



Issues and Scope Regulation 18 Consultation Summary Statement

New Forest District Council
(outside the National Park)

August 2025

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1. Introduction

- 1.1. This document outlines a summary of the consultation process undertaken by the Council for the Issues and Scope Consultation. It also sets out a summary of the consultation responses and how the Council will respond to the issues raised.

What we consulted on

- 1.2. As part of its local plan review, the Council produced and consulted on an Issues and Scope consultation. This is the initial phase of a local plan review, where residents and stakeholders are invited to identify and discuss the key challenges and the scope of what will be in the local plan. It is a crucial step to ensure everyone is on the same page regarding the problems to be addressed and the extent of the project's focus.

How we consulted

- 1.3. A public consultation ran from Monday 17 February 2025 until Friday 4 April 2025. The Issues and Scope Consultation Document and all consultation process information were published on the NFDC website, with an online survey being available through the GoVocal platform. Furthermore, the consultation was advertised extensively both online and in hardcopy forms such as local newspapers and posters in libraries. In accordance with our Statement of Community Involvement, all consultees listed in Appendix 1 as well as those signed up to our Local Plan contacts database were directly informed of the consultation period and process by email.

Document distributions

- 1.4. Documents were sent to:
- local libraries:
 - Fordingbridge
 - Ringwood
 - New Milton

- Milford-on-sea
- Lymington
- Hythe
- Totton
- New Forest District Council **Community hubs**:
 - Calshot (St Georges Hall)
 - Fordingbridge (Avonway community Centre)
 - New Milton (Nedderman Centre)
 - Pennington (St Marks Community Hall)
 - Totton (Testwood Baptist Church)

Letters sent to

- 1.5. Letters were sent in accordance with our Statement of Community Involvement to the consultees listed in appendix 1 of that document.
- 1.6. Separate letters were also sent to the main infrastructure providers on 20th February 2025 requesting information regarding the current provision and capacity of key infrastructure services they provide within the New Forest District. The infrastructure providers contacted were:
- National Highways,
 - Hampshire County Council – Highways
 - National Grid
 - Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN)
 - National Gas
 - Southern Gas Networks (SGN)
 - Wessex Water
 - Southern Water
 - Bournemouth Water
 - British Telecoms (BT)
 - Cornerstone (Mobile and digital infrastructure provider)
 - Mobile UK

- Mobile Broadband Network Limited (MBNL)
- Go South Coast
- Network Rail
- South Western Railway (SWR)
- NHS Hampshire and Isle of Wight Integrated Care Board (ICB)
- Hampshire County Council – Education

1.7. A summary of the key issues raised, and responses received can be seen in the 'Appendix 2: Responses from Infrastructure Providers' section.

2. Consultation drop-in events

Overview of events

- 2.1. During the consultation a series of drop-in events were held at the following locations:

26 Feb	Fordingbridge	Avonway Community Centre, SP6 1JF
27 Feb	Lymington	Lymington Community Centre, SO41 9BQ
28 Feb	Hythe & Dibden	St Andrews Church, Dibden Purlieu, SO45 4PT
3 March	New Milton	New Milton Memorial Centre, BH25 6DE
4 March	Totton	West Totton Community Centre, SO40 8WU
5 March	Marchwood	Marchwood Hub – Lloyds Recreation Ground, SO40 4SX
7 March	Ringwood	Greyfriars Community Centre, BH24 1DW

- 2.2. Each event was represented by 4 members of the policy and plans team and consisted of 6 exhibition boards, leaflets with contact details and print outs of constraint maps. The events were advertised by a press release, articles in the Bournemouth and Southern Echo, social media and the Council's resident email newsletter. Social media posts were repeated during the period of drop in events.

Summary of issues raised at events

Fordingbridge

- 2.3. The event was attended by approx. 65 people.
- 2.4. Comments were largely general relating to:
- Fordingbridge having had its share of development in recent years
 - the need for a supermarket

- need to improve roads in particular (some referred to the High Street and Station Road in particular)
- devolution / local government reorganisation, and the impact that will have on the local plan
- general concern regarding the quality of recent development surrounding Fordingbridge and desire to see high quality in any future development
- a recognition of education facilities and the catchment boundaries skewing a need figure (i.e. Fordingbridge schools with Wiltshire children)
- how the Neighbourhood Plan can work alongside the local plan
- the new homes being built in Fordingbridge are too expensive for young people – i.e. the need for more affordable homes.
- a need for rejuvenation of the High Street, and concerns surrounding the seemingly high turnover of retail space.
- a lack of spaces for teenagers and youth clubs.

Lymington

2.5. The event was attended by approx. 75 people.

2.6. Comments were largely general relating to:

- devolution / local government reorganisation, and the impact that will have on the local plan
- new homes being built in Lymington are too expensive for young people – i.e. the need for more affordable homes.
- how policies (and supporting evidence on viability, etc.) can be robust enough to ensure new homes provided meet local needs (primarily younger first times buyers and family housing) and the appropriate amount of affordable housing can be delivered
- how plan-making can ensure developers do what they are required to (e.g., related to the bridge at Lymington Shores)

- a perception that too many retirement homes being built in the area
- a need to improve roads near the south coast towns
- concerns over a lack of cycling routes and footpaths, particularly adjacent to roads
- concerns surrounding second home ownership and the impact this is having on the community and local economy
- a recognition of the need to use brownfield sites and vacant buildings effectively/to their full potential
- The Solent Freeport and implications of it for the area
- curiosity about what is green belt and what is grey belt while understanding it is needed for new homes (particularly affordable homes).

Hythe and Dibden

2.7. The event was attended by approx. 60 people.

2.8. Comments were largely general relating to:

- devolution / local government reorganisation, and the impact that will have on the local plan
- concerns over the Home Farm site and the impact that it would bring (including construction traffic and any country park) should a planning application be submitted and granted.
- concerns over the impact of the Rolleston Road application should it be granted permission
- queries over the next steps for the Fawley Waterside development
- the need to improve roads and uncertainty of success of A326 works.
- a desire to use brownfield sites and vacant buildings effectively/to their full potential
- curiosity about what is green belt and what is grey belt

- a desire to see Hythe Ferry continue
- clarification sought over the jurisdictions of National Park / NFDC areas
- concerns over the limited provisions for Active Travel and how NFDC can work with Hampshire County Council to improve safety and provision.

New Milton

- 2.9. The event was attended by approx. 45 people.
- 2.10. Comments were largely general relating to:
- devolution / local government reorganisation, and the impact that will have on the local plan
 - the need to improve roads particularly around the Hordle area
 - reliance on new and existing development using the narrow roads in the New Forest National Park to the north of New Milton.
 - concern that further growth in the south coastal towns will lead to increased traffic north across the New Forest National Park
 - a desire to use brownfield sites over greenfield sites
 - a desire for NFDC to build more affordable homes (directly)
 - a need for more homes to be affordable for younger people in particular.
 - concerns surrounding the potential release of land from the Green Belt and whether this would affect designated habitat sites.

Totton

- 2.11. The event was attended by approx. 30 people.
- 2.12. Comments were largely general relating to:
- discussion around surface water flooding after heavy rainfall and concern that the same issues will happen on new development

- devolution / local government reorganisation, and the impact that will have on the local plan, and also the role of Parish Councils
- how the Neighbourhood Plans can be developed alongside our Local Plan review
- a need for more homes to be affordable for younger people and families in particular.
- ensuring infrastructure provision such as Doctors' Surgeries and School Places is in step with housing development
- several attendees noted the need to be more ambitious in addressing climate change, specifically energy use in built development e.g. Photovoltaic energy and space heating requirements.
- the need for significant improvements to the A326 if new development is consented.
- general questions about the policies covering Dibden Bay and Fawley oil refinery, and the current situation/future regarding those areas.
- the future of the former Fawley Power Station site.

Marchwood

2.13. The event was attended by approx. 25 people.

2.14. Comments were largely general relating to:

- discussion around a lack of public transport in the Marchwood area, notably a lack of regular buses.
- devolution / local government reorganisation, and the impact that will have on the local plan.
- concerns over a lack of infrastructure to support the new development, particularly an increase in vehicular traffic, and the current lack of a GP surgery in Marchwood.

- concerns over the success of the recent A326 works (including the 'bus gate'), which have not been felt to improve the traffic. Speed of traffic also a concern, especially HGVs.
- a need for a range of housing, including retirement housing in the area.
- general questions regarding the evidence base for the Local Plan, particularly with regards to the impact that new development may have on flooding, archaeology, and transport.

Ringwood

2.15. The event was attended by approx. 45 people.

2.16. Comments were largely general relating to:

- support for consulting with the community at this stage of Local Plan review.
- concerns over a lack of infrastructure to support the new development, particularly an increase in vehicular traffic,
- concerns over the success of the recent Snails Lane and Moortown Lane planning applications and the appropriateness of those allocations.
- comments and concerns on the Bransgore strategic site development and how it will impact the existing village.
- a need for a range of housing to support the local economy and how the local plan can work with the Town Council to develop a new identity for the town for the future.
- general questions regarding the evidence base for the Local Plan, particularly with regards to the impact that new development may have on flooding, archaeology, and transport.
- concerns that the Ringwood Neighbourhood Plan isn't taken into account when making planning decisions, particularly around strategic sites.
- concerns as to the frequency of buses to and from the Bransgore area.

- questions about how to submit a site for inclusion in the local plan and how the overall local plan process works.
- general questions regarding the questions being asked and how to access the survey.
- how the Local Plan relates to the Community Infrastructure Levy and how it can support local infrastructure needs.

3. Online Questionnaire

Introduction

- 3.1. A questionnaire was created comprising of 50 questions on topics discussed within the Issues & Scope Document. Respondents were encouraged to complete the questionnaire via GoVocal, the online platform used by the Council.
- 3.2. Several respondents completed the questionnaire offline and submitted this to the Council via email. All responses received across GoVocal and via email were collated and reviewed, and key issues raised within each response were summarised.
- 3.3. The Issues & Scope Document additionally contained a glossary of terms, which respondents could refer to whilst completing the questionnaire, where using technical language in the documents and corresponding questions was unavoidable.

Responses received

- 3.4. In total, we received 134 responses via both GoVocal (79) and email (55). Of those received via email, 10 responses were either duplicates of submissions made on GoVocal; statements confirming that a GoVocal submission had been made; or providing additional detail to their submitted GoVocal responses (which were subsequently added to the original response). Therefore, a total of 124 unique responses were received.
- 3.5. Many, though not all, of the responses received via email were in the form of statements.

Response breakdown

- 3.6. The following outlines a breakdown of the 124 responses received via both GoVocal and Email. Please note, percentages have been rounded and therefore may not total 100%:

- 38% of responses (47 out of 124 responses) were received from local residents;
- 25% of respondents were from developers, landowners, agents (31 out of 124 responses, of whom 27 were promoting land for development).
- almost 15% of respondents (18 out of 124 responses) were from representatives from the County Council, Planning Authorities, and Town & Parish Councils;
- around 9% of responses (11 out of 124 responses) were from representatives from Utilities / Infrastructure / Service providers;
- 8% of responses (10 out of 124 responses) were received from representatives from environmental interest organisations (both natural and historic environment)
- around 6% of responses (7 out of 124 responses) were from Local Interest / Community Groups.

Common themes and issues raised

3.7. The following key themes and issues were frequently raised by both GoVocal and Email respondents:

- housing: concerns were raised over the need for housing, particularly affordable housing, both market and social. Additionally, there was a strong emphasis on the need to provide housing for locals and young people, particularly in the context of an aging demographic.
- green space: access to local green space via public transport and active travel. The need for increased sports provision catering for all ages and genders. Additional sports pitches/courts and play areas were frequently suggested, in addition to the need for an even distribution throughout the District.

- transport: need for a joined up public transport network, linking various modes of transport. Frequency and reliability, particularly in smaller settlements, was a common theme.
- infrastructure: the need for improved infrastructure provisions within the transport, healthcare, utilities and education sectors were commonly noted, in addition to a desire to see increased recreational greenspace.
- climate change: responses largely noted the need for flood risk management and mitigation, and the value of nature-based approaches to this. Sustainable drainage and tree planting were also frequently mentioned.
- High Streets: reduced business rates was a common suggestion, in addition to reducing vehicle traffic on high streets and the addition of benches and trees to improve overall aesthetic and attraction.
- protecting the unique context of the New Forest: throughout responses, there was a common theme of protecting what makes the area special including the National Park, Cranborne Chase National Landscape, historical environment, and local communities.

Most commonly responded to questions

3.8. The following 6 questions were the most responded to on GoVocal, receiving 50 or more responses each:

- Q10: Do you have any comments on our housing need and how it can be met?
- Q1: What would you like to see as our main focus for our review?
- Q18: What are the key infrastructure priorities that need to be delivered and how can they best be delivered?
- Q5: In seeking to meet our identified development needs, what should our strategy be?

- Q25: How do you think we should work towards achieving net zero?
- Q49: How can our planning policies help make you, and our communities, travel by the sustainable modes of walking, cycling and public transport?

Main focus

- 3.9. The majority of respondents indicated that a focus on housing need and provision ought to be a priority for this review. Particularly, the need for affordable housing of both market and social varieties was raised as well as the need to have housing in close proximity to employment and services. Tied to this, many respondents felt that there was a need to improve infrastructure, services and facilities to support new development.
- 3.10. Another common priority raised was the issue of environmental preservation and ensuring that our natural environment is protected in the context of new development. In addition to this, the need to prepare for, and mitigate and adapt to the effects of Climate Change was also frequently raised by respondents.
- 3.11. The quality of life and wellbeing of current residents was also proposed as being the main focus of the review. There was a strong consensus for the Plan to focus on town centre regeneration and development on brownfield sites before looking to greenfield and greenbelt sites.

Development strategy suggestions

- 3.12. Many respondents felt that brownfield sites and infill sites should be prioritised for development, particularly those located in town centres. While there were some negative views of development on greenfield sites, respondents were broadly accepting of the need for it in some cases. A minority of respondents strongly advocated for developing greenfield sites. Respondents generally felt that any new development should be located where there was existing suitable infrastructure and transport, or where this would be provided.
- 3.13. There was a variety of suggestions as to what types of housing and development were best but common themes were the need for affordable housing as well as the need to provide homes accessible and desirable for young people.
- 3.14. Several respondents suggested a stronger policy framework in relation to the implementation of infrastructure, such that any agreed provision be implemented prior to occupation, particularly in larger developments that have a greater impact on existing services.

Housing need and provision

- 3.15. Concerns were expressed regarding the government's housing need methodology, particularly for this area, with many respondents feeling that the target was unrealistic and would be detrimental to the area. Tied to this, several respondents advocated for calculating housing need on a local or community basis to ensure best provision for each individual area.

- 3.16. Diverse types of affordable housing were called for across the majority of respondents. There was an identified need among respondents for both forms of affordable social housing, including council housing and social rent, as well as cheaper market homes which could cater to young people and families. It was felt that there was a gap when it comes to affordable market homes with there being instances of only very expensive or social housing being offered. There was also general concern that local people were being priced out of the market and that the issue of second home ownership contributed to this problem.
- 3.17. Demographically, many respondents felt that there was a lack of housing provision for young people, including 1-2 bed houses and centrally located flats. They felt this contributed to people moving away and the aging demographic of many NFDC areas. Due to the aging population, many respondents also indicated that accessible accommodation for older residents should be provided. Respondents felt that mixed demographics would support the vibrancy of local communities.
- 3.18. Respondents differed on whether higher or lower density development was preferred. However, many agreed that it should be determined on a site-by-site basis and that the provision of green space was essential to all development, particularly that of higher density.

Infrastructure

- 3.19. A large number of respondents expressed concerns over infrastructure capacity for existing settlements which would be stretched even further by future development. Key priorities were identified as follows:
- transport: improved road networks, public transport, cycleways and footpaths were identified as infrastructure needs. This was tied to a need to better integrate these transport modes.
 - healthcare: there was an overwhelming sentiment among respondents for more GPs and NHS local services including dentists.

- education: concerns regarding there being sufficient school places to support new development were raised.
- utilities: concerns over wastewater treatment and drainage were raised, particularly in relation to flooding and water quality concerns. Additionally, a minority of respondents expressed concerns relating to electricity provision.
- recreational facilities: many respondents expressed concern that there aren't sufficient sports, leisure centre, and swimming pool provisions. In some cases, this was also tied to accessibility, affordability and gender imbalance concerns.

Health and wellbeing

- 3.20. Many respondents felt that health and wellbeing could be best supported by better active travel networks integrated with green spaces, as this not only improves health and wellbeing, but overall quality of life. This was tied to the provision of free outside gyms and undercover activities that were accessible for all ages, in addition to more affordable access to health and leisure centres. It was also noted by many respondents that enhanced provision of safe active travel infrastructure will have a positive impact on health and wellbeing across the District and reduce the pressures on existing healthcare services.
- 3.21. Some respondents suggested having frequent outside seating, particularly in town centres and coastal paths, which could encourage those with mobility challenges to try to walk more.
- 3.22. Another common theme was that of increased social interaction with respondents suggesting community hubs with good public transport access and community gardens.
- 3.23. There was also a general call for more doctors, NHS dentists, and minor injuries surgeries.

Key transport issues

- 3.24. Many respondents noted the need for a reliable and frequent public transport network serving smaller settlements in addition to the larger towns. The need for a joined-up network was also raised by many respondents, particularly in relation to efficient links between different modes of public transport. A common suggestion amongst respondents was the introduction of minibuses to serve smaller settlements where traditional buses are not viable. Many suggested a 'dial-a-bus' type system could be beneficial to the area, particularly in the hard to reach areas.
- 3.25. Of particular note, were the transport challenges facing residents in the Waterside area, particularly the ceasing of the ferry service between Hythe and Southampton, in addition to the absence of railway services on the Waterside line. Respondents felt that reinstating these services would open up more opportunities for employment for Waterside residents and provide greater connectivity to larger towns and cities.
- 3.26. Active travel provision was highlighted by many respondents, emphasising the need for safe and efficient cycleways and safer pedestrian crossings. It was additionally flagged by respondents that provision for disabled residents and those using adapted cycles were not mentioned in relation to transport and active travel.
- 3.27. It was also questioned whether development should be considered where it is found that existing roads/pavements cannot be adapted to accommodate increased traffic. It was suggested that development proposals should be required to demonstrate from the offset as being able to provide sustainable transport solutions to the nearest facilities such as shops and schools.

High Streets

- 3.28. In relation to High Streets and the ways in which these can be rejuvenated, a large proportion of respondents believe that business rates are too high, and this is driving small and independent businesses away.

- 3.29. It was suggested by many respondents that tree-lining High Streets would make them more attractive to visitors, in addition to having widely accepted benefits for health and wellbeing, and also for the environment. Improvement to the street scene and general feel of High Streets could also be achieved by introducing additional benches and seating areas, and by increased attention to maintenance and upkeep.
- 3.30. It was also suggested by several respondents that reducing traffic travelling down High Streets during peak hours, or even pedestrianising in some areas, would encourage more people to spend time in these centres.
- 3.31. Conversely, many respondents have indicated that a lack of free parking in town centres has discouraged residents from visiting and spending time there.
- 3.32. Some respondents have suggested introducing a limit on the number of shops serving similar purposes, e.g. multiple charity shops or barbers. Suggestion to identify gaps in provision and encourage businesses accordingly to better shape what the High Street has to offer.
- 3.33. Town centre regeneration was another key issue raised by respondents.

Open spaces

- 3.34. The provision of green and open space was considered an important factor of development by the majority of respondents, with many supporting the Council's suggestion in the Corporate Plan for a new Country Park. The need for open space to be accessible by public transport and active travel opportunities was also highlighted, with many noting that green spaces are currently not accessible for all people. It was suggested by many respondents that safe open spaces be provided within all new development, with their size being proportionate to the development, to ensure that everyone has access to open space without the need to travel long distances.

- 3.35. The need for increased provision for sports activities was highlighted by many respondents, in particular sports pitches, sports courts and play areas to appeal to all ages and genders. The creation of 4G sports pitches was also suggested to allow sports to continue in wet weather, which is ever-increasing in frequency in the face of climate change.
- 3.36. Accessibility and connectivity of green spaces was also of particular importance to respondents, particularly via active travel modes.
- 3.37. Provision of greenspace was also raised as a means through which the National Park could be protected and recreational impacts on sensitive habitats be mitigated, particularly from dog-walking. Several respondents suggested the provision of secure dog parks throughout the District, in addition to dog-free areas.

Responding to climate change

- 3.38. The majority of respondents acknowledged the need to respond to climate change and raised several key issues for the Council's consideration.
- 3.39. Flood mitigation and adaptation were common themes throughout the responses, with many respondents concerned with development on flood plains. The need for sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) was highlighted by many respondents, in addition to nature-based solutions for flood risk mitigation. Additional green space in new developments to enable sufficient natural drainage of rain and surface water has also been suggested. In coastal areas, coastline management and protection of existing floodplains was noted.
- 3.40. Building design was a common thread in the responses, with many suggestions for increased insulation and solar panels on all suitable roofs. Further to this, it was suggested by many that solar panels become a mandated requirement on all new developments coming forward.
- 3.41. Tree planting was also frequently suggested, with mutual benefits for both climate change and human health.

- 3.42. It was considered by some respondents that the current adopted Local Plan does not reflect the Climate Emergency declared by the Council, and that the new Local Plan should seek to address this. It was suggested that the Council develop a Climate Change policy that goes beyond the national requirement.

New Forest National Park

- 3.43. Respondents were largely in agreement that the National Park should be protected and enhanced as far as possible, with stronger policies within the Local Plan to facilitate this. It was felt by some respondents that a more joined-up approach is needed between NFDC and the National Park Authority to ensure that the potentially extensive development required within NFDC's Plan Area does not adversely impact the National Park or its sensitive habitats and wildlife.
- 3.44. Suggestions were made for a physical buffer between the National Park boundary and new development, greater emphasis on the protection of the Green Belt, and the introduction of wildlife corridors. Provision of sufficient, accessible alternative greenspace of varying sizes within NFDC's Plan Area was frequently suggested as a means through which to protect the National Park and mitigate recreational impact on sensitive habitats.
- 3.45. It was noted by some respondents that the National Park is outside the Plan Area and therefore should not be viewed as a direct constraint, however there is a need to be considerate when allocating development to prevent a decline in the character of the National Park.

Appendix 1: Responses from main Statutory Agencies, Neighbouring Authorities and Town and Parish Councils

- 1.1. The following table presents a summary of the responses received from main statutory consultees. Whilst the below is not a comprehensive summary, it outlines the key issues raised.
- 1.2. It is noted that, of New Forest District Council's neighbouring local planning authorities, responses were received from Southampton City Council, Test Valley Borough Council, Dorset Council and New Forest National Park Authority. The neighbouring local planning authorities who did not provide a formal response to the Regulation 18 Issues and Scope consultation are Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council, Wiltshire Council, Eastleigh Borough Council and Isle of Wight Council.

Organisation	Key issues raised
Natural England	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Natural England (NE) is of the view that a strategic approach to the protection and enhancement of the natural environment be outlined within the Local Plan, including providing a net gain for biodiversity, and considering opportunities to enhance and improve connectivity.- NE believes that the Local Plan should be underpinned by up-to-date evidence including an assessment of existing and potential components of local ecological networks, in addition to a consideration of the roles performed by the area's soils.

Organisation	Key issues raised
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NE considers that green space is fundamental for health and wellbeing and as such nature-based interventions should be considered, noting mutual benefits for the environment and the wellbeing of communities. - Biodiversity and nature recovery are key priorities raised throughout NE's response, and a strategic approach for networks of biodiversity is encouraged, akin to the approach taken for Green Infrastructure. - NE expects the Plan to identify a coastal change management area, noting inevitable sea level rise and coastal change, which will bring challenges for both society and the environment.
Environment Agency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Environment Agency (EA) has emphasised the need to have conversations with water companies who provide water supply and wastewater services as part of the Plan process, and prior to allocating sites for development. The EA also recommends that River Basin Management Plans be recognised within the Plan and used as part of the evidence base. - The EA was pleased to see that Flood Risk is acknowledged as a key issue within the Issues & Scope Document, and recommends that appropriate flood protection, resilience and resistance measures could form part of a policy requirement. - The EA has noted a preference for development within Flood Zone 1.

Organisation	Key issues raised
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The EA notes that protection of groundwater resources is not mentioned within the Issues & Scope Document, and recommends that suitable assessments of contamination risks from historic land uses be a policy requirement for new allocations. The EA would also like to see the Hurst Spit to Lymington Flood and Coastal Risk Management Strategy mentioned within the Plan. - On policy development, the EA has recommended that Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) policies should encompass explicit reference to the aquatic environment and the role BNG can play in improving water quality, water resources, flood protection and other benefits by management of rivers and wetlands. The EA also recommends a consideration of whether to include a specific policy seeking conservation and enhancement of rivers and watercourses.
Historic England	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Historic England (HE) believes that historic assets should be protected, and that the Local Plan should clearly specify natural environment from historic environment to ensure clarity. - HE has recommended that the Council should consider preparing a high-level characterisation study for areas earmarked for growth. - HE believes that re-use of existing buildings should be considered as this can make an important contribution to the District's carbon emissions. - HE encourages a proportionate heritage impact assessment be carried out when determining whether a site is suitable for development.

Organisation	Key issues raised
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - HE provided comments in relation to addressing risks to coastal heritage including accounting for coastal erosion.
New Forest National Park Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New Forest National Park Authority (NFNPA) urged the Council to consider the setting of any new developments and the impact this may have on the National Park. The proximity of new development to the National Park boundary was raised as a concern. - NFNPA encouraged the Council to fully assess higher density development in the District's more urban settlements. - NFNPA encouraged the Council to develop a climate change policy that goes beyond the statutory requirement. - The NFNPA highlighted the opportunities to expand the relationship between the Plan Area and the National Park, noting the benefits of the natural environment in fostering health and wellbeing. - The NFNPA strongly encourages the Council to deliver additional mitigation within the New Forest's designated sites. - The need for joint working and continued cooperation was noted by NFNPA, particularly in relation to the former Fawley Power Station site.
Southampton City Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Southampton City Council (SCC) agrees that the housing need is great and therefore recommends that the Local Plan should seek to address as much of the housing target as possible. - SCC welcomes the updated Green Belt study and notes that a Grey Belt approach will need to be considered.

Organisation	Key issues raised
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SCC recommends that opportunities for higher density housing delivery should be sought, such as in town centres, near train stations, and along other key transport routes. - SCC states that collaborative working between the two councils should continue to help address cross-boundary issues.
Winchester City Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Winchester City Council (WCC) has advised the Council of the need to demonstrate to the Inspector that a 'no stone left unturned' approach has been taken in regard to meeting housing need. - WCC notes that options for restricting second home ownership will need to be fully explored before the Council ask neighbouring authorities to help with their unmet need. - WCC notes that in their experience, increasing Biodiversity Net Gain above the statutory 10% is likely to be challenging.
Dorset Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dorset Council (DC) believes that greater recognition of some cross-boundary issues is needed, noting that identification of areas adjacent to or across boundaries offer opportunities for strategic approaches that can help improve the sustainability of both communities. - DC is eager to resume Duty to Cooperate meetings as both councils work to prepare their new Local Plans. - DC notes the importance of ensuring any new development sited on the edges of the New Forest District and on the border with Dorset are well-connected and served by both public and active travel provisions.

Organisation	Key issues raised
Test Valley Borough Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Test Valley has encouraged the Council to assess all opportunities to maximise housing supply from all sources including Green Belt and high-density housing to meet as much of the identified need as possible.
Hampshire County Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A 'Health into All Policies (HiAP) approach to Local Plans in Hampshire is recommended. - HCC supports a joined-up approach between land use and transport planning to help create opportunities to provide development in locations that are, or can be, supported by sustainable transport connections. - HCC considers that increased densification of existing built-up areas should be prioritised for development. - HCC encourages NFDC to include a greater link to climate change and health within policy and consider the co-benefits of policies that tackle health and climate ambitions. - HCC advocates for active travel though notes investment will likely be largely through s106 and CIL contributions. - HCC notes the absence of reference to waste prevention and minimisation and/or material re-use within the Issues & Scope document. - HCC notes that the value of public transport and in particular bus transport should not be underrepresented in potential solutions to connectivity across the District and policies to support this infrastructure would be encouraged.
Ringwood Town Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ringwood Town Council notes that the housing target is unrealistic and there is a need for provision of cheaper market housing.

Organisation	Key issues raised
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Town Council wishes to see the Green Belt protected. - Ringwood-specific issues were raised, including concerns surrounding the impact on the Ringwood Neighbourhood Plan.
New Milton Town Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New Milton Town Council (NMTC) considers that brownfield development and town centre regeneration should be prioritised, and have suggested that the Council consider compulsory purchase of brownfield sites where proportionate. - NMTC has suggested that housing sites use quick-build systems to remedy the housing issues more efficiently. Further, NMTC believes that affordable housing should prioritise modern, modular buildings on specifically earmarked sites, for 1 and/or 2-bedroom properties. - NMTC advocated for greater emphasis to be placed on actively planting an abundance of native species on every new development, from residential extensions to strategic sites. - NMTC has suggested that the Council map and protect backup grazing land to prevent further loss of this resource. - NMTC believes that green space should be easy to access by active travel modes and, where appropriate, benches and bins should be provided. NMTC further considers that a new country park and/or larger play destination is needed in the south coast sub-area.

Organisation	Key issues raised
Fordingbridge Town Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It was considered by Fordingbridge Town Council (FTC) that the adopted Local Plan lacks consideration for the overall future vision for Fordingbridge and that the new Local Plan should seek to address this, taking account of current and future development, and development that is permitted but not yet commenced. - FTC notes that a proportionate increase in infrastructure and services is needed to align with increased development. - FTC notes that brownfield and grey belt sites should play an increased role, particularly for higher density development. - FTC notes the need for affordable homes for young people. - FTC's neighbourhood plan is being prepared with a similar timeline to the Local Plan.

Appendix 2: Responses from Infrastructure Providers

- 2.1 Responses were received from infrastructure providers in two ways. Providers responded formally via the Regulation 18 Issues and Scope Consultation, and/or provided a response following the letters sent on 20th February 2025. Summaries of the key issues raised by infrastructure providers are provided below. For ease of interpretation, the type of response provided by each provider has been indicated.
- 2.2 **National Highways** provided a statement of comments on the Regulation 18 Issues & Scope document. They consider that the Local Plan must provide the policy framework to ensure development cannot progress without appropriate infrastructure being in place. They have also advised that as infrastructure improvements on the Strategic Road Network (SRN) should be a last resort, proposed growth will need to be considered in the context of the cumulative impact from background growth on the SRN, and that any development close to the SRN will require further consultation with National Highways regarding impacts on the road network and potential mitigation for this.
- 2.3 National Highways have stated that whilst they would like to see a focus on large shifts to active travel, they appreciate that large sections of the District are separated by the National Park, and therefore a broad focus on increasing accessibility via other modes such as public transport is a solution that aligns with the interest of National Highways of ensuring the function of the SRN.
- 2.4 National Grid provided a written response to the Regulation 18 consultation, which was sent to the Council via email. National Grid have confirmed there are no known new infrastructure interactions within the area, though National Grid acknowledge that demand for electricity is likely to increase as the way in which they power our homes, businesses and transport changes.

- 2.5 **National Gas** have provided a written response to the Regulation 18 consultation, which was sent to the Council via email. National Gas Transmission advocates for the high standards of design and sustainable development forms promoted through national planning policy and understands that contemporary planning and urban design require a creative approach to new development around underground gas transmission pipelines and other National Gas Transmission assets. National Gas have encouraged the Council to engage with them if it is felt necessary.
- 2.6 **Southern Water** (SW) responded to both the Regulation 18 consultation and the letter sent on 20th February 2025. Via GoVocal, responding to the Regulation 18 consultation, SW have encouraged the Council to engage early with SW on any new site allocations such that the impact on infrastructure can be assessed. The requirement for phased occupation of development where capacity constraints have been identified was also noted. SW detailed concerns regarding the impact of climate change on service provision, noting that climate change is expected to impact flood risk in wastewater systems in the wider area. SW note their support for the use of SuDS in new development, and advocate for more ambitious target setting for personal water use. SW have also provided suggested policy wording in relation to surface water and SuDS.
- 2.7 In response to the letter sent to SW on 20th February 2025, SW have directed the Council to review their Drainage Water Management Plans for a comprehensive summary of the current capacity across the New Forest River Basin Catchment, as well as known existing issues and details of any planned or committed improvements. Regarding their capacity to accommodate further growth, SW have stated that they would need an understanding of what the additional growth entails in terms of locations and numbers of dwellings, in order for them to undertake a credible assessment of the likely impact of this upon current infrastructure.

- 2.8 **Sport England** provided a response to the Council's Regulation 18 Issues and Scope consultation. Sport England have welcomed the Council's decision to undertake a Playing Pitch Strategy, however, consider that the Council's description of wellbeing could place more emphasis on the importance of movement, physical activity and sport in supporting physical and mental wellbeing. Sport England have directed the Council to refer to their Active Design Guidance for the creation of healthy and active communities.
- 2.9 **Go South Coast** operate bus services throughout the District. Go South Coast have provided a comprehensive response to the Regulation 18 consultation and have noted that high car ownership across the District has impacts on public transport offer, as the absence of sufficient volume of demand has implications on network density, frequency, and hours of operation. Go South Coast have provided comments pertaining to the location of new development from an operational perspective, and advocate for a Plan that encourages a modal shift away from private car use and towards more sustainable forms of transport.
- 2.10 The importance of mindful expansion of tourism was also considered by Go South Coast, and it was noted that aggravation of existing congestion should be avoided. Go South Coast further consider that a strategic approach should be adopted for town centres in terms of public transport services, in addition to providing enhanced connection between settlements. Responding to the letter sent on 20th February 2025, Go South Coast have indicated that a relative lack of public demand at peak times has contributed to the limited or absent morning peak facility, even on core routes. Go South Coast have also cited an ageing and declining population, and a declining workforce, as additional contributing factors to this.

- 2.11 Go South Coast have acknowledged the lack of network coverage across certain parts of the larger settlements of Lymington, New Milton, Ringwood and Fordingbridge in addition to the lack of peak-time facilities impacting those of working age. Go South Coast have further acknowledged the lack of a daily service in some substantial settlements such as Bransgore and Everton, noting that these settlements are at risk of being entirely without public transport if Hampshire funding ceases. The issues of routing and delays in Totton and the Waterside were also noted. With regard to committed and planned improvements, Go South Coast have outlined their short- medium- and long-term planned improvements to services across the District, though citing that capacity to accommodate future growth is majorly constrained by the current limitation on Operating Centre capacity.
- 2.12 **Wessex Water** (WW) have provided a response to the Issues & Scope consultation via the online platform where they have considered their capacity to accommodate future growth. WW are of the view that locating development in established settlements is preferable, and that development should be located near existing infrastructure for ease of connection to the network. WW also noted the importance of providing sustainable drainage for new development. WW have suggested a policy be introduced to prevent a net increase in rainwater flow to existing combined sewers and further note that planning policies should ensure that new development minimises its water footprint and impact on the environment.
- 2.13 WW have also responded to the Council's letter sent on 20th February 2025 and have directed the Council to their Drainage and Wastewater Management Plans (DWMP) for information on current capacity, known existing issues and committed and planned improvements.

- 2.14 **NHS Hampshire & Isle of Wight Integrated Care Board** responded to the Regulation 18 Issues and Scope consultation, noting that across the district as a whole, GPs are oversubscribed by a total of approximately 2,000 patients. The ICB note that the capacity of existing facilities and services needs to be considered within the settlement hierarchy and have recommended that health and wellbeing policy should adopt a preventative approach, working to reduce pressure on NHS services which are already oversubscribed. Further, the ICB believe that they should be part of the consultation process, noting that the NHS is not funded for additional infrastructure required to meet new housing need.
- 2.15 **NHS Estates** provided a response to the Council's Regulation 18 Issues and Scope consultation, noting a need for affordable housing for healthcare workers and recommends that where sites become available near to healthcare facilities, these should be prioritised for healthcare workers. NHS Estates are of the view that policies should allow flexibility in NHS estates to enable the NHS to deliver its core objectives. Further, a comprehensive policy on health and wellbeing is encouraged by NHS Estates, containing requirements for developments to incorporate active travel provisions, healthy food (allotments etc), consideration of impacts of pollution, high quality green and blue spaces. It is also recommended that a Health Impact Assessment be carried out, with the NHS noting that the Council should engage with the NHS prior to the Regulation 19 stage. The NHS also believes that planning policies should enable the delivery of essential healthcare infrastructure and be prepared in consultation with the NHS to ensure they help deliver estate transformation.
- 2.16 **Hampshire County Council (HCC) Services for Young Children** welcomed the opportunity to consult on the Local Plan, and in response to the letter sent to them on 20th February 2025, they have directed the Council to their Guidance on Planning Obligations and Developer Infrastructure Contributions. With regard to the Early Years need, the Council have been signposted to HCC's Childcare Sufficiency Assessment, which is based upon a measurement of the supply and demand for childcare using both local and national statistics.

- 2.17 In response to the letter sent on 20th February 2025, Southern Gas Network (SGN) have confirmed that the New Forest District is well served by medium pressure infrastructure and, under current demand conditions, pressure across the medium pressure tier is generally very robust. SGN acknowledge that localised capacity limitations may exist on the low-pressure infrastructure. SGN have indicated that any requirement for new infrastructure will be designed reactively upon acceptance of a connection request, and that any new infrastructure would be determined by the available capacity of the network at the time of the request. Any reinforcement costs may be covered by SGN or met in part or fully by the developer. SGN have stated that there is planned mains replacement along Milford Road on B3058, in addition to some replacement works North of Lymington.
- 2.18 **Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks** (SSEN) responded to the Council's letter sent on 20th February 2025 and have directed the Council to their Network Capacity Map, which provides an overview of the network and its status and have recommended this be viewed alongside their Network Development Report, which provides further detail. The latter document also contains information in relation to known existing issues. SSEN's Distribution Network Options Assessment (DNOA) reports provide additional information on committed and planned improvements.
- 2.19 **Cornerstone**, in their capacity as a mobile telecommunications infrastructure provider, responded to the Council's letter dated 20th February 2025. Cornerstone have emphasised the importance of mobile connectivity and have noted the Council's comment in the Issues and Scope document regarding connectivity in rural areas by securing efficient broadband. However Cornerstone are of the view that mobile connectivity is perhaps of equal or higher importance and should not be overlooked.

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- 2.20 Cornerstone have provided Crowdsourcing data indicating that the EE, Vodafone, O2 and 3 network providers all have significant levels of poor 4G and 5G coverage across the New Forest Area including the National Park, explaining that as demand on the system increases this is likely to get worse if the network is not upgraded or new/additional sites acquired and is likely to move into the poor experience category in times to come. Cornerstone is in the early stages of upgrading the majority of its estate, and this will be phased over the coming years, following a commitment to significantly upgrade the network over the next 10 years. They have also explained the difficulties and constraints they are required to consider when determining the design and location of a mast.
- 2.21 **South West Water** (SWW), in their response to the Council's letter, have highlighted that instilling water efficiency principles into all modes and scales of development is critical to the Undertaker for securing efficient use of water resources within the long-term. SWW did not highlight any current infrastructure or capacity issues, though focussed their response on current allocated sites.

Appendix 3: Summary of Regulation 18 Issues & Scope Consultation Responses by Question

No.	Question	No. of Responses	Summary of Issues Raised	Response to issue
1	What would you like to see as our main focus for our review?	70	Respondents largely felt that a key focus of the Local Plan Review should be housing delivery, specifically all types of affordable housing. It was also felt that the protection and enhancement of the natural environment be given greater priority in the Local Plan, particularly given the Council's declaration of a climate emergency, in addition to enhancing quality of life and general wellbeing of residents and communities across the district. A need for infrastructure improvements was also frequently noted, particularly in the context of future growth and the perceived inability of existing infrastructure to cope with demand. A desire to see regeneration of the	Noted. Housing, the natural environment, adapting to climate change, infrastructure planning and our town and local centres are all key issues for the Local Plan review and evidence base studies are being progressed (e.g., Housing Needs study, Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (HELAA) Sustainability Appraisal, Habitats Regulations Assessment, Infrastructure Delivery Plan) that will inform the policy approaches (and potential sites and projects) in the Local Plan to address these issues.

No.	Question	No. of Responses	Summary of Issues Raised	Response to issue
			district's high streets and town centres was noted by many, and the district's ageing population was an issue raised by several respondents in the context of ensuring service and housing provision for all ages.	
2	What do you think the key issues will be to deliver a new vision and why?	61	Many respondents felt that meeting the housing target will be a key issue, largely due to the absence of sufficient available land for development. The distribution and mix of housing required was also frequently noted as a key issue. Many respondents had strong views regarding the location of new development, with concerns raised surrounding the implications this will have on the quality and character of the natural environment and National Park. Some respondents noted the balancing act between providing for new residents with the least impact on existing residents, and the need for a sustainable approach. A	Noted. These will all be key issues to delivering the vision and the Local Plan review will seek to address these in an appropriate way - as supported by the evidence studies that are being prepared.

No.	Question	No. of Responses	Summary of Issues Raised	Response to issue
			further frequently raised issue is that of the need to ensure sufficient provision of infrastructure and services to residents.	
3	How should our Plan look to address the 'duty to seek to further the purposes' of the New Forest National Park and the Cranborne Chase National Landscape?	48	Respondents were largely agreeable to the duty to further the purposes of the New Forest National Park, Suggestions included a physical buffer between the National Park and new development, eco-tourism initiatives, increased green connectivity between the National Park and settlements, to reduce car usage, and joint working with the National Park Authority to develop policies. In terms of the location of new development, respondents considered that the Council should resist pressures to develop greenfield land, and that brownfield and urban infill sites should be prioritised and utilised first, thereby keeping development away from the National Park boundaries. Some respondents also considered that a focus should be on providing and	Noted, achieving the right balance between providing for development needs whilst meeting our statutory duty to further the purposes of the National Park is delicate balancing act that the Local Plan review will need to seek to achieve. The balance between development growth and protecting the National Park / Cranborne Chase National Landscape is being tested through the Sustainability Appraisal. In both cases the Council will look to further explore options with the bodies representing the National Park and National Landscape respectively.

No.	Question	No. of Responses	Summary of Issues Raised	Response to issue
			maintaining open spaces in towns and villages. A smaller number of respondents felt that the National Park shouldn't be a reason to avoid meeting growth needs, and that sustainable development is possible around the fringes. Whilst the National Park and National Landscape should be a consideration, the Plan should not be restricted by these designations.	
4	How long ahead should we plan for in the new Plan, and why?	56	The most suggested plan period was 15 years, though responses ranged from 3 years to 100 years. It was also suggested that the Council plan for 20 years to align with the New Forest National Park. Many respondents noted the need to regularly review the Plan, with a frequent suggestion of every 5 years.	Noted that the majority of responses reflect National policy that advises that local plans should look forward a minimum of 15 years from the point of adoption so that will be important in determining the final end date. National policy already requires adopted local plans to be reviewed every 5 years.
5	In seeking to meet our identified development needs, what should our strategy be?	66	Respondents frequently noted the need for an increased provision of affordable housing, and suggestions were made for a policy to mandate	Noted. The Local Plan review will test a full range of spatial options through the Sustainability Appraisal to ensure all potential options are

No.	Question	No. of Responses	Summary of Issues Raised	Response to issue
			<p>increased proportions of such housing. There was a general call for brownfield and infill sites to be prioritised for development. The need for the settlement hierarchy to inform growth distribution was also noted, in addition to the need to reach a balance between growth in larger towns and also allowing expansion of smaller settlements. Concerns were raised regarding overdevelopment, with some respondents noting the need to maintain clear separation between distinct communities.</p> <p>Higher density development in larger towns was also suggested, though limited to ensure the character of towns is not diminished.</p> <p>Ensuring adequate infrastructure and service provision was also suggested as a primary focus.</p>	<p>fully considered/evaluated and an appropriate spatial strategy approach is taken - including the contribution brownfield and infill sites can make. This will be informed by the settlement hierarchy which will be reviewed through an up-to-date Settlement Hierarchy assessment. A Housing Needs study is being undertaken which will provide evidence on the types/mix/tenure of housing needed in the Plan Area. This will need to be balanced with viability analysis to ensure housing policies and development sites are viable and achievable.</p>
6	Is the existing settlement hierarchy appropriate, or are	55	The majority of respondents were broadly in agreement with the existing settlement hierarchy,	Welcome that a majority of respondents are broadly in agreement with the existing

No.	Question	No. of Responses	Summary of Issues Raised	Response to issue
	there changes that should be included?		<p>though the possibility of review was welcomed. It was felt by some that whilst the hierarchy as is, was appropriate, this should not be used to determine the location of new development.</p> <p>It was noted by some that as settlements expand, their status should be reviewed. Concerns were raised by a small number of respondents that some settlements have previously been wrongly assigned their status as the infrastructure available in such areas does not reflect the status given. Of those respondents who felt that the settlement hierarchy is not appropriate, some felt that further categories were needed, whereas others felt that it needed to be reviewed in the context of the capacity of local facilities, services and infrastructure.</p>	settlement hierarchy. As part of the Local Plan review an Settlement Hierarchy Assessment is being undertaken which will score each settlement in terms on current availability of, or accessibility to, a range of facilities, services and opportunities. The settlement hierarchy will be reviewed (and updated where appropriate) based on the findings of this assessment. The scope for new development at each settlement / settlement tier will be tested as options through the Sustainability Appraisal process.
7	Do you think it's appropriate for us to	41	Around half of respondents did not feel it was appropriate to consider	Comments noted. The benefits / harms of new development in the

No.	Question	No. of Responses	Summary of Issues Raised	Response to issue
	consider new development within the Cranborne Chase National Landscape?		new development within the National Landscape. Of those that felt it would be an appropriate consideration, almost all felt that this should be limited, sensitively placed, and thoughtfully designed to align with the character of the National Landscape.	National Landscape are being robustly tested through the Sustainability Appraisal and the outcomes of this assessment will inform the policy choices for the Local Plan review.
8	Are there other strategic options that could help meet the need for development that we should also consider?	40	Affordable homes for young people was a frequently raised issue amongst respondents, in addition to the need for sufficient infrastructure improvements. It was suggested that the Council review all current and historic allocations in recent and past Local Plans to ascertain whether any previously allocated strategic sites have not yet been developed. A review of the brownfield register was also suggested, with a view to prioritise these sites for development. There was also suggestion to utilise unused greenfield sites. The Council were also asked to consider compulsory	The Council is undertaking a Housing Needs study which will provide evidence-based conclusions on what the mix/type/tenure of housing is that is needed across the Plan Area. The Council is engaging with infrastructure providers and will prepare an Infrastructure Delivery Plan which will set out the main infrastructure requirements needed to sustainably support new development. Current allocated sites and the brownfield land register will be reviewed during the course of the Local Plan preparation process. The Council is preparing a Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (HELAA)

No.	Question	No. of Responses	Summary of Issues Raised	Response to issue
			<p>purchase orders where appropriate. It was also suggested that the Council consider prefabricated homes that are quick to erect and can be easily dismantled in future should the need arise. It was further suggested that the Council seek to obtain first refusal on used sites from other public sectors, for example former police stations. Some respondents noted the district's ageing population, suggesting the development of affordable smaller units close to amenities to enable elderly residents to downsize without losing the sense of community.</p>	<p>which will be a comprehensive assessment of suitable, available and achievable land supply in the Plan Area. The Council will also consider whether other planning tools can realistically be used to encourage housing delivery.</p>
9	<p>Are our Corporate Plan priorities of 'People', 'Place' and 'Prosperity' appropriate to also be used within the Local Plan?</p>	50	<p>The majority of respondents were satisfied with the aims of the corporate plan; however, it was felt by several respondents that the aims lacked clarity and detail, and that the priorities were poorly defined. Some respondents were disappointed that the Corporate Plan is heavily weighted towards</p>	<p>Mixed response comments noted.</p>

No.	Question	No. of Responses	Summary of Issues Raised	Response to issue
			people and growth with little focus on the natural environment, and others suggested that 'wellbeing' may be a better priority than prosperity.	
10	Do you have any comments on our housing need and how it can be met?	72	<p>A common theme throughout responses was the need for affordable housing, particularly for the younger generations, though also for the elderly. Many respondents noted the ageing population and considered that this is partly due to younger people being forced to move out of the district to find affordable housing. The recent increase in age-restricted development was also noted by respondents, who stated that these are often too expensive for many elderly residents. It was widely suggested that the Council consider increased densities in developments, particularly in larger towns, for a combination of end-users (young, elderly).</p>	<p>These are issues which are being considered through the Local Plan review process. The Council is undertaking a Housing Needs study which will provide evidence-based conclusions on what the mix/type/tenure of housing is that is needed across the Plan Area. The housing policies / housing policy options of this Local Plan review will be informed by this housing evidence base study. The Council is preparing a Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (HELAA) which will be a comprehensive assessment of suitable, available and achievable housing land supply in the Plan Area and will be an important piece of evidence to establishing an appropriate and deliverable housing</p>

No.	Question	No. of Responses	Summary of Issues Raised	Response to issue
			<p>A number of respondents noted the proportion of vacant properties across the District and encouraged the Council to consider this as an option to address the need.</p> <p>Location-specific policies were also suggested in terms of affordable housing, whereby the areas with the greatest identified need are given higher affordable housing targets.</p> <p>The need to balance housing delivery with nature recovery was also noted.</p>	<p>target. Identifying sufficient suitable/available/achievable land supply to address the housing need in a sustainable way will be very challenging in a Plan Area that is significantly affected by physical and environmental constraints.</p>
11	<p>Are there any specific sites not currently allocated in existing local plans or otherwise permitted for development that should be considered for their development potential?</p>	49	<p>A number of sites were noted here together with sites that merit protection, in all areas of the district, many of which were submitted through the Call for Sites.</p>	<p>Sites submitted are being appraised for their development potential in the Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (HELAA) which will evaluate whether they are suitable and available to be considered for selection as potential allocations in the New Forest District (outside the National Park) Local Plan review. Site and spatial options sites will also be put through a comprehensive</p>

No.	Question	No. of Responses	Summary of Issues Raised	Response to issue
				Sustainability Appraisal (SA) assessment as part of the Local Plan review process. When completed the HELAA and the SA will be important parts of the evidence base informing the Local Plan.
12	What role can town and parish councils have in addressing the development needs of the area, such as through preparing neighbourhood plans?	45	It was felt amongst respondents that town and parish councils could play a role in allocating sites at a local level, whereas the District Council should focus on strategic allocations, though others felt that the District Council should not become reliant on town and parish councils to source housing land supply. Many felt that a more collaborative way of working is required between town and parish councils, and the District Council, and that early engagement with the District Council in the Local Plan process is essential. It was also felt by respondents that residents' comments taken to town and parish	There are currently three adopted neighbourhood plans within the plan area (Hythe & Dibden, New Milton, and Ringwood). In addition, five other parish and town councils have commenced the production of a neighbourhood plan (Lymington & Pennington, Sandleheath, Totton & Eling, Fordingbridge, and Fawley). This presents an opportunity for those councils to work with NFDC in deciding whether to allocate sites for local development in their area. NFDC has a duty to engage with, and advise, parish councils on the drafting of their plans, and assist them in the process of seeing the draft plans through examination

No.	Question	No. of Responses	Summary of Issues Raised	Response to issue
			councils need to be taken on board and fed up the chain to the District Council.	and referenda. NFDC therefore will continue to have regular dialogue with those neighbourhood groups on an ongoing basis.
13	Should we consider a policy to restrict second home ownership within the area?	45	The majority of respondents were in support of a policy restricting second home ownership within the district, however the Council were encouraged to take a balanced view in this regard. Some respondents felt that such a policy would harm the community, particularly given the number of second homes that are used for Air BnB-type holiday rentals, which brings in tourists and helps boost the local economy. Overall, the majority of respondents felt that this option should be explored.	Comments noted. This will be considered through the Local Plan review and whether sufficient evidence exists (include that contained in the Housing Needs Study) to be able to justifiably include such a policy in the Local Plan which would pass the Local Plan examination process.
14	Are there any specific forms of affordable housing that we should aim to prioritise to provide for those most in need locally?	51	All types and tenures of affordable housing are needed; however, respondents noted a lack of affordable housing particularly smaller homes for the younger generation. There was a general call	These are issues which are being considered through the Local Plan review process. The Council is undertaking a Housing Needs study which will provide evidence-based conclusions on what the

No.	Question	No. of Responses	Summary of Issues Raised	Response to issue
			for more non-age restricted flats suitable for both young people and the elderly.	mix/type/tenure of housing is that is needed across the Plan Area. The housing policies / housing policy options of this Local Plan review will be informed by this housing evidence base study.
15	How should we aim to meet the housing needs of our population and the current population trends?	48	Respondents had mixed views on how the housing needs could be met, however there was a general call for more affordable housing across the district, of all types, sizes and tenures. It was noted by some that the housing need figure is a national figure, whereas the need should be determined at a local level. Several respondents noted the need to enable young people to stay within the district through the provision of smaller and more affordable housing, both for renting and for purchase. It was considered by some respondents that there is currently a surplus of retirement properties, whereas	These are issues which are being considered through the Local Plan review process. The Council is undertaking a Housing Needs study which will provide evidence-based conclusions on what the mix/type/tenure of housing is that is needed across the Plan Area. The housing policies / housing policy options of this Local Plan review will be informed by this housing evidence base study. The Council is preparing a Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (HELAA) which will be a comprehensive assessment of suitable, available and achievable land supply in the Plan Area and will consider sites from a variety of

No.	Question	No. of Responses	Summary of Issues Raised	Response to issue
			<p>there is an increasing need for council housing.</p> <p>Some one-off suggestions included condensing retail areas in town centres to 'free up' space for residential use; repurposing vacant retirement properties for families and young people; build on brownfield sites; and prioritise smaller developments over larger developments unless infrastructure is provided to support larger developments.</p>	<p>sources, including urban area and brownfield sites (and potential regeneration opportunities) as well as greenfield sites outside of the existing defined built-up areas.</p>
16	<p>Do you have any comments on the range of densities that should be sought on new development sites?</p>	51	<p>Many respondents encouraged the consideration of higher densities, though noted that this should be in keeping with the character of the local area and still comprise sufficient green / open space to ensure wellbeing and prevent overcrowding. It was suggested that densities be assessed on a site-by-site basis and that the community should be consulted on the design of such developments. It was also considered by some</p>	<p>These are issues which are being considered through the Local Plan review process. The Council is undertaking a Housing Needs Study which will provide evidence-based conclusions on what the mix/type/tenure of housing is needed across the Plan Area. A Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment is being prepared by the Council and will comprehensively assess the suitable, available, and achievable</p>

No.	Question	No. of Responses	Summary of Issues Raised	Response to issue
			<p>respondents that 1-bedroom homes should be considered for those who do not wish to reside in a flat, however do not need a property with multiple bedrooms.</p> <p>It was widely accepted that a range of densities will likely be required, however not at the expense of the environment, local character, or community wellbeing.</p>	<p>housing land supply in the Plan Area, including accounting for environmental concerns. The Council is also undertaking Landscape Character, Sensitivity, and Capacity studies which will provide evidence-based assessments of individual sites and growth areas to help ensure densities are appropriate for the local context.</p>
17	How should we aim to meet the identified accommodation need of the Gypsy, Traveller, and Travelling Showpeople community?	26	<p>Respondents felt that the Council should consult members of these communities to ensure provision is suitable and appropriate for those who will use it. A flexible approach was encouraged, and respondents encouraged the Council to work with landowners and consult the relevant groups prior to any development taking place. It was considered that a targeted site with sufficient facilities (e.g. water, waste disposal) may help to</p>	<p>The Council is undertaking a Gypsy and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) which will set out the need for gypsy and traveller pitches and travelling show people plots. A key part of this study is engaging with the travelling community to help understand the need. The GTAA will inform the policies of the Local Plan review - e.g., whether a site allocation(s) is required or whether a criteria-based policy approach is more appropriate. The Council will</p>

No.	Question	No. of Responses	Summary of Issues Raised	Response to issue
			overcome illegal encampment on public land.	work with key stakeholders in order to produce an appropriate approach to addressing the issue in the Local Plan.
18	What are the key infrastructure priorities that need to be delivered and how can they best be delivered?	63	Many respondents called for a more reliable and joined up public transport network, particularly for the Waterside, and more regular services to Lymington and the General Hospital. Greater active travel provision was also noted, and it was commonly put forward that communities should be connected by cycle routes and footpaths, not just by public transport. Road improvements were frequently suggested, particularly the A326. In terms of healthcare and education, there was a call by many respondents for more SEND provision, and many respondents also noted the need for more local healthcare services including GPs and dentists.	The Council is engaging proactively with infrastructure providers (e.g., National Highways, utilities infrastructure providers, NHS, Hampshire County Council, telecommunications infrastructure providers) and will work with them to prepare an Infrastructure Delivery Plan which will sit alongside the Local Plan and set out the main infrastructure requirements needed to sustainably support new proposed development in the Local Plan review.

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			Many respondents also called for greater provision of sports facilities, such as swimming pools and leisure centres, in addition to green space and ANRG. It was also raised that investment should be made in nature restoration and green infrastructure.	
19	What do you think are the key considerations for increased electricity generation from renewable sources in the New Forest (outside the national park), such as onshore wind or solar power?	48	Respondents advocated for solar panels on public buildings, car parks and new industrial and residential developments. It was also felt by several respondents that land should be allocated for renewable energy generation, with a suggestion to utilise the former Fawley Power Station site for renewable energy generation. Some respondents expressed concerns regarding the balancing act between renewable energy generation and food production. There were also suggestions for community energy initiatives, incentivisation of renewable energy generation, and district heating	Feedback is noted and will be considered as the Council move forward with the development of the local plan. It is encouraging to see support for exploring renewable energy opportunities across the district, provided they are appropriately scaled and sensitively located. The Council will review policy options for renewable energy proposals, EV chargers, rooftop solar panels, and community led renewable energy initiatives where appropriate as required by National Policy. Any renewable energy policy or allocation will be informed by evidence-based studies of the potential impact on landscape,

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			and/or energy as part of new developments. Whilst largely advocating for renewable energy generation, some respondents felt that renewable energy is unreliable and that it should not be considered. There was a general consensus that all types of energy generation be considered, but only where this would not adversely impact the landscape character, environment or nature recovery.	nature recovery and infrastructure capacity.
20	Do you have any suggestions for incorporating art and culture into our Local Plan?	34	Numerous suggestions were made by respondents on how to incorporate art and culture, suggestions for public artworks in town centres, sculpture parks, multi-use art venues, and additional support for local museums and art galleries. Several respondents felt that funding for art and culture is lacking and is frequently cut. A small number of respondents felt that art and culture should not be a priority for the Council to address,	The suggestions made are noted and consideration will be given as to what extent the Local Plan is able to address these whilst being consistent with national policy, including the protection of existing facilities and provision of new.

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			and that their focus should be on addressing the housing need and other essential services. Suggestions were made for the inclusion of a policy to support and protect valued cultural facilities within the district, as well as community facilities.	
21	Do you agree with the description of issues regarding health and wellbeing, and are there other issues to consider?	45	The issues noted within this section of the Issues and Scope document were widely accepted by respondents, though suggestions were also made of additional issues for the Council's consideration. Social isolation of elderly residents was a noted concern, as was the limited provision of active travel opportunities throughout the District. It was noted that health and wellbeing policies should be preventative in nature, and that policies should have a greater focus on the importance of movement and physical activity. It was also suggested that policies could be	The Council note the broad acceptance by respondents of the issues raised within the Issues and Scope document. Health and wellbeing is an important issue that the Local Plan will need to address in a contextually appropriate way. The suggestions and additional issues raised by respondents are also noted and will be considered throughout the Local Plan process as appropriate.

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			jointly developed with the National Park Authority. Additional suggestions included the establishment of community hubs, protection of existing greenspaces from development, and increased connectivity to services.	
22	What options do you think should be followed for addressing health and wellbeing?	50	<p>Respondents typically felt that this was an important issue to address, and suggestions made by respondents were varied. Several respondents suggested provision of additional free outdoor gyms or sheltered activities for all ages, and others suggested more affordable access to the Council's existing health and leisure centres.</p> <p>Respondents also suggested incorporating nature features into new development, such as through nesting boxes, swift bricks and hedgehog highways, thereby encouraging nature into residential areas. Community gardens, active travel provision and increased space for recreational activities</p>	This is an important issue to address. The suggestions made are noted and consideration will be given as to what extent the Local Plan is able to address these. There are limits to what the Local Plan reasonably and justifiably to do whilst remaining in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework.

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			<p>were also suggested by respondents, and provision of seating on footpaths, high streets and coastal paths was also suggested as a way of encouraging those who are less mobile.</p> <p>Increased tree cover in town centre areas and the importance of clean air were also noted. It was also felt by some respondents that community engagement should be at the heart of this, as different communities have different needs.</p>	
23	Are we identifying the correct principles for creating a place people want to live and work, or are there any others that need to be considered?	46	<p>Whilst the principles noted by the Council were largely considered acceptable by respondents, a small number of respondents felt that the principles did not prioritise local people and that such principles should be defined at a more local scale, i.e. on a settlement-by-settlement basis.</p> <p>A small number of comments were made in relation to crime and antisocial behaviour, and the need for safe community spaces. The</p>	The Council acknowledges that many respondents felt the identified principles were appropriate. Other suggestions and comments are noted, and the Local Plan Review process will continue to streamline and finalise these principles.

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			importance of integrating new development into existing communities was also noted, in addition to comments on ensuring futureproofing and accessibility of communities.	
24	Should we seek to set a policy for the size of houses and gardens that are different from those set nationally?	47	<p>Responses to this question were mixed, with a generally even split between those in favour of a new policy on garden size, and those who oppose the idea. The general feeling amongst respondents was that such a policy would likely need to be done on a settlement-by-settlement basis, or at the very least separate policies for urban and rural communities.</p> <p>It was felt by some respondents that national standards are too rigid and a more flexible approach be taken to suit the Districts unique character, whereas other respondents felt that no additional policy is needed and that adherence to building regulations and national standards is sufficient.</p>	The suggestions made are noted and consideration will be given as to what extent the Local Plan is able to address these. There are limits to what the Local Plan reasonably and justifiably to do whilst remaining in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework.

No.	Question	No. of Responses	Summary of Issues Raised	Response to issue
25	How do you think we should work towards achieving net zero?	62	<p>Respondents had mixed views on how the District could work to achieve net zero by 2050. Suggestions were wide-ranging, with the majority of suggestions falling into the categories of renewable energy generation; education; building efficiency; public transport and reduced reliance on the private car; environmental protection and enhancement; and waste and recycling.</p> <p>A small number of respondents did not feel it was necessary to do so or felt that efforts to work towards the goal of net zero by 2050 would not make a tangible impact.</p>	<p>Comments have been noted and will be considered as we continue to develop the new local plan. The Council has declared a climate and nature emergency and, like all local authorities, is legally required under the Climate Change Act (2008) to work towards achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2050. The Local Plan will therefore include policies to help meet this goal. The Local Plan will consider a range of technical options to reduce emissions particularly where they are recommended by national guidance, whilst also ensuring the overall development viability is considered. Examples include Passivhaus building standards, expanded EV charging infrastructure, renewable energy generation, and active travel policies. Options for nature-based solutions such as enhanced green infrastructure will also be considered and will be informed by</p>

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				evidence based work such as the GBI strategy.
26	What measures do you think we should take to ensure appropriate climate change adaptation, mitigation, and resilience?	48	The most common theme raised among respondents were concerns surrounding flood risk and the need for appropriate drainage to mitigate this. Several respondents were concerned about coastal erosion and sea level rise. Another common issue was the need to have more sustainable housing with better environmental standards, materials, and practices. Many respondents felt that a focus on nature-based solutions would be best, using and supporting the natural ecosystem to best tackle issues of climate change.	The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) requires planning authorities to adopt a proactive approach to mitigating and adapting to flood risk. This includes ensuring that new developments avoid areas at high risk of flooding whenever possible and incorporating sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) to manage surface water. NFDC has also conducted a strategic flood risk assessment to inform local plan and ensure that any development in flood-prone areas is resilient and does not increase flood risk elsewhere. The existing Local Plan already addresses the need to restrict development in those areas prone to coastal erosion and this will likely be rolled forward into the next Local Plan. The new Local Plan will also seek a more robust

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				approach to addressing climate change mitigation and adaptation - new policies are one option to address this.
27	Should we seek more ambitious targets and measures to address climate change?	44	The majority of respondents felt that more ambitious targets and measures to tackle climate change would be positive. However, there were others that were opposed largely due to wishing to see consistency or more realistic targets over those that were more ambitious.	Comments noted. The Council has declared a climate and nature emergency, and Local Plan policies will need to contribute to legally binding targets including net-zero by 2050. This is an important issue that will be considered as Local Plan policies are developed but there are limits to what the local plan can do while still remaining in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework.
28	Other than the private car, what other form of transport (including buses, walking, cycling, rail and water transport) would you use more if you could?	55	Respondents most frequently stated that a reliable and frequent bus service is lacking in much of the District, with many specifically noting the limited public transport options in the Waterside area. Greater provision for active travel modes was also frequently noted, particularly cycling. A general	Comments noted. The Council will be undertaking a Strategic Transport Assessment which will provide evidence-based conclusions regarding transport needs in different parts of the Plan Area. Additionally, the Council is involved in ongoing engagement with infrastructure providers and is

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			consensus was that sustainable transport should be affordable, accessible and reliable, whatever the mode, and that a joined-up network needs to be created.	working towards an Infrastructure Delivery Plan. The Local Plan Review process will seek to integrate both the Waterside and the New Forest Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) to support active travel provision.
29	What approach should we take to large-scale renewable energy generation?	36	Respondents typically felt that solar panels should be utilised across the district, particularly on residential roofs. It was suggested by several respondents that solar panels be fitted on NFDC assets. Many respondents felt that smaller-scale solar schemes would be more appropriate so as not to disrupt the character of the district. It was proposed that agricultural land is not used for energy generation, though conversely agrivoltaics schemes were also advocated. A small number of respondents suggested small modular nuclear energy generation.	Comments are noted. Any proposals or policies guiding larger scale renewable energy generation will ensure that it is not developed in locations where it will have detrimental impact on landscape character, amenities, or the natural environment. These policies will be informed by evidence-based work on landscape character and green infrastructure. The Local Plan is limited in what it can control in terms of large-scale renewable energy, large-scale projects are promoted at a national level if they are above a certain threshold of energy output.

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			<p>Harnessing tidal energy was also suggested, as was biogas.</p> <p>Wind turbines were a controversial topic for respondents, with some in favour of both on- and off-shore wind turbines, and others opposing them.</p>	
30	<p>What should be our approach to ensuring that people do not harm the particularly environmentally sensitive parts of the New Forest? For example, additional rangers, considering providing a new country park or new more local areas of accessible green space.</p>	59	<p>Several respondents advocated for specific dog-walking fields and / or dog parks, which are secure and with adequate provision for disposal of dog waste.</p> <p>A suggestion was made for a rolling closure of popular sites to allow nature recovery, and many respondents advocated for additional rangers with the power to give fines for littering / touching or feeding grazing animals etc.</p> <p>Many respondents were in favour of a new country park, which is free to access and well served by active travel opportunities, and suggestions were also made for a better and more connected network of footpaths and cycleways outside</p>	<p>The New Forest is a very special area with easy access to the National Park and the coast. These unique and special places are recognised internationally as rare and precious habitats that require the highest level of protection. With an ever-growing local population and large numbers of summer visitors the pressure on the New Forest National Park is increasing. To help relieve the pressure on these sensitive areas the Councils "GreenWay" project is providing alternative, local facilities for dog walking and other activities. GreenWay is the collective name for on-site and off-site mitigation schemes, comprising of public open</p>

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			<p>of the national park, with respondents noting that if residents are required to travel to go out in nature, then they will likely choose the most desirable locations.</p> <p>Littering and fly tipping were also raised by some respondents, with suggestions for additional rangers with the power to fine those who litter, and enhanced CCTV coverage in fly tipping hotspots.</p> <p>Other one-off suggestions included education for residents on wildfire mitigation, in addition to tourist-focussed campaigns, more accessible SANG / ANRG provision, and protection of farmland and back-up grazing land.</p> <p>Several respondents also noted the sensitive habitats outside of the National Park, including road verges of ecological importance and other designated habitats.</p>	<p>spaces and walking routes, promoted by us to provide year-round walking and recreational opportunities for visitors and residents. The Council has commissioned studies to better understand the effectiveness of this mitigation, to inform decisions on how to mitigate impacts for future development. Country parks could be one option that NFDC to help address the demand for accessible public spaces. NFDC is also undertaking studies to provide potential new green infrastructure that provides multi-functional benefits (for nature recovery, for public access, and natural mitigation for water quality and flood risk).</p>
31	What are the key mechanisms we should use to achieve benefits	35	Respondents advocated for enhanced provision of green space near residential developments, in	As part of the work on identifying new growth points for new development NFDC is undertaking a

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	for the environment? How can this be measured?		<p>addition to an enhanced green infrastructure network across the District.</p> <p>There were several suggested mechanisms for reducing emissions, namely EV infrastructure, reducing traffic and encouraging walking and other active travel. A suggestion for low emission zones was also made. Suggestions were made for BNG including wildlife corridors and swift brick / bat boxes on new developments. It was felt by a smaller number of respondents that BNG targets should apply to all new development, including, for example, residential extensions to existing properties.</p> <p>Suggestions were also made for increased legal powers when it comes to the environment.</p>	<p>number of studies to identify green infrastructure (GI) schemes that enhance the GI network in the district. Measures being considered include (but are not limited to) provision of new / enhancement of recreational facilities; projects that will effectively divert recreational pressures away from sensitive European sites; the creation and enhancement of a network of green recreational routes (such as pedestrian and cycle); creation of undisturbed refuge habitat for priority species; river corridor enhancements; and greener urban design initiatives.</p>
32	Should we look to introduce biodiversity net gain targets above the mandated 10%?	47	<p>The number of responses was fairly balanced between those that felt higher targets for BNG should be introduced and those that didn't. Those that thought higher targets</p>	<p>Local authorities can mandate a Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) requirement above the mandatory 10%. However, this must be justified with evidence and set out</p>

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			were better were generally motivated by a desire to protect the environment. Those that were opposed generally felt that proper care of the environment in other ways was more beneficial, with current approaches not delivering genuine environmental benefit and mainly only benefitting those selling mitigation credits.	in the Local Plan, including how it interacts with development viability.
33	How can we make greenspaces more accessible? Should we include minimum standards of access to green space (for example, by size and type)?	40	Several respondents suggested that green space be well signposted and that they be accessible via multiple signposted footpaths. Many felt that green space should be incorporated in new developments. Connectivity between different green spaces was emphasised. Some respondents emphasised working with Town/Parish councils to provide appropriate green space and play areas. Some respondents suggested that minimum space standards be implemented for green space, while others felt that quality should be emphasised over space standards.	Comments are noted. The Council is undertaking a review of the quality, quantity and accessibility of its formal and informal open space across the district. Policies on where and what kind of open space is developed will be based on this evidence and will continue to consider wider affects such as the impact on the National Park. All policies that are developed will be limited by their need to accord with National Planning Policy and practical considerations like land availability.

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34	Should we look to address the issue of backup grazing land? If so, what evidence is there to inform future considerations?	27	Many respondents felt that back-up grazing land should be addressed as commoning is an integral part of the character and management of the New Forest. However, some respondents felt that this was not an issue needing to be addressed by the Council, and that additional land should be sourced by the commoners themselves if they require it.	One of the strategic objectives of the existing Local Plan (SO8) promotes a positive future for rural areas and to help secure their economic prosperity and social well-being by supporting farming and traditional commoning practices including backup grazing, agricultural and rural enterprise. While many Commoners have their homes or holdings in the core parishes of the New Forest, many also rely on back-up land in the surrounding parishes. Whilst information is still limited on the location of backup grazing land, NFDC is aware of the need for grassland sites for grazing land and will continue to seek views on how the Local Plan can take account of this aspect.
35	How should our previous Green Belt study be updated and	46	Respondents felt that the Green Belt study should be updated to reflect the current context of the district. Many respondents felt that	The comments to update the study are noted, and the Council is now undertaking a Green Belt review. This review will be consistent with

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	what factors should be considered?		strategic gaps were important to maintain. Some felt that Green Belt should be released for small development whilst others felt that it should be protected. Some respondents felt that the damage caused by loss of Green Belt and active agricultural land should be taken into account.	the requirements of national policy and will be a key evidence base study informing the Local Plan review.
36	Are there current Green Belt sites that you feel have the potential for more positive uses?	32	Many respondents suggested specific sites, the majority of which have been submitted to the Call for Sites. Others indicated that they felt Green Belt sites could be used for parks, wildlife, agriculture and other creative uses.	Sites submitted are being appraised for their development potential in the Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (HELAA) which will evaluate whether they are suitable and available to be considered for selection as potential allocations in the New Forest District (outside the National Park) Local Plan review. Site and spatial options sites will also be put through a comprehensive Sustainability Appraisal (SA) assessment as part of the Local Plan review process. When completed the HELAA and the SA will be important parts of the

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				evidence base informing the Local Plan. The Local Plan review evidence base will also consider the potential of sites to be used for other uses such as community uses, open space, and land suitable for nature recovery or offsetting the environmental impacts of development.
37	Do you have any views on what the approach should be to existing site allocations that have not yet come forward or where progress has stalled?	51	Many respondents felt that developers should be penalised or forced to sell land if development was unnecessarily delayed on allocated sites. Some suggested that the Council should use compulsory purchase in these cases. Respondents felt that old allocations should be developed before making new allocations. Additionally, some felt that developments should be more strongly controlled in relation to design and zoning and that developer concerns surrounding viability shouldn't be taken into	The suggestions made are noted and consideration will be given as to what extent the Local Plan is able to address these whilst being consistent with national policy. As part of the preparation of the new Local Plan, work will be undertaken on existing site allocations that are yet to come forward will to ensure they remain suitable, available and achievable for the allocated use. The Council will work proactively with site owners / promoters / developers, infrastructure providers and other key stakeholders to seek to facilitate the successful delivery

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			account. Other respondents also made reference to specific allocated sites.	of strategic site allocations, major sites with planning permission and other allocated/identified housing sites. The Council will consider what incentives and powers are available to facilitate the delivery of housing.
38	Are there further sites for any type of development that we should consider?	42	Several sites across the district were suggested here, some of which have come forward in the Call for Sites.	Sites submitted are being appraised for their development potential in the Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (HELAA) which will evaluate whether they are suitable and available to be considered for selection as potential allocations in the New Forest District (outside the National Park) Local Plan review. Site and spatial options sites will also be put through a comprehensive Sustainability Appraisal (SA) assessment as part of the Local Plan review process. When completed the HELAA and the SA will be important parts of the evidence base informing the Local Plan.

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39	What should we do to ensure there is sufficient provision of open space, which is also functional and attractive to our residents?	45	Several respondents suggested that green space and parks be a part of all new residential developments. Many felt that open spaces should be easily accessible via active travel and public transport, with some suggesting an emphasis on signposting local walking routes. There was a theme that open space should be well cared for and maintained and should be prevented from becoming 'no go' zones due to residents not feeling safe in open space areas. Many respondents felt that developers should be responsible for funding the provision and maintenance of open space and, particularly, that any money raised from development should be spent in its local area. There was also a general theme that local people and communities should be consulted to best identify the open space needs in the locality.	Comments are noted. The Council is undertaking evidence-based work to better understand the quality and quantity of our open space to ensure residents needs are met. Policies to develop new spaces and enhance existing open space will be informed by this work. While the Local Plan can provide some support through policies for the proper maintenance and safety conscious design of open spaces a lot of this work sits outside the remit of the local plan. Furthermore, the ability of the Local Plan to promote new open space will be constrained by National Planning Policy requirements.

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40	What do you believe should be our approach to providing open space? This could be either creating a few new larger sized destinations for play areas, sports pitches, smaller scale areas as part of new developments or a new country park?	56	Many respondents advocated for the provision of small parks/green spaces in all residential development. Many also suggested larger parks for a diversity of community uses. The idea of a new country park was also popular amongst residents, though some expressed concern that this would encourage car use. Some respondents felt that all green spaces should be connected by green links. In general, respondents felt that a mix of sporting facilities was needed to ensure the needs of different demographics were met. Some also suggested that sporting facilities should have areas alongside which were appropriate for those not participating in the sporting activity.	Comments are noted. The Council is undertaking evidenced base work on open spaces and has commissioned a playing pitch strategy which will inform policies on the provision of playing pitches and sports facilities. This should identify where certain sports, activities and types of recreational open space are not sufficiently provided for. The Council will look to encourage inclusive design in its open spaces and sports facilities for all demographics wherever possible.
41	What should our approach be in relation to the historic environment?	41	There was a strong theme throughout most responses that the historical environment should be protected, preserved, maintained, and enhanced. Many felt that	The Council note that the majority of comments received are accepting of the protection of the historic environment. The Council are proactively engaging with Historic

No.	Question	No. of Responses	Summary of Issues Raised	Response to issue
			heritage asset locations should be enhanced, and that development should be sympathetic. Many respondents felt that sympathetic development close to heritage assets was appropriate, though others felt that no development affecting heritage assets was appropriate. Some respondents felt that heritage assets should only be preserved where they were of benefit to the community and funding was available.	England and specialist colleagues as part of the Local Plan process in relation to the historic environment. The Local Plan review will consider how best to address this issue and will need to ensure that policies are in place to ensure the historic environment is protected in line with national policy. Further, the historic environment is a consideration in site selection and allocation and therefore will be appropriately addressed during this process.
42	How can we secure the sustainable long-term use of our heritage assets, and help to protect archaeological features as part of new development?	35	Many respondents felt that heritage assets should be protected, preserved, and maintained. Some suggested greater advertisement and education with there being historical maps of the forest available. Some respondents suggested heritage assets be made into 'destinations' with more facilities whilst others felt that heritage should not be	The Council note that the majority of comments received are accepting of the protection of the historic environment. The Council are proactively engaging with Historic England and specialist colleagues as part of the Local Plan process in relation to the historic environment. The Local Plan review will consider how best to address this issue and will need to ensure that policies are

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			overcommercialised. The majority of respondents felt that development should be sympathetic to heritage assets. Some respondents suggested that archaeological sites should not be allocated for development or that developers be responsible for the costs of archaeological surveys and display any notable finds. However, there were other respondents that felt that archaeological sites should not be prioritised for protection.	in place to ensure the historic environment is protected in line with national policy. Further, the historic environment is a consideration in site selection and allocation and therefore will be appropriately addressed during this process. Additional comments and suggestions as to how the Council can sustainably secure long-term use of such assets are also noted.
43	How can we make our high streets more vibrant?	49	The most common suggestion among respondents was to reduce business rates (and rents to a lesser extent) so that the cost of running a business wasn't prohibitive. There was a general agreement amongst respondents that a proactive approach to town centres and high streets should be taken to reduce the number of vacant units and make them attractive places to be. Suggestions	Comments noted. The Council is undertaking an Economic Needs Assessment as well as a Retail/Town and Local Centre Needs Study to provide evidence-based conclusions as to how to support high streets and other centres.

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			including pedestrianising areas, improving communal areas/meeting places/squares, encouraging activity, and improving seating and access to green areas. Several respondents also emphasised a desire for local businesses as well as traditional shops such as greengrocers and butchers.	
44	How can we ensure that the opportunities from the Solent Freeport designation are made available to all New Forest residents?	30	Many respondents were unaware of what the Freeport was or what opportunities it presented. In line with this, many suggested the need for more information, education, and training related to this. Some suggested ensuring that funds are redistributed to support small business hubs and that employment opportunities should benefit the local area, possibly by mandating a certain percentage of local employees.	The comments made are noted and consideration will be given as to what extent the Local Plan is able to address these whilst being consistent with national policy. The Council is undertaking a Port and Marine Business Needs Assessment which will provide evidence-based conclusions on port business needs. Separate to the Local Plan, the Council is also preparing a New Forest Freeport Delivery Plan which will seek to establish the outcomes that a successful Freeport would deliver in the New Forest in relation to the priorities for the New Forest of: transport/wider infrastructure.

No.	Question	No. of Responses	Summary of Issues Raised	Response to issue
				employment and skills, prosperous communities, and environmental sustainability.
45	Are there any existing business/employment sites that are no longer appropriate, or fit for purpose for that use and should be considered for alternative development?	22	A number of sites across the district were suggested here, some of which have come forward in the Call for Sites.	Sites submitted are being appraised for their development potential in the Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (HELAA) which will evaluate whether they are suitable and available to be considered for selection as potential allocations in the New Forest District (outside the National Park) Local Plan review. Site and spatial options sites will also be put through a comprehensive Sustainability Appraisal (SA) assessment as part of the Local Plan review process. When completed the HELAA and the SA will be important parts of the evidence base informing the Local Plan.
46	What should be our approach towards town centres and primary,	24	Respondents to this question mainly focused on how to uplift economic offerings as a whole with	Comments noted. The Council is undertaking an Economic Needs Assessment as well as a

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	secondary, and local shopping frontages? Do the boundaries that appear on our policies map need to be changed and if so, how?		suggestions including free parking and better public transport, and affordable rates for business owners. Additionally, it was suggested that town centres have a strong New Forest brand with local businesses. It was also suggested that retail/commercial uses be condensed, and vacant units converted into dwellings.	Retail/Town and Local Centre Needs Study to provide evidence-based conclusions as to how to support high streets and other centres.
47	In relation to tourism, should we consider allocating new, or protecting existing, land or sites for tourist attractions or accommodation?	29	There was a wide range of varying responses to this question. Overall, the majority of respondents appeared to believe that the level of tourist provision was adequate though elements of it could be enhanced, with a handful respondents noting that more could be made of the history of the area. There was a theme throughout of a desire to protect the New Forest as well as prevent second homes and Airbnb's from dominating communities.	Comments are noted. Evidenced based assessments will be undertaken to ensure provision of tourist attractions and accommodation are able to adequately meet the need. The Council will consider the impact of tourism policies on the local economy, amenities and housing provision. Local Plan policies will need to accord with the National Planning Policy Framework and can only work to control short term lets such as Airbnb's and second homes

No.	Question	No. of Responses	Summary of Issues Raised	Response to issue
				within the existing use class system.
48	What are the key transport issues to be addressed to help new development come forward?	54	The majority of respondents felt that road networks, public transport, and active travel provision all needed improvements. Concerns were expressed over the quality of road services as well as the need to improve specifically the A326 to better handle the traffic flow and improve safety. Buses were strongly advocated for, with some suggesting they be free for children. Additionally, many wished to see the reinstatement of the Hythe Ferry as well as better rail links, particular down the Waterside and between Ringwood and Bournemouth. Many respondents felt that cycleways, footpaths, and pavements needed improvement to increase pedestrian and cyclist safety as well as make these modes of transport more viable.	The wide range of transport issues, covering all modes of transport, as well as both at the strategic and very local level are all noted. The Council will work with HCC and other public transport operators as it progresses the Local Plan, as a clearer picture of the locations of growth is gained, to in turn understand where deficiencies and opportunities for improvement will exist. A Strategic Transport Assessment is also being undertaken to understand the wider network and the impacts future development may have on it.

No.	Question	No. of Responses	Summary of Issues Raised	Response to issue
49	How can our planning policies help make you, and our communities, travel by the sustainable modes of walking, cycling and public transport?	60	Responses to this question focused on a need to have well-integrated and connected sustainable transport network. There was a strong emphasis on the need for more frequent and reliable public transport - this was particularly linked to buses, but mentions were also made of a desire to see the Hythe Ferry in operation again as well as for train connections. The absence of reliable and frequent buses in rural areas was particularly highlighted. There was also a common theme of ensuring cycle and walking routes are integrated into new development, preventing them from becoming too car dominant. Additionally, there was a frequent desire to see PROWs, cycleways, and footpaths better maintained and integrated with one another.	The Council is engaging proactively with public transport operators and will work with them to prepare an Infrastructure Delivery Plan which will set out the main infrastructure requirements needed to sustainably support new proposed development in the Local Plan review. Further, the Council is working with Hampshire County Council to deliver their Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIP) for the New Forest. A Green Infrastructure Study has also been commissioned by the Council as part of the evidence base for the Local Plan, which will seek to identify further opportunities for active travel.
50	Are there any other issues that you feel we	42	Responses to this question were wide-ranging, highlighting a variety of issues. There was a repeated	The suggestions made are noted and consideration will be given as to what extent the Local Plan is able

No.	Question	No. of Responses	Summary of Issues Raised	Response to issue
	have missed and should be addressed?		<p>thread that the Local Plan should be all-encompassing in focus and not prioritise housing numbers above all else, particularly good design. There was an emphasis that housing should be affordable for locals, well-located to reduce the need for commuting, and appropriately supported by infrastructure, utilities and education/health services. Additionally, there were several one-off suggestions including the idea of 'deposits' on large-scale developments to accelerate build-out rates, the proposal to mandate energy efficiency requirements for new builds exceeding UK Building Regs minimums and that events which both support locals and bring visitors to the area should be supported. Additionally, there were some questions raised as to what the impact of LGR and devolution would be.</p>	to address these whilst being consistent with national policy.