

## Settlement Hierarchy Parish Consultation (February – March 2020)

### For reference when completing the Questionnaire.

The following table describes the service or facility assessed, for use in determining the role and function of settlement in the hierarchy.

#### Draft Settlement Hierarchy Audit Criteria

	Service/Facility	Information source
Key Services and Facilities	<p><b>Supermarket</b></p> <p>A large self-service shop selling a variety and volume of foods and household goods.</p> <p>To distinguish from convenience stores, larger stores defined as more than 280 square metres floor space.</p>	Internet search, parish websites, local knowledge
	<p><b>Post Office</b></p> <p>Community facility allowing access to a number of communication and financial services</p> <p>Points given for post offices open for 5 days a week with regular hours.</p>	Post office branch finder website
	<p><b>Primary School</b></p> <p>A Primary School in addition promotes links within the local community and provides the opportunity to be used in the evening or out of term as a communal facility particularly in rural areas. Excludes special schools and private schools.</p>	West Berkshire Council website
	<p><b>Secondary School</b></p> <p>Secondary schools additionally provide the opportunity for its assets to be used as a centre of community activities, particularly in relation to sport and leisure. Excludes special schools and private schools.</p>	
	<p><b>Village / Community Hall</b></p> <p>Provides community facility, often providing a base for local organisations and community events</p>	Internet search, parish websites, map search, local knowledge
	<p><b>Access to Employment Opportunities</b></p> <p>Protected Employment Areas as identified within the Core Strategy and / or access to business employment opportunities of an appropriate size within the settlement or within 2km of the centre of the settlement centre.</p>	Internet search, local knowledge, parish websites, West Berkshire Core Strategy (2012)

	<p><b>Employment levels or Employment Clusters</b> Registered rateable businesses by parish as a proxy.</p>	.
	<p><b>General Medical Practice</b> Provides a vital services to many communities, particularly with an ageing demographic.</p>	NHS Berkshire West CCG – GP practices search
	<p><b>Pharmacy</b> Plays an integral role in maintaining the health of the community and can provide valuable health care advice and access to services especially for the elderly and infirm.</p>	NHS Service Search website
Connectivity and Public Transport	<p><b>Accessibility to a train station</b> Provision of railways station within the settlement, or within 2km of the settlement centre.</p>	Internet search, local knowledge
	<p><b>Bus service to a larger centre ≥ 30 mins</b> Public transport forms a key service to help a settlement to be sustainable. It is particularly important for young and elderly people who are more likely not to own a car. Includes Basingstoke, Newbury, Oxford, Swindon, Thatcham or Reading.</p>	West Berkshire Council website, West Berkshire District-wide Travel Guide
	<p><b>Bus service to a larger centre ≥ hourly</b> Public transport forms a key service to help a settlement to be sustainable. It is particularly important for young and elderly people who are more likely not to own a car. Includes Basingstoke, Newbury, Oxford, Swindon, Thatcham or Reading.</p>	West Berkshire Council website, West Berkshire District-wide Travel Guide
	<p><b>Bus service to a larger centre ≥ 2-hourly</b> Public transport forms a key service to help a settlement to be sustainable. It is particularly important for young and elderly people who are more likely not to own a car. Includes Basingstoke, Newbury, Oxford, Swindon, Thatcham or Reading.</p>	West Berkshire Council website, West Berkshire District-wide Travel Guide
	<p><b>Community Transport Scheme</b> There are 14 volunteer-run Community Transport Groups providing travel assistance to people who are unable to access other forms of transport for different reasons. Telephone based service covering sections of the District.</p>	West Berkshire Council website, West Berkshire District-wide Travel Guide
	<p><b>Proximity to major urban areas</b> Due to the rural nature and relatively small size of the district, the majority of the settlements are not self-sustaining and rely</p>	West Berkshire Council GIS mapping system

	<p>on the major urban centres to provide services and facilities to a wide catchment of other settlements, helping to reduce travel distances and improve access to employment opportunities.</p> <p>The major urban centres are Reading, Newbury and Thatcham. Scoring on a scale of 1 to 5 measured from the settlement/urban centres.</p>	
	<p><b>Superfast Broadband</b></p> <p>Internet connectivity and the availability and speed of Broadband is an important issue for many rural communities, particularly given the prevalence of online shopping and rising opportunities for working from home.</p>	
Other Community Services and Facilities	<p><b>Public House</b></p> <p>Aside from serving food and drink, pubs provide a meeting place for people and can contribute to a sense of community.</p>	Internet search, parish websites, map search, local knowledge
	<p><b>Convenience Store</b></p> <p>Any small local store selling day to day goods, such as food, newspapers, drinks and may include bakery, butchers, green grocers, garage shops. Important for those in communities that do not have regular access to a car or regular public transport.</p> <p>To distinguish from supermarkets, smaller stores are defined as less than 280 square metres floor space.</p>	Internet search, parish websites, local knowledge,
	<p><b>Dental Surgery</b></p> <p>Provides healthcare facility</p>	Internet search, local knowledge, NHS Service Search website
	<p><b>Bank / Building Society</b></p> <p>Provides community facility</p>	Internet search, local knowledge
	<p><b>Permanent library</b></p> <p>Provides community facility</p>	West Berkshire Council website
	<p><b>Mobile Library</b></p> <p>Provides a community service with more local accessibility, particularly in rural locations.</p>	West Berkshire Council website
	<p><b>Sports / recreation ground</b></p> <p>Encourages outdoor sports and general health and wellbeing. They also often provide a home for local sports teams.</p>	Internet search, parish websites, map search local knowledge, West

		Berkshire Council website
	<p><b>Children's play area</b></p> <p>Offers an important recreational opportunities allowing communities a safe space to play and enjoy the outdoors. Supports the physical development of young children.</p>	Internet search, parish websites, map search, local knowledge, West Berkshire Council website
	<p><b>Indoor sports / leisure facility</b></p> <p>Provides a range of activities, classes and other formalised recreation that can also provide some employment. Encourages health, fitness and social activity.</p>	Internet search, parish websites, map search, local knowledge, West Berkshire Council website
	<p><b>Play group / nursery</b></p> <p>Provisions of childcare and supports child development.</p>	Internet search, local knowledge, West Berkshire Council website
	<p><b>Place of worship</b></p> <p>Provides a meeting place for religious services and other social, recreational and cultural activity</p>	Internet search, local knowledge
	<p><b>More than one of the same facility</b></p> <p>An additional score of 1 is given where more than one of a particular facility exists within a settlement.</p>	