NO = 3

*NWDC Response: There is wide spread support for the appropriate retention and improvement of open space and recreational facilities, this will be reflected in the preferred options.*

<b>Q18. Is access to services/facilities</b> – Unacceptable = 19 Acceptable = 12	
<b>Q19. If you answered unacceptable, which services/facilities need improvement, in what way and in which location(s):</b>	
Nursery	Parking at Redland. Capacity at Sherston.
Infant School	Increased capacity. Village locations highlighted.
Junior School	Increased capacity, village locations highlighted. Parking at Redland.
Secondary School	Assess need for increased capacity at Wootton Bassett. Ensure accessibility for cyclists.
Education	Too much travelling needed to reach education. Pressure on schools etc. from increased development. Locate/develop affordable homes to support village schools.
Dentist	Provide adequate capacity at the main settlements – importantly, increase the amount of NHS dentists.
Doctors (GPs)	Disabled parking facilities. Increased capacity at main towns and villages. Ensure adequate capacity is provided in connection with any development.
Other Health Care Facilities	Concern over the future of Chippenham hospital. Access to hospitals, parking and public transport availability.
Youth Facilities	Activities for sporty and non-sporty people. Concern over parking and charges. Youth centre at Cricklade and increased capacity at Cricklade.

Other Facilities	Increased capacity for swimming pools. Number of libraries and their stock. Arts, drama and crafts increased capacity needed. Leisure centre upgrades. Public transport access to services/facilities.
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*NWDC Response: It is important that the North Wiltshire Local Development Framework reflects the Government's Objectives for the Planning System, its core principle is sustainable development. For the viable sustainable communities to exist it is important that the correct level of services and facilities are available for the scale of the settlement. The viability and accessibility of facilities and services will be recognised within the Core Strategy. Any requirements for additional services and facilities will be addressed in the relevant Area Actions Plans.*

**Q20. Are the retail facilities in North Wiltshire adequate?** YES = 18 NO = 22

**Q21. If you answered NO, what retail improvements do you wish to see? And in what location?**

Consultation Comments:

- Protection of local shops. Supermarkets demand unacceptable levels of travel. Malmesbury has no longer any good fruit, veg, fish, shops.
- Bulk retail on the edge of settlement other than Chippenham.
- Good Quality Shops.
- North Wilts is not an island. Consideration should be taken of facilities across the boarder, e.g. Supermarkets in Cirencester and Tetbury. A similar view should be taken of other facilities e.g. health, leisure.
- Eastern part of the District is well catered for in the range of shopping facilities in Swindon. Encouragement is needed to ensure provision of wider range in Chippenham.
- Chippenham needs to enhance its existing retail provision to ensure that is maintained and enhanced.
- Car parking in town centre, shops within walking distance
- Better quality shops in Chippenham, (No more mobile phone shops, Takeaways, cheap shops, tattoo parlours, Quality mensware shop, gift shop, leather goods, country clothing
- Wider variety of retail outlets in Corsham
- Town centre too congested, we need more retail parks, edge of town.
- Retail outside of Chippenham woefully inadequate and encourages movement by car to Swindon, Bath, and Bristol Cribbs Causeway. Market Towns should provide for most retail needs. Provision such as butcher, baker, clothing and shoes should be positively encouraged. Parking charges in these Market Towns should be reduced or abolished as part of that encouragement.
- Affordable retail units in Calne.
- Like good local produce shops in local places - like Tucks in Sherston.
- Market towns need to improve retail offer to stop shoppers going to larger towns/cities - especially Cricklade.
- Currently most of our market towns have a variety of small independent shops. These should be supported. As large chains are being to dominate.
- You cannot legislate for rural areas and force shops to open if they are not then supported by local people. All settlements should be sustainable thus the need to enlarge smaller settlements over a long period of time may be necessary if self sufficiency becomes a necessity.

*NWDC Response: Retail facilities play an important part in the sustainability of the communities. Greater emphasis needs to be given in the Preferred Options draft of the Core Strategy to retail activities. Specific sites and issues will be addressed in the relevant Area Action Plans.*

**Q22. Can you identify any congestion “hotspots” that are of particular concern?**

## Consultation Comments:

- Chippenham Bypass.
- Filands Area.
- Motorway Access J16 and J17.
- All suffer at rush hour, particularly in term time.
- HGV traffic - A429 to Cirencester from J17 M4, A419 to Cirencester from J15 M4, B4696 to Cotswold Water Park and the A350 via J17 M4 northwards.
- A350, Market Towns.
- Parking at Redland School and Nursery
- Entry into and across Chippenham, particularly at peak times, from the A4 (Bath Road) and the M4 (A350).
- Purton High Street at school start and finish times.
- Malmesbury
- School collection/start time, all areas.
- More development, with narrow streets and lack of parking is likely to become a problem.
- M4 Junction 16 Hotspot Roundabout
- Bridge Centre, New road Chippenham
- Town Centres, areas around all junior schools at drop off times.
- back road linking KSM-Yatton Kennel
- golf club area in Chippenham
- need to complete ring road around town
- Curzon Street in Calne needs town by-pass
- M4 junction 17, A429 Kingsway Bridge needs resigning as lorries often get stuck.
- Park Lane, Marshfield Road, West Cepen Way – Chippenham
- The cross roads at Hardenhuish Avenue, Bristol Road and Eagles. A traffic island should have been placed at the junction of Hardenhuish Avenue as well as Bristol Road. Also the Zebra Crossing at Tesco in Hardenhuish Lane.
- The bleeps on pelicans and puffins light controlled crossings should be re-instated.
- Areas of concern, western arches, Bewley House, Bridge Centre, B&Q, Bath Road, Chippenham Hospital.
- Cocklebury Road. Cocklebury Road, providing the single access to the railway station and Monkton Park.

*NWDC Response: Information will be shared with Wiltshire County Council (WCC), as the authority responsible for transport planning in the district. The issues highlighted will be considered for inclusion within future programmes and plans. Specific approaches, targets and schemes are in place within the Local Transport Plan (LTP2), which Wiltshire County Council will monitor progress against.*

**Q23.** The Provisional Transport Plan seeks to improve access to the services with the greatest impact on life opportunities – jobs, health care, learning and food shops. Please prioritise the accessibility of the following:

Employment = 1.55	
Health Care = 2.15	38 total responses
Education = 2.55	
Food Retail = 3.42	

Rating: 1 Highest priority - 4 Lowest priority

*NWDC Response: See response to Q22.*

**Q24.** Please identify the means of access you wish to see improved:

	Employment	Health Care	Education	Food Retail
Public Transport	1.46	1.48	1.73	1.69
Walking	2	2.26	1.48	2.11
Cycling	1.5	1.8	1.58	2
Private Motor Vehicle	2	2.5	3.5	2.66

In the columns - you may tick one, or you may wish to rate each mode of transport 1 to 4, 1 – requires the most improvement, 4 – requires the less improvement.

*NWDC Response:*

*See response to Q22.*

**Q25. Are there locations that have particular road safety issues to any road user?**

Consultation Comments:

- Rural areas generally. Speed centred issues. School access problems.
- Crossing the A428.
- Redlands School, Frogwell School
- Kingston St Michael main village street, at all times.
- Greenhill cross roads, Braydon Roads + B4553, Tadpole Bridge, Erosion of sides of roads in rural areas.
- Filand/Tetbury – Malmesbury.
- Filand/A2129 – Malmesbury.
- Chippenham Community Hospital to main A4
- Wootton Bassett two skew bridges over railway, Marlborough road over railway bridge.
- Car parking all areas. Bypass M4 to Melksham, Sainsbury roundabout
- Purton road, speeding traffic, high street north
- The Fox Inn Purton, end of Witts Lane in Purton, where view to left is restricted by cars allowed to park on left side of Station Hill Road, looking towards Witham End. Top of Hoggs lane in Purton where traffic comes for Paven Hill and view of traffic leaving Hoggs Lane is obstructed by cars parking outside one stop & in touch.
- Rat runs on rural lanes and villages
- generally residential areas require traffic calming
- J16-M4 for cyclists
- Station Road and Noremarsch Road Wootton Bassett. Lack of safe crossings and pavements.
- Cleaner fuels.
- Calne Town Centre (Curzon Street/ Wood Street)
- A4 through Calne.
- Rural roads between villages, unsafe for walkers and cyclists.
- Crossing A4 at White Hart
- Hidden pedestrian crossing at Coral Betting Shop
- Crossing A4 west of Ivy Walk
- Eastcourt junction from Derry Hill on A4
- Would like a 50mph limit on all small country roads.
- The Triangle/War Memorial, junction of Abbey Row, Bristol Street, Gloucester Road Malmesbury, T junction at Gloucester/Oxford Street end of Malmesbury High Street.
- Bridge Centre, Chippenham.
- Town Bridge, Chippenham.

- Too much reliance in the District on the use of the private car, and not enough provision of either affordable alternatives or safe rural cycle ways.
- A429 to Malmesbury, dangerous to cycle.
- Cocklebury Road and the access to the railway station and Monkton Park.
- Access through or around Chippenham and the A4.

*NWDC Response: See response to Q22.*

**Q26. Are there any locations that have poor air quality? At what time of day is the air quality poor?**

Consultation Comments:

- There are no areas of poor air quality.
- An Air Quality Strategy Framework for Wiltshire' which is included in the LTP2.
- Purton's industrial area in certain weather conditions.
- Wootton Bassett high street, heavy diesel lorries
- Bridge centre, Chippenham, peak commuter times
- M4, when cloudy, wet and windy
- Purton road, high street south, Calcutt Street.
- Perception is that Curzon Street/Wood street has poor air quality at 'rush hour'. 'Through' traffic, wishing to access the A4 should be prevented from using the town centre.
- The landfill at Purton is obviously emitting gases
- Diesel fumes from the numerous school buses approaching/departing Braydon Forest School.

*NWDC Response: See response to Q22.*

*For all transport issues the Authority is committed to minimising the need to travel by private car and maximising the opportunities to travel by public transport, cycling and walking.*

**Q27. Are there other topics that you would consider need to be covered?**

Consultation Comments:

- The Sustainable Development objectives cover a very wide range of issues and should be split into smaller objectives. Also consider that Sustainable Development is a key principle overlying the whole strategy, rather than being a specific objective.
- Climate Change should be addressed across all topics.
- Include the topic of protection and enhancement of biodiversity in the Sustainable Development Section.
- Include the topic of waste management/re-cycling facilities/ Localities of landfill sites.
- More reliance on local knowledge 'vis-à-vis' planning applications.
- Preservation of agriculture.
- Comprehensive SA of the settlements and developments needs to be undertaken.
- Topic relates to micro-scale and do not consider the wider sustainability issues relating to location, quantity and form of development. They also do not consider the wider environmental, conservation and landscape issues that are essential at this more strategic level.
- More frequent public transport provision, which operates outside normal hours.
- Parking - villages, towns, to promote local retail usage.
- Emissions from polluting impact of employment related development are not recognised or referred to.
- Affordable housing not to be sold as second homes and should be 50% of all new development. Should remain affordable.

- More emphasis on the protection of river valleys.
- Decent homes standard, affordable warmth/fuel poverty.
- Provision for adequate water supply and sewerage.
- Important focus under the heading "Sustainable Development" should be the location of development and its accessibility to public transport and the services and facilities offered within North Wiltshire, which are concentrated upon the named settlement of Chippenham. Address the wider issue of sustainability.

*NWDC Response: Many of the above comments will be considered for inclusion within the current topics covered. It is not felt there is the need to include separate topics to address the above points.*

**Q28. Which of these approaches to preparing design policies would you consider offers the best chance of improving North Wiltshire's sustainable future?**

- |    |   |      |
|----|---|------|
| A. | Preparing a formal Sustainable Design Supplementary Planning Document for North Wiltshire as a whole? | = 38 |
| B. | Preparing Sustainable Design guidance for the main towns?   | = 6  |
| C. | Including Sustainable Design guidance within Parish/Village Plans across North Wiltshire as required? | = 13 |

Other comments = Have the policy contained within the Core Strategy. Apply policy to developments.

*NWDC Response: This Authority's Local Development Scheme includes a programme for the production of a District-wide Sustainable Development Supplementary Planning Document. In response to the above, Design issues will be included. There will be a core Sustainable Development policy within the Core Strategy.*

**Q29. Which of the following approaches to sustainable development construction policies would you favour?**

- |    |  |      |
|----|--|------|
| A. | To gather and set out the Sustainable Construction Best Practice (SCBP) as developed nationally for application to North Wiltshire.  | = 9  |
| B. | To include the above in a SCBP that takes into account particular aspects of North Wiltshire: e.g. locally derived materials, local economic factors, accommodating local historic character, local builders waste issues, local skills shortage issues, my suggestions: | = 37 |
| C. | To allow construction companies to determine their own standards in accordance with established national regulations.  | = 5  |

*NWDC Response: New guidance called; "Code for Sustainable Homes" is currently being prepared by national government. It is expected that where there is scope for local discretion, this will be set out in the Sustainable Development SPD.*

**Q30. Here is a list of possible approaches to renewable energy generation. Are there any missing? Please rank them in order of preference (1 is high)?**

4.26	Wind Turbines	3.93	Combined heat and power plants
	Individual building specific turbines		Biomass
3.94	Solar energy technologies	4.15	Geo-Thermal
	Waste to energy	4	Hydraulic
2.18			
3	Other: Nuclear (Suggested 5 times), Tidal (Suggested once), Heat pumps (suggested once).	4.76	

*NWDC Response: National Government policy is evolving in respect of nuclear energy. It would not be appropriate to include reference to this option at this stage. Given the even spread of comments, all renewable energy options will be considered.*

**Q31. Do you agree that it is appropriate that we request that: at least 10% of energy requirements of all new development come from renewable sources?**

YES - 36      NO – 13 (of which 10 rejected the idea)

From all the responses, 10 representations requested a higher proportion to be set.

If no, why?

Consultation Comments:

- No, Unrealistic at current tech levels.
- No, not possible to generalise.
- No, unrealistic dream.
- Low, but in line with the Regional policy.
- Other Districts are setting more challenging targets.
- Why is 10% considered appropriate - a figure should be carefully considered, not simply plucked out of the air.
- Playing with figures, the government can dictate where power comes from.
- No, request higher % as fossil fuels are being used up quickly.
- No, Not practical unless regarded as a market signal to centrally provided energy provision (via National Grid).
- No, short term solutions.
- Is on-site renewable generation envisaged or an off-site contribution sought towards renewable generation elsewhere that feeds into the national grid?
- No. This would be almost impossible to enforce through the planning regime and thus should not form part of the LDF. Whilst this criteria could be met, for example, by securing all power from Scottish Power who is the only power generator in the UK who uses over 10% renewable energy sources, it is not for the LDF to direct individuals to specific power suppliers.

*NWDC Response: Providing a target at this stage in a new field will help to kick start a local response to this important global issue. This Authority will develop an appropriate monitoring arrangement to allow adjustments to this policy, (or propose new policies within other DPDs) in the light of emerging experience.*

**Q32. Here are a number of possible approaches to preparing policies that promote the conservation of energy. Are there any missing? Please indicate a preference?**

A. Set out only energy conservation policies that can be delivered by land use planning policies such as the location of development, the layout of urban areas and the site layout of individual buildings.

B. Set out the above policies together with advice on other measures that could be employed that has been developed using the best practice advice available.

C. Set out the above policies together with policies that have been developed in partnership with the regulatory authorities and the development industry with appropriate agreements on implementing the policies within North Wiltshire.

B & C  
= 2

*NWDC Response: This is a rapidly expanding field and much of the national government advice is still emerging. It is likely that there will be no need to enter into specific agreements with the development industry as these will occur at national level. This issue will be covered within the Sustainable Development SPD.*

**Q33. Here are a number of possible approaches for prioritising the efforts towards energy conservation. Please indicate a preference?**

A. Direct efforts to the main urban area where growth will be concentrated, to gain the maximum benefit for the minimum outlay of public and private cost and effort.

B. Direct efforts to the main towns and urban expansions, to gain the maximum benefit possible from the significant growth areas.

C. To ensure that all parts of the District are responsive to the needs of energy conservation regardless of the scale of development involved.

*NWDC Response: Policies in this field will be developed that will set a low threshold of applicability to ensure that energy conservation is considered at every scale of development.*

**Q34. What landscapes should be protected from development?**

## Consultation Comments:

- Follow the advice in PPS7, in Policies Env1-4 of the emerging RSS. Don't use a blanket ban.
- AONBs 19
- River Valleys 12
- General rural character 7
- SSSI 7
- County wildlife sites 6
- Sports Fields/Recreational grounds/Parks 5
- All landscapes – visually and culturally important 5
- Woods 4
- Floodplain 4
- Conservation Areas 4
- Cotswold Water Park 3
- SAC 3
- Rural Buffer 3

- Sites of special landscape importance 3
- All areas outside the framework boundary 3
- Nature reserves 2
- Brynards Hill 2
- Sites with rare species 1
- Whole upper Thames 1
- Archaeological sites/areas 1
- Green Roads 1
- Historic Landscapes 1
- Canal 1

*NWDC Response: The level of protection afforded to particular designated sites needs to be in accordance with European and National legislation. Consideration will be given to the identification of specific areas or sites, and also to the appropriateness of the use of a criterion based policy approach. It is not felt to be appropriate to be site specific within the Core Strategy, and the consideration of specific site policies would be more appropriately dealt with in the relevant Area Actions Plans.*

**Q35. Should the Landscape Character Assessment be the main consideration for any planning applications in areas outside the main settlements of the District?**

YES = 42

NO = 7

*NWDC Response: Whilst it is clear that most think that the landscape assessment is the main consideration, it must be recognised that it is one consideration of many and should not be used in isolation.*

**Q36. Should a specific Policy position be taken for the area of the Cotswold Water Park?**

YES = 45

NO = 4

*NWDC Response: The Authority will continue to liaise with of the other authorities that have an interest in the Cotswold Water, in order to establish an appropriate timescale for the production of an SPD or Area Action Plan. The Authority will engage with the proposed masterplan, which is being prepared in 2006. It is important that the Core Strategy recognises the importance that the Cotswold Water Park has for mineral extraction, tourism, recreation and biodiversity.*

**Q37. Should development affecting heritage assets be strictly controlled?**

YES = 51

NO = 2

*NWDC Response: Many of North Wiltshire's settlements are defined by their heritage assets. Enforcing careful control on development in order to protect these assets is important, and this view is clearly demonstrated by the above responses. The preferred options document spatial objectives will cover the desire to protect and where appropriate enhance the built heritage, areas and buildings are often defined by designated conservation areas and the listing of buildings.*

**Q38. Should more facilities be provided to enable more tourist activity in North Wiltshire?**

YES = 38

NO = 9

**Q39. If yes, which facilities and in what location should they be provided?**

## Consultation Comments:

- Across the District.
- Water Park provision for tourism (not just residential).
- Chippenham, Free Parking/Adequate.
- Public toilets and parking in tourist locations.
- Accommodation in local pubs & inns, restaurants, picnic areas etc.
- Enhance market town, promote village features and rights of way.
- Car parking
- More Hotels & Better quality shops in Chippenham
- Only where they do not lead to overcrowding, traffic problems - and if they serve the local economy.
- TIC Corsham, to enable the continuation of the promotion of the area.
- Park and ride facilities or bus services to outskirts of popular sites. This would benefit all sites and do away with need to have large car parks e.g. Ridgeway.
- Tourist accommodation in the main centres
- Cricklade, improve toilets, more car parking, completion of the Cricklade country way, southern relief road.
- Wootton Bassett Mud Springs SSSI and general historic market towns initiative. Wroughton Science museum development.
- In or adjacent to settlements with facilities.
- Should only be where they do not impact on heritage/conservation areas, green spaces and infrastructure.
- Bus services (with guides?) to most popular sites to cut down on volume of traffic.
- The Cotswold Water Park area and the Canal/Thames corridor might be one of those areas. The Core Strategy should identify it as an area of opportunity.
- Existing tourist sites areas more interest to older generation, perhaps target more at young people and families by combining leisure/culture aspects.

*NWDC Response: The Authority will follow advice published in the recent government 'Good Practice Guide on Planning for Tourism'. It is important that the Core Strategy identifies key tourism schemes and areas, such as the Wilts & Berks Canal and the Cotswold Water Park, and allows for appropriate associated development.*

**Q40. Are there any Strategic Objectives missing from this document?**

## Consultation Comments:

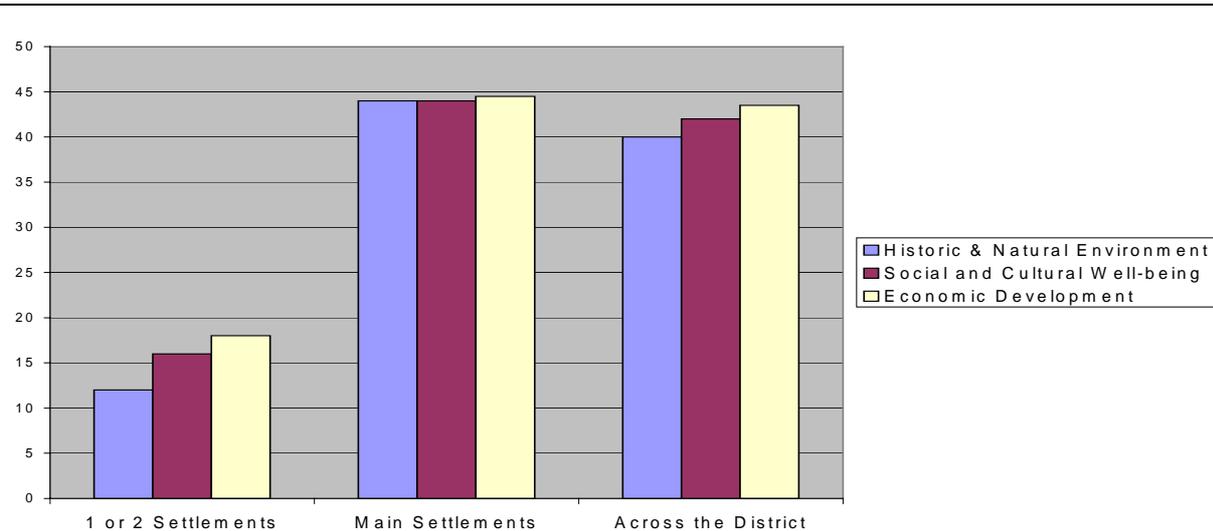
- SA of key settlements
- Regional Spatial Strategy
- Quality of the Environment & Quality of Life
- Sustainable Development – Split across many Themes
- Protection and Enhancement of Bio-diversity
- Maintain Health Care Facilities
- Political and administrative
- Topics: SSSIs, Conservation areas, Rural Buffer, Coalescence
- Influence of Bath/ Bristol and Swindon, Employment, Retail and Transport
- Growth and Capacity

- A Decent Home for everyone
- Accommodating Demographic Change i.e. Ageing population and out-migration of the Districts Young
- Urban Design
- Retain Greenbelt land
- New build respects character of existing buildings
- Rural/ Urban transport
- Protecting existing street scene

*NWDC Response: The responses detailed to the questions above give an indication of the Authority's intention to cover many of the issues raised to this question.*

#### Q41. Options Matrix

<u>Development Model</u> <b>Theme</b>	To <b>concentrate</b> consideration of the themes at only a few places in the District	To identify several <b>main settlements</b> for the consideration of themes	To consider the themes <b>evenly</b> and fairly across the whole of the District
The Protection of the <b>Historic and Natural Environment</b> Theme	<i>Option 1</i>  <b>12</b>	<i>Option 2</i>  <b>44</b>	<i>Option 3</i>  <b>40</b>
The Delivery of Services that are important to <b>Social and Cultural</b> Well-being Theme.	<i>Option 4</i>  <b>16</b>	<i>Option 5</i>  <b>44</b>	<i>Option 6</i>  <b>42</b>
The Delivery of <b>Economic Development, Regeneration and Growth</b> Theme	<i>Option 7</i>  <b>18</b>	<i>Option 8</i>  <b>44.5</b>	<i>Option 9</i>  <b>43.5</b>



#### NWDC Response:

*It is not intended that the Options Matrix will appear in the Preferred Options document. The intention was that the Options Matrix results would provide an outline of views on planning in North Wiltshire, it allowed discussion and consideration of a combination of issues/options. It also provides an opportunity to cross reference the results from other questions and options set out in the document.*

*The results displayed in the Matrix above, closely match the responses received at the consultation forums and are in general conformity with the responses received to other questions and options set in the questionnaire.*

*To clarify the results, you need to consider the different combination that individuals were able to make. It would not be correct to say that most selected Options 2, 6, and 8, because in fact the combinations selected varied. When all the Options selected are combined, as above, it becomes clear that the majority wish for the consideration of the 'themes' to be across the main settlements and often across all settlements, rather than to be solely considered at one main settlement. A number of comments received at the forum sessions requested that the development associated with a settlement should be proportional to its size, and the range of services and facilities accessible to that settlement. This closely matches the approach detailed in the emerging RSS. More detail is given within our other responses to the Authority's desire to be in general conformity with the emerging RSS.*

#### Q42. Do you have any comments on the Principles of Development policy?

##### Consultation Comments:

- Recommend that the criteria list refers to the need for development to have a minimum impact on climate change, whilst protecting and mitigating against the effects caused by climate change.
- Point iii) not understood.
- Include sufficient topic based policies.
- Protection and enhancement of biodiversity should be provided more robustly.
- Preservation needs to be changed to protection throughout.
- Affordable Housing.
- Insert 'landscape' before (ii)' ...the historic'.
- Extremely negative with regard to future development.
- Development by way of COU should not deprive communities of useful facilities - Public Houses should be protected.
- Too compartmentalised, in practice a balance of several options is required.
- New criterion, that new development respects the wishes expressed by the community.

- Car parking.
- New Criteria, requiring new development to promote active and healthy lifestyles.
- ii) Should be strengthened to prevent against any development of existing greenfield sites, unless there is a development imperative and no feasible alternative.
- Vi) Is too strong. Sustainability of development should be moved at the regional and national level. Inappropriate to demand vi of every development at local level. Sustainability is being used inappropriately at local level to justify aiming for self-sufficient local communities. This is not an appropriate policy aim.
- Good.
- Well thought out.
- Principles appear good but open to interpretation. Needs to be clear.
- There is no direct reference to assessing impacts on the trunk road network.
- A principle that ensured that the basic needs of all in the community are met.
- Beneficial if criteria i) were to include reference to 'design out crime' principles.
- May wish to consider rephrasing iii) into a more positive criteria along the lines of 'the proposed development creates acceptable levels of privacy and amenities...'. Criteria iv) and vii) could be amalgamated.
- There will be economic development in the Cotswold Water Park and therefore there is need to that this developed in the appropriate location within the water park. Therefore there is need to integrate these policies with those of Cotswold District
- Inappropriate - should be deleted.
- Need to recognise need to be directly related and not to be unduly onerous that schemes become unavailable.
- There must be close monitoring of any development to ensure that developers are complying with policy.
- Policy must be applied transparently and even-handedly.
- The word 'respects' in the first line of criterion ii) is weaker than 'preserving' this is more in line with PPG 15 and PPG16.
- The new planning gain supplement may alter the approach that should be adopted by the Council.

*NWDC Response: Many people support this proposed policy. Consideration will be given to the inclusion of the above points. A core sustainable development policy on sustainability will be included, given the detail of the responses received to the other questions presented in the Issue and Options Document.*

#### **Q43. Do you have any comments on the Community Infrastructure policy?**

##### Consultation Comments:

- It should be made clear that water supply and foul drainage disposal is an important consideration for development proposals. To ensure that there is capacity available, that would not cause a significant impact on the environment.
- Needs privatisation - as presented it is unrealistic wish-list.
- Contributions should only be sought when the development creates a demand for such provision and which would not currently be met by existing facilities.
- The Council must not seek developers to meet existing shortfalls, or demand for facilities which would not serve the proposed development.
- BP 9:Covers potentially a huge range of issues. It would be more helpful to break this down e.g. into, biodiversity enhancement, flood risk management, etc.
- Reference Circular 05/05.
- Town and Parish Councils should be involved when planning gain will generate new facilities that could ultimately become the responsibility of the local council.
- Museums.

- Development proposals are made without reference to the provision of the necessary infrastructure.
- Support for including leisure, sport and recreation provision.
- Good, Developers should contribute to enhancing services and infrastructure in the areas they propose to build development.
- Current allocation system for affordable housing runs contrary to planning requirement, i.e. it does not support local need and is a self perpetuating need so can never be satisfied.
- Comprehensive.
- There is no specific mention of regeneration of town centres and socially/economically deprived areas.
- Define "Major Development Proposal".
- Public art contributions should be voluntary and not mandatory.
- Any development should not over load existing infrastructure to the extent of necessitating new build of public facilities on greenfield sites.
- How will these requirements for community infrastructure be weighted? For example, is there an assumption that x% of the overall financial contribution will be spent on affordable housing, and y% on sport and recreation? What evidence will you use to base your negotiations on?
- More co-operation between district and county.
- Inappropriate - should be deleted.
- Needs to be tied in with possible introduction of planning gain supplement.

*NWDC Response: Many people support the proposed policy. Consideration will be given to the inclusion of the above points, or the appropriate alterations to wording will be made.*

**Q44.** Please use the space below to enter any comments which you feel should be considered for inclusion in the North Wiltshire Core Strategy Development Plan Document, which have not been explored elsewhere in this Issues and Options document.

*NWDC Response: Many issues have been raised for consideration. It is not however, considered necessary to include any new sections, rather there will be expansion where necessary of the existing areas/topics.*

*Those comments more appropriately dealt with by other Development Plan Documents will be considered during their production.*

### **Sustainability Appraisal of the Options and Issues for the Core Strategy DPD**

Consultation Comments:

The SA is an important element of the approach. However, the Appraisal is only a policy tool to help the decision maker. It is important that the Sustainability Appraisal is undertaken in a transparent and open manner and it should be an iterative process undertaken on a consistent basis.

*NWDC Response: The SA will continue to be prepared in accordance with the SA guidance and an SA Report will accompany the Core Strategy Preferred Options. The SA Report will be formally consulted upon, as required by the SA guidance.*