

Policy GP2: Settlement Hierarchy

Development will be allocated and supported in accordance with the following Settlement Hierarchy, as defined on the Policies Map:

Rugby town	Main focus for all development in the Borough. Development permitted within existing boundaries and as part of allocated Sustainable Urban Extensions.
Main Rural Settlements <i>Binley Woods, Brinklow, Clifton upon Dunsmore, Dunchurch, Long Lawford, Ryton on Dunsmore, Stretton on Dunsmore, Wolston, Wolvey.</i>	Development will be permitted within the existing boundaries of all Main Rural Settlements and on allocated sites.
Rural Villages	Development will be permitted within existing boundaries only, including the conversion of existing buildings where national policy permits.
Countryside	New development will be resisted; only where national policy on countryside locations allows will development be permitted.
Green Belt	New development will be resisted; only where national policy on Green Belt allows will development be permitted.

3.7. In arriving at its spatial strategy for housing and employment allocations, the Council has taken account of its Vision and Objectives (as set out in Chapter 2) national planning policy, sub-regional housing and employment strategies, public consultation feedback and the technical evidence that has been prepared to support the Local Plan and the Sustainability Appraisal.

3.8. The Settlement Hierarchy has informed the site allocations introduced in policies DS3 and DS4 and is set out in more detail in policies DS7-DS9.

3.9. Development away from the defined settlements of the Borough is unlikely to meet all of the elements of sustainable development, particularly the access to a range of facilities. Any proposals would need to demonstrate that the overall social and economic benefits outweigh the disadvantages of a location which is relatively remote from facilities. In some cases it is essential for a development to be located in the countryside and where this is demonstrated to be the case, proposals will be supported.

3.10. Rugby Town is the most sustainable location within Rugby Borough, providing the best access to a range of services and facilities. This is reflected through the proposed allocations within this Local Plan. The Retail and Town Centre Chapter of this Plan sets out the importance and strategic role of Rugby town centre. The urban area outside the town centre is the primary focus for new residential