

Hastings Draft Local Plan Preferred Options (Regulation 18) Consultation 2026 – Response form

Part B: Complete this part for each comment you make (continue on a separate sheet if necessary)

Which part of the Plan or evidence base are you commenting on (enter policy number, paragraph or section)?

Hastings Strategic Policy 6

Do you support or object to the policy, paragraph or section?

Support Object Comment

Enter your comments here (provide evidence/ references where possible, and tell us what changes you suggest that would address your concerns)

The following sites have been identified as suitable for solar PV. These could either be self funded or funded via Community Energy.

- Schools: West St Leonard’s Primary School and St Leonard’s Church of England Primary.
- Community services: Carisbrooke Surgery
- Shopping: The TK Max and Pure Gym building
- Landmark – the mobile homes of Combe Valley (the main buildings already have solar on)

What is the community energy model?

Community energy organisations are run by and for the benefit of the community. Their not-for-profit model funds and installs solar panels on community buildings. The money is raised from local people who join the organisation by becoming a member and invest in the project. The members have democratic control over the organisation. The community building buys the electricity it needs at a cheaper rate than the grid rate and makes an immediate financial saving, along with decarbonising some of its electricity use. If the community energy organisation makes a “profit” this is added to a community benefit fund which is used to support fuel poverty and environmental projects.

The local community energy organisation in Hastings are Energise South (solar installations) and sister organisation Energise Sussex Coast (focusing on energy advice and fuel poverty).

The local residents of West St Leonards can access free and impartial energy advice from Energise Sussex Coast, helping them to also save money and decarbonise.

There will be an information campaign to ensure that all West St Leonards residents know how they can make their home warmer and more energy efficient by delivering leaflets to each address about the local energy advice service who can assist with personalised, tailored information.

All comments will be taken into account ahead of the next stage, the Proposed Submission (Regulation 19) version of the Plan, due to be published later in 2026.