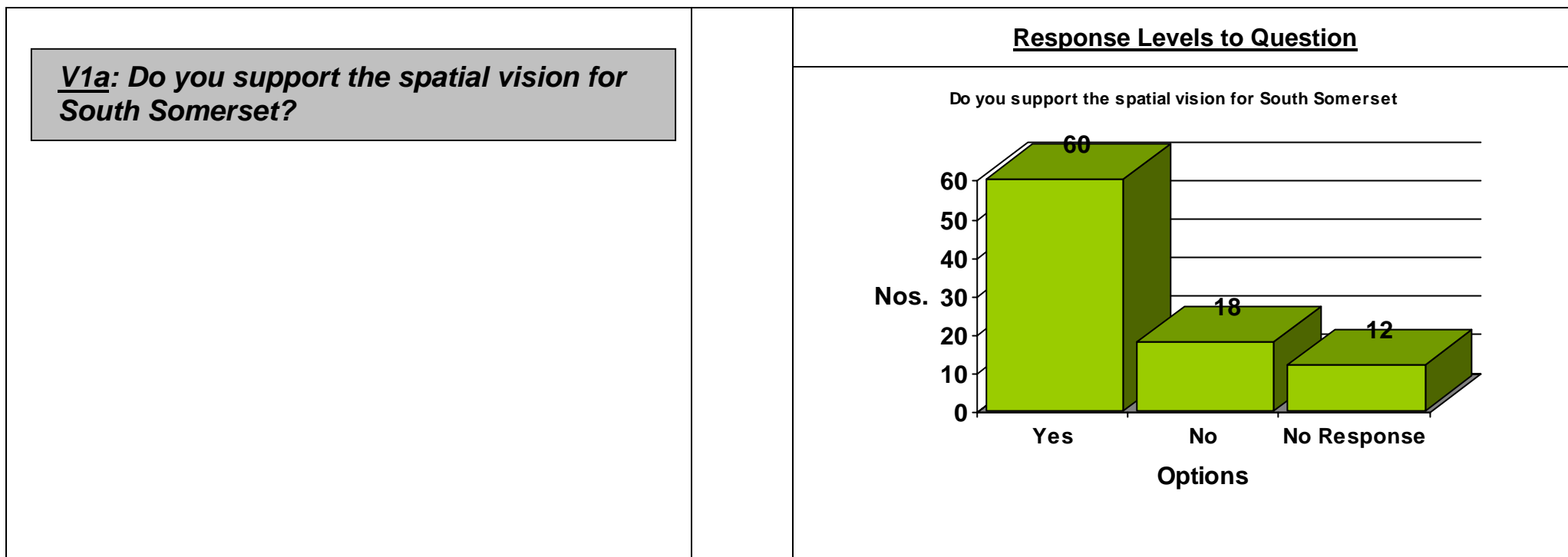


VISION AND STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Question V1 – A Vision for South Somerset in 2026



V1b: Can you suggest any realistically attainable amendments to it that will help create a better South Somerset?

| V1b: Summary of Issues | Evidence base consideration | Policy or Proposal |
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| Support the broad aspirations of the Vision for South Somerset in 2026 and note reference to 'improved transport infrastructure, and high levels of self containment'. The identification of Yeovil as the prime economic driver, being the sole | Yeovil should be the focus as an SSCT in the RSS. It is considered that reference to an integrated and sustainable transport system is a key issue and challenge in the district (PPS12), supported by liaison and consultation with the | Make reference to an integrated and sustainable transport system within the Vision, such as improving the transport links between Yeovil and the market towns. |

| V1b: Summary of Issues | Evidence base consideration | Policy or Proposal |
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| Strategically Significant City/Town (SSCT) in the District, is supported based on its relatively high levels of self containment and public transport accessibility. However additional reference should be made to an integrated and sustainable transport system through, for example, a commitment to try and improve public transport links between Yeovil and the market towns. | Highways Agency and the Highways Authority. The emerging Yeovil Transport Strategy Review 2 will inform the approach to improved integration and sustainable transport in Yeovil. | |
| <p>Whilst some expansion of Yeovil may be acceptable, alternatives such as creation of a new settlement(s) close to Yeovil should be considered for the following reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The number of new dwellings involved equate to a small town. 2. The new site would enable all the issues of sustainability to be incorporated into the design and layout. 3. The sites could be situated close to an existing major road/motorway thus avoiding issues of congestion on small roads e.g. Podimore. 4. Other basic infrastructure could be properly planned for as opposed to having potentially inadequate 'add-on' facilities. 5. Environment factors & biodiversity issues could be planned for so that the whole would be a pleasant place to live. | The Regional Spatial Strategy sets out that 5,000 dwellings within an 'area of search' contiguous to Yeovil must be accommodated. The RSS does not allow for a stand alone new settlement. | None required. |
| Expansion of market towns should be seriously considered. | The Settlement Role and Function Study begins to determine which settlements should be classified as Policy B and therefore be expected to accommodate a level of growth. The settlement hierarchy will determine which towns accommodate the level of growth prescribed by the RSS. | Refer to development at Market Towns in the Vision through a settlement strategy that distributes growth in accordance with settlement roles and functions and the benefits that development can deliver. |
| Would like to see Milborne Port upgraded to 'Market Town'. | The Settlement Role and Function Study does not identify Milborne Port does as being a Market Town. The Landscape Appraisal indicates that | To be considered with other evidence base and through the engagement process. |

| V1b: Summary of Issues | Evidence base consideration | Policy or Proposal |
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| | Milborne Port is constrained in terms of its capacity to accommodate sufficient further growth to allow it to offer the higher level services that a Market Town should provide. The town is identified as being suitable for local growth i.e. Policy C. | |
| The specific needs of other market towns such as Chard and Crewkerne have not been adequately addressed. Although Yeovil is the largest Town in South Somerset, it is geographically detached from the majority of the population of the District. The vision does not focus on the needs of the rest of the district, and the larger Town's such as Chard and Wincanton should be included in the delivering of specific facilities for those communities. | The specific needs of Chard are being addressed by the Chard Regeneration Framework and this when adopted will form an important part of the evidence base for the core strategy and will also be used to frame policies that are specific to the location. Yeovil's role as a SSCT within the district has been set by the RSS and is not negotiable. | The vision should be reworded to ensure that the commitment to both Yeovil as a SSCT and through a settlement strategy that distributes growth in accordance with settlement roles and functions and the benefits that development can deliver. |
| Highlight sports and sporting facilities and youth and young people. | It is considered that sporting facilities is already implicit within the vision with the phrase "high quality community facilities". | Comments will be taken into account when framing appropriate policies – consider whether specific reference to sport facilities and young people should be included in the Vision. |
| The Vision focuses on the strengths of the District, but it says nothing about the vulnerable (mentally ill, disabled, vulnerable elderly etc.) – need to ensure the vision promotes inclusiveness. More respect for the rural community especially investment and regeneration. | Comments noted. | The Vision should be reworded to include reference to social inclusion. |
| The emphasis on Yeovil and the market towns as the centres of economic activity needs to be diluted to encompass smaller businesses based on technology allowing people to work from home, or live where the businesses are located, so that they are not travelling to and from work. By 2026 it would be good to have a target figure of a number of people travelling less than half a mile to work. | The emphasis on Yeovil has been prescribed by the RSS and cannot be diluted. The settlement hierarchy and distribution of development will be set according to the RSS principles and will be informed by the work in the Settlement Role and Function Study. A target figure for people working from home would only be included if it could be accurately measured and this is not possible at the moment. The issue of self-containment is one of the guiding principles of the advice in the | None required. |

| V1b: Summary of Issues | Evidence base consideration | Policy or Proposal |
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| <p>With the issue of carbon emissions and climate change being highly important, houses should be built where the jobs are - jobs will not follow houses. If the road infrastructure and access in and out of the area is not easy, companies will not move there. New business moving into the South Somerset area, will want to be where access is easy, and will look to areas where business is already operating.</p> | <p>Settlement Role and Function Study.</p> <p>The issue of increasing self-containment is one of the guiding principles of the overall Core Strategy vision and have been expressed in the Settlement Role and Function Study. Climate change is a major consideration in guiding where development might be located (PPS: Climate Change). The delivery of infrastructure such as roads is also being considered and will form part of the Infrastructure Delivery Plan that will accompany the Core Strategy.</p> <p>The relationship between housing and jobs is not clear cut as a great deal of employment is now derived from non traditional employment type uses such as offices and factories, much employment now arises from service industries such as health care, education and retail. The issues of housing land and employment land are explored in more detail in the emerging Employment Land Review and the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment.</p> | <p>Development policies in the Core Strategy will seek to achieve a parity between the houses being provided and the provision made for employment backed up by the findings of the Employment Land Review and the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment.</p> |
| <p>Need to allow for a more locally responsive approach based on market towns (e.g. Ilminster) as this is the best way to create sustainable communities and foster strong community spirit. The reference within the vision to 'self-containment' would be better phrased as 'self-sufficiency' - a more positive aspiration that recognises cross boundary issues (e.g. in tourism). The need for market towns such as Ilminster and Chard to thrive is vital to harness the economic potential of the District and it is essential to provide for the level of employment and housing numbers required to make this happen. Add reference to the need to build upon existing strengths and allow for small scale</p> | <p>The Spatial Vision does allow for a locally responsive approach to development in market towns where appropriate. Self-containment is the phrase adopted by the RSS in reference to how we define Policy B settlements. Such a phrase would not prohibit towns also developing self sufficiency and will allow for the economic potential. The ability to allow for incremental growth is implicit within the settlement hierarchy.</p> | <p>Spatial vision to articulate the concept of self containment and ability of market towns to accommodate appropriate levels of growth through encouraging sustainable communities with a balance of employment, homes, open space and community facilities.</p> |

| V1b: Summary of Issues | Evidence base consideration | Policy or Proposal |
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| <p>incremental growth in employment and housing in response to local community needs as well as large scale strategic growth.</p> | | |
| <p>Yeovil is not capable of economic conversion to a SSCT due to its location: -</p> <p>a). Development to the east is prevented by the county boundary with Dorset.</p> <p>b). Development of the town centre to the south is prevented by the Ninesprings escarpment.</p> <p>c). Development on the western side is limited by the capacity of Western Avenue.</p> <p>d). Access to Yeovil:</p> <p>1.d.1. The A30 Sherborne Rd. into Yeovil is already a cause of congestion at peak periods.</p> <p>1.d.2. Connecting roads to the A303 are not capable of taking more traffic without considerable expense of by-passing villages and straightening the route. The Cartgate link road (A3088) is the exception, but this carries heavy traffic from Dorchester / Weymouth / Poole to Bristol and M5.</p> <p>1.d.3. The A37 has been significantly improved in Dorset, but at the Somerset border reverts to the winding routes. A western bypass for Yeovil to link this road directly to the A303 is desperately needed. The junction of Dorchester Rd. and West Coker Rd, and the Police Station roundabout require alleviative measures.</p> <p>1.d.4. The railway stations are remote from the town centre and not significant as access points.</p> <p>1.e). The town is divided into 4 independent areas by:</p> <p>1.e.1. The Augusta-Westland airfield;</p> <p>1.e.2. The Ninesprings escarpment.</p> <p>1.e.3. The Mudford Rd. Rec./Technical college</p> | <p>The position of Yeovil is prescribed by the RSS and is not negotiable. The Core Strategy must be in conformity with the RSS and therefore Yeovil's status cannot be altered in the core strategy.</p> <p>Locational factors have been taken into account in determining where Yeovil sits in the settlement hierarchy of the region. Additional development within Yeovil will be considered in the light of infrastructure considerations and transport studies will be commissioned alongside any major allocations. The emerging Yeovil Transport Strategy Review 2 will identify specific transport requirements to accommodate Yeovil's growth.</p> | <p>None required.</p> |

| V1b: Summary of Issues | Evidence base consideration | Policy or Proposal |
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| <p>wedge. 1.e.4. Reckleford and Queensway isolating the centre. There is no obvious route for alternative connecting roads between these four areas, without incurring considerable expense.</p> | | |
| <p>A more economic solution to accommodating the extra population increase by incomers is to share them between Wincanton/Castle Cary/Bruton, Ilminster, and Chard which have better connections to the A303 and thence M3 and M5, with a fast rail link to London from Castle Cary. This alternative proposal ticks more boxes in the consultation document at less cost than the proposals themselves.</p> | <p>Yeovil should be the focus for development as a SSCT in the RSS. Wincanton, Ilminster, Castle Cary and Chard are among the settlements proposed as 'Market towns' in the Settlement Role and Function study and, alongside the other Market Towns, will be expected to accommodate the majority of growth outside of Yeovil.</p> | <p>Refer to development at Market Towns in the Vision through a settlement strategy that distributes growth in accordance with settlement roles and functions and the benefits that development can deliver.</p> |
| <p>The Vision appears to have emerged from 'bottom-up' thinking rather than 'top-down' and does not encourage an individual to aspire to a better South Somerset. The factors in Section 2 could lead to significant economic problems within 20 years unless these are tackled within the next five years. The Vision should include the objective to raise by 2026 the average income of the working population to at least the UK national average. The definition of "Sustainable Development" in section 4.1 is inadequate; a more positive and less self-centred statement is: - "Development that meets the needs of the present while facilitating the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."</p> | <p>The Spatial Vision for the Core Strategy does aspire to a better South Somerset, however it is accepted that it could be expressed more clearly. The core strategy is influenced by the sustainable community strategy (bottom-up) and RSS (top-down). Consideration will be given to including objectives relating to average income; this is an objective of the Sustainable Community Strategy. The definition of sustainable development is based upon a well-recognised definition.</p> | <p>The Spatial Vision will be reworded and will express more clearly the aspiration for a better South Somerset. Reference can be made to raising the average income of residents in relation to other economic development aspirations of the Core Strategy.</p> |
| <p>The approach of a chapter on each major theme would be greatly enhanced had Section 4 laid out in much stronger terms the interaction between each theme: for example:- Future housing needs (number, styles & locations) depends on; Population numbers &</p> | <p>The Issues and Options stage of the document was the appropriate stage to present alternative scenarios. The Core Strategy must now move onto providing a preferred option for development that has been tested against the other options put forward in the consultation. The interaction</p> | <p>More explicit reference should be made to the interactions between different spatial themes.</p> |

| V1b: Summary of Issues | Evidence base consideration | Policy or Proposal |
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| <p>structure, which depends on; Future employment patterns, which generate; Future levels of income, which affect; Future housing needs?; etc. This would help the reader had you spelt out three or four "alternative future scenarios", each reflecting the Vision but each having its own self-consistent set of assumptions on issues across the themes. Such an approach would help the reader to comment back to you their views against a co-ordinated background - in other words to provide feedback on - to them - the more desirable scenario rather than on the detailed issues.</p> | <p>between different themes will need to be expressed more explicitly in the reworded strategy.</p> | |
| <p>The "spatial vision" seems to be based on an imaginary set of criteria set out in the inaccurate "pen portrait" set out above. The vision is therefore based on distorted and clouded first principles.</p> | <p>The pen portrait of the district is considered to be accurate and is based on robust evidence held within the evidence base and trends and objectives from the Sustainable Community Strategy that has now been adopted by SSDC.</p> | <p>None required.</p> |
| <p>Provision for places of Worship in newly developed areas.</p> | <p>The provision for places of worship as part of new development may be considered where there is an identified need.</p> | <p>None required.</p> |
| <p>The vision should recognise the need to accommodate development in urban extensions to Yeovil, the vision also needs to refer to the need for joint working. The vision should also recognise the role of the market towns, which are so important to the HMA given that it is an extensive rural area. A greater reliance must be placed on Yeovil and the economically important market towns with the rural areas providing primarily for local needs only unless there are exceptional circumstances.</p> | <p>Agree that reference to 5,000 dwelling 'area of search' around Yeovil should be recognised in the Vision. Joint working is important, although it is not felt this is appropriate to refer to this in the Vision. Agree that the role of the other market towns needs to be made more explicit.</p> | <p>Amend Vision to consider Yeovil's 'area of search'. Refer to development at Market Towns in the Vision through a settlement strategy that distributes growth in accordance with settlement roles and functions and the benefits that development can deliver.</p> |
| <p>The term sustainable in this context needs to incorporate all environmental aspects including flood risk, climate change, renewable energy, sustainable buildings, etc. The Vision should be</p> | <p>Accept.</p> | <p>Make suggested amendments to Vision by referring to enhancing biodiversity in the district.</p> |

| V1b: Summary of Issues | Evidence base consideration | Policy or Proposal |
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| aspirational by enhancing the District's Biodiversity not just 'respecting and protecting its rural and environmental assets'. | | |
| The Regional Spatial Strategy is based on unrealistic assumptions. The future cannot be predicted; the projected rise in population is too great for the infrastructure to comfortably sustain and too rapid to enable social cohesion and development - this number should be reduced. | The “numbers” are not negotiable - the Regional Spatial Strategy sets the overall housing and employment development levels, which must be accommodated within the Core Strategy. The emerging Infrastructure Delivery Plan will provide further detail on infrastructure requirements. | None required. South Somerset District Council made representations for a lower number of dwellings than stated in the RSS Proposed Changes consultation, but the final figure is a matter for the Secretary of State. |
| A recognition of the importance of the historic environment as a component of the District's cultural identity is evident. Consequently a vision that includes protecting and enhancing the District's market town's distinguished historic environment could be considered. | The vision refers to conservation areas and listed buildings. | None required, already covered. |
| Support the references to tourism; the importance of tourism to the district should be fully acknowledged throughout the policies and objectives of the Core Strategy. In particular, reference should be made to the crucial importance of tourism to the economic, social and environmental well-being of the whole country, as recognised at paragraph 1.1 of DCLG Good Practice Guide on Planning for Tourism (May 2006). | Noted. | None required. |
| Support the recognition of Yeovil as the prime economic driver within the District but there is a limit on the scale of development which can take place there both in terms of the dwellings contributions and the ability of the market to deliver so there is a need for the district to look to settlements other than Yeovil to meet housing needs. | The position of Yeovil is prescribed by the RSS and is not negotiable. The Core Strategy must be in conformity with the RSS and therefore Yeovil's status cannot be altered. Locational factors have been taken into account in determining where Yeovil sits in the settlement hierarchy of the region. | None required. South Somerset District Council made representations for a lower number of dwellings than stated in the RSS Proposed Changes consultation, but the final figure is a matter for the Secretary of State. |
| Wincanton should not be referred to as a remote part of the District. It is not remote for the people who live and work there. | Accept that this part of the Vision is loosely worded. | Amend reference to the more remote parts of the district. |

| V1b: Summary of Issues | Evidence base consideration | Policy or Proposal |
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| There is no reason why new businesses in market towns should be "modest-sized" and there is no definition of what means. A company employing 30 people could be described as modest yet would be significant in a market town. You should change the wording to appropriate sized or suitably sized. If a company came to Chard with 500 jobs would it be turned away cause it did not fit in with the vision? | Agree that the wording in this part of the Vision is superfluous. | Amend Vision by deleting reference to "modest sized but". |
| Measures purely designed to prevent out commuting could stifle appropriate development in market towns. | 'Appropriate' development should promote self containment, therefore reducing the need to travel. | None required. |
| The vision is insufficiently concise and focused, and almost strays into delivering policy rather than providing the vision from which such policies and related proposals are to emerge. | Agree that the Vision could be made more concise in places, but there does need to be a clear link from the Vision to the Strategic Objectives and policies and proposals. | Ensure the Vision is clear, concise and focussed through the use of plain English. |
| It is important to emphasise the role of Yeovil as a Strategically Significant Town (SSCT) and to ensure that sufficient provision is made in the allocation of land to deliver the required housing and employment development coupled with the required community facilities and transport links. Land to the north of Yeovil would appear to be appropriate to accommodate future development in considering the urban extension(s). | The role of Yeovil is emphasised in the Vision, in line with RSS policies. It is not considered appropriate for the Vision to identify specific locations (i.e. land to the north of Yeovil), as this should be done through policies that will show how the vision will be delivered. | None required. |
| Reference in the "Vision" to navigable and potentially navigable waterways seems a rather odd specific reference to landscape character. | Accept | Delete the reference to navigable and potentially navigable waterways in the Vision. |
| Reference to the Yeovil Vision and Chard Vision within the South Somerset Vision is a potentially confusing one. It is appreciated that the Yeovil Vision has at it's core the concept of "quarters", but such aspirational ideas should not be applied in such a fundamental way (i.e. in the LDF Vision Statement) unless specific restrictions or positive incentives are to be applied to land uses within | Accept that references to different 'visions' could be confusing. The concept of "quarters" reflects the aspirational nature of what a vision should seek to be. | Review references to Yeovil and Chard 'visions' within the overall vision. |

| V1b: Summary of Issues | Evidence base consideration | Policy or Proposal |
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| each area of Yeovil's town centre or elsewhere, but these policies should have sufficient flexibility to respond to development opportunities of whatever type within any part of the Town Centre (or elsewhere). | | |
| Definition of a Market Town is required. | This term is explained in the appropriate chapter ('Strategy'). Agree that the Vision should provide greater clarity as to which settlements are classed as 'Market Towns', reflecting the RSS. | Identify each of the 'Market Towns' in the Vision. |
| South Somerset needs to ensure it plans for balanced, sustainable growth; housing need is an issue as set out in the RSS. Focused and managed development should be clearly set out in the Core Strategy and subsequent LDF Documents. We recommend the South Somerset undertake a full sustainability and availability assessment that encompasses West Dorset District and identifies the role the district can play in achieving these goals. | Noted. A Sustainability Appraisal of the core strategy is a statutory requirement and will be published alongside the core strategy. A Scoping Report has been published. | None required. |
| <p>The South Somerset Core Strategy will need to have a clear vision that is couched in spatial terms and gives a sense of what South Somerset will be like in 2026. The Vision you have presented presents a good start in the right direction. It is also good that you are linking it closely to the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS), seeking to 'articulate the spatial planning elements of the SCS' (your page 14). Some quite detailed/minor comments on it though:</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">You could build more strongly on what you have developed through the Yeovil Vision;</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Please clarify what you mean by "economically stronger" in the 2nd sentence of the 2nd paragraph; and</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">The words "modest-sized but" in the 1st</p> | Noted. The vision should set out how the area and the places within it should develop, informed by an analysis of the characteristics of the area and its constituent parts and the key issues and challenges facing them. The vision should be in general conformity with the RSS and closely relate to any Sustainable Community Strategy for the area (PPS12). | Make suggested amendments. |

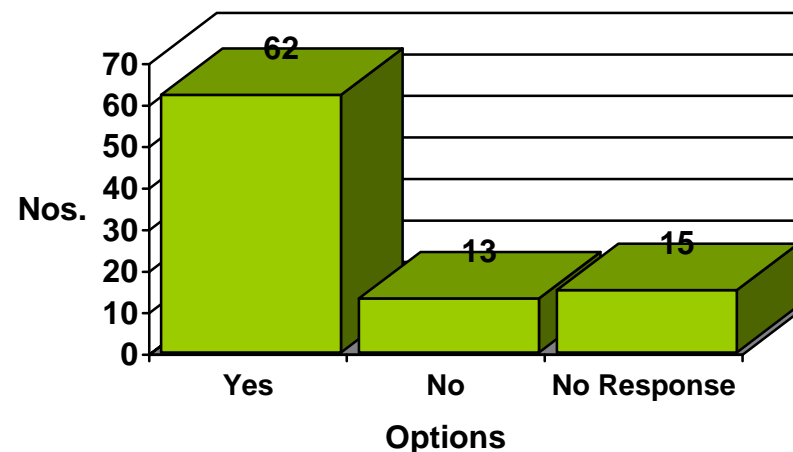
| V1b: Summary of Issues | Evidence base consideration | Policy or Proposal |
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| sentence of the last paragraph of the vision would seem superfluous. | | |
| There is insufficient emphasis on the fact that Somerset is an agricultural county. Good quality i.e. grade 1& 2a agricultural land should be classed as 'not to be built on at all' as there will come a time sooner rather than later when all agricultural land will be needed to feed the expanding population. With the above in mind, any diversification of farms should be reversible i.e. that there are no permanent buildings allowed or activities which would permanently damage the productivity of the land. | Government policy (PPS7) states "The presence of best and most versatile agricultural land (grades 1, 2, 3a) should be taken into account alongside other sustainability considerations". Therefore, do not accept that this land should not be built on at all. It would be too prescriptive and not in accordance with PPS7 to require that farm diversification schemes should be reversible. Existing vision seeks to "create/maintain a viable agricultural economy supported by appropriate diversification schemes". | None required. |
| A determination to see the A303 upgraded is essential. A more open minded and innovative approach to housing and economic development in general, including reviewing policies on areas like the "Green Belt" and villages being excluded from development ("Exceptions") is another key area. Communities within the District must be encouraged and empowered to take decisions and develop their localities without interference from outside agencies. | Upgrading of the A303 is a matter for regional/national government and outside the scope of the Core Strategy. | None required. |
| The draft vision is supported, particularly with regard to the middle paragraph of the vision that identifies Yeovil as a Strategically Significant Town (SSCT) and the prime economic driver within the district. Also support the vision of Yeovil being a vibrant town centre, which includes the successful regeneration of the eastern side of the town. | Noted. | None required. |

Question V2: Strategic Objectives

V2a: Will the Strategic Objectives set out in this Issues and Options document help to achieve the Core Strategy "Vision" for South Somerset?

Response Levels to Question

Will the Strategic Objectives set out in this Issues and Options document help to achieve the Core Strategy "Vision" for South Somerset?



V2b: Can you suggest any other or alternative Strategic Objectives that would better help to achieve the Core Strategy's spatial Vision?

| V2b: Summary of Issues raised | Evidence base consideration | Policy or Proposal |
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| Support the Strategic Objectives, but would welcome the inclusion of a specific objective, which relates purely to transport, seeking an integrated and sustainable transport system, with improved access to public transport and increased opportunities for walking and cycling. Therefore recommend that the goal of ensuring | The strategic objectives should focus on the key specific issues that need to be addressed, and how that will be achieved (PPS12). It is considered that transport is a key issue. | Propose a specific objective on transport and accessibility seeking an integrated and sustainable transport system, with improved access to public transport and increased opportunities for walking and cycling. |

| V2b: Summary of Issues raised | Evidence base consideration | Policy or Proposal |
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| access to information and communications technology (ICT), and transport options is split into two separate Strategic Objectives to ensure that access to transport options (with an emphasis on public transport) is fully recognised. | | |
| Aim for 'thriving, revitalised and diversified' economy throughout the district. | It is considered that this is incorporates within Strategic objective 5 “a competitive, high performing economy that is diverse and adaptable”. | None required. |
| ICT is not defined in the Glossary - what does it mean? | Information and Communications Technology. | Consider adding ICT to Glossary. |
| There should be consideration of costs when "Transport Options" are discussed. The current bus operator is notoriously high cost for short journeys and seems to be deliberately discouraging bus use, which is contrary to the suggested future approach. The Strategic Objective could be worded "... and accessible and affordable transport options." | The core strategy cannot influence public transport fares. | None required. |
| SO10: the phrase "A balanced housing market" seems to suggest private sector solutions only. Would prefer "a balanced housing pattern" making room for an enlarged and rebuilt socially owned rented housing sector as the only real solution to "unaffordable" housing. | Affordable housing is already included with SO10 which states “a balanced housing market with a range of affordable housing...” | None required. |
| SO3: Focus on LOCAL needs of the community enabling.... | The strategic objectives should focus on the key specific issues (PPS12). “Local” would require definition, and some community facilities may go beyond what may be considered “local” e.g. a large leisure facility. | None required. |
| SO6: Infrastructure in place for businesses... more long term planning will need to be considered, i.e. allow more space for businesses to 'grow' in the future, and ensure any units are designed for the needs of the LOCAL economy. | SO5 covers the issue of a diverse and adaptable economy. | None required. |
| SO8: Yeovil the rural economy and environment | The overall economic objectives of Yeovil, market | None required. |

| V2b: Summary of Issues raised | Evidence base consideration | Policy or Proposal |
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| are detached from each other; therefore more consideration should be given to the strategic objectives of other areas of the District, and should be considered separately to Yeovil. | towns and rural economy are the same i.e. ensure a thriving economy. The specific issues for particular places will be considered in the 'strategy' chapter. | |
| SO12: if any major development is to go ahead in south Somerset, more thought should be given to unforeseen environmental issues, such as flooding. | Agree that other environmental constraints such as flooding may require explicit mention in the strategic objectives. | Refer to other environmental constraints within the strategic objectives. |
| SO9 - Add "Where people can also carry out leisure activities and sports in an environmentally friendly way" | It is considered that Strategic Objectives 2 and 3 already cover leisure activities and sports. | None required. |
| Add a Strategic Objective aimed at encouraging and promoting the 'Third Sector' - charity, voluntary and faith groups - as part of a healthy and vibrant community. | Encouraging and promoting the third sector is not within the remit of the core strategy – this is dealt with in the Sustainable Community Strategy. Social inclusion should be promoted (PPS1), as set out in Strategic Objective 1. | None required. |
| Strategic Objectives should include homes that are also workplaces, and that most people should live less than half a mile from a public transport service which runs frequently enough for them not to need a timetable (I would define this is a half-hour service in rural areas, and a six-minute service in market towns and Yeovil). | Strategic objectives should focus on the key specific issues that need to be addressed (PPS12); which include ensuring a balance of jobs and homes and promoting public transport. The specific suggestions are considered too detailed for strategic objectives to address. | None required. |
| SO3 should read "to provide services and community facilities for the health, welfare, social, educational, leisure and cultural needs of the community enabling everyone to have fair and equitable access." | Noted. | None required. |
| I know more housing is desperately needed in this country, but not at the detriment to the environment. | New housing will be delivered in a way that minimises the impact on the environment, although some impacts are inevitable. | None required. |
| SO1: would suggest reference to building and maintaining 'social capital' as part of balanced communities in conjunction with economic and housing development. Encouraging growth in market towns and rural centres with associated | It is considered that 'social capital' is covered by the term "strong social networks" within strategic objective 1, and strategic objective 3 covers access to services. | None required. |

| V2b: Summary of Issues raised | Evidence base consideration | Policy or Proposal |
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| provision and strengthening of social capital will assist in reducing the need to travel long distances. | | |
| Reference to 'Development Management' in paragraphs 3.6 and 3.7 would be enhanced by a definition e.g.: "Evidence-based solution-oriented planning decisions to deliver the needs of the community to fulfil the vision and strategic aims of the LSP and LDF". | Noted. | Explain what Development Managements means in the relevant section. |
| SO8 is confusing - there seems to be a conflict within the objective of rural/low wages with high quality/high wage business - this has been recognised as a problem within South Somerset and this objective seems to offer no solution to it. The Vision for Yeovil promotes the centre of the town as a flagship retail centre, again low wage. It is difficult to imagine how all the aspects of this objective can be compatible with the other aspirations. | SO8 does not refer to high wage business, just high quality, so do not accept there is conflict. | None required. |
| Somerset's wages are low which should interest some employers - promotion of South Somerset in this vein may help e.g. call centres. | The economic strategic objectives cover the key specific issues that should be addressed. The delivery strategy (i.e. policies) will show how the objectives will be delivered (PPS12). | None required. |
| SO12 - high levels of awareness about the importance of our natural environment and sustainable use of our resources, resulting in pride and satisfaction with the local environment. | Amendment noted. | Consider amending objective. |
| SO13 - move towards a carbon neutral economy by 2050 with robust intermediate milestones. | Noted, strategic objectives should be Specific Measurable Achievable Realistic and Time bound, with appropriate milestones set out in the strategic objective. | Amend strategic objective to reflect Government proposals to reduce CO2 emissions by 80% by 2050. |
| It is good that you identify the strategic objectives which follow out of your vision and also derived from other plans, policies and strategies. Currently you have identified 13 which would seem too many to all be strategic - suggest | Noted. The strategic objectives should focus on the key issues to be addressed, forming a link between the high level vision and detailed strategy. They should expand the vision into key specific issues for the area which need to be | Review strategic objectives with a view to reducing the number in order to focus on the key issues and make more explicit links to themes where appropriate. |

| V2b: Summary of Issues raised | Evidence base consideration | Policy or Proposal |
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| critically reviewing those with a view of merging similar ones. Paragraph 3.5 listing the six themes of the SCS would seem to suggest that it may be possible/appropriate to have one strategic objective per theme? | addressed, and how that will be achieved within the timescale of the core strategy (PPS12). | |
| The strategic objectives will need to be SMART by the time of submission – i.e. Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Time-bound. | Noted. | Ensure that the strategic objectives are SMART. |
| While fair and equitable access to services for everyone is very important, there are circumstances when some rare individuals should be given priority access and we need to foster individuals with extra-special talents in the hope and expectation that at least some of them will stimulate the future local community to a higher plane. | This does not fit with the key sustainable development principle of social progress that meets the needs of everyone. | None required. |
| The study doesn't contain accurate and realistic first assumptions. | The assumptions within the core strategy are considered to be accurate and based on robust evidence held within the team and trends and objectives from the Sustainable Community Strategy that has now been adopted by SSDC. | None required. |
| To adopt the County Council's Yeovil Transport Strategy Review which stated bus services operating on 'day one' to and from new housing developments and employment areas. | This may be encouraged as a laudable idea, but it would be too prescriptive to require this for all development, and would not constitute a strategic objective. Yeovil Transport Strategy Review 2 is underway and will inform the strategy. | None required. |
| Provision of places of Worship for newly developed areas. | The provision for places of worship as part of new development may be considered where there is an identified need. | None required. |
| The objectives should include reference to ensuring the provision of an adequate quantum of housing as well as highlighting the need for quality homes. | Agree that actual housing provision is a key specific issue that should be dealt with in the strategic objectives. | Make reference to housing provision within strategic objective. |
| Include East Coker in RSS Development Policy C "Small Towns and Villages". | The Settlement Role and Function study does not propose East Coker as Policy C. The settlement | None required. |

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| | hierarchy will not be set out in the strategic objectives. | |
| <p>The objectives are set out as aims rather than being capable of being measured/monitored. With the exception of Strategic Objective 8 they are very general and could apply to any local authority. Given the work undertaken for the Yeovil Vision the strategic objectives should be more specific and be capable of being monitored to ensure the implementation of the Vision during the Core Strategy. For example Strategic Objective 5 should include more emphasis on the ambitions being advanced through the Yeovil Vision i.e. the emphasis on employment led growth and town centre regeneration with the objective of diversifying the economy and broaden the range of retail and leisure opportunities.</p> | <p>Agree. The strategic objectives should focus on the key issues to be addressed, forming a link between the high level vision and detailed strategy. They should expand the vision into key specific issues for the area which need to be addressed, and how that will be achieved within the timescale of the core strategy (PPS12).</p> | <p>Ensure objectives are SMART and reflect the key issues and how they will be achieved in South Somerset.</p> |
| <p>SO9: it may be appropriate to change the wording to include 'Sustainable' as this relates to both buildings and the environment. The use of this terminology would also incorporate our Flood Risk issues.</p> | <p>Noted.</p> | <p>Amend strategic objective to refer to sustainable communities.</p> |
| <p>SO11 and SO12 consideration should be given to whether they could incorporate enhancing into the text.</p> | <p>Agree - the core strategy should set out how biodiversity interests will be maintained and enhanced (PPS9). The draft SCS Goal was subsequently amended to reflect this.</p> | <p>Incorporate biodiversity enhancement into the relevant strategic objective.</p> |
| <p>Amend SO12: To protect, enhance and manage the character and appearance of South Somerset's landscape and townscape, maintaining and strengthening the Districts local distinctiveness and sense of place.</p> | <p>Agree - the strategic objectives should identify the key specific issues and how they will be addressed (PPS12).</p> | <p>Consider amending strategic objective.</p> |
| <p>The Strategic Objectives are not considered sufficient to deliver the vision for South Somerset. The vision refers to the importance of tourism but these are not carried through to the Strategic</p> | <p>Agree that the strategic objectives should be improved by expanding the vision into key issues for the district that need to be addressed, and how that will be achieved (PPS12).</p> | <p>Refer to the importance of tourism in the economic strategic objective.</p> |

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| Objectives which make no specific reference to tourism. If South Somerset's Core Strategy and wider LDF are to be successful in delivering its spatial vision it must have a set of Strategic Objectives that are directly related to it and which have the capacity to ensure its delivery. The Strategic Objectives should be amended to specifically refer to the importance and future role of tourism within the district. | | |
| SO10 should state: a balanced housing market with a range of affordable and market housing with flexibility to respond to current and future demographic trends and profiles of the population. A balanced housing market vision should look to supply a range of market housing in terms of size and type as well as affordable housing. | It is considered that objective as originally worded incorporates this comment. | None required. |
| The aims of sustainability and a carbon neutral economy by 2050 are supported but this comes at a cost, which seems to be largely ignored. The construction of 13,600 new dwellings in the district by 2026 (draft RSS), let alone 19,700 (Panel), while complying with the definition of "sustainable development" given in para 4.1, is clearly an impossibility. It would be more realistic to plan to build less unsustainably than heretofore. | The amount of new dwellings required in the district is set by the Government in the Regional Spatial Strategy so is not negotiable in the core strategy. | South Somerset District Council made representations for a lower number of dwellings than stated in the RSS Proposed Changes consultation, but the final figure is a matter for the Secretary of State. |
| SO8: by simply referring to a single settlement within the Strategic Objectives, it is considered that there is a danger that other settlements that are also intended to play a significant role within the emerging spatial strategy may not be sufficiently 'signalled' at this strategic level. SO8 should be re-drafted to refer to the hierarchy of settlements and the corresponding role and function that underpins the spatial strategy. This | Agree that the strategic objectives should be improved by expanding the vision into key issues for the district that need to be addressed, and how that will be achieved (PPS12). | Indicate the settlement strategy in the strategic objectives outlining Yeovil as the focus for development in the district; and promoting self containment at the 'Market Towns' with locally significant development, and small towns and villages with development to meet local needs. |

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| could make specific mention of the particular role and function of Yeovil. | | |
| Need to be bold in promoting the future of Yeovil as a Strategically Significant Town - otherwise there is a danger that it may be forgotten in favour of Taunton and Bridgwater. Need to ensure that land allocations provide for the required delivery of housing within the early years of the plan period and that the critical mass of development comes forward in such a way as to support its developing status. Well planned large scale allocations of land will bring greater community and economic benefits and will support the required infrastructure to deal with existing issues around transport and access to facilities. | This comment is too detailed to be considered within the strategic objectives (PPS12). | None required. |
| SO4 - Here and elsewhere in the document there is extensive reference to access to ICT. With the possible exception of the siting of telecoms masts it is not clear how this issue is to be dealt with through the planning system; one wonders whether this issue warrants a specific mention as a strategic objective of the Core Strategy of the planning system. | Strategic objectives should identify the key specific issues for the district (PPS12). High quality ICT can reduce the need to travel through enabling people to work at home. | Make suggested amendment. |
| SO5 - Whilst I applaud the reference to competition in the Economic Objective, this should also contain some reference to a growth aspiration (as determined by the RSS). | Strategic objective 8 describes “a thriving Yeovil etc... economy”, but agree that reference to economic growth should be explicitly considered as key issue. | Consider amending economic objective to specifically refer to growth. |
| SO13 - As even the central government has to undertake a consultation this summer before it is prepared to define the term Zero-Carbon or Carbon-Neutral it is confusing to adopt carbon neutrality as a strategic objective. Would it not be better adopt a more realistic aspiration e.g. significant reductions of carbon emissions over the period of the Plan. | This objective reflects a Goal in the Sustainable Community Strategy. “Move towards a carbon neutral economy by 2050” is considered vague, and require evidence that this is deliverable. Climate Change Act states 80% reduction in CO2 emissions by 2050. | Amend strategic objective to reflect Government proposals to reduce CO2 emissions by 80% by 2050. |