

The Future of the Region: the Spatial Development Strategy

Overview

We are developing a **Spatial Development Strategy** (SDS) to make sure our region remains a thriving, successful and innovative place for the future. The plan will make sure the development of homes, spaces for employment and transport links happens in the right places giving all residents access to opportunities and a better quality of life. It will help us meet our aim to be carbon neutral by 2030 and ensure that nature and wildlife can also benefit.

The SDS will cover Bath and North East Somerset, Bristol and South Gloucestershire and will be developed by those councils and the West of England Combined Authority. **North Somerset** will develop their Local Plan in cooperation with the WECA authorities but will not be included in the SDS.

The scale of the challenge

The West of England's population is growing. People are attracted to move to the region and our resident population is increasing. House prices and rents are rising and, as people live longer, the amount and types of housing that are needed is changing.

Over the next 20 years the area covered by the Spatial Development Strategy could need around 88,500 or as many as 125,000 homes (depending on the Government's method of calculating housing need, linked to the national housing target).

However, we will need to consider constraints and opportunities to arrive at the right amount of homes to plan for (which may or may not reach these numbers).

Generating employment and a clean, resilient economy

The coronavirus pandemic has changed lives, businesses, work and travel patterns. The SDS can help us build back a more clean, inclusive economy through providing the space and infrastructure needed for residents to access good jobs, and for businesses to thrive. This will support growth, drive innovation and support clean and low carbon sectors.

Why we are consulting

Your views will help us shape the Spatial Development Strategy so we can create a better place to live, work and play.

The survey runs from 2 November to 14 December 2020. An engagement report and responses will be published online in early 2021.

By taking part in this survey, you are agreeing that your comments can be made public in an engagement report that will be published by the West of England Combined Authority. You will be asked at the end of the survey if you would like your responses to remain anonymous.

Survey structure

We would encourage everyone to answer questions 1-3. This will take around 5-10 minutes.

You can then choose to answer more detailed topic based questions or skip to the end of the survey.

You can answer as many of the topic based questions as you like, or skip forward to the next page at any time. Completing the whole survey will take around 20 minutes.



A cleaner, greener, more inclusive region

The Spatial Development Strategy will include a vision for the West of England in 2040.

Our overarching objective is clean and inclusive recovery and growth that addresses the climate and ecological emergencies, tackles the housing affordability crisis, and ensures quality of life for current and future generations.

1 Which of the following statements do you consider to be the most important for the vision of the future of the region?

Please rank in order of importance by writing numbers 1-8 in the boxes, with one being the most important. You can rank as many options as you like. For example, if you want to select your three most important, rank using numbers 1-3.

- | | |
|--|----------------------|
| Everyone can access a quality home that they can afford | <input type="text"/> |
| Low carbon communities can cope with the impacts of climate change | <input type="text"/> |
| Wildlife is thriving, and everyone has access to nature | <input type="text"/> |
| The economy is successful and clean, with good access to jobs | <input type="text"/> |
| The region is well connected by a sustainable transport network | <input type="text"/> |
| Communities are healthy, sustainable and connected | <input type="text"/> |
| Places are attractive and people are proud of where they live | <input type="text"/> |
| Other (please specify) | <input type="text"/> |

If you selected other, please write your answer in the space below:



Planning for recovery

The coronavirus pandemic has had a huge impact on all our lives, and has significantly changed the way people work, travel and use their leisure time. It has also made a lot of people think about what we value about where we live and what we think needs to change in future.

2 How important are the following in planning for clean, inclusive recovery and growth in our region? Please rate each statement on the scale of importance.

	Very important	Fairly important	Slightly important	Not at all important	Not sure
Reduce the use of cars to minimise climate change	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Improve and protect nature and wildlife	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Improve access to green space and nature	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Provide more affordable homes and workplaces	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Improve air quality	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Support regeneration of places and help them adapt to change	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Provide enough space for businesses to innovate and grow	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Improve access to local services close to peoples homes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Make sure everyone can enjoy a safe and healthy neighbourhood	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Provide enough housing, jobs and infrastructure to support a growing population	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other (please specify)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If you selected other, please write your answer in the space below:

One idea that has emerged from lockdown is the '15 minute neighbourhood', where the things that you need are within a walkable distance from home. This principle could apply to a town, city neighbourhood, suburb or village.

Important features that could be considered part of the 15 minute neighbourhood might include:

- local shops, schools and services
- green spaces, planting and trees
- places for social interaction and play
- places to work
- space for walking and cycling
- well designed buildings

3 What features and facilities do you consider to be most important to access within easy reach (15 minute walk) of your home?

Please share your views in the space below (300 word max).

Submit further information

You are welcome to share further information to support your response. You can share images, examples of places that you like, or other documents that illustrate what you think good development looks like with your response.

Providing homes and generating employment to meet the region's needs

The SDS will identify opportunities for new housing and employment development and ensure it is supported by the right infrastructure. It will also acknowledge other factors such as Green Belt, protected areas, and what can be delivered.

Some areas have very strong protections in law. Other areas may have sensitivities that need to be balanced against the need to accommodate growth.

You may find it useful to look at the accompanying maps provided which provide an overview of some of the key protections and sensitivities in the West of England. You do need to look at the maps to answer the question, but they may provide useful context.

Maps are provided of:

- **Heritage and landscape areas (including Green Belt)** (page 1)
- **Biodiversity, nature and wildlife areas** (page 2)
- **Quality farmland areas** (page 3)
- **Flood risk areas** (page 4)

4 Which of these are the most important when deciding where new development should be limited?

Please rank in order of importance by writing numbers 1-7 in the boxes, with one being the most important. You can rank as many options as you like. For example, if you want to select your three most important, rank using numbers 1-3.

Significant heritage features and assets	<input type="text"/>
Special landscapes	<input type="text"/>
Wildlife conservation areas	<input type="text"/>
The existing Green Belt extent	<input type="text"/>
Quality farmland	<input type="text"/>
Flood risk areas	<input type="text"/>
Other (please specify)	<input type="text"/>

If you selected other, please write your answer in the space below:

What is the Green Belt?

The Green Belt is land designated around urban areas to maintain the open nature of land and prevent urban sprawl. It is designated based on five criteria set out in national policy:

1. to check the unrestricted sprawl of large built-up areas;
2. to prevent neighbouring towns merging into one another;
3. to assist in safeguarding the countryside from encroachment;
4. to preserve the setting and special character of historic towns;
5. to assist in urban regeneration, by encouraging the recycling of derelict and other urban land

A case may be made for reviewing the existing extent of the Green Belt in exceptional circumstances. Green Belt review happens through the plan making process.

Providing homes and generating employment to meet the region's needs

The maps provided give an overview of some of the opportunities that will be considered to inform the Spatial Development Strategy. Maps are provided of:

- **Sustainable transport and Green Belt** (page 1)
- **Town and employment centres** (page 3)
- **Bristol heat network potential** (page 4)
- **Nature recovery network**(page 5)

5 How important are the following when considering opportunities for new development?

Please rate each statement on the scale of importance.

	Very important	Fairly important	Slightly important	Not at all important	Not sure
Focus new growth close to public transport corridors	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Focus new growth close to town centres and employment areas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Review the Green Belt whilst maintaining its role and function	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Prioritise areas where local renewable energy is possible	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Create mixed neighbourhoods bringing employment and housing closer together	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Safeguard existing employment areas in anticipation of recovery	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Prioritise areas that support improvements to wildlife and nature	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other (please specify)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If you selected other, please write your answer in the space below:



Responding to the climate emergency

Decisions on future development can help us meet our commitment to be carbon neutral by 2030. We need homes, infrastructure and jobs that can support low carbon lifestyles and reduce the need to travel by car.

Building and heating buildings more efficiently, reducing emissions from transport and creating mixed neighbourhoods with local access to shops, services, recreation and jobs will further reduce the carbon footprint of communities.

Development needs to be 'future proofed' as much as possible. We need to take account of extreme weather events and areas prone to flooding to help us address existing and future challenges of the changing climate.

6 How important are the following considerations for reducing the carbon footprint of new development? *Please rate each statement on the scale of importance.*

	Very important	Fairly important	Slightly important	Not at all important	Not sure
Access to sustainable travel options	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Efficient buildings that reduce the need for heating	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Local renewable energy generation and use	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Space for clean, green businesses to grow	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reuse of previously developed land and buildings	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Using technology to reduce the carbon footprint of construction	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other (please specify)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If you selected other, please write your answer in the space below:

7 How important are the following considerations for adapting to the impacts of climate change?

	Very important	Fairly important	Slightly important	Not at all important	Not sure
Planting and tree cover to provide shading, cooling and shelter	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Flood defences and water management to protect against flooding	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Building design and insulation that adapts to extreme temperatures	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other (please specify)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If you selected other, please write your answer in the space below:

Responding to the ecological emergency

The West of England has a significant number of protected wildlife sites (such as the Severn Estuary and Avon Gorge) and varied and diverse green spaces in villages, towns and cities (green infrastructure).

Plans for future growth need to protect special areas, connect green spaces and wildlife corridors and provide spaces for nature and wildlife to thrive. They also need to reduce the pressures put on the natural environment by human activity and climate change.

8 How important are the following considerations for planning in response to the ecological emergency? Please rate each statement on the scale of importance.

	Very important	Fairly important	Slightly important	Not at all important	Not sure
Protect and improve natural areas for wildlife to thrive and recover	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Provide green spaces and planting in new developments	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Provide gardens or access to private outdoor spaces in all new homes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Plant more trees on streets and in public spaces	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Improve water quality to support river and marine ecosystems	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Improve the variety and extent of habitats to support biodiversity	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other (please specify)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If you selected other, please write your answer in the space below:

What is green infrastructure?

Green Infrastructure is a network of green spaces including rivers, parks, trees, woodland and allotments. Improving the network of these spaces can help improve air quality, reduce surface water flooding and benefit our communities by improving access to green spaces to improve health and wellbeing.



Supporting sustainable travel

We want our region to be a great place to live: a region that is less reliant on cars with better air quality and sustainable transport links giving all residents good access to opportunities for work, leisure, education and training.

The Spatial Development Strategy will make sure that housing and employment growth is supported by quick, convenient and reliable transport options that connect people to town and city centres, services and employment opportunities.

9 How important are the following to ensure new development can support green travel choices? Please rate each statement on the scale of importance.

	Very important	Fairly important	Slightly important	Not at all important	Not sure
Ensure new development is close to public transport connections	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ensure new development is close to walking and cycling connections	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Improve the quality, reliability and frequency of public transport	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Provide electric vehicle charging points	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Create more low traffic streets	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Improve digital connectivity to support home working	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Restrict parking to discourage car use and make efficient use of land	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other (please specify)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If you selected other, please write your answer in the space below:

About You

WECA believes it is important to understand the needs and views of all communities who use our services. By asking you these questions we can develop our understanding of views and needs across the region. Responses to questions 14-20 will remain confidential - individuals will not be identified to responses to these questions and the individual details will not be published.

10 What is your name?

Full name (Required)

11 What is your postcode?

Please enter your full postcode in the space below (Required)

12 Are you responding on behalf of an organisation?

Please select only one item

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please state the name of the organisation

13 What is your email address?

Please enter your email address in the space below

14 What is your age?

Please select only one item

☐ Under 18 ☐ 19 - 24 ☐ 25 - 44 ☐ 45 - 64 ☐ 65 - 74 ☐ Over 75 ☐ Prefer not to say

15 Do you have any physical or mental health conditions or illnesses lasting or expected to last for 12 months or more?

Please select only one item

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Prefer not to say

16 What is your ethnic group?

Please select only one item

☐ Arab ☐ Asian/Asian British – Bangladeshi ☐ Asian/Asian British – Indian ☐ Asian/Asian British – Pakistani
☐ Asian/Asian British – Chinese ☐ Asian/Asian British – Other (please describe) ☐ Black/African/Caribbean/Black British – African
☐ Black/African/Caribbean/Black British – Caribbean ☐ Black/African/Caribbean/Black British – Other (please describe)
☐ Gypsy or Traveller of Irish Heritage ☐ Mixed/Multiple Ethnic Groups – White & Asian
☐ Mixed/Multiple Ethnic Groups – White & Black African ☐ Mixed/Multiple Ethnic Groups – White & Black Caribbean
☐ Mixed/Multiple Ethnic Groups – Other (please describe) ☐ White – English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British ☐ White – Irish
☐ White - Gypsy or Irish Traveller ☐ White – Other (please describe) ☐ Other ethnic group (please describe) ☐ Prefer not to say

If you selected other, please specify here

17 What is your gender?

Please select only one item

- ☐ Female
 ☐ Male
 ☐ Other (please state)
 ☐ Prefer not to say

If you selected other, please specify in the space below

18 Do you identify as a transgender person?

Please select only one item

- ☐ Yes
 ☐ No
 ☐ Prefer not to say

19 What is your sexual orientation?

Please select only one item

- ☐ Bisexual
 ☐ Gay man
 ☐ Gay woman / lesbian
 ☐ Heterosexual
 ☐ Other
 ☐ Prefer not to say

20 What is your religion?

Please select only one item

- ☐ Buddhist
 ☐ Christian
 ☐ Hindu
 ☐ Jewish
 ☐ Muslim
 ☐ Sikh
 ☐ Any other religion
 ☐ No religion
- ☐ Prefer not to say

If you selected other, please specify in the space below



Additional information

21 If you would like to submit any further information to support your response, please include with your response.

22 Would you like to hear from the West of England Combined Authority in future?

Please select all that apply

☐ Yes, I would like to receive information about strategic planning by email ☐ Yes, I would like to receive the WECA Newsletter by email

If you tick yes, please provide your email address at question 11

How will my information be used?

Your information will be held by WECA, who will use this to update you on strategic planning in the West of England region, and inform you of relevant future consultations. Your information will be held for no more than five years, at which point you will be asked whether you wish to remain on the mailing list. WECA may share your information with the Combined Authority unitary authorities (B&NES, Bristol, and South Gloucestershire). WECA may at times engage with external consultants as part of the plan making process, and therefore there may be times when details will be shared with those working on behalf of WECA and the West of England unitary authorities. They will not be shared with any other third party, or for any purpose unrelated to strategic planning. Your details will be stored securely in line with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and only accessed by authorised personnel who have received appropriate training in data management. You have the option to opt out of this mailing list at any time by clicking unsubscribe at the footer of any email communications.

We use Mailchimp as our marketing platform. By clicking below to subscribe, you acknowledge that your information will be transferred to Mailchimp for processing. You can find out more about Mailchimp's privacy practices at <https://mailchimp.com/legal/>

23 Do you consent to your response being published?

We would like to publish responses to this survey to support the development of the Spatial Development Strategy. Please indicate whether you would like your response to be published.

We will not publish any contact details, but you can choose to publish your response anonymously.

(Required)

Please select only one item

☐ Yes - please publish my response in full ☐ Yes - please publish my full response but remove my name and / or organisation
☐ No - please do not publish my response

Submitting your response

- You can return the survey online by visiting <https://www.westofengland-ca.gov.uk/future-of-the-region/>
- You can email your response to planning@westofengland-ca.gov.uk
- If you do not have online access you can send your response to Freepost, WECA CONSULTATION