

Responses to SWJCS Preferred Options Consultation

Settlement Hierarchy:

Wyre Forest District Council are generally in support of the proposed settlement hierarchy set out in Policy CS2 – Location Strategy, and the classification of settlements into three categories of villages.

- **Clows Top**

It is noted that Clows Top has been identified as a category two village offering a reasonable range of services and facilities and levels of public transport. Category 2 villages are identified as being able to support up to 30 dwellings during the plan period. Wyre Forest District Council would support small scale affordable housing development here to meet identified local needs.

- **Hartlebury:**

It is noted that Hartlebury has been identified as a category one village, capable of accommodating up to 50 additional dwellings during the plan period. Wyre Forest District Council would support limited housing provision here with a focus on affordable housing to meet local needs.

Worcester City as the Focus for Development:

Wyre Forest District Council support Worcester City being the main focus of new development. Furthermore, the desire to create sustainable urban extensions which offer a mix of uses and are integrated into a sustainable transport network is supported.

Addressing a Higher Growth Target:

A free standing settlement is suggested as a way of achieving a higher growth target should this be required. WFDC would support the comments made against pursuing a free standing settlement as a solution to higher housing numbers which could potentially arise out of the RSS Phase Two Revision. A free-standing settlement is likely to become a commuter village with little provision of services and facilities and is not considered to be the most sustainable way of addressing a higher housing growth target.

Droitwich

It is noted that Droitwich is identified for both employment and residential growth to the South. Wyre Forest District Council would not support growth to the north which would encroach into the greenbelt.

Policy CS2:

Wyre Forest District Council strongly support clause 4 of policy CS2 which states that development in the open countryside (beyond the settlement boundaries) will be strictly controlled.

Windfall Developments:

Wyre Forest District Council support the approach taken to windfalls as outlined in paragraphs 4.40-4.44 and the inclusion of an allowance for windfalls in the future in order to avoid the need for excessive provision of greenfield land.

Omissions:

The District Council notes that the paper contains no reference to the important role which Hartlebury Trading Estate plays within the local economy. It is considered that this site should be identified within the 'Employment Protection and Generation' chapter of the report which refers to the need to protect strategically important employment sites. WFDC would consider that Hartlebury Trading Estate is a strategically important employment site which should be afforded protection.