

1. PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES

The first part of this questionnaire is about people and community issues in rural Surrey.

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You can complete all sections or simply click forward to sections that are most relevant to you.

1. PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES

[Community Representation and Engagement](#)

VISION: Active and effective Parish and Town Councils and other community organisations have the visibility, ability and capacity to engage local people to secure resources for the delivery of local improvements.

This could be achieved by:

- Parish and Town Councils playing a leadership role in rural communities to identify issues and find solutions
- More capacity, willingness and ability to secure funding and deliver local improvements
- Wider recognition of the ability of organisations to provide services in response to local needs
- More co-operation in the delivery of services

Older People

VISION: Older people in rural Surrey are able to live in, and contribute to, their community and have access to health, care and other services.

This could be achieved by:

- Improved access to services such as primary health care and food shops for older people
- Initiatives to address those isolated and vulnerable including befriending schemes
- Community transport provision that meets local needs
- Voluntary sector initiatives which help older people in rural communities
- Social enterprise being supported to play a role in the provision of local services

Young People

VISION: Young people have access to learning, employment and housing, and are able to make an active contribution to their local communities.

This could be achieved by:

- **Initiatives to address isolation and social exclusion**
- **Access to careers advice, employment and training, including jobs with a rural focus**
- **Youth facilities and activities**
- **Transport initiatives to enable access to training, employment and services**

Affordable Housing

VISION: Affordable rural housing in Surrey's rural

communities that enables people to live near to family and rural employment opportunities.

This could be achieved by:

- A range of housing types and options for rural Surrey
- Safeguarding existing affordable homes in rural areas from right to buy
- Exploring alternative finance models to ensure rents remain affordable
- Ensuring robust mechanisms are in place for assessing cross subsidy on rural exception schemes
- Continuing commitment to the Surrey Rural Housing Group and Rural Housing Enabler

Transport

VISION: Effective transport for rural communities that is based on assessment of community needs and community involvement in the delivery of transport services.

This could be achieved by:

- Communities supported to work together to understand their local needs and develop innovative local solutions
- Recruiting more volunteers onto voluntary car schemes and community transport initiatives
- Sharing good practice from other rural areas
- Supporting local bus operators to grow the market
- Ensuring better travel planning information and a better journey experience for passengers

Health, Wellbeing and Social Care

VISION: People living in rural Surrey have access to health,

wellbeing and social care services that are responsive and meet their needs.

- Co-ordination of services across health and social care
- Community solutions that enable people to remain in their home and community for longer
- A focus on prevention and early intervention
- More good neighbour and village agent initiatives
- The use of technology, including telecare, to provide solutions and reassurance

Schools

VISION: *Vibrant rural schools that deliver high quality and accessible learning for local people.*

This could be achieved by:

- Community involvement in local schools to overcome issues, including transport
- High quality facilities for rural schools
- Support for shared use of school premises
- Initiatives to enable students to walk and cycle to local rural schools

Crime

VISION: *Rural businesses, communities and agencies work together to reduce crime in rural Surrey.*

This could be achieved by:

- Promotion of community safety measures
- Support for community marking schemes

- Community led plans playing a role in identifying issues and need
- Parish and Town Councils providing information, advice and local solutions

2. SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The second part of this questionnaire is about services and infrastructure issues in rural Surrey.

Village and Community Buildings

Libraries

Broadband, Mobile Connectivity and Digital Inclusion

Social Enterprise

Rural Towns

Planning

Highways

Energy and Fuel

Emergency Services

You can complete all sections or simply click forward to sections that are most relevant to you.

2. SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Village and Community Buildings

VISION: Village and community buildings that are well used hubs for community activity and services including social, business, service and retail activities.

This could be achieved by:

- The use, improvement and development of community buildings as community hubs
- Enabling local community and volunteering activity
- Supporting community building advisors
- Operating the Community Building Grants Programme

Libraries

VISION: *Enhance rural library provision through more active community involvement and the development of service hubs of co-located activity.*

This could be achieved by:

- Increased rural community engagement and volunteering in providing library services
- Better understanding and mapping of where rural library services are needed
- Developing more volunteer run 'community link' libraries in rural communities
- Building awareness, changing perceptions and improving skills to expand electronic library provision
- Developing co-location hubs for local services, advice, business support and cultural festivals

Broadband, Mobile Connectivity and Digital Inclusion

VISION: Improved broadband and mobile connectivity and digital inclusion to ensure that residents and businesses in rural Surrey can take advantage of the opportunities that it offers and are not disadvantaged by 'digital by default' initiatives.

This could be achieved by:

- **Identifying broadband and mobile 'not spot' areas in rural Surrey**
- **Identifying possible community solutions where market failure exists**
- **Creating programmes to support digital inclusion for rural Surrey communities and business**

Social Enterprise

VISION: Thriving social enterprises in rural Surrey where communities actively provide shops, pubs and other services to meet their needs.

This could be achieved by:

- **Active rural communities identifying local service needs**
- **More community social enterprise shops, pubs and other ventures**
- **Co-location of rural services**

Rural Towns

VISION: Rural towns that are vibrant hubs of enterprise and services, with the housing, business premises and skills to ensure viability.

This could be achieved by:

- Business and civic communities developing a better understanding of issues, needs and opportunities in rural towns
- Maintaining and expanding hub services in Surrey rural towns
- Building community capacity and local volunteering in rural towns
- Greater co-ordination, collaboration and sharing of knowledge and good practice across towns in Surrey
- Funding opportunities for rural towns, including Local Enterprise Partnership support.

Planning

VISION: Planning policies and approaches that support locally appropriate rural development to ensure that rural communities and economies are vibrant in the future, while ensuring that the countryside and character of Surrey is protected.

This could be achieved by:

- Neighbourhood Plans that engage local people to identify issues and opportunities
- Positive planning to enable rural Surrey's communities and businesses to adapt and thrive, while protecting what makes it special
- Greater local authority planner awareness and understanding of rural issues
- Ensuring that development respects and complements local character, especially in Surrey's Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- Developing a Green Infrastructure Strategy for Surrey
- Securing Community Infrastructure Levy funding to deliver improvements to connect people with local green space

Highways

VISION: Local rural highway issues are responded to effectively, traffic speed on rural roads is addressed and sustainable transport alternatives are promoted.

This could be achieved by:

- Prompt response to highway issues on rural roads
- Traffic speed being tackled including through Community Speed Watch campaigns
- Promotion of sustainable transport alternatives
- Quiet Lane initiatives to enable more shared use of rural roads by all road users

Energy and Fuel

VISION: Improved energy and fuel options and efficiency for those in rural Surrey, so that 'off-grid' residents and businesses are not forced into fuel poverty.

This could be achieved by:

- Energy efficiency measures in new and existing properties
- More wood fuel energy solutions
- Energy solutions that provide economic, environmental and health benefits
- Better renewable energy infrastructure
- Community led energy projects to help them address particular needs
- Support for fuel buying groups

Emergency Services, Planning and Response

VISION: *Community engagement, local knowledge and an integrated agency response to ensure that emergencies in rural Surrey are dealt with effectively.*

This could be achieved by:

- Emergency planning to deal with emergencies in rural Surrey
- Local community involvement to identify need and find solutions
- Parish and Town Councils play a role in communicating with local people
- Education and awareness to reduce risks

Farming

VISION: *Farming and horticulture that is viable, successful and resilient to contribute to the rural economy and landscape.*

This could be achieved by:

- More sharing of knowledge, good practice and innovation
- Improved public awareness of farming and food issues
- Skills development in farming including technology, IT and apprenticeships
- A better appreciation from local authority planners of the needs of farmers
- Expansion of local food production, markets and public procurement
- More co-operation and co-operatives for producing, marketing and selling

Woodland

VISION: Surrey's woodland management and use is enhanced for sustainable economic production, recreation and ecological benefit.

This could be achieved by:

- Woodland recreation through improved marketing and infrastructure
- Forestry skills development and apprenticeship programmes
- Ecological networks and flood alleviation works created in partnership with landowners
- Enhanced effectiveness of Woodland Management Plans
- Improved infrastructure, supply chain and marketing of wood products including timber and fuel
- Developing the market for wood fuel and wood products

Food and Drink

VISION: *Develop the food and drink sector in Surrey and encourage its expansion to create jobs and economic growth in the county.*

This could be achieved by:

- Identifying opportunities for improving collaboration and co-ordination across the rural food and drink sector in Surrey
- Expanding the range of local food and drink produced and improving distribution and marketing
- Procurement of local produce by public and private sector
- Development of a Surrey Food and Drink Plan to understand the issues, barriers and opportunities of the sector
- Supporting the development of Food and Drink hubs and festivals

Visitor Economy

VISION: *A vibrant visitor economy that maximises the potential of Surrey's attractive countryside, rural towns and accessibility to visitors for overnight stays and day visits.*

This could be achieved by:

- Support further development of Visit Surrey to ensure better definition, planning and delivery of the tourism offer
- Better understanding of visitor markets, needs and provision
- Building resident understanding and support for the visitor economy

- A flexible and supportive approach from local planning authorities
- Promoting local food and drink as part of the visitor appeal
- Support development of farm visitor facilities, equestrianism and cycle tourism

Landscape and Habitats

VISION: *Conserve and enhance the landscape character of Surrey and its associated habitats, whilst ensuring their sustainable management.*

This could be achieved by:

- Production of a baseline State of Nature for Surrey report
- Development and maintenance a register of habitat creation opportunities across Surrey to contribute to a resilient ecological network
- Co-ordinating bids and funding for landscape scale activity
- Support management of habitats to return them to favourable condition
- Better public understanding of the need for conservation management
- Striking the balance between conservation, access and recreation use

Historic Environment

VISION: *Historic activity often shapes what we value today in rural Surrey. Specialist advice and information is important to promote understanding and legal responsibilities of the historic environment.*

This could be achieved by:

- Understanding rural heritage assets, and those which it is most important to conserve
- Ensure that local planning authorities have access to available information and expert advice
- Use of the Historic Environment Record to inform and influence decisions
- Initiatives to increase public knowledge, interest and awareness in Surrey's history

Outdoor Recreation and Access

VISION: Outdoor recreation and accessible green spaces that have a positive impact on people's physical and mental health, and provide income for local businesses.

This could be achieved by:

- Maximising the economic and health benefits of outdoor recreation and access
- Upgrading existing routes to create new multi-user routes
- Volunteers assisting with the maintenance and enhancement of the rights of way network
- Delivering improvements through funding bids, generating income and car park charge revenue

Environmental Education and Learning

VISION: Inspire people in Surrey to actively engage with

their natural environment, encouraging appreciation of and respect for wildlife, habitats and conservation

This could be achieved by:

- High quality formal and informal environmental education for all ages
- Making information easily accessible
- Effective collaboration between organisations delivering environmental education
- More sharing of best practice in the field of environmental education
- Collaboration across providers on projects, funding and campaigns

Climate Change

VISION: Ensure that rural Surrey is resilient to climate change, effective in responding to climatic events and plays a role in reducing carbon emissions.

This could be achieved by:

- Improved energy efficiency and increase in renewable energy use in homes and businesses
- Ensuring that new development is more sustainable and has a lower environmental impact
- Land use and management practices that contribute to a reduction in carbon emissions
- Effective adaptation and response to climatic events

1. On balance, do you support this Surrey Rural Strategy?

