

## **Draft Response to Shropshire Core Strategy Issues and Options Paper**

### **Para 2.23**

Paragraph 2.23 states that "Potential exists for hydro-power on the River Severn as part of the future replacement of suitable weirs". Wyre Forest District Council would be concerned about the potential impact of generating hydro-electricity from the River Severn on water levels downstream. This could have a potential significant impact on the landscape and biodiversity of the Severn Valley and the flooding issues currently associated with the River Severn.

### **Para 2.40**

Paragraph 2.40 refers to flooding and states that "Flooding is an issue along the length of the River Severn, but is relatively well managed in Shropshire by existing and planned defences. Of potential regional significance are proposals for a flood management scheme upstream of Shrewsbury. This would increase the capacity of the floodplain to absorb water, benefiting communities downstream in Worcester and Gloucestershire that are more difficult to defend and proved highly vulnerable in the 2007 floods" Wyre Forest District Council would, in principle, support a scheme to reduce flooding from the River Severn in the more vulnerable locations, subject to Sustainability Appraisal outcomes.

### **Spatial Area Characteristics: East:**

It is noted that Highley is identified as a key employment and service centre. It is considered that further development at Highley could increase the volume of traffic flowing along the Dowles Road and through the centre of Bewdley and this would exacerbate the current poor air within the Air Quality Management Area in Welchgate, Bewdley. Therefore, the District Council would wish to see any options for growth in Highley subjected to Sustainability Appraisal to include Air Quality impacts within Bewdley. Aside from air quality impacts the District Council would also have concerns over further development at Button Oak and beyond, which gains access from the B4194 and the potential to exacerbate the road safety problems at the junction of the B4194 with the road to Pound Green and Arley.

### **Choice 2: Development in the Countryside**

The District Council is currently undertaking its own Core Strategy Preferred Options consultation. Through the Issues and Options consultation undertaken during July 2007, significant concern has been raised in the Button Oak, Arley and Severn Valley area regarding the number of static caravan/log cabin/chalet developments which exist within the area. The District Council itself has a policy in its current Adopted Local Plan which restricts the further development of this type in these areas, this approach has been retained and is set out as a Preferred Option within the District Council's Core Strategy Preferred Options Paper. The District Council would therefore wish to see a similar policy approach adopted to this area by Shropshire Council.

### **Choice 12: Environmental Networks**

Wyre Forest District Council are in the early stages of producing a Green Infrastructure study for the District and would support the opportunity to identify cross-boundary green corridors, e.g, the River Severn Valley.