

## Comments on the draft local plan

### Vision

'Our natural, built and cultural resources will be safeguarded for future generations to enjoy. The character of our individual settlements will be maintained and their sense of place enhanced. The market towns of Andover and Romsey will have thriving town centres, offering high quality connected green and public spaces and a mix of leisure, shopping and cultural facilities and homes, with sustainable transport connections. The smaller local centres will provide for the needs and aspirations of residents and visitors. The vibrancy of our rural communities will have been retained through sustaining access to facilities and services they need to support healthy, active lifestyles and wellbeing and enjoy access to our diverse and outstanding countryside'.

It is not clear why in the above section of the Vision ( paragraph 2.21) certain characteristics are to be sought for different sizes of settlement when they should be sought for all of them.

For example residents of Andover and Romsey and the 'smaller local centres' would probably like to enjoy access to our diverse and outstanding countryside, as well as those residents in rural communities and indeed it could be argued the need is greater. They too would like access to facilities and services they need to support healthy active lifestyles. The rural communities and smaller local centres would probably like high quality green and public spaces and sustainable transport connections, as well as Andover and Romsey, and all areas surely should be seeking to provide for the needs and aspirations of residents and visitors, not solely the smaller local centres.

### Spatial Strategy

A great deal has changed in the way people work, shop and interact during the last two years and whilst this may alter again, it is likely that certain things will remain. The spatial strategy should take into account that more people can and are working from home, and will obtain goods and services via the internet and that this will have an impact on the sustainability of settlements.

The population required to sustain some of the services within smaller settlements such as primary schools, local shops, public transport etc, should also be taken into consideration. In addition to looking at how people may travel to obtain services and facilities, there should be more thought given as to what can be provided locally in a sustainable way.

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