



# Somerton

Let us know your views!

Somerton should be identified as a **Market Town** because:

- ✓ Although only 5 miles from the bigger settlement of Street, it has a wide range of key services serving the town and the surrounding rural area
- ✓ It has a strong historical role as a centre for shops and services that have been maintained to the current day
- ✓ It has good public transport to surrounding towns
- ✓ There is good provision of retail and service facilities to meet the day-to-day needs of residents and there are reasonable employment opportunities in the area
- ✓ There is greater potential for new development at Somerton than in nearby Langport and Huish Episcopi, which has high levels of flood risk

## CURRENT ISSUES

- The town has relatively low proportions of residents living and working locally (less than 40%) with many people needing to travel to nearby settlements for work
- There is concern about the loss or under-use of retail premises in the town centre
- There are areas of high flood risk to the north, east and south of the town
- To accommodate further growth there would need to be improvements in town centre services
- There are protected species and habitats in the area, which need to be safeguarded

## STRENGTHS

- There is a high quality historic environment and conservation area, which makes the town very attractive
- The town fulfils a strong employment, retail and community role
- There is a high quality natural environment surrounding the town with many rural villages seeing Somerton as its natural service centre

## Vision for 2026:

- In order to sustain and enhance its role up to 500 homes should be built, mostly to the west of the town (219 of these are already allocated).
- Growth will help to safeguard the shopping centre and enable further improvements to town centre services.
- To enable more people to work locally, around 420 new jobs are needed in a range of businesses and a further hectare of employment land will accommodate this.
- New homes will meet the need for more affordable housing.

**Do you agree that Somerton is a Market Town?**

**Do you agree with the level and type of growth being planned?**

**Have we got this right? Have we got this wrong? If so, please tell us why.**

**We need your views**

