

REPLY TO RS CRITIQUE FROM SC PLANNING

Thank you for your email and attachment submitted on behalf of SHOCK.

The comments relate to the proposal in the South Somerset Local Review Preferred Options document, 2019 [LPR Preferred Options June 2019 Final V2.pdf](#) in which it is proposed to designate Keinton Mandeville as a Village within the settlement hierarchy - Policy SS1 – Settlement Hierarchy. The Policy is supported by the evidence base document Potential for Rural Settlements to be Designated 'Villages', 2018 [SSDC - Potential for Rural Settlements to be Designated 'Villages' \(Nov 2018\).pdf](#) . You may wish to note that since this document was produced the South Somerset Settlement Role and Function Study has been updated and can be found on this web page [Housing and Communities Evidence Base \(someset.gov.uk\)](#)

Given the formation of the new Somerset Council on 1st April 2023, work on the emerging Local Plan Review (LPR) will no longer be progressed. A Local Development Scheme for the new Somerset Local Plan is being prepared and will be considered by the Executive Committee today. This includes the timetable for the production of the Somerset Local Plan you can see the report here: [Agenda for Executive on Wednesday, 4th October, 2023, 10.00 am - Modern Council \(someset.gov.uk\)](#)

A number of objections were received in relation to Preferred Options Policy SS1. As the emerging Local Plan Review only reached an early stage in its preparation and objections have not been considered, it is judged that limited weight can be attached to it in the planning application decision-making process (paragraph 48 of the National Planning Policy Framework, 2023).

As you will be aware work on the Somerset Local Plan is at an early stage and the settlement hierarchy/strategy as yet to decided and consulted upon. The concerns of SHOCK have been noted and I would encourage the group to engage in the Somerset Local Plan consultation process going forward. I have arranged for your contact details to be added to the consultation database so that you will receive relevant email notifications.

You may also be aware that the parish of Keinton Mandeville Neighbourhood Area was designated in 2021 [Neighbourhood Plans in Production \(someset.gov.uk\)](#). Neighbourhood Plans are produced by local communities and you can find out more information about them [here](#) .