

Herefordshire Council Core strategy: Revised Preferred Options Consultation

Response from Ross on Wye Town Council

Ross on Wye Town Council is concerned that the revised preferred options give insufficient emphasis to the economic future of the Town.

We request that the following issues be taken into consideration before the plan is finalised.

Housing

We are concerned that the planned increase in housing over the time period is insufficient to meet the needs for the town. This is in terms of the requirement for affordable and social housing, and also in terms of economic development. At the presentation in October at the Town council Offices it was stated that the projected housing growth would be insufficient to maintain the current population and economic activity of the town. Whilst recognising environmental constraints, we request that consideration is given to increasing the target to one which will stabilise the population of the town and allow limited economic growth, as opposed to the contraction which is currently envisaged.

Employment land

Whilst recognising the importance of the Model Farm development to the town's future economic development, the Council is concerned that there is no employment land identified within the town itself. Given the number of empty shops within the town centre it asks that consideration be given to alternative employment uses for existing retail premises. We further request that consideration be given to locating other potential employment and/or live-work land within the town.

Ross Town Plan

The Council notes that the 2010 Town Plan has been adopted as supplementary planning guidance by Herefordshire Council. We request that a formal acknowledgement of the status of the 2010 Ross Town Plan be included in the Core Strategy.

November 2011