

Town centre vitality and viability

Each of Mid Devon's three main towns – Tiverton, Cullompton and Crediton – have key roles in providing a range of shops, employment and services for their communities and their environs. However, their town centres face a challenging future due to changing national retailer requirements, online shopping and reduced consumer spending. This has become more pronounced due to the COVID-19 pandemic and with greater reliance on shopping over the internet and home deliveries.

The town centre is at the heart of a market town's community. For this reason the adopted Local Plan identifies 'primary shopping areas' in the three main town centres, where the shopping function will be safeguarded and enhanced. Within these 'primary shopping areas' are areas of 'primary shopping frontage' where retail development is concentrated, including a high proportion of uses such as food, drink, clothing and household goods.

The preparation of a new Local Plan provides an opportunity to look at the role of town centres in Mid Devon afresh and reconsider the role of their core areas. This could place a greater emphasis on developing visitor destinations through leisure, entertainment and cultural activities, cafes, restaurants and bars. This can maintain and improve footfall and the time people spend in a high quality historic environment.

We are seeking your views on how we should prioritise the planning of Mid Devon's town centres. This could include maintaining a high proportion of shops and other commercial uses and services. Other options include supporting a wider visitor experience by providing flexibility for a variety of other uses, or to allow the conversion of more commercial properties to residential use.



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Tiverton, Devon



Crediton, Devon



Cullompton, Devon

