

Response ID BHLF-MWX6-MJTF-3

Submitted to Melton Local Plan Update: Issues and Options Consultation
Submitted on 2024-01-09 14:40:33

Introduction

Definitions

How to use the Issues and Options

About you

What is your name?

Name:
Emma Newton

What is your organisation? (if relevant)

Organisation:
Severn Trent

What is your Job Title/Role (if relevant)

Job title/role:
Strategic Catchment Planner

What is your email address?

Email:
[REDACTED]

Are you making a submission on behalf of someone else?

No

If you are submitting on behalf of someone else, please provide details:

Name (on behalf of):

Organisation (on behalf of):

About you (equalities questions)

Please provide the first 5 digits of your Postcode (for example LE13 1).

Enter the first 5 digits of your postcode:

Gender: How do you identify?

[REDACTED]

If self-describe, please state :

Would you describe yourself as transgender?

[REDACTED]

What is your sexual orientation?

[REDACTED]

If other, please state:

What is your age?

[REDACTED]

Do you consider yourself to have a health problem or a disability which has lasted, or is expected to last at least 12 months?

██████████
If you selected other, please state:

What is your ethnic origin?

Please describe your ethnicity and race:

What is your religion?

██████████
Please state your religion:

Vision and objectives

Relevant context to respond to the questions below

Question 1: Looking at the options above, which option do you support?

Question 1 - Option 1: No change:

Question 1 - Option 2: Refocused and simplified version [preferred option]:

Question 2: Please use the comment box below to explain your response or provide any additional information you would like us to consider in our review of this section

Please, provide further context:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on your consultation, we have some specific comments to make on your plan. Please keep us informed when your plans are further developed when we will be able to offer more detailed comments and advice.

Position Statement

As a water company we have an obligation to provide water supplies and sewage treatment capacity for future development. It is important for us to work collaboratively with Local Planning Authorities to provide relevant assessments on the impacts of future developments and to provide advice regarding policy wording on other relevant areas such as water efficiency, Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS), biodiversity, and blue green infrastructure. Where more detail is provided on site allocations, we will provide specific comments on the suitability of the site with respect to the water and sewerage network. In the instances where there may be a concern over the capacity of the network, we may look to undertake modelling to better understand the potential risk. For most developments there is unlikely to be an issue connecting. However, where an issue is identified, we will look to discuss in further detail with the Local Planning Authority. Where there is sufficient confidence that a development will go ahead, we will look to complete any necessary improvements to provide additional capacity.

Specific Response to the consultation

Vision and Objectives – Consultation Question 2

We are supportive of Option 2 a refocused and simplified Vision and Objectives section. It is pleasing that this has been updated to include the impact of climate change. In support of this objective please see the section below in our general guidance referring to Surface Water and Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS). Sustainable management of surface water will become increasingly more important in the future as the impacts of climate change are predicted to result in more intense rainfall which in turn can increase the risk of flooding. Managing surface water at source, as close as possible to where it falls during rainfall, then maximising the retention time it stays there by mimicking natural drainage via SuDS is key to reducing flood risk.

Question 3: What do you think are the most important objectives to be covered by our Vision? Please select your top 3

Question 3 - Improving facilities for all of the community and providing the new infrastructure needed to support our growing population:

Question 3 - Addressing the causes and effects of climate change:

Question 3 - Ensure local housing meets the local communities current and future needs:

Question 3 - Supporting a diverse, competitive and innovative rural economy:

Question 3 - Enhancing Melton Mowbray's town centre:

Question 3 - Promoting high quality and well-designed development to help create healthy, sustainable and safe communities:

Question 3 - Enhancing nature and minimising harm to the natural environment:

Question 3 - Other (please specify below):

Please, provide further context:

Policy SS1. Presumption in favour of Sustainable Development

Policy SS1: Relevant context to respond to the questions below

Question 4: Looking at the options above, which option do you support?

Question 4 - Option 1: Delete the policy:

Question 4 - Option 2: Amend the policy [preferred option]:

Question 5: Please use the comment box below to explain your response or provide any additional information you would like us to consider in our review of this policy

Please, provide further context:

Policy SS3. Sustainable Communities (unallocated sites)

Policy SS3: Relevant context to respond to the questions below

Question 6: Looking at the options above, which option do you support?

Question 6 - Option 1: Delete the policy:

Question 6 - Option 2: Review the policy to better define meeting local need:

Question 6 - Option 3: Review the policy to enhance wider sustainability [preferred option]:

Question 7: Please use the comment box below to explain your response or provide any additional information you would like us to consider in our review of this policy

Please, provide further context:

It is recommended that any review of this policy should retain the following criteria whilst considering an additional statement linked back to the climate change objective set out in your Vision and Objectives section.

- The development can be adequately drained and would not increase the risk of flooding, in accordance with Policy EN11.

We would like to offer our support in providing potential wastewater infrastructure constraints that may impact the suitability, viability and ultimately sustainability of future allocations. We believe we have worked with you previously to provide this type of information. Early engagement is key whilst there's still flexibility in selection allocation sites. We can provide information to enhance your evidence base which would highlight whether we anticipate any sewerage or surface water drainage risks with a specific allocation. We can also provide more generalise information around Wastewater treatment Works capacity which may help to influence which settlements are best suited to accommodating new development, based on their existing infrastructure capacity and provisions. Please feel free to get in touch with any revised SHLAA or allocation options.

Question 8: Under what circumstances do you think new homes in the borough's smallest and least sustainable settlements are justified?

Please, provide further context:

Question 9: Do you think criteria should be introduced to require homes built in the borough's smallest and least sustainable settlements to be built to the highest sustainability standards? If yes, what types of criteria do you think the policy should consider?

Please, provide further context:

Policy SS4. South Melton Mowbray Sustainable Neighbourhoods

Policy SS4: Relevant context to respond to the questions below

Question 10: Looking at the options above, which option do you support?

Question 10 - Option 1: Delete the policy:

Question 10 - Option 2: Amend to reflect the 2021 Masterplan [preferred option]:

Question 11: Please use the comment box below to explain your response or provide any additional information you would like us to consider in our review of this policy

Please, provide further context:

Supportive of Option 2 – Amend this policy to reflect the more recent Masterplan

Policy SS5. Melton Mowbray North Sustainable Neighbourhood

Policy SS5: Relevant context to respond to the questions below

Question 12: Looking at the options above, which option do you support?

Question 12 - Option 1: Delete the policy:

Question 12 - Option 2: Amend to reflect the 2021 Masterplan [preferred option]:

Question 13: Please use the comment box below to explain your response or provide any additional information you would like us to consider in our review of this policy

Please, provide further context:

Supportive of Option 2 – Amend this policy to reflect the more recent Masterplan

Policy SS6. Alternative Development Strategies and Local Plan Review

Policy SS6: Relevant context to respond to the questions below

Question 14: Looking at the options above, which option do you support?

Question 14 - Option 1: Delete the policy:

Question 14 - Option 2: Reduce to locally specific criteria only [preferred option]:

Question 14 - Option 3: Additional criteria:

Question 15: Please use the comment box below to explain your response or provide any additional information you would like us to consider in our review of this policy

Please, provide further context:

With regards to alternative or long-term options exploration as part of any local plan review, the current policy outlines the prioritisation criteria but makes no mention of the sites potential flood risk or sustainability. We would encourage this addition and that any reviews are led by data and aided by consultation with us in line with our comments above to “consultation question 6 &7”.

Definitions

Policy C2. Housing Mix

Policy C2: Relevant context to respond to the questions below

Question 16: Looking at the options above, which option do you support?

Question 16 - Option 1: Delete the policy:

Question 16 - Option 2: Amend the policy [preferred option]:

Question 17: Please use the comment box below to explain your response or provide any additional information you would like us to consider in our review of this policyPlease, provide further context

Please, provide further context:

Policy C3. National Space Standard and Smaller Dwellings

Policy C3: Relevant context to respond to the questions below

Question 18: Looking at the options above, which option do you support?

Question 18 - Option 1: Delete the policy:

Question 18 - Option 2: Amend the policy [preferred option]:

Question 19: Please use the comment box below to explain your response or provide any additional information you would like us to consider in our review of this policy

Please, provide further context:

Definitions

Policy C4. Affordable Housing Provision

Policy C4: Relevant context to respond to the questions below

Question 20: Looking at the options above, which option do you support?

Question 20 - Option 1: Delete the policy:

Question 20 - Option 2: Amend the policy to reflect National Planning Policy Framework and new evidence [preferred option]:

Question 21: Please use the comment box below to explain your response or provide any additional information you would like us to consider in our review of this policy

Please, provide further context:

Definitions

Policy C7. Rural Services

Policy C7: Relevant context to respond to the questions below

Question 22: Looking at the options above, which option do you support?

Question 22 - Option 1: Delete the policy:

Question 22 - Option 2: Amend the policy [preferred option]:

Question 23: Please use the comment box below to explain your response or provide any additional information you would like us to consider in our review of this policy

Please, provide further context:

Policy C8. Self Build and Custom Build Housing

Policy C8: Relevant context to respond to the questions below

Question 24: Looking at the options above, which option do you support?

Question 24 - Option 1: Delete the policy:

Question 24 - Option 2: Address increasing needs:

Question 24 - Option 3: Address increasing needs and add local-specific criteria [preferred option]:

Question 24 - Option 4: Adding the two optional local eligibility tests:

Question 25: Please use the comment box below to explain your response or provide any additional information you would like us to consider in our review of this policy

Please, provide further context:

Policy C9. Healthy Communities

Policy C9: Relevant context to respond to the questions below

Question 26: Looking at the options above, which option do you support?

Question 26 - Option 1: Delete the policy:

Question 26 - Option 2: Revise the policy but also make health and wellbeing a key thread that runs throughout the entire plan [preferred option]:

Question 27: Please use the comment box below to explain your response or provide any additional information you would like us to consider in our review of this policy

Please, provide further context:

Question 28: Do you think the Local Plan should require Health Impact Assessments for large scale developments?

Not Answered

Question 29: If you answered 'yes' to question 28, what size and types of development do you think should require them and why?

Please, provide further context:

Policy EC1. Employment Growth in Melton Mowbray

Policy EC1: Relevant context to respond to the questions below

Question 30: Looking at the options above, which option do you support?

Question 30 - Option 1: Delete the policy:

Question 30 - Option 2: Amendments to reflect Use Class Order, new evidence and National Planning Policy Framework:

Question 30 - Option 3: Create separate policies for employment allocations and employment development in Melton Mowbray:

Question 31: Please use the comment box below to explain your response or provide any additional information you would like us to consider in our review of this policy

Please, provide further context:

Question 32: Unless submitted already as part of the Employment-only Call for Sites (June-July 2023), is there any employment site you want us to consider as a potential allocation? If there is, please submit the details, including a location plan showing the boundaries to planningpolicy@melton.gov.uk and add a note in this section

Please, provide further context:

Definitions

Policy EC2. Employment Growth in the Rural Area (Outside Melton Mowbray)

Policy EC2: Relevant context to respond to the questions below

Question 33: Looking at the options above, which option do you support?

Question 33 - Option 1: Delete the policy:

Question 33 - Option 2: Policy Wording Amendments [preferred option]:

Question 34: Please use the comment box below to explain your response or provide any additional information you would like us to consider in our review of this policy

Please, provide further context:

Policy EC3. Existing Employment Sites

Policy EC3: Relevant context to respond to the questions below

Question 35: Looking at the options above, which option do you support?

Question 35 - Option 1: Delete the policy:

Question 35 - Option 2: Add specific class uses to policies:

Question 35 - Option 3: Adding Flexibility to the Policy:

Question 36: Please use the comment box below to explain your response or provide any additional information you would like us to consider in our review of this policy

Please, provide further context:

Definitions

Policy EC4. Other Employment and Mixed-use Proposals

Policy EC4: Relevant context to respond to the questions below

Question 37: Looking at the options above, which option do you support?

Question 37 - Option 1: Delete the policy:

Question 37 - Option 2: Wording amendments and define Mixed-use Development:

Question 37 - Option 3: Split the Policy:

Question 38: Please use the comment box below to explain your response or provide any additional information you would like us to consider in our review of this policy

Please, provide further context:

Town Centre and Retail Evidence

Relevant context to respond to the questions below

Question 39: Looking at the options above, which option do you support?

Question 39 - Option 1: Focus on Melton Mowbray Town Centre:

Question 39 - Option 2: Carry out a full Town Centre and Retail Study including needs assessments:

Question 40: Please use the comment box below to explain your response or provide any additional information you would like us to consider in our review of this section

Please, provide further context:

Definitions

Policy EC5. Melton Mowbray Town Centre

Policy EC5: Relevant context to respond to the questions below

Question 41: Looking at the options above, which option do you support?

Question 41 - Option 1: Delete the policy:

Question 41 - Option 2: Update and incorporate elements of the Town Centre Vision [preferred option]:

Question 42: Please use the comment box below to explain your response or provide any additional information you would like us to consider in our review of this policy

Please, provide further context:

Definitions

Policy EC6. Primary Shopping Frontages

Policy EC6: Relevant context to respond to the questions below

Question 43: Looking at the options above, which option do you support?

Question 43 - Option 1: Delete the policy:

Question 43 - Option 2: Amend the policy [preferred option]:

Question 44: Please use the comment box below to explain your response or provide any additional information you would like us to consider in our review of this policy

Please, provide further context:

Definitions

Policy EC7. Retail Development in the Borough

Policy EC7: Relevant context to respond to the questions below

Question 45: Looking at the options above, which option do you support?

Question 45 - Option 1: Delete the policy:

Question 45 - Option 2: Amend the policy [preferred option]:

Question 46: Please use the comment box below to explain your response or provide any additional information you would like us to consider in our review of this policy

Please, provide further context:

Definitions

Policy EC8. Sustainable Tourism

Policy EC8: Relevant context to respond to the questions below

Question 47: Looking at the options above, which option do you support?

Question 47 - Option 1: Delete the policy:

Question 47 - Option 2: Clarify the policy to focus on socio-economic benefits:

Question 47 - Option 3: Amend the Policy to define sustainable tourism:

Question 48: Please use the comment box below to explain your response or provide any additional information you would like us to consider in our review of this policy

Please, provide further context:

Definitions

Policy EN2. Biodiversity and Geodiversity

Policy EN2: Relevant context to respond to the questions below

Question 49: Looking at the options above, which option do you support?

Question 49 - Option 1: Delete the policy:

Question 49 - Option 2: Amend the policy:

Question 49 - Option 3: Split the policy:

Question 50: Please use the comment box below to explain your response or provide any additional information you would like us to consider in our review of this policy

Please, provide further context:

Severn Trent would be supportive of an amendment or splitting of this policy to incorporate guidance for climate change and new developments that encourage biodiversity. Please see supporting text in the Blue Green Infrastructure section below.

Definitions

Policy EN3. The Melton Green Infrastructure Network

Policy EN3: Relevant context to respond to the questions below

Question 51: Looking at the options above, which option do you support?

Question 51 - Option 1: Delete the policy:

Question 51 - Option 2: Amend the policy [preferred option]:

Question 52: Please use the comment box below to explain your response or provide any additional information you would like us to consider in our review of this policy

Please, provide further context:

Supportive of Option 2 - Enhance and update this policy, for example Bullet Point F – mitigating and adapting to climate change, including through tree planting: This could be enhanced to include reference to the Drainage Hierarchy and any form of Surface Water discharge or control opportunities through Sustainable Urban Drainage tools should be considered.

Policy EN5. Local Green Spaces

Policy EN5: Relevant context to respond to the questions below

Question 53: Looking at the options above, which option do you support?

Question 53 - Option 1: Delete the policy:

Question 53 - Option 2: Incorporate Green Belt criteria:

Question 53 - Option 3: Designate additional Local Green Spaces:

Question 54: Please use the comment box below to explain your response or provide any additional information you would like us to consider in our review of this policy

Please, provide further context:

Green open space is a highly valued asset in an increasingly urbanised world. We believe green open space, no matter what size, can provide multi-functional use for the communities that live near it. Beyond the obvious amenity and biodiversity benefits, a key use case is for green infrastructure and surface water management. This may not be essential in the immediate future, but by safeguarding green open space now, it leaves the door open to potential retrofit opportunities in the future. Severn Trent would like to recommend the following policy addition to allow Local Green Spaces to be utilised within flood resilience schemes where necessary.

“Development of flood resilience schemes within local green spaces will be supported provided the schemes do not adversely impact the primary function of the green space.”

Question 55: If you wish to propose a new area for Local Green Space, please send a map and supporting information to planningpolicy@melton.gov.uk and add a note in this section

Please, provide further context:

Policy EN7. Open Space, Sport and Recreation

Policy EN7: Relevant context to respond to the questions below

Question 56: Looking at the options above, which option do you support?

Question 56 - Option 1: Delete the policy:

Question 56 - Option 2: Update the policy, particularly the standards [preferred option]:

Question 57: Please use the comment box below to explain your response or provide any additional information you would like us to consider in our review of this policy

Please, provide further context:

Policy EN8. Climate Change

Policy EN8: Relevant context to respond to the questions below

Question 58: Looking at the options above, which option do you support?

Question 58 - Option 1: Delete the policy:

Question 58 - Option 2: Delete the policy, and make climate change a ‘core thread’ that runs throughout the entire plan:

Question 58 - Option 3: Retain but update policy EN8 and make climate change a core thread that runs throughout the entire plan [preferred option]:

Question 59: Please use the comment box below to explain your response or provide any additional information you would like us to consider in our review of this policy

Please, provide further context:

Supportive of Option 3 – Retain but update policy EN8 and make climate change a core thread that runs throughout the entire plan. Please see supporting text in the Blue Green Infrastructure section below to support the wording/role of nature-based solutions for current flood risk and impact of future climate change.

Policy EN9. Ensuring Energy Efficiency and Low Carbon Development

Policy EN9: Relevant context to respond to the questions below

Question 60: Looking at the options above, which option do you support?

Question 60 - Option 1: Delete the policy:

Question 60 - Option 2: Refocus the policy and split it into new more specific policies as required [Preferred approach]:

Question 60 - Option 3: Make the policy more robust and specific, to ensure all new development meets the highest standards:

Question 61: Please use the comment box below to explain your response or provide any additional information you would like us to consider in our review of this policy

Please, provide further context:

We would welcome a policy update which provides greater focus on water use standard, please see the below section on Water Efficiency policy.

Policy EN10. Energy Generation from Renewable and Low Carbon Sources

Policy EN10: Relevant context to respond to the questions below

Question 62: Looking at the options above, which option do you support?

Question 62 - Option 1: Delete the policy:

Question 62 - Option 2: Review the policy to ensure it works well for all types of renewable energy schemes [preferred approach]:

Question 63: Please use the comment box below to explain your response or provide any additional information you would like us to consider in our review of this policy

Please, provide further context:

Policy EN11. Minimising the Risk of Flooding

Policy EN11: Relevant context to respond to the questions below

Question 64: Looking at the options above, which option do you support?

Question 64 - Option 1: Delete the policy:

Question 64 - Option 2: Add new elements of national policy:

Question 64 - Option 3: Restrict policy to strategic overview and local matters:

Question 65: Please use the comment box below to explain your response or provide any additional information you would like us to consider in our review of this policy

Please, provide further context:

Severn Trent would like to recommend Option 2 ensuring that the policy is updated in accordance with national policy whilst retaining the detailed requirements, please see our recommendations for guidance and policy wording below.

Definitions

Policy EN12. Sustainable Drainage Systems

Policy EN12: Relevant context to respond to the questions below

Question 66: Looking at the options above, which option do you support?

Question 66 - Option 1: Delete the policy:

Question 66 - Option 2: Incorporate additional requirements:

Question 67: Please use the comment box below to explain your response or provide any additional information you would like us to consider in our review of this policy

Please, provide further context:

Severn Trent would be supportive of an amendment of this policy as defined in the issues and options consultation document in particular the need for SuDS to be accompanied by a maintenance schedule detailing maintenance boundaries, responsible parties and arrangements to ensure the SuDS are managed in perpetuity. Additional wording is included below.

For your information we have set out some general guidelines and relevant policy wording that may be useful to you.

Policy IN1. Melton Mowbray Transport Strategy

Policy IN1: Relevant context to respond to the questions below

Question 68: Looking at the options above, which option do you support?

Question 68 - Option 1: Delete the policy:

Question 68 - Option 2: Reflect the latest position in the policy [preferred option]:

Question 69: Please use the comment box below to explain your response or provide any additional information you would like us to consider in our review of this policy

Please, provide further context:

Definitions

Policy IN2. Transport, Accessibility and Parking

Policy IN2: Relevant context to respond to the questions below

Question 70: Looking at the options above, which option do you support?

Question 70 - Option 1: Delete the policy:

Question 70 - Option 2: Amend policy wording to align with national and local guidance [preferred option]:

Question 71: Please use the comment box below to explain your response or provide any additional information you would like us to consider in our review of this policy

Please, provide further context:

Policy IN4. Broadband

Policy IN4: Relevant context to respond to the questions below

Question 72: Looking at the options above, which option do you support?

Question 72 - Option 1: Delete the policy:

Question 72 - Option 2: Amend policy [preferred option]:

Question 73: Please use the comment box below to explain your response or provide any additional information you would like us to consider in our review of this policy

Please, provide further context:

Definitions

Policy D1. Raising the Standard of Design

Policy D1: Relevant context to respond to the questions below

Question 74: Looking at the options above, which option do you support?

Question 74 - Option 1: Delete the policy:

Question 74 - Option 2: Review and strengthen policy so it sets out strategic principles for high quality new development [preferred option]:

Question 75: Please use the comment box below to explain your response or provide any additional information you would like us to consider in our review of this policy

Please, provide further context:

Question 76: Do you think the current design policy criteria covers all design issues adequately, that the current policy works well? Would you like to suggest any criteria to be added or removed from the policy?

Please, provide further context:

Question 77: How important do you think each of the following design considerations are for a new development?

Question 77 - Attractiveness: creating a pleasant environment to live and work:

Question 77 - Sensitive to context: responds well to its surroundings:

Question 77 - Distinctiveness: builds upon the unique characteristics of its surroundings and creates a sense of place in itself (design features such as scale, massing, materials, landscaping and architectural detailing):

Question 77 - Neighbour amenity: does not adversely affect neighbours and nearby uses:

Question 77 - Legible places: places that are easily understood by their users, particularly when moving around.:

Question 77 - Connectedness: created new and weaves into existing networks:

Question 77 - Comprehensive: ensuring development is designed and delivered in a coordinated way, and avoiding piecemeal schemes:

Question 77 - Safe and attractive streets and spaces: create spaces and environment that feels safe and secure to be in.:

Question 77 - Environmental sustainability and adapting to climate change:

Question 77 - Mix of uses: the right range of uses and densities:

Question 77 - Protecting and enhancing heritage assets:

Question 77 - Car parking:

Question 77 - Community consultation: opportunities for community to get involved and help shape development proposals:

Question 77 - Other: please state below any other key design considerations not highlighted above:

Please, provide further context:

Question 78: Do you think there is a need for specific policy guidance about the use of design coding within the local plan?

Not Answered

Question 79: If you responded 'yes' to question 78, please provide reasons?

Please, provide further context:

Equalities Impact

Question 80: Do you have any views on the potential impact of the proposals raised in this consultation on people with protected characteristics as defined in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010?

Not Answered

Question 81: If you responded 'yes'/'unsure' to question 80, please provide your reasons and whether there is anything that you think could be done to mitigate any impacts identified

Please, provide further context:

Appendix A. Summary of the conclusions of the Local Plan Review

Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

Please use the comment box below to provide any information you would like us to consider in relation to the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

Please, provide a reference to the section and your comments: