Richmondshire District Council

Local Plan Review

Issues and Options Consultation Summary Report

November 2018

CONTENTS:

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1   Richmondshire District Council is beginning a review of its Local Development Plan for the towns and villages outside of the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

1.2   The Government requires planning authorities to review their local planning policy at least once every five years and should take into account changing circumstances affecting the area, or any relevant changes in national policy.

1.3   The Issues and Options consultation was the first of a number of stages in the production of the revised Local Plan and also was the first of many opportunities for residents, businesses and other interested parties to be involved in planning of our future.

1.4   The Issues and Options consultation aimed to identify the key issues and potential opportunities for Richmondshire to address in the revised Local Plan. This initial consultation also helped to identify some of the options and ideas for strategic policies in certain areas, including the scale and location of housing and economic development.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1   The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (July 2018) states that policies in local plans should be reviewed to assess whether they need updating at least once every five years and should then be updated as necessary. Reviews of local policy should take into account changing circumstances affecting the area and any relevant changes in national policy. The Local Plan is the planning framework for the area setting out what (and where) development is acceptable, and once agreed and adopted, will govern how planning applications are assessed.

2.2   The Issues and Options paper was developed with members of Local Plan Working Group and was the first in a number of stages where residents, businesses and other interested parties were able to participate in the preparation of a revised Local Plan.

3. ISSUES AND OPTIONS CONSULTATION PROCESS

3.1   The consultation on the Issues and Options document ran from the 3rd of September until the 31st of October 2018.

3.2   The consultation was advertised through a range of forms including a public notice, online, press releases and social media. A mail out (email and letter) was sent to all parishes and towns and around 1200 individuals, businesses and organisations on the Council's planning and businesses database.

3.3   The webpage and emails sent out provided a link to the online survey. Links for the Issues and Options consultation document, questionnaire and other supporting evidence studies including the Strategic Housing Market Assessment (2017); the Strategic Housing Market Assessment Demographics and the Employment Land Review (2018) were available to view and download on the website. Paper copies of all consultation documents were also made available to view in the District Council's Community Offices and Libraries within the Local Plan area.

3.4   A public notice for the Issues and Options Consultation was published in the Darlington and Stockton Times. A press release and reminder press release were issued with articles subsequently published in key local media outlets including the Northern Echo, Darlington and Stockton Times and Richmondshire Today.

3.5   The Council's Digital Media Officer ran a social media campaign with regular posts on the Council's Twitter and Facebook to inform and remind people of the consultation and the drop in sessions.

3.6   In addition four drop in sessions were held by the planning policy team in Richmond, Colburn, Leyburn and Gilling West where attendees were informed of the purpose and content of the consultation and able to seek clarification on issues of concern and interest to them. Posters were sent out to all parishes and towns to advertise the four consultation events.

3.7   Attendance at the drop in sessions was generally modest but around the level anticipated at this early stage in the review process, with around 30 people in Richmond, 12 in Leyburn, 12 in Gilling West and 7 in Colburn.

3.8   The responses received from the Issues and Options consultation will be considered and help to inform the next stage of the Local Plan Review in the form of Preferred Options. It is expected that the Preferred Options document will be published for consultation in summer 2019.

4. SUMMARY OF RESULTS

Number and Type of Responses

4.1   A total of 81 responses were received to the consultation. As outlined in the table below the majority of these were completed via the online survey with a smaller proportion completed and sent via email and post.

Response Method	No of Responses
Online Survey	54
Email	22
Post	5
Total	**81**

Table 1: Response Method

4.2   The highest proportion of respondents to the consultation could be described as residents, equating to approximately 35% of the total responses. This was closely followed by Landowners (30%) and to a lesser extent Statutory Consultees (14%) and Developers (9%). This illustrates the wide range of stakeholders who responded to this consultation.

Consultee Type	Number
Resident	28
Business	2
Landowner	24
Developer	7
Community Group / Organisation	5
Parish / Town Council	3
Statutory Consultee	11
District Councillor	1
Total	**81**

Table 2: Respondent Type

Consultation Responses

4.3   The following part of the report summarises section by section of the consultation document the responses to each of the questions posed in the consultation.

Strategic Issues and Opportunities (Q1-7)

4.4   The majority of responses received in relation to questions 1 – 7 tended to agree with the revisions and amendments to the different strategic issues. The outcome of the responses received are as follows:-

Strategic Issue B

(Q1)   Do you agree with the addition of the Scotch Corner Designer Outlet to Strategic Issue B?

> *81% agreed with the addition of the Scotch Corner Designer Outlet to Strategic Issue B (54 responses received).*

4.5   Some of the responses identified the Scotch Corner Designer Outlet as a potential employment benefit and would increase employment opportunities. It was also suggested that the retail park would support growth and create a requirement for further housing growth in nearby settlements and the district as a whole.

4.6   On the other hand, concerns were raised with the inclusion of the Scotch Corner Designer Outlet within Strategic Issue B as it would potentially provide for further development out of town which would be at odds with national and local policies. It was suggested that greater emphasis should be placed on existing town centres and questions were raised in relation to the 'complementarity' relationship between the Designer Outlet and existing town centres. In comparison it was also suggested that the retail park would not be in direct competition with existing town centres and had the potential to bring more visitors to the area. The importance of ensuring complementary uses with regards to the Designer Outlet and existing town centres was emphasised and stressed.

4.7   Furthermore, one response wished for the retail park to be stopped/cancelled. Concerns were also voiced in regards to climate change and the increase in car usage to access the facility.

Strategic Issue F

(Q2)   Do you agree with the re-wording of Strategic Issue F to include a 'wider range of tenures'?

> *84% agreed with the re-wording of Strategic Issue F to include a 'wider range of tenures' (55 responses received).*

4.8   Some responses explained that the broadening of the definition to include a wider range of tenures would increase the choice given to people when

looking at houses for sale and houses to rent. The revision also brings the Strategic Issue in line with the revised NPPF definition of affordable housing and discount for sale. It was suggested that there was a need to ensure an appropriate level of market housing was planned for to ensure that in turn affordable housing was provided as part of a development.

4.9   In contrast, some responses questioned the definition of affordable housing and the level of affordable housing provisions obtained by development. It was suggested that there was a need for consultation with local communities on the type of affordable housing required. It was also suggested that a wider definition of tenures of housing was required to clarify the addition to Strategic Issue F.

4.10   One response suggested that the inclusion would support the provision required for private rented accommodation whilst another response raised concerns with the increase in private rented housing and housing governed by housing associations suggesting it was negative in terms of management of the housing stock and was of poor quality. It was also suggested that housing was already affordable in Richmondshire.

Strategic Issue G

(Q3)   Do you agree with the re-wording of Strategic Issue G to include a 'wider range of employment opportunities'?

> *83% agreed with the re-wording of Strategic Issue G to include a 'wider range of employment opportunities' (54 responses received).*

4.11   Support was generally given to the inclusion of a 'wider range of employment opportunities' within Strategic Issue G and for further employment opportunities which would support and preserve local communities and facilities. Some responses highlighted the increase of employment opportunities would also need to be matched with increased housing opportunities to ensure rural communities remained vibrant and sustainable.

4.12   However some responses questioned the achievability of widening the range of employment opportunities. It was highlighted that there was a lack of clarity on the types of jobs/level of wages and it was suggested that increasing the number of higher quality/higher wage jobs should be looked at specifically.

4.13   It was suggested that Strategic Issue G could include reference to increased educational opportunities to help to ensure an adequately trained and skilled workforce. Reference was also made to the need for high quality high speed broadband to enable a diverse rural economy and support a wider range of employment opportunities.

Strategic Issue L

> ### *(Q4)* *Do you agree with the inclusion of Strategic Issue L regarding the declining and ageing population?*

> *83% agreed with the inclusion of Strategic Issue L regarding the declining and ageing population (52 responses received).*

4.14   Support was given to the inclusion of Strategic Issue L and was described as an urgent and critical issue. Support was expressed with the importance of recognising and addressing the issues for an ageing population highlighted.

4.15   It was suggested that additional housing growth was required and some specified that this should be in smaller settlements. It was also highlighted that housing should be more adaptable, meaning people could live independently for longer.

4.16   Comments were also received referring to reasons for a declining and ageing population, suggesting that the lack of facilities and services was a contributing factor in young people leaving the area.

4.17   In contrast, it was suggested that there was no evidence base to justify why 'ageing population' needed to be stated and that it was a 'natural phenomenon'.

4.18   It was also highlighted that a declining population and an ageing population should be addressed separately.

Strategic Issue M

> ### *(Q5)* *Do you agree with the inclusion of Strategic Issue M regarding the upgraded strategic road network?*

> *78% agreed with the inclusion of Strategic Issue M regarding the upgraded strategic road network (54 responses received).*

4.19   The upgrading of the strategic road network was generally supported and seen as a benefit to the area with improvements enabling people to continue to live in rural communities due to reduced journey times and that the upgrades to the A1 (M) and other junctions in the District have opened up opportunities for increased local economic and employment potential in the area.

4.20   However some responses questioned the benefits of the road upgrades and concerns were raised in relation to what impacts increased development would have on road networks and the capacity of the wider road networks, including the secondary roads and lanes, to accommodate further growth as these were not benefitting from being upgraded.

4.21   It was suggested that further housing should be located closer to major roads and focused on the strategic network corridor to fully benefit from the road upgrades. On the other hand, some supported the inclusion of Strategic Issue

M but stated that there was a need for further understanding of the impact of traffic and the location of further development on the strategic road network. Furthermore, concerns were raised in relation to increased car travel and dependency on cars leading to associated issues of increased pollution and emissions.

4.22   One response suggested that a new access into Richmond was required.

Strategic Issues

(Q6)   *Do you agree with the Strategic Issues?*

> *73% agreed with the proposed Strategic Issues (59 responses received).*

4.23   Overall there was generally support for the Strategic Issues proposed with one particular response commenting that the proposed Strategic Issues were representative of the key issues and challenges faced by the area and would appear to provide a robust basis on which to develop the Local Plan.

4.24   Generally support was given for the inclusion of Issues L and M relating to the declining and ageing population as well as the benefits of the upgraded strategic road network. Some responses expressed the importance of recognising and thus conserving and enhancing the natural and built heritage.

4.25   The following comments were made in relation to the proposed Strategic Issues:-

- Issue A relating to achieving rural sustainability whilst retaining local character should be more positively worded.

- Issues C and D relating to put too much emphasis on the military community at the expense of rural communities

- Issue I relating to conserving and enhancing the natural and built heritage should be amended to reflect the wording as set out within the NPPF.

- Issue L relating to the declining and ageing population should refer to all parts of the district not specifically the more rural areas.

- Specific reference should be given to the renewable energy industry and climate change mitigation.

- It was also suggested that the issues are confused with aims and should therefore be separated out.

Strategic Issues

(Q7) Are there any other Strategic Issues you feel should be included?

Approximately 69% of respondents thought other additional strategic issues should be included (61 responses received).

4.26   A number of suggestions were made in terms of additional strategic issues which should be included. These covered the following topics:

- Community Space, Activity and Culture.
- Reference to the 'unique access to countryside'
- The recognition for urgency of climate change mitigation
- Boosting the delivery of housing
- Parking
- Responding to Climate change – reducing reliance on travel by car by encouraging other forms of transport.
- Energy conservation/ Green Transport.
- Renewable energy and Carbon reduction
- Regeneration and support for town centre uses in Richmond and Catterick Garrison
- Broadband / enhancing digital and mobile connectivity.
- Delivery of sufficient housing to meet the OAN and Councils positive aspirations.
- The provision of adequate facilities for those with impaired mobility and cyclists.
- Continued availability to access cash machines in rural areas.
- Public transport
- The negative impact of human life on the natural world
- Support for effective social care.
- Reference to protecting the water environment.
- Increase walking and cycling routes.
- Tourism attractions
- Health and wellbeing of population
- Place making to enhance the character and identity of settlements and new development.
- Use of areas natural capital to support blue and green infrastructure and economic opportunities.
- Nature tourism

Vision (Q8)

(Q8) Do you agree with the Vision proposed? Please explain further

> *Approximately 55% of respondents (64 responses received) agreed with the proposed Vision.*

4.27 Some responses supported the proposed vision, with specific support given to the references relating to climate change as well as the emphasis on the rural economy and positive economic and housing growth. A number of respondents suggested that the vision was appropriate, with one response considering the vision to be ambitious but achievable and captures the key strategic issues of the authority.

4.28 On the other hand, some responses thought that the vision was too complacent and lacked ambition with some responses questioning how realistic the vision was specifically referencing the lack of expansion of services and infrastructure to accommodate the growing population. One response suggested that it would be more appropriate for vision to set out Councils aspirations for growth and how this will be achieved.

4.29 Concerns were raised with regards to there being too much emphasis on Catterick Garrison, Richmond and Leyburn and that more focus should be given to the larger settlements and primary service centres. Some responses also questioned the vision for development in the smaller villages. One response suggested that there should be a clear vision for Richmond and Richmond town centre.

4.30 Furthermore, it was raised that the vision focused too much on past achievements and should be more forward looking. Another response mentioned how there was a lack of consideration of BREXIT.

4.31 Other suggestions for what should be reflected within the vision included:

- The removal to reference of the Scotch Corner Designer Outlet
- The A66 should also be mentioned in addition to the A1(M) upgrading
- Reference to specialist housing for older people
- Further emphasis on Social Care
- Further clarification on 'low carbon developments'
- Encouraging a range of employment opportunities
- Further emphasis on Flood Risk
- Incorporate the Catterick Garrison Masterplan into the vision
- Reference to strategic scale development at Scotch Corner as opposed to Scotch Corner Designer Outlet
- Reference given to Green Corridors
- Further reference to Catterick Garrison as the focus for development
- Emphasis on sustainable development in rural areas
- Stronger emphasis on environmental issues

- That the vision needed to have a longer term outlook.
- That the vision should run until 2036.

Strategic Objectives (Q9)

(Q9)   Do you agree with the Strategic Objectives proposed?

62% of respondents (63 responses received) agreed with the proposed Strategic Objectives.

4.32   A number of responses expressed support for the objectives relating to appropriate level of housing, employment provision and rural sustainability.

4.33   Support was given to the objectives which promote sustainable economic growth but concerns were raised regarding the nature of proposals and whether any development in close proximity to strategic road networks would potentially impact upon the functional and safe operation of the strategic road network in peak periods.

4.34   It was suggested that the Local Plan should have sufficient flexibility built it to respond positively to changing circumstances as they arise during the life of the plan. One respondent also suggested that it should be made clearer in future drafts how the strategic objectives relate to the strategic issues.

4.35   One response stated that the proposed strategic objectives were not considered to be SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, time-based).

4.36   Furthermore, one response noted that all objectives should be of equal importance and it was questioned whether the lettering of a – f meant that 'a' was more important than 'f'.

4.37   The following comments were made in relation to the proposed Strategic Objectives:-

- Objective A should take into account creating a 'high quality environment'.

- Objectives A and B should refer to affordable housing for local workers only. In addition one response suggested that appropriate provision should be made to capitalise on wider growth opportunities which are made available through the A1(M) upgrades as recognised in Strategic Issue M.

- Objective B should be expanded to address affordability of housing be it to purchase (owner occupation) or to rent, rather than simply advocating the need for more affordable housing by tenure. Some responses emphasised the need for housing in Primary Service

Centres, specifically suggesting in the North Richmondshire sub-area.

- Objective D should specify retail, leisure, hotel and housing development should be directed to the town centres of Catterick Garrison and Richmond as currently 'provision of facilities' is unclear. On the other hand, a number of responses stated that there should not be a reliance on the development of Richmond and Catterick Garrison to provide facilities for the whole district.

- Objective E should add supporting and sustaining existing services and amenities within villages such as schools shops public transport

- Objective E (iii) which refers to meeting locally generated needs for both market and affordable housing and supporting social needs of rural communities should meet locally generated needs rather than creating development for commuting outside of the area. Another response also questioned the definition of 'locally generated needs' which only relates to rural areas.

- Objective F should include reference to water quality of rivers. It was also suggested that consideration of flood risk/flood management and climate change should be referenced as well as the creation of zero carbon/low carbon communities.

- A number of suggestions were made to split Objective F, which relates to protecting and conserving the rich variety of environmental and historic assets and mitigating and adapting to climate change renewable energy low carbon developments, into two or three separate objectives.

- Reference to Scotch Corner should be included as it is a location for large scale employment, leisure and additional retail development in the future

- Insufficient weight given to need for better access to key centres of the population.

- Improvements to Broadband

- Concerns were raised in relation to the emphasis on Tees Valley and that district strategic issues such as declining population should be a priority.

Strategic Objectives (Q10)

(Q10) <ins>Do you think any other Strategic Objectives should be included?</ins>

> ***Approximately 63% (56 responses received) thought that other strategic objectives should be included.***

4.38 A number of suggestions were made in terms of additional strategic objectives which should be included. These covered the following topics/proposed additions:

- Improve the access roads to main towns
- Parking
- Take positive action to address climate change.
- Site new development where possible in locations that can be accessed by foot, bicycle or public transport and Make efficient use of available land in accessible locations
- Reduce commuting within plan area as opposed to Reduce commuting out of plan area
- Reducing carbon and emissions support for renewable energy provision and low carbon developments
- Water quality
- More consideration for smaller hamlets
- Priority to brownfield edge of centre and town sites
- Broadband
- New strategy for local transport
- Delivery of sufficient housing to meet both the objectively assessed need and the Councils positive aspirations for growth
- Improvement of public access to countryside and public rights of way
- Electric charging points for cars
- Healthcare provision
- Transport
- Support for increasing elderly population
- Housing to be increased in Primary Service Villages to avoid loss of services, specifically in North Richmondshire
- Planting new woodland and tree planting and further recognition of the wider range of social, economic and environmental benefits that trees and woods can provide
- Further attention given to Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) as a way of supporting natural flood risk management
- Sustainable Tourism
- Provide accessible and varied opportunities for leisure and recreational activities to promote healthy lifestyles
- Promote high quality design of new development
- Attract and support businesses in high value, high pay and new technology, becoming less dependent on traditional low skill economies or tourism

- New development should be located in sustainable locations with good transport links
- Economic development resulting from A1(M) upgrade and Catterick Junction
- Ensuring net gain for biodiversity in relation to wildlife habitats.
- Appropriate level of housing

Local Objectives (Q11)

(Q11) Do you agree with the Local Objectives proposed?

> *71% of respondents (56 responses received agreed with the Local Objectives proposed.*

4.39 Numerous respondents were in support of the Local Objectives proposed. Comments received in support generally just stated support. Other comments included support for those objectives providing detailed policies reflect them and provided these are taken in to account when determining applications. NYCC also supported these objectives stating that they are in line with their Council Plan and wider objectives. A range of comments were received supporting specific objectives.

4.40 On the other hand, some respondents disagreed with the Local Objectives proposed. Comments made included they read as end states instead of actions to be pursued and that they assume conclusions that are impractical. Some also felt that they had not been developed to be SMART objectives and were vague, lacking in detail, not locally specific and repeat Strategic Objectives.

4.41 Some respondents were in disagreement with the inclusion of specific Local Objectives including 3 and 7 and that 5 would be counter to 7, 8 and 9.

4.42 General comments received included reference to need to demonstrate how Local Objectives link to Strategic Objectives. A range of comments were made suggesting amendments to specific Local Objectives including:

- Add references to retail and town centre locations to 1,2,8,10 and 11
- Add 'rural communities and villages' and 'sporting opportunities' to objective 1
- Objective 2 should be updated to reflect NPPF Para 84
- Objective 9 should include net gain of biodiversity
- Objective 8 and 12 should be re-worded to reflect importance of heritage beyond main settlements
- Delete 'Local' from Objective 5
- Add 'sufficient' to start of Objective 6

- Sustainable forms of travel should be omitted from Objective 2 which is not practical.
- Add 'active transport' to include Objective 2
- Addition of 'support existing infrastructure and enhanced delivery of infrastructure' to Objective 5

Local Objectives (Q12)

(Q12) Do you think any additional Local Objectives should be included?

> *43% of responses (56 responses received) thought that additional local objectives should be included.*

4.43   A number of respondents have suggested additional Local Objectives on topics including:

- Parking in Richmond
- Highway Safety and Local Transport
- Focus on identified allocations and direction of growth areas
- Health provision
- Broadband and Digital Infrastructure
- Improve existing housing provision
- Specific objective for North Richmondshire
- Specialist housing for older people
- Access to community and cultural facilities
- Rural Tourism
- A1 economic development corridor
- Flood reduction through natural flood management of catchments

Sub Areas (Q13)

(Q13) Which is your preferred option in relation to the Sub Areas? Are there any other options which you feel should be considered?

> *Over half of responses received (54 responses received) suggested Option B to include an additional Sub Area within the Catterick Area Masterplan Boundary.*

4.44   A range of responses were received regarding the Sub Areas the majority (52%) of respondents supported the creation of additional Sub Area for Catterick Garrison. A significant proportion (39%) also supported the retention of 3 Sub Areas.

4.45   Numerous comments were received stating that Catterick Garrison is unique because of its military population and should be kept separate. This will also ensure other areas with a different character are positively planned for.

4.46   Some respondents however suggested that the 3 sub area approach should be retained as this remains relevant to patterns of daily life within Richmondshire and a single Central Richmondshire Sub Area reflects complementarity and relations between settlements.

4.47   Respondents were also in support of the retention of Sub Areas highlighting their importance for providing a framework for policies on areas including affordable housing and housing mix to ensure they reflect localised needs.

4.48   A suggestion was also made that an additional A1 corridor Sub Area should be established.
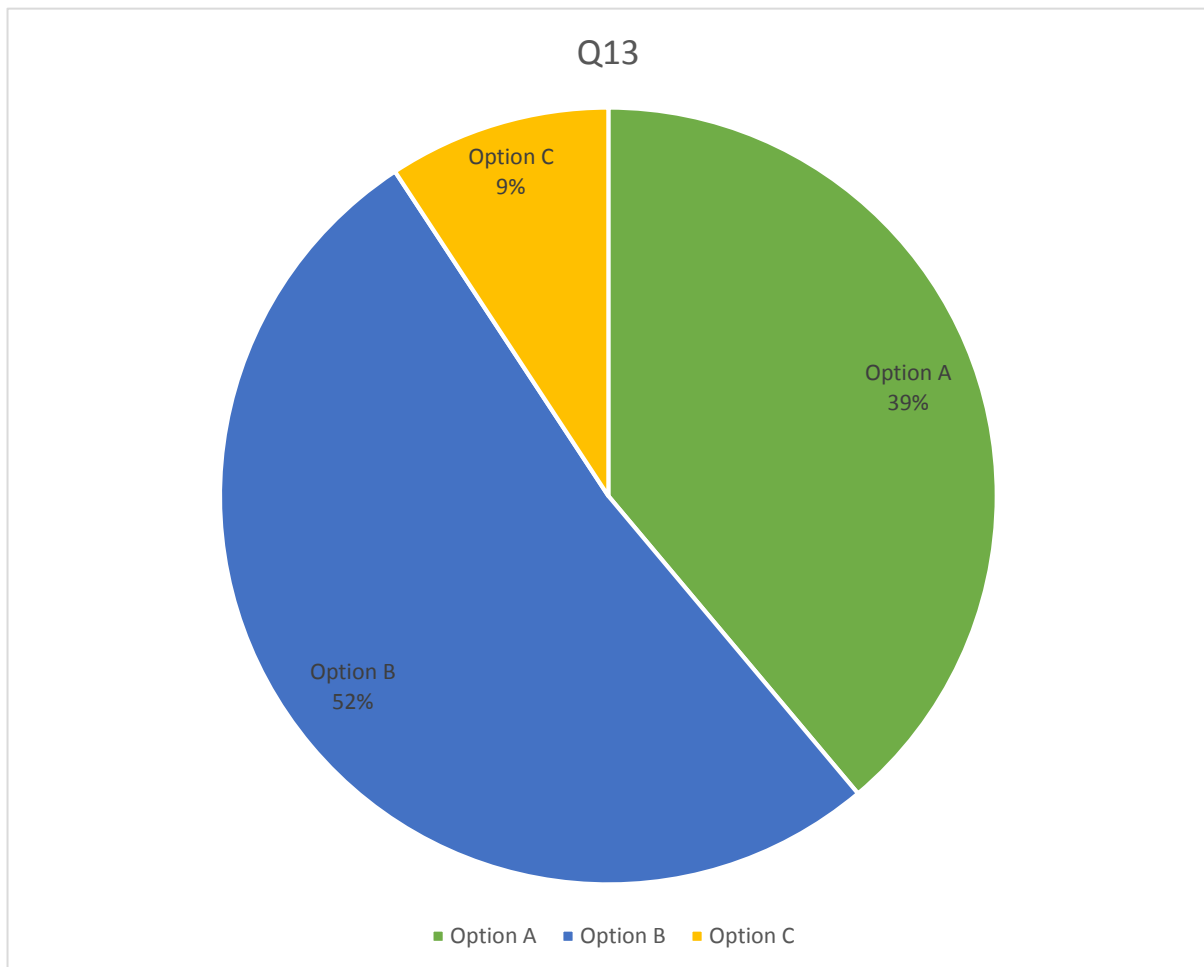
Settlement Hierarchy (Q14-19)

(Q14) Are the four levels set still appropriate? Do you think there is a need to increase or decrease the number of levels to better reflect the role and nature of settlements?

> *69% of responses agreed that the four settlement hierarchy levels were still appropriate, with 8% disagreeing and 23% not sure (49 responses received).*
>
> *16% of responses thought that there was a need to increase or decrease the number of settlement levels however 64% disagreed and 20% were not sure (45 responses received).*

4.49   A number of responses suggested that the existing four settlement hierarchy levels were still appropriate and did not need to be changed. One response noted that an increase in the number of settlement levels would only dilute the positive impacts that new development can have in relation to the more sustainable settlements including the primary service villages. Other responses noted how an additional level would over complicate the plan.

4.50   Some responses supported the retention of the four settlement hierarchy levels but emphasised that more focus on providing residential development should go towards Primary Service Villages. Furthermore, one response stated that the settlement hierarchy should not be used as a means to prevent development in smaller villages but as a means for directing the majority of growth to larger, more sustainable settlements.

4.51   On the other hand, it was suggested that an additional fifth level may be a good idea to encompass numerous smaller settlements which are scattered across the rural parts of the District to ensure their needs were not overlooked. Another response added that in the smaller hamlets the provision to provide shops and services for any proposed development should be included.

4.52   One response suggested that Catterick Garrison and Richmond, given their close proximity geographically could be considered as a single 'super service centre'.

(Q15) Should an additional tier be added to the hierarchy to separate smaller villages from elsewhere hamlets and isolated dwellings in the countryside?

> *24% of responses thought that an additional tier should be added to the settlement hierarchy to separate smaller villages from elsewhere hamlets and isolated dwellings in the countryside. The majority (53%) disagreed with the additional tier and 23% were not sure (49 responses received).*

4.53   Some responses expressed concerns that if development was allowed in smaller hamlets this would diminish the role and viability of larger settlements and that allowing growth of the larger villages would mean essential services can be maintained which in turn benefits the smaller settlements within the surrounding hinterland.

4.54   On the other hand, it was suggested that an additional tier for smaller villages may be a benefit as this would allow for an appropriate level of development and could potentially assist the development of Neighbourhood Plans.

4.55   One response suggested that an additional tier would elevate the smaller villages which offer a range of facilities up the hierarchy ensuring that these services remain and are retained and that it would also potentially provide a distinction between villages and hamlets and isolated dwellings.

(Q16) *Is the criteria set for each of the four levels in the hierarchy still appropriate?*

> *74% agreed that the criteria set for each of the four levels of the settlement hierarchy were still appropriate (53 responses received).*

4.56   The majority of responses said that the currently criteria works and is still appropriate. A handful of responses emphasised that the criteria for Primary Service Villages remained relevant particularly the principle of providing further residential development to protect and maintain existing or new services.

4.57   One response supported the existing criteria however noted that a more in-depth analysis of the health of existing services would reveal threats to their immediate and future existence. Concerns were raised in relation to level of services, some of which are threatened with closure due to undersubscription or are not valued by local communities and that it would be appropriate therefore to allow for additional development to ensure existing services are retained so that communities remain sustainable.

4.58   One response suggested that the criteria should be based on the functional aspects that the tier is expected to deliver, such as the scale and level of infrastructure and service provision and take into account of where there are identified growth opportunities that could change the status of the settlement over time.

4.59   A couple of responses supported the four levels of the settlement hierarchy and stated that there was no need for a further level below the Secondary Service Villages as settlements below this tier will be considered unsustainable for development and as such do not form an appropriate location for new development beyond those forms allowed in the open countryside. One respondent further added that the establishment of a tertiary service village or hamlet would be hard to distinguish from the open countryside in terms of location, extent, and the forms of development which might be allowed there.

4.60   It was suggested that in villages and hamlets considered as 'Elsewhere' settlements a positive flexible approach to growth should be employed by not defining development limits and/or allocations so smaller settlements could grow naturally, reducing the pressure for them to grow beyond their means and assessed on a case-by-case basis against pre-defined criteria which

takes minimum account of the proposals relationship with the settlement both physically and in terms of scale.

4.61   One response suggested that it was disingenuous to describe Leyburn as a Local Service Centre when the local services are over-subscribed and that local people have to travel further afield for basic needs.

4.62   Furthermore, it was suggested that the criteria for Principal Towns should include retail, leisure and hotel development to the main local focus, which currently only references main local focus for housing and employment.

(Q17) ***Do the settlements identified within the settlement hierarchy still fulfil the criteria of that level in the settlement hierarchy?***

> *62% of responses agreed that the settlements identified within the settlement hierarchy still fulfil the criteria of that level (53 responses received) (17% disagreed and 21% were not sure).*

4.63   A high percentage of responses agreed that the settlements identified within the settlement hierarchy still fulfil the criteria of each tier with some responses stating that this should not change as the current system works.

4.64   A number of responses support the identification of Scorton, Catterick Village, Barton and Middleton Tyas as Primary Service Villages.

4.65   One response emphasised the importance of outlining the need to support the villages outside of the settlement hierarchy.

4.66   Another response suggested that cluster villages should not exist and that settlements should be considered on their own merits and if they cannot stand up on their own they become 'elsewhere' settlements. It was suggested that, for example, Dalton and Gayles share a village hall thus linking them together but Ravensworth does not align itself with either Dalton or Newsham and vice versa.

4.67   With regards to specific settlements, the following comments were made:

- It was suggested that Leyburn should be upgraded to a Principal Town.
- One response said that even though Leyburn is a central hub and does have good local amenities it doesn't have a good public transport network any longer despite the work by volunteers and this issue should be addressed.
- A handful of responses suggested that Brompton-on-Swale should be upgraded to a Local Service Centre as the settlement has excellent communications, a large amount of employment area and potential for growth.
- Catterick Village to be upgraded.

***(Q18) Are there any settlements not identified within the Settlement Hierarchy
that you consider should be?***

> ***56% of responses didn't think that there are any settlements not already
> identified within the settlement hierarchy that should be, with 11% disagreeing
> (48 responses received).***

4.68 Comments were received which identified Barton and Scorton to be
appropriately positioned within the settlement hierarchy.

4.69 It was suggested that the following settlements should be identified within the
hierarchy:

- Villages and hamlets with limited facilities
- Patrick Brompton to be identified as a Secondary Service Village
  alongside Finghall, Harmby, Spennithorne and Hunton within the
  Lower Wensleydale sub area as there are no distinguishable
  differences between the relative sustainability of Patrick Brompton
  and Finghall.
- Redmire to be identified as a Secondary Service Village and sites
  should be identified to accommodate housing development.

(Q19) Do you have any comments to make on the Settlement Facilities Study?

> ***69% of responses did not have any comments to make in relation to the
> Settlement Facilities Study (2017).***

4.70 Most respondents didn't have any further comments to make in relation to the
Settlement Facilities Study (2017), but one response suggested that the study
would be better supported by allowing for more development to take place
specifically in villages in which local services are 'dying'.

4.71 It was suggested that the distinction between smaller villages/hamlets would
be useful to identify locations where improvement to the road network
servicing small communities would be considered appropriate to permit
additional development.

4.72 Furthermore, the following suggestions and comments were made:

- One response suggested that it should be noted that some 'elsewhere'
  settlements look outside of Richmondshire for services such as for
  example Patrick Brompton, Hornby and Newton-le-Willows look to
  Hambleton to services such as schools, doctors, shops and dentists in
  Bedale but also schools in Crakehall and Hackforth.
- Catterick Garrison area Principal Town should be explicitly stated to
  include Catterick Garrison, Hipswell, Scotton and Colburn.
- The study accurately reflects the level of services available in Scorton.
- The study demonstrates the sustainability of Middleton Tyas compared to
  other villages as a settlement outlining the significant level of services
  available. The response also suggested that Middleton Tyas was

considered as the most sustainable Primary Service Village within North Richmondshire sub area with significant capacity and potential for housing growth.

- Leyburn performs as a Local Service Centre providing services for the rural communities extending into Wensleydale and Swaledale and the Yorkshire Dales National Park.
- Settlements close to the National Park e.g. Redmire it may be appropriate to consider a cluster approach so community facilities can serve the population of others.

Rural Sustainability (Q20)

(Q20) *Do you feel it is still necessary for rural sustainability to be included as a Spatial Principle or should this just be addressed through more detailed policies?*

65% of responses thought that it was still necessary for rural sustainability to be included as a Spatial Principle (49 responses received)

60% of responses thought that instead rural sustainability should be addressed through more detailed policy (40 responses received)

4.73 Numerous respondents were in support of retaining rural sustainability as a separate Spatial Principle. Comments received included very important to support local objectives and retain rural character. It is an important thread running through the plan and important to ensure appropriate amount of development in villages to support existing services and to ensure conservation and protection of nature. Supporting sustainable rural economies is at the heart of the revised NPPF.

4.74 However some did disagree with the inclusion of rural sustainability as a separate Spatial Principle suggesting it can be addressed in other ways or through more detailed policies and it is just a buzzword with unrealistic solutions.

Rural Sustainability (Q21)

(Q21) *Are there any amendments you consider should be made to the existing Spatial Principle on Rural Sustainability?*

37% of responses thought that amendments should be made to the existing Spatial Principle on Rural Sustainability (51 responses received).

4.75 The majority of respondents (49%) did not think SP3 required any amending.

4.76 However a significant proportion (37%) did with a range of amendments suggested including:

- Need for support of transport
- Support expansion of Digital Infrastructure
- Remove barriers to development in smaller villages
- Support small scale housing development
- Commitment to making space for nature
- Reference to redevelopment of Historic Farms and enterprises
- Reference to redevelopment of Former Industrial and Mineral Extraction sites
- Reference to sustainable tourism
- Concerns of Local Residents should override other considerations
- Support winter field sports

Scale of Housing (Q22)

(Q22) Which scale of housing option do you consider to be the most appropriate, taking in to account the way each has been calculated?

> *55% of responses supported Option C of a high growth scenario of 160 homes, with 25% supporting Option B and 20% supporting Option A (56 responses received).*

4.77 The majority of respondents (55%) support a higher growth scenario of 160 homes per annum.

4.78 A range of comments were made on each of the scenarios proposed.

Option A

4.79 Regarding Option A many commented that it was clearly flawed due to military migration and doesn't plan for the level of homes required to support local housing need and demand and doesn't take account of the Council's economic growth aspirations as it only supports demographic growth.

4.80 Some respondents were in support of this option with comments made stating that the area has already been significantly degraded by urbanisation.
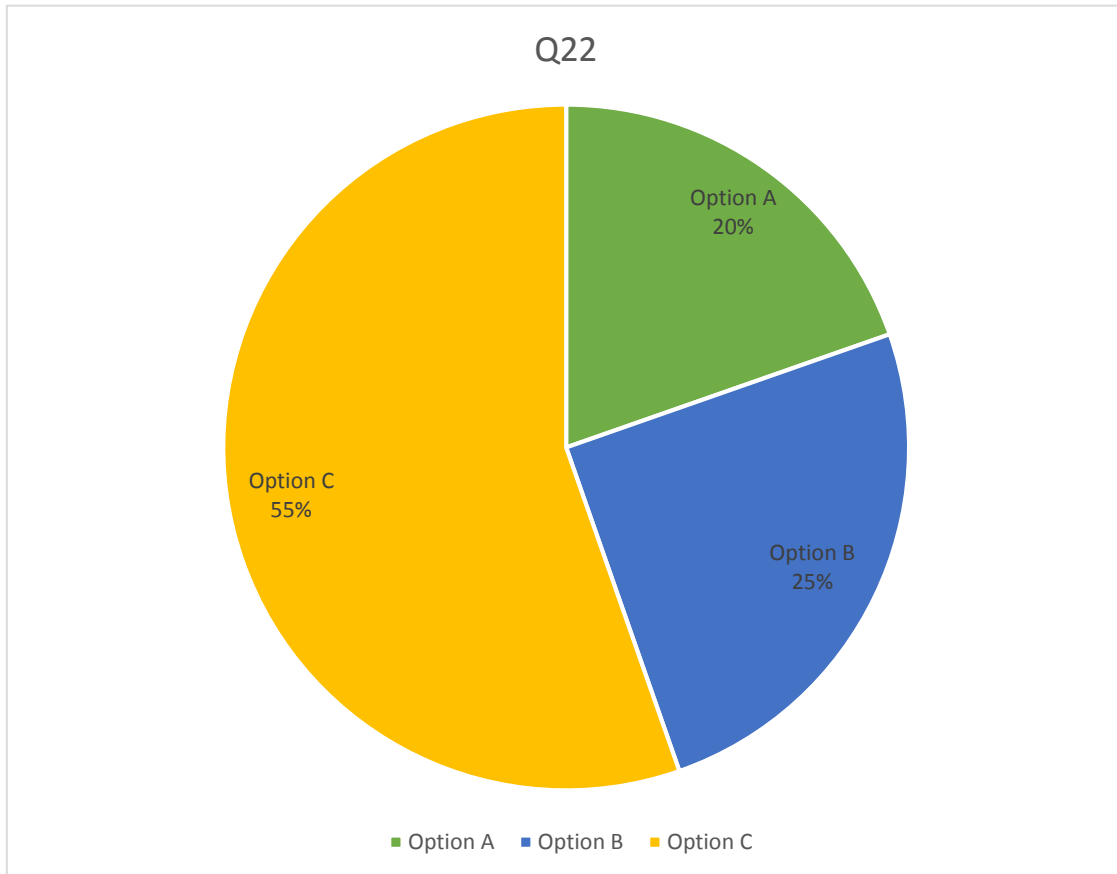
Option B

4.81 Comments made generally centred around the fact that this option included appropriate migration assumptions and an uplift for affordable housing but that it does not take account of aspirational growth.

Option C

4.82 A range of comments were made in relation to Option C including:

- Housing badly needed
- Important to create positively prepared plan which is ambitious and seeks sustainable growth

- Required if Scotch Corner goes ahead to support additional population required to take up jobs
- Maximise housing delivery to avoid house price increases
- Will boost market and choice
- Villages need development to support services

Q22

4.83   Some general points raised include whether options account for military growth.

Scale of Housing (Q23)

(Q23) <u>Are there any other scale of housing options that the Council should consider?</u>

59% of responses suggested that there was other scales of housing options that the Council should consider (58 responses received).

4.84   Numerous respondents (59%) suggested alternative scale of housing options, these included:

- Around 50 homes per annum

- Minimum of 200 homes per annum to include future development opportunities and homes and maintain villages.
- Above 160 homes to reflect recent demands
- Use current 180 as business decision have been made on this basis and any lower would be planning for decline
- Option based on Low Economic growth to account for Brexit
- Option based on No growth and improve existing provision
- Increase above 160/180 to accommodate military growth
- Long term vision for 50+ years
- Higher requirement based on past delivery would be clearly deliverable

Distribution of Housing (Q24)

(Q24) Which distribution of housing option do you consider to be the most appropriate?
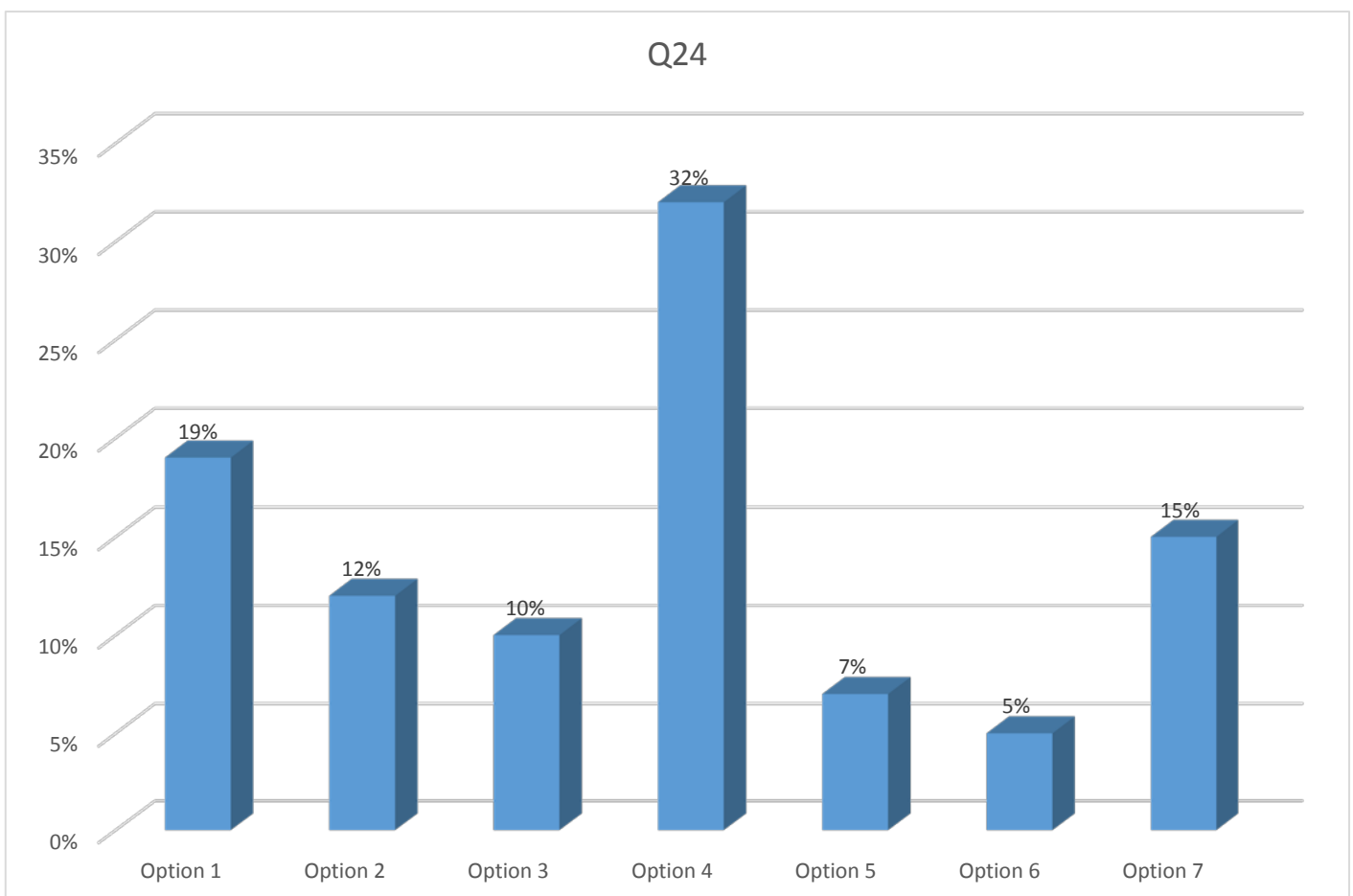
> ***32% of responses thought Option 4 was the most appropriate option for the distribution of housing, followed by Option 1 (19%) and Option 7 (15%) (59 responses received).***

4.85 The option supported by the highest proportion of respondents (32%) was Option 4 reduce civilian numbers at Catterick Garrison and redistribute to increase numbers in Richmond, Leyburn and the Primary Service Villages.

4.86 A range of comments were made in relation to the Distribution of Housing options proposed these particularly focussed around the merits of increasing and decreasing the amount of development distributed to Catterick Garrison.

4.87 Those suggesting an increase in Catterick Garrison commented on:

- Its importance as a principal hub which is a major focus for actual and potential employment opportunities and numerous major facilities.
- Enable a serious look to be taken at the provision of services and enable the delivery of major facilities and services for the whole District
- Increase in Catterick Garrison will ensure development takes place on brownfield sites.

4.88 Those suggesting a decrease in the distribution to Catterick Garrison commented on;

- Catterick Garrison has had enough major development with Schools, healthcare facilities and roads already at capacity
- Should not become one single urban sprawl and retain a rural character

- Focus on Catterick Garrison starves other sustainable settlements of development which enable services and facilities to be maintained

4.89   Other comments made included:

- Great care should be taken in finding suitable housing sites in Richmondshire District Council
- New homes in small villages with limited services and broadband should be avoided
- Potential for appropriate and sustainable amounts of further development in the Primary Services Villages including Brompton on Swale, Scorton, Catterick Village, Barton and Middleton Tyas
- Development in smaller settlements and villages would assist in supporting and maintaining local economy and SME builders.

Q24

Option	Value
Option 1	19%
Option 2	12%
Option 3	10%
Option 4	32%
Option 5	7%
Option 6	5%
Option 7	15%

Distribution of Housing (Q25)

(Q25) _Are there any other distribution of housing options you think the Council should consider?_

> **_32% thought that there was other distribution of housing options that the Council should consider, with 45% disagreeing that there was other options to consider (56 responses received)._**

4.90   The majority of respondents (45%) did not suggest any additional options. However, a number (32%) did. Suggestion made included:

- Future needs of surrounding areas should be taken in to greater account
- An additional option of increasing civilian housing numbers at Catterick Garrison and generally reducing numbers elsewhere
- Completely new villages on virgin rural land
- Higher distribution to North Richmondshire
- An additional option of reducing the civilian housing numbers at Catterick Garrison and increasing provision within the Primary Service Villages reflecting constraints at Leyburn and Richmond
- Greater proportion of growth in Leyburn and surrounding villages of Wensley and Redmire
- Focus on settlements in the A1 corridor

Scale of Economic Development (Q26)

(Q26) _Which scale of economic development do you consider to be the most appropriate, taking in to account the way each has been calculated?_

> **_Option 3 was supported by the highest proportion (46%) of respondents which is the high growth scenario although a significant proportion (38%) also supported Option 2 (medium growth scenario) (56 responses received)._**

4.91   Comments received in relation to Option C were:

- This will be needed to include allowance for the Scotch Corner Designer Outlet and military expansion at Catterick Garrison
- Richmondshire's economy is reasonably strong and is likely to increase further
- Need for more growth nationally to be more competitive following departure from the European Union.
- Enable Richmondshire to embrace infrastructure improvements
- Reflective of recent investments and provides a proactive and positive response to economic investment opportunities

4.92   Other comments raised were:

- High growth strategy is likely to result in loss of and fragmentation of habitat leading to biodiversity and wildlife decline
- Where has economic growth got us with surplus shops and services in many locations
- Have you considered BREXIT
- Keep strategies achievable

Q26

- Option 1 16%
- Option 2 38%
- Option 3 46%

Legend: ■ Option 1 ■ Option 2 ■ Option 3
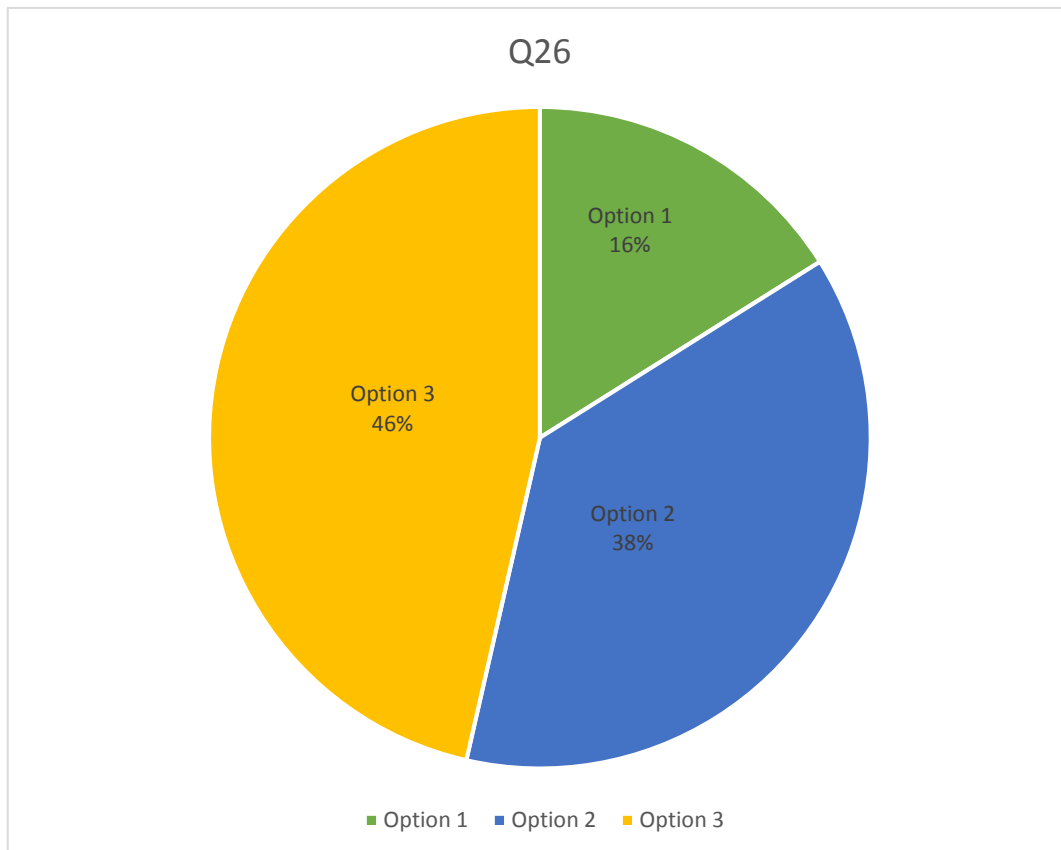
Scale of Economic Development (Q27)

(Q27) *Are there any other scale of economic development options you think the Council should consider?*

21% thought that there was other scale of economic development options that the Council should consider, with 54% disagreeing that there was other options to consider (48 responses received).

4.93   The majority of respondents (54%) did not suggest any additional options. No specific options were suggested but a number of comments were made including:

- Better retail opportunities in Richmond

- Reflect other forms of economic development
- Higher value development with higher productivity

Distribution of Economic Development (Q28 &Q29)

(Q28) _Which distribution of economic development options do you consider to be the most appropriate?_

> *Option 1 was supported by the highest proportion (47%) of respondents which was for a combined approach towards the distribution of economic development, closely followed by Option 4 (34%) which supports economic development at motorway junctions and existing employment locations (53 responses received).*

4.94   The option supported by the highest proportion of respondents (47%) is option 1 the combined approach.

4.95   A number of comments recognised the opportunities that exist at the motorway junctions to access new economic sectors, create new jobs and access close transport links which much of the economy is reliant upon. They also recognise the importance of supporting some development at existing key employment locations reflecting their sustainability and proximity to existing populations and source of prosperity in the community.

4.96   Some commenting also highlighted the unsustainable nature of the motorway junctions and other suggested development should be spread as widely as possible.

Q28

Option	Percentage
Option 1	47%
Option 2	17%
Option 3	2%
Option 4	34%
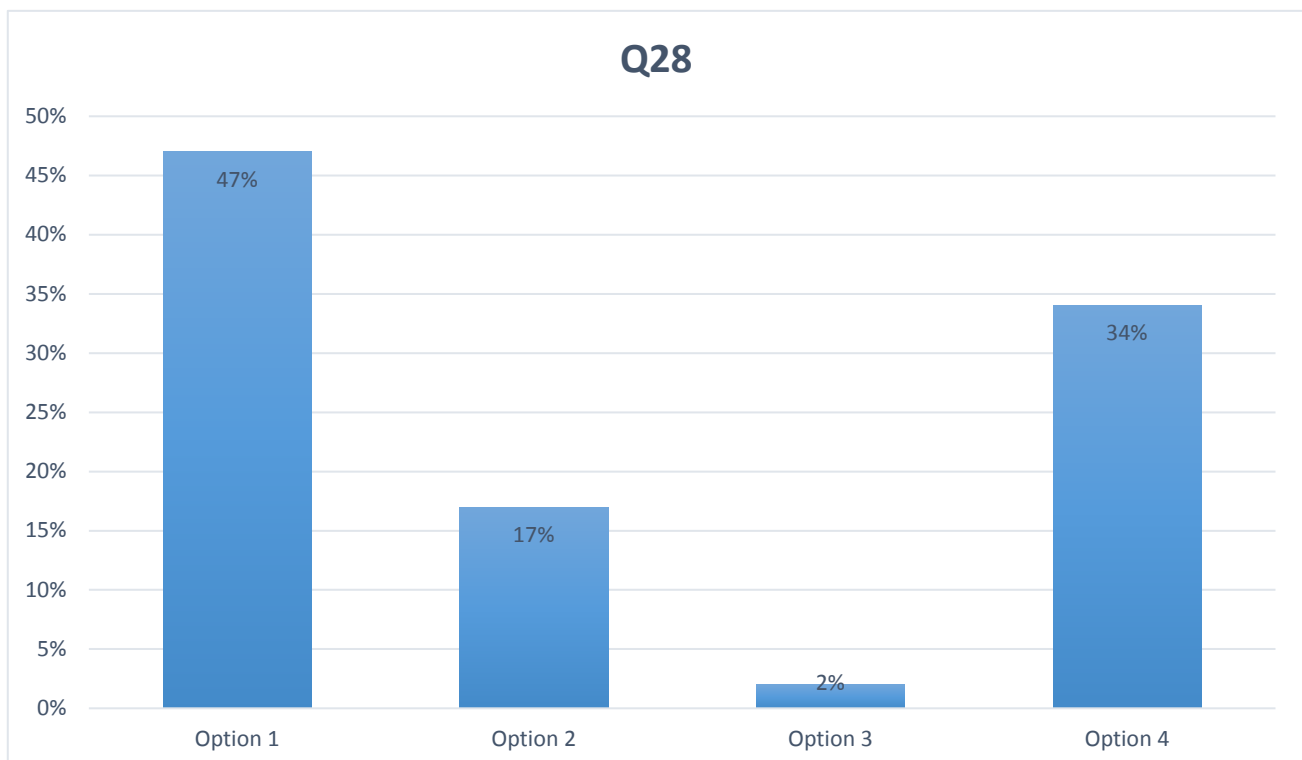
(Q29) _Are there any other distribution of economic development options that the Council should consider?_

> _10% thought that there was other distribution of economic development options that the Council should consider, with 66% disagreeing that there was other options to consider (50 responses received)._

4.97   The majority of respondents (66%) did not suggest any additional options. No specific options were suggested but some comments made included:

- Further emphasis on rural economy and locations
- Combination of options 2 and 3

Other Spatial Principles (Q30)

(Q30) _Are there any other areas/topics which you feel should be included as Spatial Principles?_

> _23% of responses thought there were other additional areas/topics which should be included as Spatial Principles, but 59% disagreed (49 responses received)._

4.98   A small number of respondents have suggested additional areas that should be covered by Spatial Principles. These included:

- Natural environment conservation
- Sustainable Tourism
- Role of the area within the wider context and linking with Teesside etc.
- Climate Change and environmental destruction
- Public Rights of Way
- Mobile connectivity