



Wiltshire Local Plan

Pre-Submission Draft 2020-2038 (Regulation 19)
Duty to Cooperate Report

September 2023 (September 2024 Addendum) **Wiltshire Council**

Contents

Duty to Cooperate Statement (September 2023)	2
1. Introduction	3
2. National Planning Policy Context	3
3. Strategic Context.....	6
4. Local Plan Strategic Objectives and Cross Boundary Matters	12
5. Addressing strategic cross boundary issues.	16
6. Conclusion and Key Outcomes	17
Appendix 1: Duty to Cooperate bodies and potential strategic cross-boundary issues.....	19
Appendix 2: Evidence showing how duty to cooperate has been implemented with specific organisations on key strategic issues, listed by Local Plan objective.....	23
Appendix 3: Consultation Responses from Prescribed Bodies and Neighbouring Planning Authorities	33
Appendix 4: Memoranda of understanding and statements of common ground ...	34
Duty to Cooperate Statement: Addendum (September 2024)	52
1. Introduction	53
2. Regulation 19.....	53
3. Strategic Matters: Update	58

Duty to Cooperate Report (September 2023)

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This statement sets out how the Council has complied with the duty to cooperate in accordance with Section 33A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004¹ (as amended). The document focuses on the outcomes of the duty to cooperate engagement with prescribed bodies and neighbouring authorities throughout the preparation of the draft Wiltshire Local Plan Review (“the draft Plan”) to date.
- 1.2 This statement begins by setting out the relevant legislation, national policy and guidance on duty to cooperate, it then goes on to outline the context for the draft Plan – i.e., why are we preparing the Plan and what will it replace, as well as setting out its scope and strategic role in helping deliver plan-led development. The subsequent section sets out the strategic issues that the Plan needs to address, who the Council must cooperate with to address those issues and how they will cooperate with those bodies. The final section sets out the key outcomes of the cooperation process to date in relation to the strategic objectives of the draft Plan. Cooperation with those bodies will continue through to Examination.
- 1.3 A table of the main potential strategic cross boundary issues is set out in Appendix 1. Evidence of cooperation with prescribed bodies and neighbouring authorities on strategic cross boundary issues and other key issues where appropriate is provided in Appendix 2. As this document is intended to be updated through the plan making process space has been set aside to include representations received through the formal Regulation 19 consultation stage (Appendix 3). Appendix 3 also includes a cross reference to comments received to the 2021 consultation. Finally draft Statements of Common Ground (SoCG) and Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) are included at Appendix 4, with these being updated as they are prepared.

2. National Planning Policy Context

Localism Act 2011

- 2.1. Section 110² of the Localism Act, ‘Duty to co-operate in relation to planning of sustainable development’ outlines additional requirements to Section 33A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004). It outlines that Wiltshire Council, in the preparation of development plan documents, must cooperate with:
- Neighbouring local planning authorities;
 - Other local planning authorities where sustainable development or use of land that has or would have a significant impact on at least two planning areas, including (in particular) sustainable development or use of land for or in connection with infrastructure that is strategic and has or would have a significant impact on at least two planning areas, and;

¹ [Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004: Section 33A](#)

² [Localism Act 2011 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#)

- Prescribed bodies that are considered to be most relevant to the preparation of any development plan document as defined in Part 2 of the Town and County Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012³. The bodies considered relevant⁴ for the preparation of the Wiltshire Local Plan Review include:
 - Environment Agency
 - Historic England
 - National Highways
 - Natural England
 - Homes England
 - NHS England / Integrated Care Boards
 - Office of Rail and Road
 - Wiltshire Council as Highway Authority

2.2. Wiltshire Council is also required to actively engage with the Swindon and Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership (SWLEP) regarding strategic matters in emerging development plans and where the delivery of key infrastructure projects, that require funding to assist in their deliverability, involves the SWLEP.

2.3. The council is also required to co-operate with the Local Nature Partnership and work collaboratively to deliver a strategic approach to encourage the delivery of meaningful biodiversity net gain in accord with the provisions of the Environment Act 2021⁵. However, within Wiltshire there is no established partnership, although work is progressing on developing a Local Nature Recovery Strategy with Swindon Borough Council.

2.4. Overall, the Localism Act requires that the council and prescribed bodies engage constructively and on an ongoing basis in relation to strategic matters.

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

2.5. The NPPF⁶ sets out in paragraphs 24 to 27 that local planning authorities and county councils (in two-tier areas) are under a duty to cooperate with each other, and prescribed bodies on strategic matters that cross administrative boundaries. Strategic policy-making authorities should collaborate to identify the relevant strategic matters which they need to address in their plans.

2.6. They should also engage with their local communities and relevant bodies including Local Enterprise Partnerships and Local Nature Partnerships.

³ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2012/767/regulation/4/made>

⁴ The TCP, Regulation 4 includes a number of prescribed bodies who are not relevant to the preparation of the Wiltshire Local Plan. This includes: the Mayor of London, the Civil Aviation Authority, Transport for London, and the Marine Management Organisation.

⁵ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/30/contents/enacted>

⁶ <https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ukgwa/20230830172251/https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>

- 2.7. Effective and on-going joint working between strategic policy-making authorities and relevant bodies is integral to the production of a positively prepared and justified strategy. Joint working should help to determine where additional infrastructure is necessary, and whether development needs that cannot be met wholly within a particular plan area could be met elsewhere.
- 2.8. In order to demonstrate effective and on-going joint working, strategic policy making authorities should prepare and maintain one or more statements of common ground, documenting the cross-boundary matters being addressed and progress in cooperating to address these. These will be produced where necessary as the plan progresses. These should be produced using the approach set out in national planning guidance and be made publicly available through the plan-making process to provide transparency.

Planning Practice Guidance

- 2.9. Planning Practice Guidance⁷ outlines that local planning authorities are required to produce a statement of common ground to report on how the authority has dispensed with their duty to cooperate. The guidance sets out what a statement of common ground is and what it is expected to contain.
- 2.10. A statement of common ground is a written record of the progress made by strategic policy-making authorities during the process of planning for strategic cross-boundary matters. It documents where effective co-operation is, and is not, happening throughout the plan-making process and is a way of demonstrating at examination that plans are deliverable over the plan period and based on effective joint working across local authority boundaries. In the case of local planning authorities, it also forms part of the evidence required to demonstrate compliance with the duty to cooperate.
- 2.11. The following must be contained within the statement of common ground:
- a. a short written description and map showing the location and administrative areas covered by the statement, and a brief justification for these area(s);
 - b. the key strategic matters being addressed by the statement, for example meeting the housing need for the area, air quality etc;
 - c. the plan-making authorities responsible for joint working detailed in the statement, and list of any additional signatories (including cross-referencing the matters to which each is a signatory);
 - d. governance arrangements for the cooperation process, including how the statement will be maintained and kept up to date;
 - e. if applicable, the housing requirements in any adopted and (if known) emerging strategic policies relevant to housing within the area covered by the statement;
 - f. distribution of needs in the area, as agreed through the plan-making process, or the process for agreeing the distribution of need (including unmet need) across the area;

⁷ Planning Practice Guidance – Plan-Making 2021

- g. a record of where agreements have (or have not) been reached on key strategic matters, including the process for reaching agreements on these; and
 - h. any additional strategic matters to be addressed by the statement which have not already been addressed, including a brief description how the statement relates to any other statement of common ground covering all or part of the same area.
- 2.12. Wiltshire Council will produce statements of common ground where necessary outlining where cooperation with prescribed bodies and neighbouring planning authorities, over strategic matters, has been undertaken and how they are to be addressed to ensure the delivery of the Plan. It is anticipated that such documents will form part of the evidence that accompanies the Plan at the point of submission.

3. Strategic Context

Wiltshire

- 3.1. Wiltshire Council is one of the largest unitary authorities in England. The authority's area covers approximately 3,255 square kilometres and has a population of approximately 510,400 people. Wiltshire adjoins the higher tier local authorities of Dorset, Somerset, South Gloucestershire, Oxfordshire, West Berkshire, Hampshire, Swindon, and Bath and North East Somerset. The urban area of Swindon, which is predominately within Swindon Borough, has expanded into Wiltshire.
- 3.2. Wiltshire is largely rural, encompassing many natural and historic features which make it distinctive, including parts of three Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), part of the New Forest National Park, over 16,000 listed buildings, over 240 conservation areas and a World Heritage Site. Wiltshire also contains an area of the Western Wiltshire Green Belt which protects the openness of the countryside between Bath, Bradford on Avon and Trowbridge.
- 3.3. Deprivation is generally low, and Wiltshire's communities benefit from safe environments. Wiltshire enjoys subregional links and is within a commutable distance to London, Bristol, Swindon, South Wales and the south coast.

Local Plan Review

- 3.4. The primary purpose of the review of the Wiltshire Core Strategy is to assess the future need for housing and employment land in Wiltshire over the period 2020 to 2038 and to provide an appropriate basis for housing, employment land and infrastructure provision over that period. It will include considering if the existing adopted development strategy remains relevant, identifying new site allocations relating to housing and employment together with supporting services and infrastructure.
- 3.5. The scope of the review of the adopted Local Plan (the Wiltshire Core Strategy) will therefore be to: a) assess and address the future levels of need for new homes (including market, affordable and specialist housing; b) to assess and address the

future employment land need; and c) provide a comprehensive review of the adopted/saved development management policies within the current Local Plan and to ensure the plan policies are consistent with the National Planning Policy Framework.

- 3.6. The revised Local Plan will cover the period 2020 to 2038. It is important to note that the accommodation needs of the Gypsy and Traveller community is to be delivered through a separate Gypsy and Travellers Development Plan Document.

Neighbouring Authorities

- 3.7. Through the duty to cooperate the council has engaged with neighbouring local authorities from an early stage, and continues to do so, to discuss and establish strategic cross-boundary issues that may relate to the Wiltshire Local Plan review or any other respective Local Plan. There are 14 local planning authorities that border Wiltshire:

- Swindon Borough Council
- Cotswold District Council
- Oxfordshire County Council
- Vale of White Horse District Council
- West Berkshire Council
- Hampshire County Council
- Test Valley Borough Council
- New Forest District Council
- New Forest National Park Authority
- Dorset Council
- Somerset Council
- Bath and North East Somerset Council
- Gloucestershire County Council
- South Gloucestershire Council

- 3.8. The map below illustrates the local authorities that border Wiltshire and their geographical relationship.

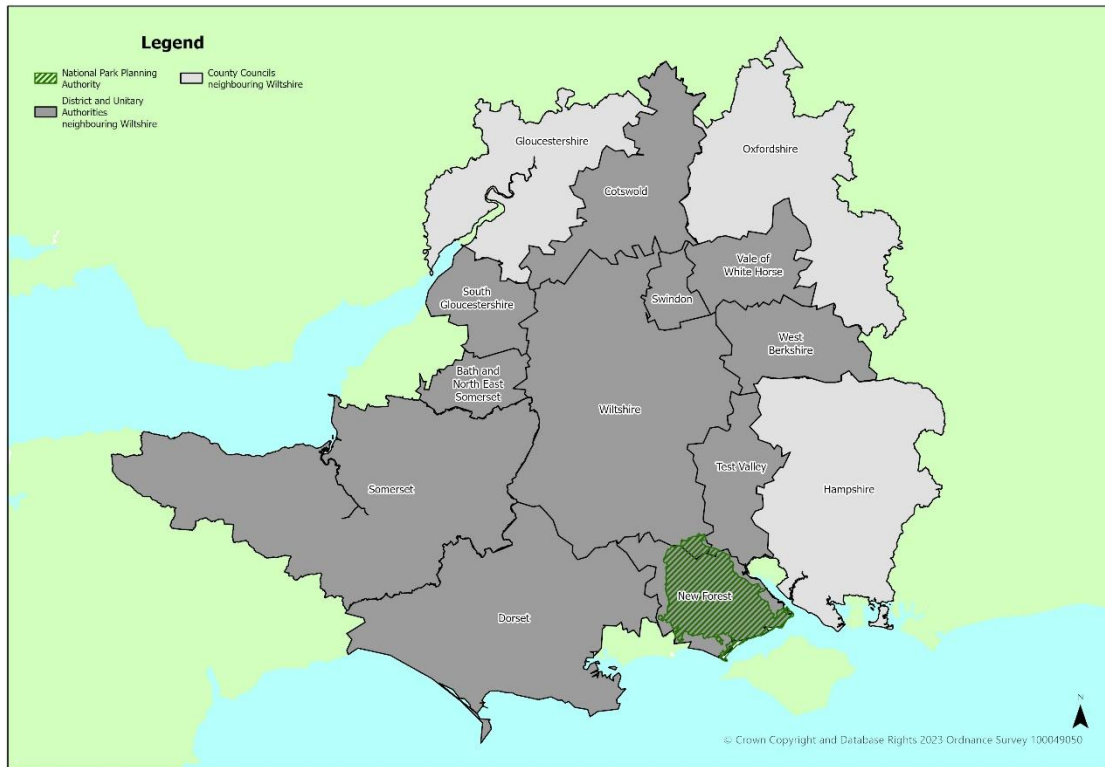


Figure 1: Map showing the current neighbouring local planning authorities in relation to Wiltshire Council

3.9. Since the review of the Local Plan began in 2017 local government reorganisation has seen Mendip, Sedgemoor, South Somerset, Somerset West and Taunton, and Somerset County Council form one new unitary authority on 1 April 2023, and Dorset Council become a unitary council on 1 April 2019, encompassing the former districts of Purbeck, East Dorset, North Dorset, West Dorset, Weymouth and Portland, and Dorset County Council. The former neighbouring district and county planning authorities can be seen in Figure 2 below.

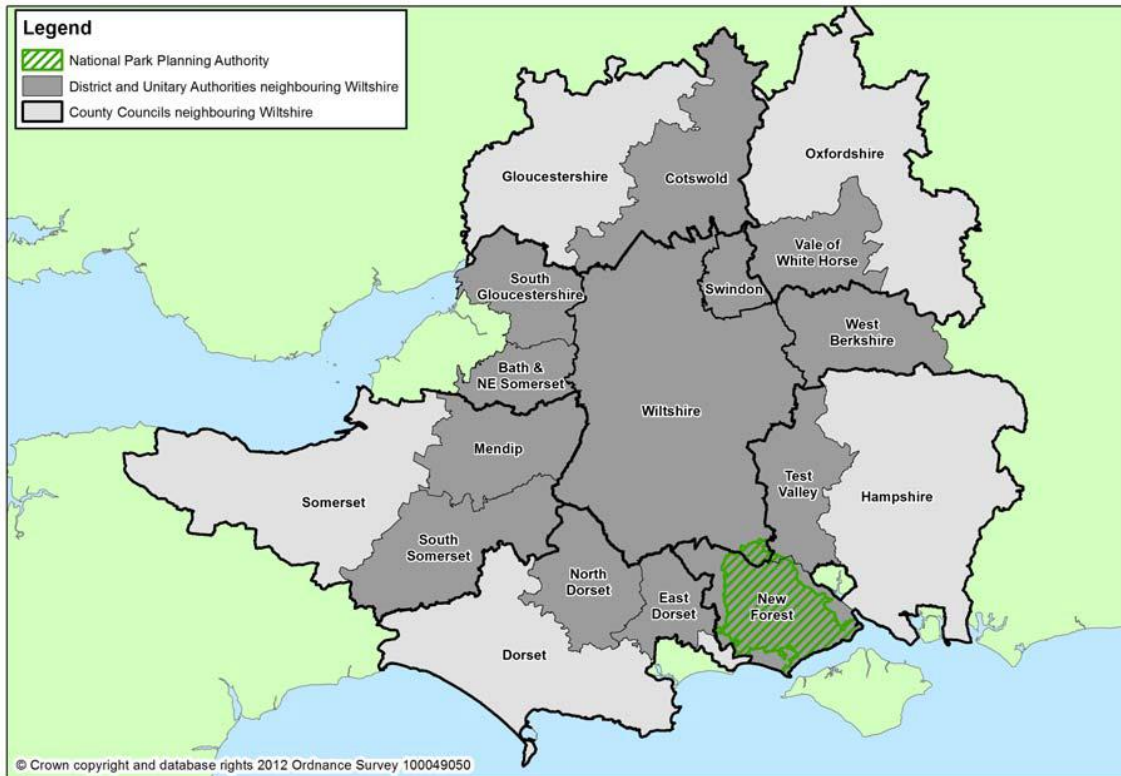


Figure 2: Map showing the authorities adjoining Wiltshire Council pre-Local Government reorganisation.

Partnerships

- 3.10. Along with the prescribed bodies set out in Part 2 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 and neighbouring authorities, the regulations also require the council to engage with Local Enterprise Partnerships and Local Nature Partnerships when preparing plans.
- 3.11. Details on engagement with the Wiltshire and Swindon Local Enterprise Partnership can be found in Appendix 1 of this report.
- 3.12. There has not been an active Local Nature Partnership since 2015 however from April 2023 Wiltshire Council is working with partners on a Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Wiltshire and Swindon.

Joint Working Groups

Hampshire Avon Working Group

- 3.13. The Council is also involved in the Hampshire Avon Working Group. A group that was formed to help deliver a package of mitigation for the increased levels of phosphates within the Hampshire-Avon river catchment, and to work jointly on associated matters. Prescribed bodies and neighbouring planning authorities that are represented in the group are:

- Natural England
- Environment Agency
- New Forest District Council
- New Forest National Park Authority
- Wessex Water
- Test Valley Borough Council
- Dorset Council
- Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council

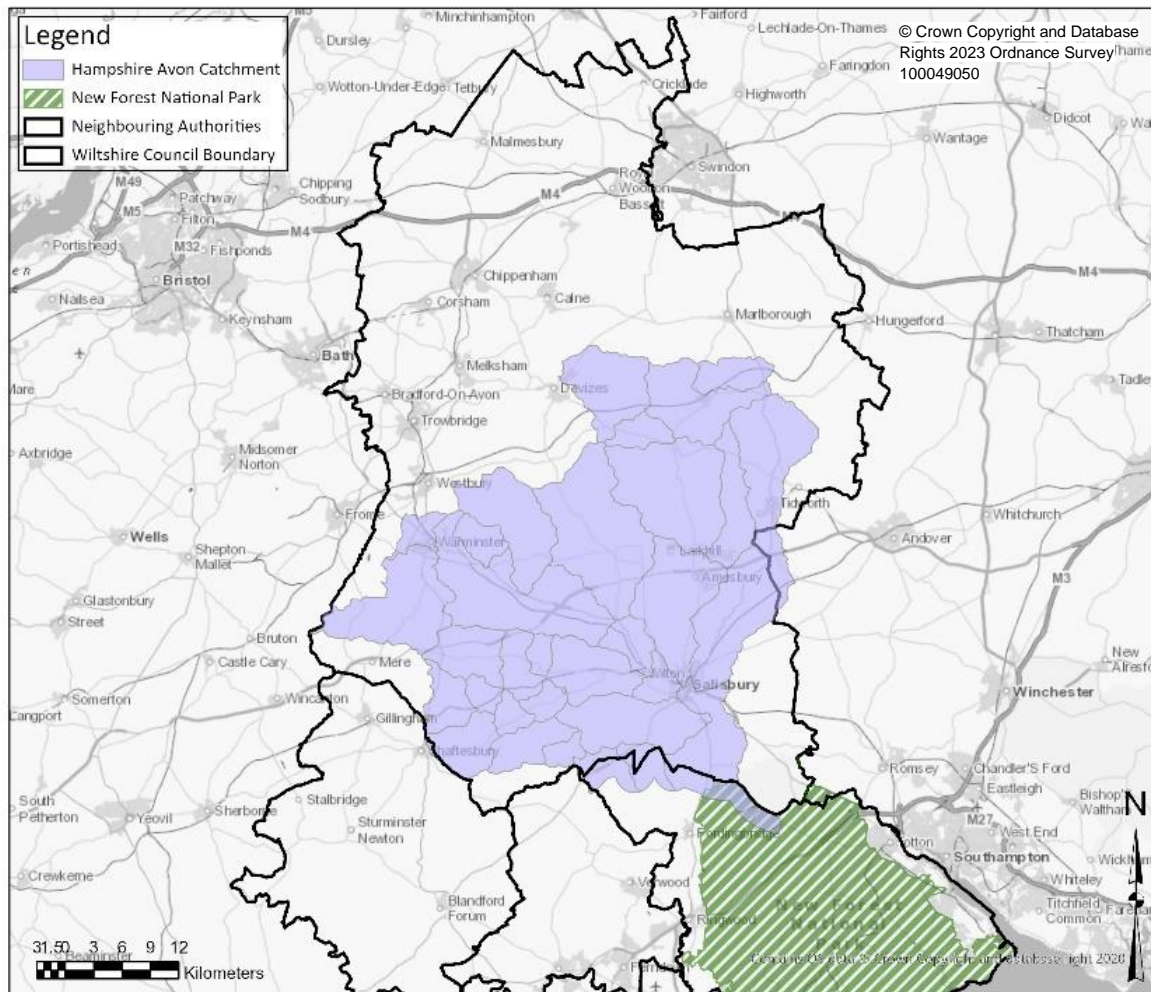


Figure 3: The local planning authorities involved in the Hampshire Avon Working Group, and extent of the Hampshire Avon catchment (within Wiltshire and immediate surrounds)

- 3.14. The council as Local Planning Authority is required under the Habitats Regulations to ensure that any adverse impacts arising from development can be mitigated to avoid harm to internationally important nature conservation sites, such as the River Avon, which are protected by law. This is at both the plan-making and decision-taking stage.
- 3.15. In 2018, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Wiltshire Council, New Forest District Council, New Forest National Park Authority, Natural England, Wessex Water and the Environment Agency in relation to the impact of phosphorus discharges

from new development on the River Avon. The signatories agreed to deploy a range of measures to ensure development between March 2018 and March 2026 will be phosphorus neutral.

- 3.16. This work was superseded in March 2020 when Natural England formally advised affected Local Planning Authorities that all overnight development must achieve phosphorus neutrality prior to occupation. Following this, and a 9-month moratorium on housing growth, Wiltshire Council set up a strategic solution to address the phosphorus neutrality requirement.
- 3.17. In January 2021 Cabinet confirmed the council's strategic approach to securing phosphorus neutral development in the catchment area of the River Avon and agreed to ring fence and commit a sum of money from the Community Infrastructure Levy strategic funds to deliver mitigation measures to secure phosphorus neutral development in the period to 2026.
- 3.18. As part of the Local Plan Review evidence work, the nutrient neutrality strategy for the River Avon will be updated by the Council in consultation with Natural England. This work is still in progress and will be finalised and outlined in the forthcoming Statement of Common Ground with Natural England.

New Forest Project Steering Group

- 3.19. Joint working on the 'in-combination' recreational impacts arising from new development on the New Forest Special Area of Conservation, Special Protection Area and Ramsar sites is undertaken by Wiltshire Council with other authorities, led by the New Forest National Park Authority.
- 3.20. Wiltshire Council works with Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council, Dorset Council, Eastleigh Borough Council, Natural England, New Forest District Council, New Forest National Park Authority, Southampton City Council and Test Valley Borough Council on mitigating the 'in-combination' recreational use impacts arising from new development that impacts on the New Forest Special Area of Conservation, Special Protection Area and Ramsar sites. A Memorandum of Understanding was drafted in August 2022 and 13.8km 'zone of influence', arising from a shared evidence base, was identified and agreed that would be used to ensure that additional recreational impacts arising from new residential and other forms of overnight accommodation development within respective local planning areas are mitigated so that new development does not have an adverse impact on the New Forest Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar sites.
- 3.21. Wiltshire Council's New Forest Mitigation Strategy is currently being reviewed and has recently been shared with Natural England. A statement of common ground will be developed as the Local Plan progresses.

4. Local Plan Strategic Objectives and Cross Boundary Matters

4.1. The strategic objectives for the Wiltshire Local Plan review are listed in the draft Local Plan and are used to group cross boundary matters in this document:

- **Economic development** - Wiltshire needs to have a buoyant, resilient and 'green' local economy in order to boost the local economy and provide high quality, accessible employment opportunities. The Plan enables development to take place and encourages economic vitality, providing local jobs for Wiltshire's population. Residents within Wiltshire should have access to facilities and retail choice in convenient locations throughout Wiltshire. The Plan should strengthen the role and function of established town centres to secure their future vitality and viability. They should fulfil the roles appropriate to their sizes and the communities they serve and should complement one another. The potential of tourism should be realised as an economic sector, capitalising on the quality of the environment and location that the county benefits from.
- **Infrastructure** – Infrastructure requirements need to be appropriately planned, secured and implemented to ensure the timely delivery of development proposals.
- **Providing new homes** – To provide approximately 36,740 new homes in the right locations to meet objectively assessed needs through the plan period from 2020 to 2038. There should be an appropriate mix of types, sizes and tenures, particularly to address affordable housing needs, and will ensure a continuous supply of housing over the plan period that is aligned to job growth and the delivery of necessary infrastructure.
- **Planning for strong and healthy communities** – Wiltshire's communities should be enabled to help themselves and supported to improve their quality of life, lead healthier lifestyles and to foster a sense of community belonging, safety, social inclusion and self-sufficiency.
- **Climate change** – The Plan will help mitigate and adapt to climate change by contributing to the delivery of sustainable development and helping to ensure that communities are resilient to unavoidable consequences of a changing climate.
- **Environmental quality** – New development will protect and enhance Wiltshire's natural, built and historic environment. This will include making effective use of land, enhancing biodiversity, embedding multi-functional and strategically linked green and blue infrastructure, meeting public open space standards, improving water management and security, and conserving and enhancing features of historical, archaeological and cultural value alongside Wiltshire's landscape character. Development and construction will incorporate the principles of the circular economy, minimise its contribution to wasteful use of finite resources, and limit the persistent use of undegradable chemicals and materials.

4.2. Table 1 shows which prescribed bodies, neighbouring planning authorities and joint partnerships relate to each of the strategic objectives. A brief explanation of what joint working has included and will continue to take place is also included to show how the council effectively engage with those bodies.

Table 1: Local Plan review strategic objectives and partnership working relating to the preparation of the Wiltshire Local Plan Review

Strategic Priorities	Partnerships	Joint Working - Evidence arrangements/agreements
<p>Economic Development</p>	<p>Wiltshire and Swindon Local Enterprise Partnership; Swindon Borough Council, Bath and North East Somerset Council, Mendip District Council, Cotswold District Council, Test Valley Borough Council, NHS England</p> <p>From the 1 April 2023 cross boundary working in this context will be with Somerset Council which has replaced Mendip District Council.</p>	<p>The key issues for Wiltshire were identified as being the level of housing and employment growth required to deliver new homes and jobs across Wiltshire over the plan period, and whether neighbouring authorities were planning to meet their own needs in their areas. The council has continued to engage with neighbouring authorities throughout the preparation of the Local Plan review and this process will continue with Statements of Common Ground being developed with neighbouring authorities where necessary.</p> <p>Early in the Local Plan process, Wiltshire Council worked jointly with Swindon Borough Council on a joint spatial framework and produced evidence documents with Swindon Borough Council. These include the Swindon and Wiltshire Local Housing Needs Assessment 2019, Swindon and Wiltshire Functional and Economic Market Assessment and the Strategic Housing Market Assessment (Volume 1). Subsequently, a Statement of Common Ground was prepared with Swindon Borough Council that outlined an understanding of the complementary nature of the Council’s respective Local Plans (see Appendix 3). Swindon Borough Council are now doing further evidence gathering to inform their Local Plan, prior to moving it to Regulation 19 stage.</p> <p>Regular meetings were set up between Wiltshire Council and NHS England and Wiltshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) (superseded by the Integrated Care System) to discuss matters for delivering required health care infrastructure as part of the Local Plan review. The availability of NHS land that could be released for housing and employment uses were also discussed and this informed the site selection process. This engagement has also informed the Infrastructure Delivery Plan and methodology for developing housing requirements for the rural area.</p> <p>Wiltshire Council in partnership with Swindon Borough Council and the private sector form the Swindon and Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership (SWLEP). A statement of common ground between Wiltshire Council and SWLEP, will be prepared as part of the Wiltshire Local Plan review process, which will aim to gather support for the draft Plan from the partnership and set out the areas of agreement. SWLEP made comments on the Regulation 18 consultation which have been considered in the preparation of the draft Plan.</p>

Climate Change	Environment Agency, Natural England	<p>Statements of Common Ground will be prepared between Wiltshire Council and Natural England and the Environment Agency relating to matters that concern climate change. These matters include the sequential approach to planning for flood risk, taking into account the predicted effects of climate change, as well as development management policies that aim to reduce water consumption and maximise water reuse.</p> <p>Meetings, emails and telephone conversations have taken place with Natural England and the Environment Agency throughout the preparation of the Local Plan review as well as consultation on: Sustainability Scoping Report and Regulation 18 consultations. They will be invited to comment on the draft version of the Plan (Regulation 19). Further dialogue will be undertaken throughout the consultation and the lead-in to submission to resolve any issues raised.</p>
Providing new homes	Homes England; NHS England; Swindon Borough Council; Bath and North East Somerset Council; Test Valley Borough Council	<p>See economic development above.</p> <p>Statements of Common Ground will be prepared with neighbouring authorities to establish an understanding of the levels of housing and employment growth being proposed within Wiltshire over the plan period, as well as in neighbouring authorities where appropriate. Wiltshire Council have invited, and will continue to invite, comments throughout the preparation of the draft plan to ensure that neighbouring authority input has been consistent.</p>
Planning for strong and healthy communities	Homes England, NHS England	<p>Meetings have been held with the Wiltshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), now Integrated Care Board (ICB), to discuss access to healthcare facilities and infrastructure needs as part of planning for growth.</p> <p>Ongoing engagement with Homes England with the purpose of meeting constructively to identify opportunities for support to facilitate development that will enable the planned growth identified for Wiltshire to be achieved.</p>
Environmental Quality	Natural England, Historic England, Environment Agency	<p>Engagement with Natural England, Historic England and Environment Agency has taken place over the course of the preparation of the Local Plan review. Statements of Common Ground will be prepared for matters concerning both Wiltshire Council and the associated parties. These bodies have been consulted on a number of key documents in the Local Plan review process: Sustainability Scoping Report, Regulation 18 consultations. This will continue through the Regulation 19 consultation on the draft Local Plan and during the lead-in to the Examination.</p>

		<p>The Council has engaged constructively with Natural England on its review of the environment-based development management policies within the draft Plan to address issues such as biodiversity net gain, recreational pressures, bats, air quality, water quality, nutrients, and water resources management.</p> <p>Natural England and the Environment Agency are also a member of the Hampshire Avon Working Group where Wiltshire Council work in collaboration to address matters relating to nutrients within the Hampshire Avon River catchment.</p> <p>Meetings have been held with the Environment Agency to discuss issues of water scarcity and water resources and flood risk management. Meetings have also included Wessex Water where resource management were discussed, and the Council has effectively engaged with the water companies to understand where levels of growth may be impacted by water resource issues. This engagement has fed into the preparation of the draft Water Resources Management Plans covering Wiltshire and distribution catchments in 2022/2023.</p> <p>Meeting have been held to discuss responses to the Regulation 19 consultation and there has been ongoing engagement with Historic England on specific sites being considered for development within Wiltshire where there are heritage considerations.</p>
<p>Infrastructure</p>	<p>National Highways, NHS England, Neighbouring Authorities</p>	<p>A representative from National Highways works from Wiltshire Council offices on a regular basis to establish a more informal means of communication on all matters relating to National Highways.</p> <p>Liaison meetings take place with National Highways, involving Swindon Borough Council as appropriate to discuss respective Local Plans and wider transportation projects.</p> <p>Meetings will continue to be held with neighbouring authorities to discuss how cross-boundary public transport links can be improved to ensure the improvement of more sustainable modes of transport, this includes improving bus routes, cycle paths and public rights of way.</p>

- 4.3. Appendix 1 to this statement sets out an overview of the strategic partners and lists the potential strategic cross-boundary issues that could arise with the prescribed body and neighbouring planning authority.
- 4.4. In summary the key cross boundary strategic issues that are being addressed through the duty to cooperate process are as follows (please note this list is not exhaustive and information is also provided at Appendix 2):
- **Cross boundary local housing need and employment requirements.** This has included working with Swindon Borough Council, Test Valley Borough Council, Bath and North Somerset Council, Somerset Council and Dorset Council.
 - Mitigation to offset **recreation disturbance from new development on New Forest ecological designations.** There is a New Forest Recreational Mitigation Strategy in place to address cross boundary matters, which is being reviewed (see Appendix 2). This has involved joint working with Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council, Dorset Council, Eastleigh Borough Council, Natural England, New Forest District Council, New Forest National Park Authority, Southampton City Council and Test Valley Borough Council.
 - Other projects related to the **mitigation of impacts on Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) including impacts on protected bats** associated with the Bath and Bradford on Avon SAC has involved working with Natural England and Bath and North East Somerset Council.
 - Ensuring that future development helps **address and manage phosphate levels in the Hampshire Avon**, its tributaries and surrounding catchment area. This involves joint working with Natural England, Environment Agency, New Forest District Council, New Forest National Park Authority, Wessex Water and other authorities.
 - **Impact on and improvements to the strategic road network** including on the M3 and M5 and Junction 16 of the M4 is being discussed with National Highways, Swindon Borough Council and Test Valley Borough Council.

5. Addressing strategic cross boundary issues.

- 5.1. The council has worked constructively with its duty to cooperate partners and other relevant bodies throughout the preparation of the draft Local Plan, building on existing working relationships and arrangements for engagement. This engagement is ongoing.
- 5.2. The emphasis of the engagement with prescribed bodies and neighbouring authorities has been on seeking to achieve effective and deliverable policies in the draft Local Plan that provide land and infrastructure to support current and projected levels of objectively assessed need, whilst also considering the needs of neighbouring authorities.
- 5.3. Cooperation and engagement with prescribed bodies and neighbouring authorities has been iterative and continuous throughout the plan-making process, especially at

key stages (Regulation 18 and 19). The council has employed a range of positive and constructive methods which were appropriate and proportionate to the strategic matters/issues that needed consideration through dialogue. Through joint working the emphasis has been to try to secure the most effective outcomes for the parties involved. The approaches listed below were used as mechanisms for engagement. The mechanism that was used depended upon the nature of the issue and the partners involved.

- Meetings
- Working Groups
- Written exchange
- Memoranda of Understanding
- Statements of Common Ground (ongoing method that will be used throughout the plan making process where appropriate)
- Other joint working mechanisms

5.4. Partnership arrangements have been in place for a number of years and were agreed with the relevant strategic partners to ensure that cooperation has led to positive outcomes for all parties involved. In seeking to produce effective and deliverable policies on strategic cross boundary matters, the council has sought to:

- Align planning policies with those of neighbouring local planning authorities.
- Prepare mutually beneficial evidence.
- Prepare strategic management plans that address cross-boundary issues

6. Conclusion and Key Outcomes

6.1. The Local Plan Review has been in preparation since 2017 when the initial Regulation 18 consultation was undertaken. It is important to emphasise that it is a review of the extant Local Plan – the adopted Wiltshire Core Strategy (2015) and, as such, it carries forward the existing spatial strategy. As such, the main strategic issues to be addressed through the review include relating to managing the supply of new homes and jobs, or environmental matters such as: phosphate neutrality, addressing nitrates, water resource management and conserving and enhancing biodiversity and nationally important landscapes. Some of these matters have existing agreements and/or partnerships in place with statutory bodies and neighbouring authorities. That said, for the purposes of progressing the draft Plan it has been important to maintain constructive dialogue with interested parties and this will continue through and beyond the Regulation 19 consultation.

6.2. Since the initial Regulation 18 consultation in 2017 there has been several rounds of informal consultation with town and parish councils on how the needs of the county are to be met within the context of the existing strategy for managing growth. In 2021 there was a wider Regulation 18 consultation exercise focusing on key elements of what would eventually become the Regulation 19 'Publication version' of the draft Plan. Throughout these episodes of engagement, dialogue with prescribed bodies

and neighbouring planning authorities has been maintained to ensure that all interested parties have had opportunities to be briefed on and help inform the content of the draft Plan.

- 6.3. Before the draft Plan is submitted for Examination, further dialogue with prescribed bodies and neighbouring authorities will be undertaken and this will be reported through an update to this statement. As the Council progresses towards the independent Examination process, Statements of Common Ground will be updated and, where possible, finalised to assist the appointed Inspector and all parties invited to participate in the Examination in Public. Again, a record of these will be added to the review of this statement in due course.

Appendix 1: Duty to Cooperate bodies and potential strategic cross-boundary issues

Duty to Cooperate Body/ Neighbouring Authority	Potential Strategic Interest
Bath and North East Somerset Council	Housing and employment development Highway and transport infrastructure e.g. M4, A4, A36 Bath and Bradford on Avon Bats Special Area of Conservation (SAC) Kennet and Avon Canal Green Belt
Cotswold District Council	Housing and employment development Highway and transport infrastructure e.g. A419/A417 Kemble Airfield North Meadows and Clattinger Farm Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
Dorset County Council From 1 April 2019 Dorset County Council has combined with the former districts of Purbeck, East Dorset, North Dorset, West Dorset, and Weymouth and Portland to become Dorset Council	Highway and transport infrastructure e.g. A350 and the Shaftesbury Bypass Education
East Dorset District Council From 1 April 2019 East Dorset District Council has been encompassed within the unitary Dorset Council	Highway and transport infrastructure e.g. A350 and the Shaftesbury Bypass Education
Environment Agency	River Avon water quality Flood and surface water drainage
Gloucestershire County Council	Housing and employment development Highway and transport infrastructure e.g. A419/A417

Hampshire County Council	Housing and employment development Highway and transport infrastructure e.g. A303 Development at Ludgershall
Historic England	Heritage assets Stonehenge, Avebury and associated sites World Heritage Site
National Highways (previously Highways England)	Housing and employment development Highway and transport infrastructure e.g. M4 Junctions 16 and 17, A36 and A303
Homes England	Housing development
Oxfordshire County Council	Highway and transport infrastructure e.g. A361 Wiltshire, Swindon and Oxfordshire Canal Partnership Wilts and Berks Canal
Mendip District Council From 1 April 2023 ¹⁹ Mendip District Council has been encompassed within the unitary Somerset Council	Housing and employment development Highway and transport infrastructure e.g. A361, A36 Green Belt
Natural England	Habitat Regulations Assessment Designated ecological sites, protected species and habitats: Including River Avon water quality; New Forest protected sites; and North Meadows and Clattinger Farm SAC Strategic landscape designations Public rights of way Green infrastructure Air quality
New Forest District Council	Housing development Recreational impacts on New Forest protected sites River Avon water quality Air Quality

New Forest National Park Authority	Housing need Recreational impacts on New Forest protected sites River Avon water quality Air quality
NHS England	Healthcare capacity Housing development
North Dorset District Council From 1 April 2019 North Dorset District Council has been encompassed within the unitary Dorset Council	Housing and employment development Highway and transport infrastructure e.g. A350 and the Shaftesbury Bypass
Somerset County Council From 1 April 2023 Somerset County Council has combined with the former districts of Mendip, Sedgemoor, South Somerset, and Somerset West and Taunton to become Somerset Council.	Housing and employment development Highway and transport infrastructure e.g. A303, A361
South Gloucestershire Council	Housing and employment Highway and transport infrastructure e.g. M4 Green Belt
South Somerset District Council From 1 April 2023 South Somerset has been encompassed within the unitary Somerset Council.	Housing and employment Highway and transport infrastructure e.g. A303
Swindon and Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership	Business investment and economic growth
Swindon Borough Council	Housing and employment development (incl. at Royal Wootton Bassett, west Swindon) Education Highway and transport infrastructure e.g. M4 (incl. J16) Wiltshire, Swindon and Oxfordshire Canal Partnership, Wiltshire and Berkshire Canal

	North Meadows and Clattinger Farm Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
Test Valley Borough Council	Housing and employment development Highway and transport infrastructure Development at Ludgershall
Vale of White Horse District Council	Highway and transport infrastructure Wiltshire, Swindon and Oxfordshire Canal Partnership Wilts and Berks Canal
West Berkshire Council	Highway and transport infrastructure e.g. A4 Kennet and Avon Canal

Appendix 2: Evidence showing how duty to cooperate has been implemented with specific organisations on key strategic issues, listed by Local Plan objective

Local Plan Objective	Prescribed Body or Neighbouring Authority	Why engaged?	Cross boundary issue	How engaged?	When engaged?	Key outcomes
Economic development objective	Swindon and Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership	To facilitate development to enable the economic growth identified for Wiltshire in the Local Plan review. As a partner of the SWLEP, Wiltshire Council has worked collaboratively with its partners to support economic growth across Swindon and Wiltshire.	Economic growth	Consultation exercises and events Meetings Email correspondence	During the preparation of the Local Plan Review: 2017 to 2023 Meetings of the Local Enterprise Partnership 2017 to 2023 Response to Regulation 18 consultation 2021- Comments received on the Emerging Spatial Strategy and Empowering Rural Communities documents.	Ongoing collaboration.
Economic development objective Housing objective Infrastructure objective	Swindon Borough Council SWLEP Cotswold District Council	To consider and, where appropriate, collaborate on cross-boundary issues to ensure a collaborative approach to plan preparation.	Local housing need Employment requirements Transport issues particularly relating to the M4 and Junction 16	Consultation exercises and events Regular meetings are held with Swindon Borough Council including through	During the preparation of the Local Plan Review: 2017 to 2023	A Statement of Common Ground was signed by Wiltshire Council and Swindon Borough Council in 2020. (See Appendix 4) Ongoing dialogue. Further work is needed on transport implications for each

Local Plan Objective	Prescribed Body or Neighbouring Authority	Why engaged?	Cross boundary issue	How engaged?	When engaged?	Key outcomes
				<p>partnership working on the SWLEP.</p> <p>Meetings have been held with Swindon Borough Council and Cotswold District Council.</p> <p>Contributed to Local Economic Assessment.</p>		<p>authority respective plan with National Highways. Swindon Borough Council's timeline behind Wiltshire. Education to be discussed in relation to Swindon's Local Plan.</p>
Environmental quality objective	<p>Swindon Borough Council</p> <p>Cotswold District Council</p> <p>Natural England</p>	<p>To consider and, where appropriate, collaborate on cross-boundary issues to ensure a collaborative approach to plan preparation.</p>	<p>North Meadow Special Area of Conservation (SAC) mitigation</p>	<p>Joint working on North Meadow SAC mitigation strategy with Swindon Borough Council and Cotswold District Council including joint commissioning of evidence.</p>	<p>Joint working commenced in 2021</p>	<p>The North Meadow and Clattinger Farm SAC Interim Recreation strategy is being put in place.</p>
Environmental quality objective	<p>Hampshire Avon Working Group including:</p> <p>Natural England</p> <p>Environment Agency</p>	<p>To consider and, where appropriate, collaborate to ensure phosphate issues on the Hampshire Avon are addressed</p>	<p>Mitigation for water quality and nutrient enrichment on the Hampshire Avon</p>	<p>Regular meetings are through partnership working in the Hampshire Avon Working Group.</p>	<p>During the preparation of the Local Plan Review 2017 to 2023</p>	<p>There is a Memorandum of understanding and on-going work in place - see paragraphs 3.13-3.18 of this document.</p>

Local Plan Objective	Prescribed Body or Neighbouring Authority	Why engaged?	Cross boundary issue	How engaged?	When engaged?	Key outcomes
	<p>New Forest District Council</p> <p>New Forest National Park Authority</p> <p>Wessex Water</p>					
Environmental quality objective	<p>New Forest District Council</p> <p>New Forest National Park Authority</p> <p>Natural England</p> <p>Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council</p> <p>Dorset Council</p> <p>Eastleigh Borough Council</p> <p>Southampton City Council</p> <p>Test Valley Borough Council</p>	To ensure the plan protects the natural environment.	Mitigation to offset recreation disturbance from new development on New Forest ecological designations.	Regular meetings between New Forest District Council, New Forest National Park Authority and other relevant authorities.	During the preparation of the Local Plan Review: 2017 to 2023	<p>A memorandum of understanding was agreed between all parties in August 2022 to clarify work to date.</p> <p>There have been ongoing efforts and agreement regarding appropriate mitigation to offset recreational disturbance from new development against New Forest international ecological designations. In 2022 a Zone of Influence (13.8km) was established as a result of joint work.</p> <p>The New Forest Recreational Mitigation Strategy is being reviewed with Natural England.</p> <p>A statement of common ground will be produced.</p>

Local Plan Objective	Prescribed Body or Neighbouring Authority	Why engaged?	Cross boundary issue	How engaged?	When engaged?	Key outcomes
Environmental quality objective	Bath and North East Somerset Council Natural England	To ensure the plan protects the natural environment and biodiversity.	Mitigation to offset impact on development on protected bat species: Bath and Bradford on Avon SAC	Meetings Email correspondence	During the preparation of the Local Plan Review: 2017 to 2023	Established guidance. A Trowbridge Bat Mitigation Strategy was published as part of the Wiltshire Housing Site Allocations Plan. This is being reviewed with Natural England.
Economic development objective Infrastructure objective	Bath and North East Somerset Council	To consider and, where appropriate, collaborate on cross-boundary issues to ensure a collaborative approach to plan preparation.	Local housing need Employment requirements	Consultation exercises and events Meetings Email correspondence	During the preparation of the Local Plan Review: 2017 to 2023	Bath and North East Somerset Council support an increase in employment and self-containment at both Trowbridge and Chippenham. A statement of common ground was produced for the Bath and North East Somerset Council Local Plan Partial Update (LPPU) in 2021. A SoCG on the Local Plan review will be produced as the Wiltshire Local Plan progresses. Engagement has also taken place through B&NES on the West of England Joint Spatial Plan that is no longer being progressed.
Infrastructure objective	South Somerset (Somerset Council from April 2023)	To consider and, where appropriate, collaborate on	Improvements to the strategic road network on the M3 and M5.		During the preparation of the Local Plan Review: 2017 to 2023	South Somerset support the A358-Southfields improvements and the need for dualling of single carriageway section of

Local Plan Objective	Prescribed Body or Neighbouring Authority	Why engaged?	Cross boundary issue	How engaged?	When engaged?	Key outcomes
		cross-boundary issues to ensure a collaborative approach to plan preparation.				the A303 as part of route improvements of A303/A358. This will improve connectivity and access to the South West, improve resilience of the SRN and promote economic growth.
Economic development objective	Cotswold District Council	To consider and, where appropriate, collaborate on cross-boundary issues to ensure a collaborative approach to plan preparation.	Kemble Airfield.	Meetings	During the preparation of the Local Plan Review: 2017 to 2023	Cotswold District Council are supportive of the Council's approach to Kemble Airfield.
Economic development objective Infrastructure objective	Test Valley Borough Council Hampshire County Council	To consider and, where appropriate, collaborate on cross-boundary issues to ensure a collaborative approach to plan preparation.	Development at Ludgershall and impact on highways and other infrastructure.	Meetings	During the preparation of the Local Plan Review: 2017 to 2023	Development potential at Ludgershall, including: highways and access considerations (into Hampshire); electricity network supplies; secondary education capacities at Wellington Academy; joint meeting with Network Rail and MOD to explore access over railway.
Infrastructure objective	Dorset Council	To consider and, where appropriate, collaborate on cross-boundary issues to ensure a collaborative	Improvements to the strategic road network, Shaftesbury Bypass	Email correspondence	From April 2019	Agreed that policy on the Shaftesbury bypass (saved policy TR20) could be deleted. Policy 74 Strategic Transport Network in the Wiltshire Local Plan provides for improvements to the strategic road network.

Local Plan Objective	Prescribed Body or Neighbouring Authority	Why engaged?	Cross boundary issue	How engaged?	When engaged?	Key outcomes
		approach to plan preparation.				
Economic development objective	West Berkshire	To consider and, where appropriate, collaborate on cross-boundary issues to ensure a collaborative approach to plan preparation.	Employment land - shortfall in West Berkshire	Meetings and response to consultation	Early 2023	Response to West Berkshire Regulation 19 consultation setting out reasons why a shortfall employment land in West Berkshire could not be met within Wiltshire.
Providing new homes objective	Homes England (Previously the Homes and Communities Agency)		Housing policy and delivery	Meetings (Housing Partnership)	During the preparation of the Local Plan Review: 2017 to 2023	Ongoing dialogue
Planning for strong and healthy communities objective	NHS England, Integrated Care Board	To ensure that new health facilities to support levels of growth in the county are delivered and planned for appropriately.	Health facility provision	Consultation Meetings Emails	During the preparation of the Local Plan Review: 2017 to 2023	A Statement of Common Ground will be prepared. Discussion on updates to the CCG Estates Strategy on brownfield land. Feedback was shared and sought on emerging housing numbers for small villages, which informed the methodology.

Local Plan Objective	Prescribed Body or Neighbouring Authority	Why engaged?	Cross boundary issue	How engaged?	When engaged?	Key outcomes
<p>Climate change objective</p> <p>Environmental quality objective</p>	Environment Agency	To ensure the plan protects and reduces the risk to both existing and future residents and their properties as well as enhance water courses through natural flood risk management.	Flood risk management	<p>Formal and Informal consultations</p> <p>Meetings</p> <p>Joint Working Group</p> <p>Emails</p>	<p>During the preparation of the Local Plan Review – 2017 – 2023</p> <p>Regulation 18 consultation 2021 - Comments received on the Emerging Spatial Strategy, preferred site options and Addressing Climate change.</p> <p>Discussion of January 2021 consultation response and next steps for the revised spatial strategy, site allocations and policy review</p> <p>Comments received on the draft Revised Spatial Strategy and preferred site options.</p>	<p>Comments were responded to and as a result:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amendments made to the flood risk policies in the Plan. Changes made to site proposals within the Plan. <p>A Statement of Common Ground is being prepared.</p>
<p>Climate change objective</p> <p>Environmental quality objective</p>	Natural England	To ensure the plan minimises landscape impact and protects the natural environment.	<p>Site specific issues</p> <p>Cotswold Water Park</p>	<p>Formal and informal consultations</p> <p>Meetings</p>	During the preparation of the Local Plan Review: 2017 to 2023	<p>Comments were responded to and as a result:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amendments were made to site proposals in the Plan

Local Plan Objective	Prescribed Body or Neighbouring Authority	Why engaged?	Cross boundary issue	How engaged?	When engaged?	Key outcomes
			Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) and associated sites	Joint Working Groups Emails	Regulation 18 consultation 2021 – comments received on Emerging Spatial Strategy, potential development sites, Empowering Rural Communities paper, Addressing Climate Change paper and HRA scoping report. Discussion on representation from January 2021 and next steps Comments on draft Revised Spatial Strategy and preferred site options Discussion about a suitable approach to planning policy at Cotswold Water Park SSSI.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policies were reworded as part of the policy review of the Plan <p>A Statement of Common Ground is being prepared.</p> <p>Agreed policy approach in principle for the Cotswold Water Park SSSI.</p>
Environmental quality objective	Historic England	To ensure the plan proposals protect the historic environment	Site specific issues Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites	Consultation exercises and events Meetings	During the preparation of the Local Plan Review: 2017 to 2023	Comments were responded to and as a result: amendments made to site proposals in the Plan; and policies reworded as part of the policy review.

Local Plan Objective	Prescribed Body or Neighbouring Authority	Why engaged?	Cross boundary issue	How engaged?	When engaged?	Key outcomes
			Word Heritage Site	Emails	<p>Regulation 18 consultation 2021 – comments on the Emerging Spatial Strategy, potential development sites</p> <p>Discussion on representation from January 2021 and the next steps.</p> <p>Sites and relating evidence were shared with Historic England, giving them opportunity to comment.</p>	<p>Supportive of identification and allocation of brownfield sites in historic settlements where account is taken of the character and identity places.</p> <p>A Statement of Common Ground will be prepared.</p> <p>Historic England provided feedback on certain sites and as a result further work was carried out on proposals and a site was removed from the site selection process.</p> <p>Ongoing cooperation with Historic England on the Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites World Heritage and the drafting of Policy 100.</p>
Infrastructure objective	National Highways (formerly Highways England)	To work together to identify opportunities to facilitate development to enable the economic growth identified for Wiltshire	Strategic road network improvements.	<p>Consultation exercises and events</p> <p>Meetings</p> <p>Emails</p>	<p>During the preparation of the Local Plan Review: 2017 to 2023</p> <p>Regulation 18 consultation 2021: comments received on Emerging Spatial Strategy, Chippenham, Royal Wootton Bassett,</p>	<p>Comments were responded to and as a result: Amendments made to site proposals in the draft Plan; Policies were reworded as part of the policy review.</p> <p>A Statement of Common Ground will be prepared.</p>

Local Plan Objective	Prescribed Body or Neighbouring Authority	Why engaged?	Cross boundary issue	How engaged?	When engaged?	Key outcomes
					<p>Salisbury, Amesbury and the Transport Review (January 2021)</p> <p>Meetings during 2022, 2023 between Council and National Highways where updates were discussed.</p>	

Appendix 3: Consultation Responses from Prescribed Bodies and Neighbouring Planning Authorities

A.1 Consultation responses from Prescribed Bodies and Neighbouring Planning Authorities to the Regulation 18 consultation on the review of the Local Plan can be found within pages 8-128 of the Wiltshire Council Local Plan Review Consultation January-March 2021 Consultation Report and Next Steps⁸.

A.2 Consultation responses from Prescribed Bodies and Neighbouring Planning Authorities to the Regulation 19 consultation on the review of the Local Plan can be found at the following weblink:

<https://consult.wiltshire.gov.uk/kpse/event/6565FF19-695C-4721-B19F-3226D666441E/peoplesubmissions>

⁸ Wiltshire Local Plan Review Consultation January-March 2021 Consultation Report and Next Steps: https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/media/7226/Local-Plan-Review-consultation-statement-2021-final/pdf/LPR_2021_consultation_statement_lpr_jan_mar_2021.pdf?m=637673811404070000

Appendix 4: Memoranda of understanding and statements of common ground

Extract from:

'STRATEGIC APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT OF DEVELOPMENTS IN WILTSHIRE OCCURRING [sic] IN THE RIVER AVON SAC CATCHMENT' (16 March 2023)

This sets out the latest joint working position on phosphorus neutrality

PHOSPHORUS NEUTRALITY

Memorandum of Understanding

The implications of development related phosphorus inputs have been assessed through appropriate assessments for the Wiltshire Core Strategy⁶ and Wiltshire Housing Site Allocations Plan. The latter plan relies on a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)⁷ between Wiltshire Council, New Forest District Council, New Forest National Park Authority, Natural England, Wessex Water and the Environment Agency. The signatories have agreed to deploy a range of measures to ensure development between March 2018 and March 2026 will be phosphorus neutral.

Interim Delivery Plan

The MoU commits the parties to preparing an Interim Delivery Plan (IDP)⁸ in order to secure a trajectory of phosphorus reductions in line with the spatial and temporal pattern of development. The IDP focuses mainly on residential development down to single dwellings, as these combine to have the greatest negative effects across the catchment. Although it also captures anticipated increases in phosphorus from new employment uses, it is likely the proportion of householders living and working in the catchment is roughly the same and therefore accounting for these applications separately would be double counting phosphorus loads. This approach is consistent with Natural England updated advice on nutrient neutrality requirements in the River Avon catchment (March 2022)⁹. In addition to residential growth the IDP considers the growth of unsewered development and takes account of land use change from agriculture to urban to arrive at a projection for net phosphorus increases up to 2025/26.

Industries which contribute phosphorus as a result of their commercial processes (e.g. laundries, car washes, fish farms, water cress farms, tourism attractions and some agricultural facilities), do not come within the scope of this appropriate assessment and will continue to need to be assessed separately. In addition, commercial development involving overnight accommodation such as self-service and serviced tourist / business accommodation, caravans and chalets etc, will attract people into the catchment and generate additional wastewater. This will therefore be assessed on a case by case basis and developers are likely to require advice from Natural England through their chargeable services (DAS).

Footnotes:

6 This relied on the River Avon Special Area of Conservation Nutrient Management Plan for Phosphorus, Final version April 2015. Prepared by David Tyldesley and Associates for Wiltshire Council, Natural England and the Environment Agency.

7 Memorandum of Understanding, River Avon Special Area of Conservation, Phosphate Neutral Development – Interim Mitigation, 29 May 2018

8 River Avon SAC – Phosphate Neutral Development Interim Delivery Plan, Wood Environment and Infrastructure Solutions UK Limited, January 2019

9 Natural England Guidance Documents from March 2022 are available on our website Phosphorus and nitrogen mitigation - Wiltshire Council

Outcome Delivery Incentive

When written, the IDP envisaged the entire load would be offset by a performance commitment (Outcome Delivery Incentive - ODI) which was being sought by Wessex Water through the water company Price Review (PR19). They committed to maintain phosphorus during the period 2020 – 2025 at the level of the previous 5 years. If this had been agreed by Ofwat, the IDP would have acted as a contingency to the ODI not being implemented, as well as to cover unsewered development and as a precaution to cover all new development between March 2018 and March 2020. Although Ofwat agreed the principle of the ODI, it did not consider it should be funded entirely by water customers. As a result, third parties including the Councils need to provide for offsetting for developments to be able to proceed.

Wessex Water assessed how much of the incentive would be delivered over the business plan period up to 2025. Over this period, it expected to deliver a programme of optimising sewage treatment works in anticipation of agreeing lower phosphorus limits with Ofwat for the next Asset Management Plan period. For example, Wessex Water have confirmed the Environmental Permit for Warminster Sewage Treatment Works has been reduced from 1mg/l down to 0.5 mg/l from 31st March 2022 effectively halving the mitigation needed for development discharging to these works. The company also anticipates purchasing offsets for a number of environmental parameters through an online trading platform operated by Entrade. Provided the phosphorus element of these credits can be demonstrated to operate in perpetuity then they may be available for councils to use towards mitigation for housing but at the current time details remain uncertain. For the foreseeable future, however, local authorities will need to ensure offsetting is provided.

To this end Wiltshire Council has agreed, unless it becomes evident that this responsibility falls to others, to provide for the in-perpetuity mitigation for unmitigated permissions it grants under the Wiltshire Core Strategy up to March 2026. The Council reserves the right to require developers to directly provide for the necessary mitigation measures where it considers it is appropriate to do so. The other MoU councils are supportive of this approach.

Wiltshire Council has been using the Natural England's updated methodology (March 2022) to calculate the phosphorus burdens from new development in the Hampshire Avon catchment and deliver the in-perpetuity mitigation necessary. This approach supersedes the calculations included in the IDP.

Natural England issued guidance in 2020 and this has recently been updated in March 2022. The 2020 methodology has been used to calculate phosphorus burdens from 2018 to March 2020. Wiltshire Council has agreed with Natural England to apply the updated 2022 methodology to all development from April 2020 onwards.

Beyond 2025

Beyond the IDP, signatories to the MoU recognise development must continue to be phosphorus neutral, potentially for the lifetime of the permissions being granted. To the extent that housing distribution is down to planning authorities, the councils recognise they have a role to play in directing housing away from sensitive areas, and where this is not possible, finding appropriate mechanisms to offset harm.

Water usage condition

The MoU and IDP currently commits planning authorities to imposing a condition on all residential permissions in the catchment area to restrict water usage to 110 litres per person per day. This will have the effect of slightly reducing the amount of water reaching sewage treatment works. Most treatment works are restricted through their Environmental Permit on the amount of phosphorus that can be discharged per litre of water. The water use restriction will thereby achieve a reduction in total phosphorus discharged and reduce the offsetting by a small degree

River Avon SAC Working Group

In order to track phosphorous neutrality in the short term and plan for the longer term, representatives of the MoU signatories meet regularly as the River Avon SAC Working Group. The group tracks progress of delivery measures funded by local authorities, Wessex Water and developers, monitoring these against forecasts of housing delivery (housing trajectories) and annual returns of housing completions.

The Working Group also provides a forum for statutory agencies to advise on the implications of the growing scientific evidence which underpins the delivery of phosphorus neutral development, work being undertaken nationally to address nutrient impacts and in due course on the steps being taken to bring the SAC into favourable condition.

At least one full meeting will be held every year in late November / early December when new trajectory data is available. This annual review will assess progress on delivering phosphorus offsetting in relation to current trajectories of housing from Wiltshire Council.

Memorandum of Understanding
New Forest Special Area of Conservation, Special Protection Area
and Ramsar sites
‘In-combination’ recreational impacts arising from new development

This Memorandum of Understanding is made between the following parties:

- Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council
- Dorset Council
- Eastleigh Borough Council
- Natural England
- New Forest District Council
- New Forest National Park Authority
- Southampton City Council
- Test Valley Borough Council
- Wiltshire Council

It describes how each planning authority within the identified 13.8km ‘zone of influence’ will ensure that additional recreational impacts arising from new residential and other forms of overnight accommodation development within their planning area are mitigated so that new development does not have an adverse impact on the New Forest Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar sites. This will allow new development to progress.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 In 2018 six local planning authorities (Eastleigh Borough Council, New Forest District Council, New Forest National Park Authority, Test Valley Borough Council, Southampton City Council and Wiltshire Council) were successful in a joint bid to the Government’s ‘Planning Delivery Fund’ This secured funding to support work to enable planned development to come forward while protecting the integrity of the New Forest’s internationally designated sites. This follows the Local Plan Habitats Regulation Assessments (HRAs) undertaken by planning authorities in areas close to the New Forest, which were unable to rule out potential adverse impacts on the New Forest’s designated sites from increased recreational pressures associated with new development.
- 1.2 The joint funding bid outlined the two phases of the project, confirming that the evidence from the Phase 1 research would be used in Phase 2 to:
 - To establish a catchment area identifying where population growth would have an impact on the New Forest SPA, SAC and Ramsar sites; and

- To identify potential options for mitigating the impacts, leading towards a strategic mitigation framework, which includes establishing a robust approach for securing developer contributions.

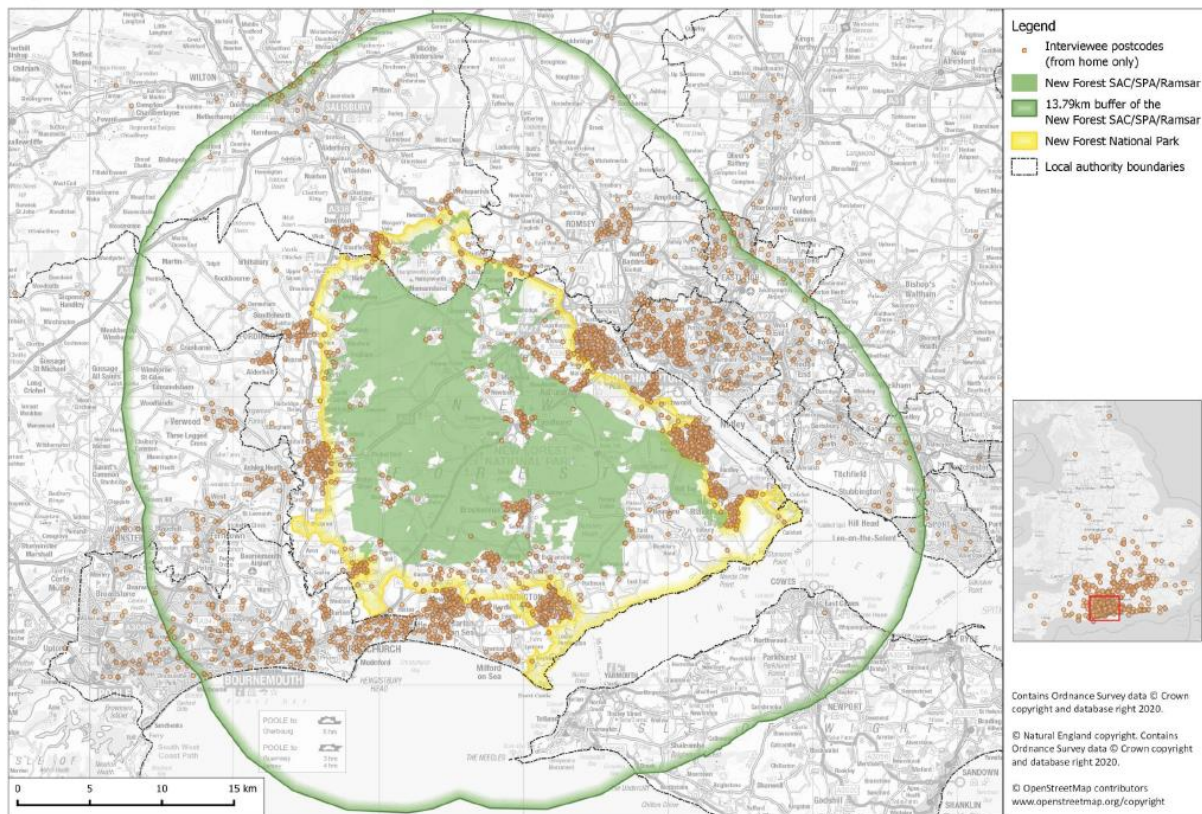
2. Evidence base

- 2.1 In 2018 the specialist consultant Footprint Ecology was commissioned to undertake primary research into the profile of visitors to the protected habitats of the New Forest; the impacts of recreation arising from planned development on the New Forest's protected designations; and the potential approaches to mitigation. The research represented the most comprehensive survey of recreational use of the New Forest since 2004/5 when Tourism South East surveyed visitors to the area that was to become the National Park.
- 2.2 Footprint Ecology's research involved over 2,000 telephone interviews; car park counts throughout the year at 270 car parks across the designated area; over 5,000 face-to-face interviews at points across the designated sites; and a review of planned development in the area surrounding the New Forest up to 2016. The research reports were published in May 2020 and can be viewed at [Research into recreational use of the New Forest's protected habitats - New Forest National Park Authority \(newforestnpa.gov.uk\)](https://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/research-into-recreational-use-of-the-new-forest-protected-habitats)
- 2.3 The reports identify that increased housing around the SAC/SPA/Ramsar sites will exacerbate existing recreational impacts resulting from a marked increase in recreational use of the designated sites (an 11.4% increase between 2018 – 2036 from new housing alone). Recreational activity can have a damaging effect on the New Forest's protected habitat and species. The pressure is particularly pronounced around the periphery of the SAC/SPA/Ramsar sites. Footprint Ecology recommend that a strategic, proportionate and co-ordinated approach to mitigation is developed. Future work to ensure recreational impacts on the New Forest are appropriately addressed should build on the approaches taken to recreational mitigation that have been established by some of the local planning authorities and aim to ensure that authorities are working with a consistent evidence base.
- 2.4 Natural England has confirmed that the Footprint Ecology research reports (2020 and 2021) provide a strong evidence base and has commended the research as representing the best available information to inform the work of the local planning authorities as 'competent authorities' under the Habitats Regulations 2017.

3. New Forest 'Zone of Influence' for recreational impacts

- 3.1 The Footprint Ecology report 'Discussion and analysis relating to the New Forest SAC/SPA/Ramsar and a zone of influence for recreation' (2021) recommends an appropriate 'zone of influence' or 'catchment area' within which visitors from new development are likely to have a significant impact on the SAC, SPA and Ramsar designations. The report draws on the findings of visitor surveys that Footprint Ecology conducted in 2018/19.
- 3.2 This identifies a zone of influence where additional residential growth could give rise to likely significant effects on the New Forest SAC/SPA/Ramsar from increased recreational pressure and as such where mitigation would be required. It is based on the 75th

percentile for those visiting from home, being 13.79km (straight-line distance) which, rounded, gives a zone of 13.8km. The zone is best applied to the SAC/SPA/Ramsar boundary, rather than access points or survey points. The 13.8km zone is illustrated on the map below by the green line. Beyond the defined 'zone of influence' there may still be a need to consider the potential impact of a development on the New Forest, taking into account the scale of development proposed, ease of accessibility to the New Forest, and availability of alternative visitor destinations.



3.3 The identification of the 13.8km 'zone of influence' for recreational pressures on the New Forest's designated sites in Footprint Ecology's additional report (2021) resulted in Fareham Borough Council, Dorset Council and Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole Council (BCP) becoming part of the project Steering Group and party to discussions on the next steps.

4. Interim mitigation measures

4.1 In the light of the Footprint Ecology research findings on the 'zone of influence' and the stated advice from Natural England that it represents the best available evidence to inform the decisions of 'competent authorities', the local planning authorities party to this Memorandum of Understanding commit to following a precautionary approach. The authorities also commit to each having in place effective and proportionate measures to address the in-combination recreational impacts arising from new development within their planning jurisdictions. These measures apply to both planning decisions and plan-making and operate within the legal and policy framework of the planning system, such

as the use of planning conditions, Community Infrastructure Levy and Section 106 obligations.

4.2 The Footprint Ecology research reports confirm that development in and around the New Forest will result in increased recreational visits to the designated sites; and there is evidence that increased recreation is impacting on the integrity of the designated sites. New development (permitted through the consideration of a planning application, prior approvals or agreed in principle through the policies and site allocations in development plan documents) will therefore need to either mitigate its impacts; or put forward evidence to justify that the proposal would not lead to a likely significant effect when considered alone or in combination.

4.3 A number of planning authorities have recreational mitigation schemes in place and the table below provides a summary of the measures already in place and their current status.

Planning Authority	Status of approach to recreational impact mitigation (date)
Bournemouth, Christchurch, Poole Council	<p>BCP Council does not currently have a strategy specifically relating to mitigating recreational impacts on the New Forest. However, the Council has been operating a long-term strategy (since 2007) to mitigate the adverse impacts of new residential on the integrity of the Dorset Heaths. The current iteration of the strategy is contained on the Dorset Heathlands Planning Framework SPD 2020-2025. Alongside the provision of infrastructure projects such as SANGs a crucial part of the strategy is the collection of SAMMs contributions. These are used to secure the day-to-day costs of helping local people to alter harmful behaviour through raising awareness of the issues and value of the protected sites, which includes employing wardens to manage visitor pressures on the heathland and delivering awareness and education programmes particularly in local schools. In addition, the Council has adopted the Poole Harbour Recreation SPD 2019-2024 which also includes a strategy to collect SAMMs contributions alongside contributions for infrastructure projects specific to Poole Harbour. In a similar way to the heathland strategy these SAMMs contributions are used to raise awareness of the value of the harbour and the issues it faces to help people behave ways that are less harmful.</p> <p>The general increased awareness of the issues and value of protected sites promoted by these strategies over a number of years should continue to have beneficial influence on the behaviour of people who may choose to visit the New Forest as well as the Dorset Heathlands and Poole Harbour. May 2022</p>
Dorset Council	<p>The Dorset Heathlands Planning Framework 2020-2025 Supplementary Planning Document came into effect on 1 April 2020. It provides a framework for funding and delivering effective mitigation measures in the form of Heathland Infrastructure Projects (HIP) and Strategic Access Management and Monitoring (SAMM) for Dorset heaths habitat sites. The council considers that HIP positioned within the 13.8 km 'zone of influence' is also likely, in part, to provide</p>

	<p>effective mitigation for the impacts of residential development in Dorset Council area on New Forest habitat sites⁹.</p> <p>The Poole Harbour Recreation 2019-2024 Supplementary Planning Document came into effect on 1 April 2020. It provides a framework for funding and delivering effective mitigation measures in the form of Poole Harbour Infrastructure Projects (PHIPS) and SAMM. The council considers that mitigation delivered in the nearby Poole Harbour Recreation Zone could also provide effective mitigation for the impacts of residential development in Dorset Council area on New Forest habitat sites.</p>
Eastleigh Borough Council	The majority of the Borough is within the 13.8km catchment area. The Council approved an interim strategy in March 2022 based on the delivery of proportionate SANG within the borough and contributions to measures within the National Park Authority and to monitoring. SANG will be delivered through both the provision of new and improvements to existing greenspace. - May 2022
New Forest District Council	The Recreation Mitigation Strategy was originally established in the Local Plan Part 2 (2014) and revised in the Local Plan Part One: Planning Strategy in 2020. Policy ENV1: 'Mitigating the impacts of development on International Nature Conservation Sites' sets out the approach and is accompanied by supporting 'Mitigation for Recreational Impacts SPD (April 2021) – May 2022.
New Forest National Park Authority	The whole National Park falls within the 13.8km catchment area. Updated Mitigation Strategy covering recreational impacts from new residential and visitor accommodation across the whole of the National Park adopted in Summer 2020. This updated strategy is considered fit for purpose and will continue to be applied by the National Park Authority to mitigate the impacts of new development in the interim until a more strategic approach is developed. - April 2022
Southampton City Council	The whole of the city is within the 13.8km catchment area. The Council has ring-fenced CIL contributions from residential development to be spent on New Forest mitigation. This will deliver a package of improvements to semi-natural and natural greenspace within the city and contribute to measures within the National Park Authority. – May 2022
Test Valley Borough Council	Part of the Borough is within the 13.8km zone. The Council's interim mitigation framework (2014) is now being applied to the updated zones of influence. The Council is in the process of preparing a Supplementary Planning Document on this matter. - May 2022
Wiltshire Council	The interim Mitigation Strategy uses an 8km zone of influence to Sept 2021, following which the 13.8km zone is adopted for qualifying residential and tourism development. The approach to mitigation involves a combination of measures depending on type and size of

⁹ 'Visitor use of the New Forest by residents of Dorset and implications for the Dorset Local Plan' (9 May 2022)

	<p>development: direct provision of suitable alternative natural green space (SANGs) as part of developments; or offsite measures - access and visitor management in the new forest itself and/or strategic SANG. Direct provision is funded directly by the developer, whereas CIL is used for off-site measures. Mitigation is also required for larger developments in the 13.8km to 15km buffer zone where Habitat Regulations Assessment demonstrates potential for adverse effects. This interim strategy is considered fit for purpose and will continue to be applied by Wiltshire Council to mitigate the impacts of new development until a more strategic approach is developed.- April 2022</p>
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5. Long term strategic approach to mitigating recreational impacts

- 5.1 Section 4 of this Memorandum of Understanding sets out the approach adopted by planning authorities party of this agreement. The planning authorities recognise that the Footprint Ecology research reports (2020 and 2021) represent the best available evidence for HRA purposes.
- 5.2 The planning authorities party to this agreement, working alongside Natural England and Forestry England, are also committed to working together to develop a longer term, strategic approach to mitigating recreational impacts. This reflects the recommendations of the Footprint Ecology research report on 'Impacts of recreation and potential mitigation approaches' (2020). The project Steering Group typically meets quarterly each year and is committed to working together on the next steps, recognising the benefits of the co-ordinated approach recommended in the Footprint Ecology research reports.
- 5.3 The Executive Summary to the report states, *"...the measures identified could form a 'package' of avoidance and mitigation measures that should resolve the cumulative impacts from recreation associated with housing growth around the New Forest. Such a package should enable Local Authorities to be able to rule out adverse effects on integrity to the New Forest SAC/SPA/Ramsar as a result of increased recreation associated with Local Plans. The measures will however not necessarily be easy to establish and will require significant impetus to achieve. Given the broad geographic scope and need for measures to dovetail, it will be important that there is a strategic, proportionate and co-ordinated approach, which will require partnership working across a range of local authorities and stakeholders."*
- 5.4 Paragraph 4.2 of same report states, *"Each planning authority should have a well-informed and articulated mitigation scheme, commensurate with the distribution of proposed development in relation to the New Forest SAC/SPA/Ramsar...In other parts of the UK, strategic approaches to mitigation have been established where multiple local authorities fund a series of consistent, agreed and implementable measures carefully designed to resolve the in-combination impacts associated with local development."*

5.5 In taking the New Forest mitigation work forward, the local planning authorities are committed to working together to develop an appropriate strategic package of mitigation measures, based on a consistent evidence base and future research to supplement this evidence base. Each local planning authority will ensure mitigation measures are in place, proportionate to the impact planned development in their area will have on the New Forest's designated sites, taking account of evidence and assessments prepared as part of the plan making process. The mitigation will involve a package of measures, including measures within the respective local planning authority's areas (including effective mitigation delivered through existing strategies); and also measures delivered within or close to the New Forest's designated sites to mitigate the increase in visitors from the planned new development. This will enable the in-combination recreational impacts arising from planned development to be addressed.

Signatures:

Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole Council

Dorset Council

Eastleigh Borough Council

New Forest District Council – Claire Upton Brown, Executive Head for Planning, Regeneration and Economy

New Forest National Park Authority – Steve Avery, Executive Director of Strategy & Planning

Southampton City Council

Test Valley Borough Council – Graham Smith, Head of Planning Policy & Economic Development

Wiltshire Council – Georgina Clampitt-Dix, Head of Spatial Planning

**Statement of Common Ground between Wiltshire Council and Swindon Council
March 2020**

Joint working with Swindon Borough Council is ongoing and this will be updated as the plan progresses.

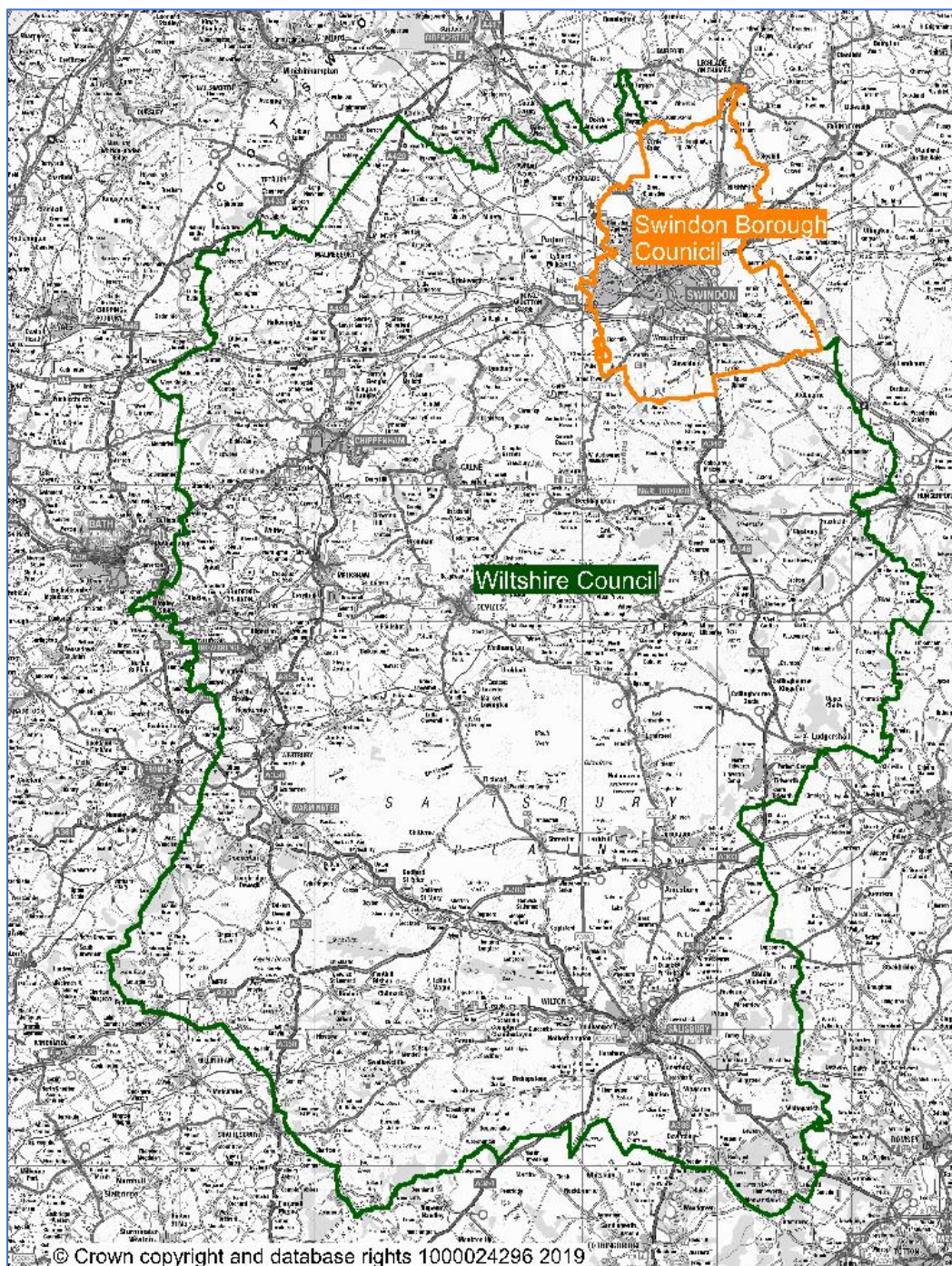
Swindon Borough Council

Wiltshire Council

Statement of Common Ground March 2020

Introduction and Context

- 1.1 This statement of common ground is entered into between Wiltshire Council and Swindon Borough Council. The statement of common ground covers the strategic matters that cross the boundary between the authorities shown on the map below.



- 1.2 Swindon Borough Council and Wiltshire Council are unitary authorities and there are transport, economic and housing market links between the two administrative areas. The functional housing market links between the two administrative areas are

explained in the jointly commissioned Swindon and Wiltshire Strategic Housing Market Assessment VOLUME ONE Defining the Housing Market Areas, June 2017, Opinion Research Services, which is available here: [Volume 1 Identifying the Housing Market Areas](#) . The Housing Market Areas were subsequently reviewed following consultation in Autumn 2017 but did not result in any changes to the Swindon Housing Market Area. This work identified a Swindon Housing Market Area that includes areas within Wiltshire (see **Appendix 1**).

- 1.3 The two administrative areas also share functional economic links within the M4 Corridor Functional Economic Market Area as set out in the jointly commissioned Swindon and Wiltshire Functional Economic Market Area Assessment, December 2016, Hardisty Jones Associates. This document is available here: [Swindon and Wiltshire Functional and Economic Market Assessment](#)
- 1.4 The current development plan documents for Swindon Borough Council and Wiltshire Council comprise the following:

Wiltshire Council	Swindon Borough Council	Joint
Wiltshire Core Strategy (2015)	Swindon Borough Local Plan 2026 (2015)	Wiltshire and Swindon Waste Site Allocations DPD (2012)
Chippenham Site Allocations Plan (2017)	Swindon Central Area Action Plan (2009)	Wiltshire and Swindon Minerals Site Allocations DPD (2012)
Wiltshire Housing Site Allocations Plan (2020)		Wiltshire and Swindon Waste Development Control Policies DPD (2009)
West Wiltshire Leisure and Recreation DPD (2009)		Wiltshire and Swindon Minerals Development Control Policies DPD (2009)
Saved policies:		Wiltshire and Swindon Waste Core Strategy (2009)
North Wiltshire Local Plan (2006);		Wiltshire and Swindon Minerals Core Strategy (2009)
Kennet Local Plan 2011 (2004);		Saved policies: Wiltshire and Swindon Minerals Local Plan (2001)
West Wiltshire District Plan First Alteration 2011 (2004);		
Salisbury Local Plan 2011 (2003).		

- 1.5 Swindon Borough Council and Wiltshire Council are both undertaking reviews of their adopted Local Plan/Core Strategies to aligned plan horizons. The authorities' reviewed local plans will cover the period to 2036. The timetables for plan-making in the two authorities are set out in the authorities' published local development schemes and those in place at the time of writing are available here: [Wiltshire Council Local Development Scheme 2019](#) and [Swindon Borough Local Development Scheme 9th Edition](#).
- 1.6 Both authorities are currently reviewing their respective Local Development Schemes to enable further evidence to be completed.

- 1.7 Initially, both authorities committed to the preparation of a Joint Spatial Framework such was the nature of cross boundary working that seemed necessary. This would have been an informal planning document and not part of the development plan. It would have been a planning framework that could overarch the preparation of each authorities' local plan ensuring consistency between the two.
- 1.8 National changes to how local planning authorities approach meeting their housing needs, introduced by the Housing White Paper, changed the basis for this approach, as did further detailed work on local development needs and land supply. In addition, consultation on the idea returned significant doubts about how such a framework would be tested and what its status would be in planning decisions. Fresh guidance from Government subsequently also highlighted a stronger role played by statements of common ground and therefore this course is now preferred.
- 1.9 The Swindon and Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership (SWLEP), of which Swindon Borough Council and Wiltshire Council are both members, is preparing a Local Industrial Strategy. Following its completion, a statement of common ground will be prepared with SWLEP for agreement.

2. Governance Arrangements

- 2.1 Cooperation in relation to strategic policy-making takes place through regular planning officers meetings attended by the Planning Policy Manager of Swindon Borough Council and the Head of Spatial Planning at Wiltshire Council. Such meetings have been undertaken on a regular basis since the inception of joint working on the reviews of the authorities' local plans in 2015.
- 2.2 Cooperation between elected councillors of the two authorities takes place at informal, joint working group meetings attended by the two councils' cabinet members for strategic planning and economic development, together with other cabinet portfolio holders where appropriate. Meetings have been held approximately three times a year. Formal decisions when required are made by the Councils' respective Cabinets, with the timing of papers aligned when appropriate.

3. Strategic Matters Covered by this Statement

- 3.1 This statement of common ground covers the following strategic plan-making matters:
- Housing
 - Employment
 - Transport
- 3.2 Each authority is in the process of developing a spatial strategy, including the identification of specific sites to help meet land requirements and maintain supply in line with Government policy. Swindon Borough Council published their draft Plan on 17 December 2019, with consultation ending 31 January 2020 and are considering the response. Wiltshire Council is proposing to undertake consultation on their emerging strategy Quarter 3 2020.

- 3.3 Continued liaison on detailed proposals will ensure adequate infrastructure provision and properly coordinated provision of new land requirements. These will be documented in further iterations of this statement.

4. Agreement on Local Housing Needs

- 4.1 Through their respective plan reviews, both Swindon Borough Council and Wiltshire Council are planning to meet their assessed housing needs in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the Government’s Planning Practice Guidance. The Councils will keep this under review in the light of any changes to national policy or guidance.
- 4.2 The authorities jointly commissioned consultant Opinion Research Services to identify Housing Market Areas (see paragraph 1.2) and provide advice on the scale of housing need to 2036 including that necessary to balance jobs to homes, taking account of long term migration patterns and job growth projections in the Swindon and Wiltshire Functional Economic Market Area Assessment; which can be viewed here: [Swindon and Wiltshire Local Housing Needs Assessment 2019](#)
- 4.3 The following table sets out the figures that are being used by both authorities to inform their plan making. Both authorities are intending to plan for at least the local housing needs calculated by the current standard method at April 2019 or its successor, as required by the NPPF.

Authority	Standard assessment of local housing need in dwellings per annum (Planning Practice Guidance methodology)	ORS assessment of housing need in dwellings per annum	Estimated housing need to 2036 after planned commitments
Wiltshire Council	2,042	2,281	Circa 18,000
Swindon Borough Council	1,040	1,136 ¹⁰	Circa 1,500

- 4.4 Taking into account the scale and form of assessed housing needs, the extent of current and prospective land supply, it is agreed that: each authority can meet its assessed housing need within its own administrative area and provide for a supply of deliverable land for house building that represents sustainable development consistent with national policy.
- 4.5 Each authority is therefore making provision to meet their respective needs (and identify deliverable sites to maintain supply) within their Local Plans.

5. Employment Land Needs

- 5.1 The authorities will plan for employment land to 2036 on the basis of the evidence in the Functional Economic Market Area Assessment which is translated into

¹⁰ Local housing need plus buffers, as in Swindon Borough Local Plan 2036 Proposed Submission Draft (December 2019)

requirements for the authorities' administrative areas in their respective employment land reviews, available here: [Wiltshire Employment Land Review](#) and here: [Swindon Employment Land Review](#)

- 5.2 The employment land needs to 2036 proposed to be used by each respective authority as the basis for plan-making are as follows:

Authority	2016 to 2036 need for offices	2016 to 2036 need for industrial land
Wiltshire Council	17-42ha	140ha
Swindon Borough Council	16,000sqm to 67,700sqm	Up to 56.7ha

- 5.3 The amounts are generally expressed as ranges reflecting differing assumptions of employment growth and, if office development is delivered on urban or greenfield 'campus' locations. Swindon Borough is proceeding on the basis of meeting the upper range of the industrial land requirement.
- 5.4 It is agreed that each authority is able to accommodate its own planned employment land needs within its own administrative area. The employment land needs will be met on land which already benefits from planning permission, land which is currently allocated for development, or on land which will be allocated for development in the authorities' forthcoming local plan reviews. On this basis neither authority has unmet employment land needs.
- 5.5 Whilst it is agreed that each authority can meet its own scale of employment land needs, provision should be made for an appropriate range of sites and locations. Through the plan making process consideration is being given to the suitability of Junction 16 of the M4 as a location for future employment growth.
- 5.6 With the announced closure of the Honda Manufacturing Plant, there is a potential for significant intensification of the site, which may have implications for both authorities and will require continued collaboration.

6. Agreement on Transport Matters

- 6.1 Joint working will continue to consider the effects of each authorities' spatial strategy on transports networks, the capacity of existing infrastructure and what may be needed to mitigate the combined effects of development proposals. This includes the impact of growth on J16 of the M4.
- 6.2 Both authorities have endorsed the Swindon and Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership's Rail Investment Strategy: <https://swlep.co.uk/about/our-strategies>. It is envisaged that the next iteration of this statement of common ground will contain a list of agreed matters in relation to transport which are relevant to land use planning. In this regard the authorities have already worked, through meetings with their consultants and Highways England about their road traffic models, which are used for modelling development options to ensure they are aligned and consistent.

7. Other Strategic Matters Requiring Agreement and the Process for Seeking Agreement

- 7.1 Swindon Borough Council consulted on their draft submission plan between December 2019 and January 2020 including preferred allocations to meet the residual requirement and the most appropriate means to sustain a five year supply of deliverable land for housing development. For the avoidance of doubt the present spatial strategy of development at Swindon including large urban extensions is maintained, as part of a wider strategy, for delivering the planned growth already identified in the current adopted Plan and carried forward to 2036.
- 7.2 Wiltshire Council is assessing the merits of alternative development strategies for the distribution of growth at settlements and the rural area within the Wiltshire part of the Swindon HMA.
- 7.3 It is the intention of each authority to keep the other appraised through Governance arrangements above and officer liaison.
- 7.4 Through ongoing liaison the authorities will consider and identify any new cross-boundary issues, in particular as regards infrastructure and transport impacts, of the plans' respective spatial strategies. The Councils will work to achieve agreement on the respective spatial strategies prior to the submission of plans for examination.
- 7.5 With regard to green infrastructure, it will be important for the green infrastructure strategy and associated work that is in preparation by Wiltshire Council to align with Swindon Borough Council's to ensure connectivity of green infrastructure across both areas. It is agreed each authority will have consistent policies in relation to green infrastructure and continue to co-operate on such matters.

This version of the statement of common ground is agreed on **16 March 2020** by Wiltshire Council and Swindon Borough Council.

It will remain an iterative document and be updated at key stages in the preparation of the Councils' respective Local Plans.

Signed _____

Cllr Toby Sturgis, Cabinet Member for Spatial Planning, Development Management and Investment

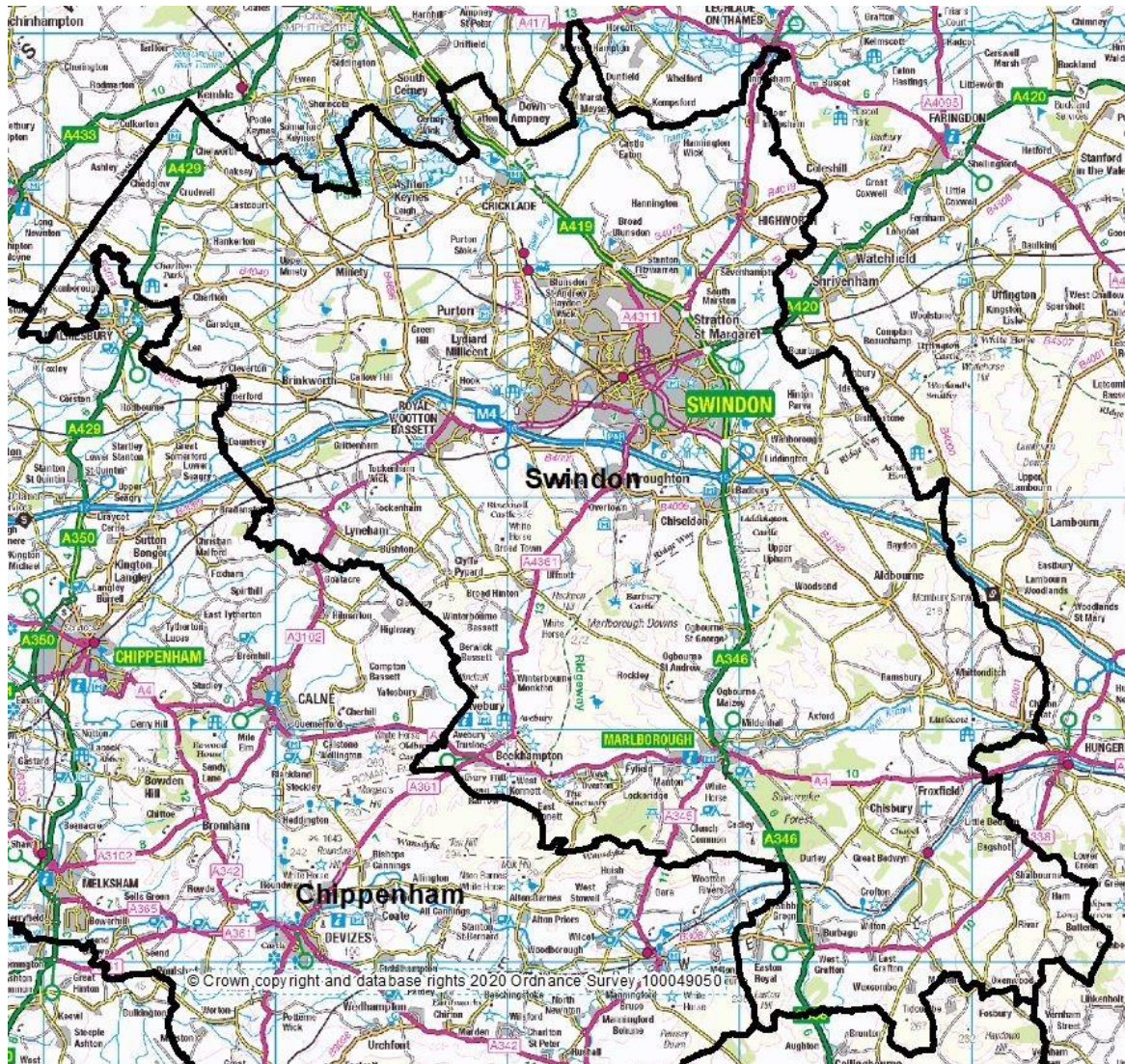
On behalf of Wiltshire Council

Signed _____

Cllr Gary Sumner, Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning

On behalf of Swindon Borough Council

Appendix 1: Swindon Housing Market Area



Duty to Cooperate Report: Addendum (September 2024)

1. Introduction

- 1.1. Wiltshire Council published its Duty to Cooperate Report in September 2023, alongside the Pre-Submission Draft 2020-2028 Local Plan as part of the Regulation 19 Consultation, which ran from 27th September 2023 to 22nd November 2023. The Duty to Cooperate Report sets out how the Council sought to discharge its legal duty ('the duty to cooperate') as part of the preparation of its draft Plan in the run up to the Regulation 19 Stage.
- 1.2. Within the Duty to Cooperate Report (September 2023), the Council outlined its intention to provide updates to the report through the plan making process to encompass representations received through the formal Regulation 19 consultation stage, in addition to providing updates on the progress of draft Statements of Common Ground (SoCG) and Memoranda of Understanding (MoU).
- 1.3. This Addendum, to be read in conjunction with the original Duty to Cooperate Report (September 2023), fulfils these intentions. This Addendum has been prepared for the benefit of the Planning Inspector and other interested parties, to clearly set out the Council's ongoing actions following the publication of the September 2023 Duty to Cooperate report regarding the Duty to Cooperate, including:
 - a summary of representations from prescribed bodies and neighbouring local planning authorities, in the context of the Council's compliance with the legal duty;
 - a summary of the representations from prescribed bodies and any neighbouring local planning authorities to the Regulation 19 draft Plan, in the context of cross-boundary matters;
 - a record of other Duty to Cooperate activities undertaken during this period; and,
 - the outcomes of these additional activities where resolved, and any relevant ongoing cooperation.
- 1.4. By way of update, the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 received Royal Assent on 26 October 2023. Schedule 7 includes a provision that will make changes to the plan making process in England, including the repeal of the DtC. It proposes to replace this legal requirement with a soundness test of 'alignment'. However, this Schedule is not yet enacted and will need secondary legislation. This report covers both cases, as a legal test and a soundness test.

2. Regulation 19

- 2.1. Following the publication of the Duty to Cooperate Report (September 2023), Wiltshire Council sought representations on its draft Plan between 27th September 2023 and 22nd November 2023 through the Regulation 19 consultation process. Each representation received will be submitted to the Planning Inspector when the Plan is submitted for examination.

- 2.2. For the purposes of this document, this section provides a summary of representations received from prescribed bodies and neighbouring planning authorities with whom the Council has a SoCG, in the context of Wiltshire Council's compliance with the duty to cooperate. The Council defines a 'Strategic Partner' as those bodies falling within the definition of section 33A (1) and (9) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended), with the bodies described within 33A (1)(c) defined within Part 2 of The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended).
- 2.3. For clarity, a table has been provided below which sets out all Strategic Partners the Council has/is preparing a SoCG with and the progress of the relevant SoCGs, updating Appendix 1 of the Duty to Cooperate Report (September 2023):

Strategic Partner	Status of SoCG
Bath and North East Somerset Council	Draft
Cotswold District Council	Draft
Dorset Council	Draft
New Forest District Council	Draft
New Forest National Park Authority	Draft
Somerset Council	Draft
Swindon Borough Council	Draft
Test Valley Borough Council and Hampshire County Council	Draft
Environment Agency	Draft
Historic England	Draft
National Highways	Draft
Natural England	Draft
NHS England / Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire Integrated Care Board	Draft

Table 1: Status of SoCGs prepared with Strategic Partners as of September 2024.

- 2.4. Part 2 of the TCPA Regulations require engagement with Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) under the Duty to Cooperate. By way of update, the responsibilities of the Swindon and Wiltshire LEP were transferred to Wiltshire Council and Swindon Borough Council on 1st April 2024, and subsequently renamed the Swindon and Wiltshire Business and Growth Unit (SWBGU). Accordingly, it has not been necessary to prepare a separate SoCG in this case.
- 2.5. As part of the Regulation 19 process, the Council received responses from all the Strategic Partners listed within Table 1, through either the completion of the representation document and questionnaire, letter, or email.
- 2.6. It is noted that the Council additionally received a response from Vale of White Horse District Council. The response received from the Council identified that there are "no

unmet need issues arising from your emerging Plan and no other shared strategic matters to resolve". Whilst Vale of White Horse District Council represents a Strategic Partner, Wiltshire Council has not prepared an SoCG with the council due to the lack of any cross-boundary issues to address which would necessitate engagement through the duty to cooperate process.

- 2.7. As neighbouring planning authorities, South Gloucestershire Council and West Berkshire Council are both Strategic Partners. It is noted that no response has been received to Wiltshire Council's Regulation 19 consultation from either strategic partner. There are not considered to be any specific cross boundary issues which require the preparation of a SoCG with either of the authorities. Accordingly, no SoCG has been prepared with either of the councils. Similarly, no responses were received from Homes England or the Office for Rail and Road (prescribed bodies). There are not considered to be specific cross boundary issues which require a SoCG with these prescribed bodies.
- 2.8. Insofar as the Duty to Cooperate and on-going discussions are concerned, the Council would note that Swindon Borough Council considers that further work under the Duty to Cooperate should be undertaken relating to potential cross boundary growth areas. Additionally, with specific regard to the duty to 'seek to further'¹¹ in respect of landscape harm, New Forest National Park Authority has indicated that some wording amendments to the Plan are required in order to ensure the Plan 'seeks to further' the statutory purposes of the National Park. With the exception of Swindon Borough Council and the New Forest National Park Authority (albeit specifically on landscape grounds), no further responses received from Strategic Partners with which the Council has an SoCG raised concerns surrounding the duty to cooperate. The Council received the following representations (extracts) from Strategic Partners with respect to meeting its duty to cooperate and ongoing cooperation:

Strategic Partner	Duty to Cooperate Comments
Bath & North East Somerset Council	<p>"These comments are submitted within the context of our ongoing engagement with you through the Duty to Co-operate (DtC)."</p> <p>"B&NES and Wiltshire Council need to continue our engagement through the DtC to ensure our respective planning strategies remain complementary and to monitor and manage the relationship between settlements, including in respect to travel flows."</p>
Cotswold District Council	<p>"CDC have worked with Wiltshire Council and Swindon Borough Council to prepare a recreational impacts mitigation strategy for the North Meadows Special Area of Conservation (SAC)" ... "The preparation of this strategy, and its implementation, has and will work better as a partnership, than as a single Council initiative."</p>

¹¹ Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 Part IV Section 85 (A1) - [Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](http://legislation.gov.uk)

	<p>“CDC welcomes the opportunity to continue to work with Wiltshire Council in [the] future.”</p>
Dorset Council	<p>“Dorset Council work closely with Wiltshire Council on strategic planning matters that have implications that cross the boundary between the two authority areas. We intend to continue this working relationship so that the growth proposed through the councils’ local plans can be planned for appropriately.”</p>
New Forest National Park Authority	<p>“We consider this to be an accurate reflection of the cross-boundary issues and, overall, consider Wiltshire Council to have met its legal duty to cooperate with the New Forest National Park Authority.”</p>
Somerset Council	<p>“Somerset Council will continue to engage as a unitary authority through the ‘duty to co-operate’ or other mechanisms for dialogue if the formal DTC changes in the future. It is also noted in DTC report, Wiltshire Council will seek formal SoCG with neighbouring authorities prior to submission.</p> <p>Somerset would expect that the broad areas of engagement will include development plans strategic transport and any future minerals and waste plan reviews.”</p>
Swindon Borough Council	<p>“Swindon Borough Council looks forward to continuing to work with Wiltshire Council to effectively manage cross boundary issues and provide a positive approach to addressing shared matters and future opportunities. Swindon shares many cross-over issues with Wiltshire including environment, transport, housing, employment and access to services and facilities, particularly given our close physical connections and history of joint working.”</p> <p>“The challenges we all face more widely in tackling climate change and delivering high quality place-making and prosperity for communities within England may require the co-development of longer range thinking about plan strategies and areas for further joint working.”</p> <p>“SBC would suggest that further work through Duty to Co-operate is required on plan evidence both for the Wiltshire Plan and emerging Swindon Local plan on this important transport and economic corridor and potential growth areas.”</p> <p>“Practical work could be undertaken by the two authorities on updated employment land evidence through a corridor study approach and Duty to Co-operate arrangements.”</p> <p>“SBC looks forward to working jointly with Wiltshire Council on strategic infrastructure planning.”</p> <p>“SBC is engaging through Duty to Cooperate with Wiltshire Council and other stakeholders including National Highways over the growth strategy</p>

	<p>for the market town and the delivery of Policy 47". "SBC is keen to work further with Wiltshire Council on strategic growth and infrastructure issues within this area and is generally supportive of active travel and public transport ambitions for this area."</p> <p>"Both Councils have a positive working relationship on plan-making and strategic issues and there has been good joint work delivered (alongside Cotswold DC)". "SBC is also supported by Wiltshire Council on strategic matters concerning minerals and waste planning and SBC while at earlier stages in the production of its next consultation plan is engaging with neighbouring LPAs and stakeholders on its emerging updated evidence base for plan-making".</p>
<p>Test Valley Borough Council</p>	<p>"We welcome the opportunity to comment and work together in collaboration with Wiltshire Council on strategic planning matters, policies and cross boundary issues, including in particular with the proposed development allocation at Ludgershall: Policy 40, Land South East of Empress Way, Ludgershall."</p> <p>"We therefore request that a specific reference is also made to working with TVBC on this matter in this regard, as LPA, to reflect the ongoing working between our authorities." - in relation to Policy 40 concerning the delivery of the access from Andover Road</p> <p>"We would wish to work together with you, to support delivery of the proposed development allocation (Policy 40) in Wiltshire, and also if Test Valley looks to allocate land on our side of the administrative boundary at Ludgershall through our Local Plan 2040, working together as part of the Duty to Cooperate process." - in relation to the delivery of development on the Test Valley/Wiltshire administrative boundary</p> <p>"We therefore wish to continue to engage with you on the masterplanning of potential future development at Ludgershall, together with the phasing and delivery of consequent infrastructure and community facilities" - in relation to the delivery of development on the Test Valley/Wiltshire administrative boundary</p> <p>"We would also wish to continue to engage with you in meeting our obligations under the Habitats Regulations to ensure that the status of internationally designated nature conservation sites is protected in the context of local plan development proposals..." - in relation to Sailsbury Plain SPA, Avon SAC and Solent Region SPA, SAC and Ramsar</p> <p>"We look forward to continuing our engagement on our emerging local plans. Please keep us informed of progress and any areas for further collaboration."</p>
<p>National Highways</p>	<p>"National Highways would therefore welcome further discussion with Wiltshire Council to better understand potential SRN impacts, and the risks associated with current funding constraints for infrastructure." ... "We therefore look forward to continuing to work with you to develop an appropriate and robust evidence base which will ensure we are able to</p>

	respond positively to the plan as it progresses.” - <i>in relation to ongoing joint working assessing the impact to the Strategic Road Network</i>
Natural England	“We recognise and support the new commitments in the Local Plan to managing water resources sustainably and will continue to work with Wessex Water, Environment Agency and your Authority to reach the level of certainty required.”
NHS	<p>“We would welcome further engagement with the council to on this issue to determine a reasonable cost assumption that could be used in future viability assessments.” - <i>in relation to future development making financial contributions to mitigate health impacts</i></p> <p>“We would welcome the opportunity to work with the Council to further refine the Infrastructure Delivery Plan and Schedule prior to submission of the Plan for examination.” - <i>in relation to the delivery of healthcare infrastructure</i></p> <p>“We would welcome further engagement in the coming months in relation to the above...”</p>

3. Strategic Matters: Update

3.1. Within the Duty to Cooperate Report (September 2023), a series of five topics which summarise the key cross boundary strategic issues that are being addressed through the duty to cooperate process were established. These five topics have received minor factual wording amendments for the 2024 Addendum (topics 2 and 3). For clarity, these topics are outlined below:

1. Cross boundary local housing need and employment requirements.
2. Recreational/Visitor Pressure from new Development on the New Forest Internationally Designated Nature Conservation Sites.
3. Mitigation of impact on Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) including impacts on protected bats and Special Areas of Protection (SPA).
4. Address and manage phosphate levels in the Hampshire Avon.
5. Impacts on and improvements to the strategic road network.

3.2. The following section sets out the Regulation 19 responses¹² and resulting discussions which the Council has had with its Strategic Partners on the above key topics, in addition to further discussion on specific issues which do not fall within the above topics but nonetheless have formed a key part of the Duty to Cooperate process, these additional topics cover discussions on: Flood Risk; Historic Environment; and, the Cotswold Water Park.

¹² Regulation 19 comments within this document are summaries only and are limited to cross boundary issues.

- 3.3. The discussions set out within this section cover the period following the publication of Duty to Cooperate Report (September 2023), which was published at the beginning of the Regulation 19 consultation on the draft Plan, and thus encompasses discussions resulting from responses to the Regulation 19 process and continued discussion on the ongoing issues covered within Appendix 2 of the September 2023 Duty to Cooperate Report.
- 3.4. In addition to the discussions had with Strategic Partners, the following section also covers the activities that have taken place to address any outstanding issues previously covered within Appendix 2 of the September 2023 Duty to Cooperate Report in addition to issues raised during the Regulation 19 process and the outcomes of these activities and any on-going cooperation.

Topic 1: Cross Boundary Local Housing Need and Employment Requirements

- 3.5. Topic 1 includes the following sub-issues which have been topics for cross boundary discussion with Strategic Partners:
 - a. Local housing need
 - b. Employment requirements
 - c. Kemble Airfield
 - d. Health facility provision relating to housing allocations

Topic 1: Cross Boundary Local Housing Need and Employment Requirements
Sub-issue a: local housing need
Previous position summary (additional information can be found within the September 2023 Duty to Cooperate Report)
As outlined at the Regulation 18 stage, the Plan is a review of the adopted Local Plan (the Wiltshire Core Strategy) and will meet the objectively assessed housing and employment needs set out in evidence. In this regard the Council are satisfied that all needs can be met within Wiltshire and this position has been maintained through dialogue and Statements of Common Ground with neighbouring local planning authorities.
A key cross boundary consideration is to review whether the level of housing and employment required to deliver the scale of growth necessary over the plan period can be achieved in the local authority area, and to discuss with neighbouring authorities whether they can meet their own needs in their areas. The council has engaged with neighbouring authorities throughout the preparation of the Local Plan review and this process will continue with Statements of Common Ground being developed with neighbouring authorities where necessary.
Early in the Local Plan process, Wiltshire Council worked jointly with Swindon Borough Council on a joint spatial framework and produced evidence documents with Swindon Borough Council. Subsequently, a Statement of Common Ground was prepared with Swindon Borough Council

that outlined an understanding of the complementary nature of the Council’s respective Local Plans. Swindon Borough Council are now gathering further evidence to inform their own Local Plan preparation.	
Regulation 19	
Category	Details
Strategic planning issue	To ensure that the Plan will facilitate a level of housing delivery to meet identified local needs. Where this is not possible or where a neighbouring authority faces constraints which would prevent the delivery of an appropriate level of housing, consider and plan for the delivery of cross boundary housing development under the Duty to Cooperate.
Responses received from Strategic Partners at the Regulation 19 stage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swindon Borough Council (SBC) • Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC) • Bath & North East Somerset (B&NES) • Dorset Council (DC) • New Forest District Council (NFDC) • New Forest National Park Authority (NFNP)
Key issues identified from the representations	<p>Swindon Borough Council</p> <p>SBC suggested in their Regulation 19 representation that the Plan should include policy to facilitate the delivery of urban extensions and the new community option, with suggestions made that, at a strategic level, land traditionally referred to as ‘West of Swindon’¹³ presents itself as a natural option for further detailed evaluation through the SA process.</p> <p>It is suggested that the Plan also needs to be clearer on what is developable within the Plan period and how this will come forward within a timely manner to support housing and economic growth within Wiltshire over the long-term. This could include more site-specific policies including evidence they are developable.</p> <p>Test Valley Borough Council</p> <p>Considering the scale and location of the proposed allocation at Ludgershall and the need to potentially address cross-border issues, such as highway connections, it will be imperative that a masterplan is carefully conceived. This will need to involve working closely with TVBC on matters to be addressed in the proposed masterplan, including coverage of wider infrastructure requirements, phasing and delivery, of the proposed allocation at land South East of Empress Way, Ludgershall (Policy 40). There will need to be ongoing dialogue in relation to any future allocations coming forward on the Test Valley side of the border at Ludgershall, including close collaboration on meeting cross boundary requirements,</p>

¹³ Land to the West of Swindon, but within north Wiltshire, has in previous local plans, been identified as a suitable location for housing development to meet the needs of Swindon. However, since the adoption of the Wiltshire Core Strategy (January 2005), the committed 900 homes have now been built out.

	<p>including in relation to transport and education and other strategic infrastructure and place-shaping matters.</p> <p>Paragraph 4.198 makes reference to future growth of Ludgershall in Test Valley. TVBC state this should be determined through Test Valley Local Plan process. Where practicable this should be achieved through further dialogue with TVBC and Hampshire County Council.</p> <p>Bath and North East Somerset Noted that broad locations for growth are intended to be identified towards the end of the Plan period. B&NES request ongoing dialogue on this matter together with continued monitoring of housing and employment space and its implications to be jointly kept under review.</p> <p>Dorset Council DC stated that the levels of growth in northern parts of Dorset (around Shaftesbury) and corresponding committed growth in southwestern Wiltshire have been discussed previously and that no significant issues associated with this growth have been identified during these discussions. However, the implementation of planned bus routes in the local area are essential to facilitate a coordinated approach to housing delivery and manage educational pressures.</p> <p>New Forest District Council NFDC question whether a sufficient number of sites are allocated to meet needs in the Salisbury Housing Market Area. Whilst the broad approach of providing a new settlement later in the Plan period to bridge this need is supported, there is uncertainty as to whether the settlement would be of sufficient scale to be self-contained.</p> <p>New Forest National Park Authority NFNPA comment that there is not an unmet housing need arising from the Wiltshire area of the National Park. It was identified that the NFNPA had no quantified figure for unmet housing need that it may look to Wiltshire Council to contribute. No objections were raised to the Council's proposed approach to housing in the Salisbury and Salisbury rural area strategies.</p>
Post Regulation 19	
Category	Details
Activities in response to representations	<p>Swindon Borough Council Cooperation between Wiltshire Council and Swindon Borough Council has been longstanding and focused on shared strategic priorities, including meeting local housing needs. Whilst SBC's Local Plan is still at an earlier stage of development as they have started a new Local Plan (rather than</p>

review), meetings have occurred to discuss the options for growth they are testing.

Swindon Borough Council noted in their comments that options for growth around the West of Swindon area could have been more rigorously tested as an option. However, Wiltshire Council considered it had already tested a number of options for the distribution of growth through a range of Alternative Development Strategies within each of Wiltshire's Housing Market Areas. Within the Swindon Housing Market Area, potential options for growth West of Swindon were tested through the sustainability appraisal that supported the Regulation 18 and 19 consultations. This process identified some environment constraints and risks of coalescence of the Swindon urban area with outlying settlements, and a strategy to increase the existing scale of growth west of Swindon was not pursued.

As both authorities are still seeking to meet housing needs within their respective areas, there is no need to revisit this conclusion.

A Statement of Common Ground is being prepared to cover matters being addressed by both Councils through Local Plans. Dialogue on strategic priorities including the delivery of infrastructure to support development has principally taken place within meetings held on 6th December 2023 and 6th February 2024 and is intended to continue.

Test Valley Borough Council / Hampshire County Council

Since closure of the Regulation 19 consultation on the draft Plan, dialogue with TVBC has focused on proposals for growth at Ludgershall, with meetings being held with both Test Valley Borough Council and Hampshire County Council on 25th March (Test Valley Borough Council only), 6th June and 16th September 2024. The Regulation 18 (Stage 2) draft of the Test Valley Local Plan proposes allocating land at Ludgershall. Whilst this proposal may change as TVBC progress their Local Plan, there is agreement between Wiltshire Council and TVBC that a masterplanned approach will be advocated to ensure that development is appropriately phased alongside the delivery of road improvements and wider infrastructure.

Officers have met with Hampshire County Council and National Highways to agree the scope of commissioned highways assessments. This commissioned work has also been discussed with TVBC.

New Forest District Council and New Forest National Park

Ongoing and meaningful dialogue with the NFDC and NFNPA has been undertaken through the preparation of the Plan. Whilst it is acknowledged

	<p>that the Plan does identify land to meet housing needs, it is common ground with the New Forest authorities that development potential is limited by complex environmental (nutrient loading and ammonia deposition) and heritage constraints. The Plan proposes a stepped approach to delivery to allow for mitigation measures to address impacts on the integrity of European designated sites in the area (the River Avon, River Test and River Itchen catchments). These issues also underline why the Plan proposes an Area of Search for a new settlement in the south Wiltshire area.</p> <p>There is common ground between parties that there is an agreed mitigation strategy to manage recreational pressure and that is dealt with in the submitted Habitats Regulations Assessment.</p> <p>Dorset Council The management of development around Shaftesbury (northeast Dorset) and southwest Wiltshire has been a longstanding matter of strategic importance, which is agreed to be kept under review. The Councils are agreed on the need to deliver planned bus improvements in the local area.</p> <p>Bath and North East Somerset The Councils have engaged in meaningful dialogue through their respective plan making cycles. There is common ground between the Councils that both authorities were planning to meet their respective housing needs. However, in recent dialogue, B&NES have expressed that they are now reassessing the timetable for delivering their Local Plan. At this stage, it is not clear if this will be an issue for either authority, but there is a commitment to maintain dialogue and resolve any issues through ongoing correspondence, where appropriate. Meetings held with Bath and North East Somerset on 15th November 2023 and 14th March, 11th June and 10th September 2024 has allowed for an open dialogue with the Council to convey any cross-boundary issues.</p>
Ongoing activity and collaboration	On matters relating to meeting strategic housing needs, ongoing dialogue with respective authorities will be maintained through the examination of the Plan. In addition, Statements of Common Ground are in the process of being prepared and will be submitted to assist the examination by signposting evidence in relation to the legal duty and any matters agreed between parties.

Topic 1: Cross Boundary Local Housing Need and Employment Requirements
Sub-issue b: employment requirements
Previous position summary (additional information can be found within the September 2023 Duty to Cooperate Report)

Wiltshire is comprised of three Functional Economic Market Areas (FEMAs): the A303 FEMA, the A350 FEMA and the M4/Swindon FEMA. The FEMAs are not constrained to Wiltshire Council's administrative boundary, and instead extend into areas of neighbouring authorities, with the most pronounced example of this arguably being the M4/Swindon FEMA. The M4/Swindon FEMA is the Wiltshire part of a larger Swindon-centred FEMA, which looks east towards Reading and the South-East of England driven by the influence of Swindon. Given the cross-boundary nature of the FEMAs, the associated employment opportunities delivered within these areas represents a key area of ongoing engagement between neighbouring local authorities through the duty to cooperate.

Regulation 19

Category	Details
Strategic planning issue	To ensure that the Plan will facilitate the delivery of an appropriate level and choice of employment land to meet forecast needs.
Responses received from Strategic Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Swindon Borough Council (SBC)
Key issues identified from the representations	<p>Swindon Borough Council</p> <p>Clarity is needed on whether the Plan meets employment growth needs, particularly on the M4 corridor. With respect to the A350 and M4/Swindon FEMAs, SBC has suggested that references within the Employment Land Review to 23ha as a reasonable notional figure as an indicator of demand is informal and notional. SBC has summarised that the plan needs to be clearer on whether it meets employment growth needs and the extent of employment needs within the M4 corridor, in particular. SBC has suggested that practical work could be undertaken by the two authorities on updated employment land evidence through a corridor study approach looking at the M4 corridor.</p>

Post Regulation 19

Category	Details
Activities in response to representations	<p>The Regulation 19 draft Local Plan attracted comments from SBC and several site promoters, including those promoting strategic logistics on major road junctions. The challenges raised predominantly related to how much employment land is being planned for, as well specific land proposals relating to Junctions 16 and 17.</p> <p>In terms of SBC's comments, it is acknowledged that they have economic growth aspirations, which will be clarified in their emerging Local Plan in due course. Whilst there may be more opportunities that could have been explored in the north Wiltshire area around Swindon, there are constraints with the ability of Junction 16 to accommodate growth and the focus should be on meeting local needs ahead of demand for regional or national logistics. The Plan nonetheless addresses the evidence of employment needs (90-120ha). Moreover, the Plan offers contingency and flexibility to</p>

	<p>allow for choice to meet market signals. Meetings have been held with SBC since their Regulation 19 response to discuss concerns raised and cross boundary matters, including on 6th December 2023 and 6th February 2024.</p> <p>In terms of strategic logistics, the Plan at draft Policy 64 is evidentially led and considered to be a positive policy response. Clearly any additional logistics development proposals at J17 of the M4 will need to be supported by robust evidence and appropriate mitigation as anticipated in draft Policy 64. Accordingly, whilst SBC's position on logistics development is acknowledged, Wiltshire Council considers its Plan is founded on sound evidence and takes a measured approach to responding to the sector's needs.</p>
Ongoing activity and collaboration	<p>On matters relating to meeting strategic employment needs, ongoing dialogue with SBC will be maintained through the examination of the Plan. In addition, a Statement of Common Ground is in the process of being prepared and will be submitted to assist the examination by signposting evidence in relation to the legal duty and any matters agreed between parties on the quantum of employment land being planned for in Wiltshire and Swindon.</p>

Topic 1: Cross Boundary Local Housing Need and Employment Requirements	
Sub-issue c: Kemble Airfield	
Previous position summary (additional information can be found within the September 2023 Duty to Cooperate Report)	
<p>Kemble Airfield represents a key cross boundary employment issue between Wiltshire Council and Cotswold District Council, with the airfield acting as a key employment site straddling the boundary of the two authorities. Wiltshire's approach to Kemble Airfield is to not progress with any plan changes specifically in relation to Kemble due to its rural location, however, the policies within the Plan have a flexible approach to employment at smaller villages. This approach is not understood to conflict with Cotswold District Council. The plan for reuse of MOD sites is to use existing buildings rather than adding.</p>	
Regulation 19	
Category	Details
Strategic planning issue	To consider and, where appropriate, collaborate on cross-boundary issues to ensure a collaborative approach to plan preparation.
Responses received from Strategic Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cotswold District Council (CDC)
Key issues identified from the representations	<p>Cotswold District Council</p> <p>CDC highlighted continued employment at RAF Kemble airfield (Cotswold Airport) as being of particular interest, however, raised no specific objection.</p>
Post Regulation 19	
Category	Details

Activities in response to representations	No further activity undertaken in relation to progressing plans specific to Kemble Airfield, with draft Policy 66 providing a strategy for redundant military establishments. Cotswold District Council have raised no concerns in response to this approach.
Ongoing activity and collaboration	Development at Kemble Airfield will be provided through district wide policies. Wiltshire remains open to cross boundary working with CDC should any cross-boundary issues relating to Kemble Airfield arise in the run up to the submission of the Plan for examination.

Topic 1: Cross Boundary Local Housing Need and Employment Requirements

Sub-issue d: health facility provision relating to housing allocations

Previous position summary (additional information can be found within the September 2023 Duty to Cooperate Report)

One of the key elements of sustainable growth is the provision of appropriate new healthcare provision to meet newly created demand where necessary. To account for this, provision is made at Policy 5, Securing Infrastructure Provision from New Development, to secure the timely delivery of new infrastructure to support development proposals. This is carried forward within the area strategies which identify health infrastructure to be delivered alongside allocations and other policies in the plan. The delivery of an appropriate level of infrastructure necessitates joint working with the Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire Integrated Care Board and NHS Property Services (collectively referred to as ‘the NHS’), who are well placed to identify the implications of the Local Plan on healthcare infrastructure and services in the local area.

Engagement with the NHS to date has been ongoing throughout the preparation of the Wiltshire Local Plan Review, primarily constituting the sharing of information about primary care provision in the main towns across Wiltshire which was used to inform the council’s Regulation 18 stage and provision of the latest position for NHS development sites in Wiltshire. Wiltshire has subsequently worked with the NHS in 2022 and 2023, with the NHS providing additional information about primary care provision in the main towns and the rural areas to inform the drafting of the Plan.

Regulation 19

Category	Details
Strategic planning issue	To ensure that sufficient healthcare infrastructure is provided to support planned growth.
Responses received from Strategic Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NHS Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire Integrated Care Board (NHS BSW ICB) NHS Property Services (NHS PS)
Key issues identified from the representations	<p>NHS BSW ICB</p> <p>It has been identified that area strategies should more consistently identify board areas of healthcare provision, with Policies 6 and 55 for principal settlements Chippenham and Trowbridge respectively not including provisions to secure funding for healthcare despite the IDP identifying key healthcare projects in these locations. Concern is additionally raised for</p>

	<p>market towns (Policies 9, 17, 39, 47, 58 and 60) where significant levels of housing growth is identified, whereby it is suggested that a more consistent approach is required to securing funding from development for necessary healthcare provision via amendments to policy wording. Further engagement is requested on resulting modifications to policy wording.</p> <p>NHS BSW ICB & NHS PS</p> <p>Concern is raised regarding the provisions of Policy 81, which are considered to be overly restrictive insofar as the impact it will have on the NHS's ability to change the use of NHS facilities as a method to release funding for reinvestment in facilities and services for the community. It is suggested that the wording of Policy 81 be amended to provide the NHS with the flexibility it requires regarding the use of its estate to support long term objectives.</p> <p>Concern is raised that the securing of funding for healthcare via planning obligations will result in healthcare funding competing with other infrastructure. Suggested that a preferred approach would be akin to the approach taken for education funding, via a separate cost input. Changes to the IDP are suggested in support of this approach, with the v3 2016 IDP being highlighted as an example which included detail on the approach to calculating infrastructure requirements for primary care provision to give greater clarity to developers in determining funding for healthcare contributions. It has been requested that Wiltshire Council engage with the NHS BSWICB and NHS PS on a review of the current IDP.</p>
Post Regulation 19	
Category	Details
Activities in response to representations	<p>Following comments received at Regulation 19, Wiltshire Council engaged with the NHS on 11th November 2023 and 27th June 2024 to seek to address concerns raised at Regulation 19. Within the meeting held on 27th June 2024, it was agreed that Wiltshire Council would provide the NHS with updated housing statistics to analyse and share their findings with the Council. The results of the analysis will feed into any necessary amendments to the IDP and will be reflected within the statement of common ground, which is currently being drafted by the NHS, to be shared with Wiltshire Council for review at a later date.</p> <p>Additionally, a schedule of minor amendments to the wording of the plan will be submitted to the inspector which shall cover off wording amendments recommended by the NHS where considered necessary. This will be informed by the statement of common ground.</p>
Ongoing activity and collaboration	Wiltshire Council will continue to positively engage with the NHS to finalise the draft statement of common ground and intend to continue to attend meetings to discuss issues of relevance to the NHS.

Topic 2: Recreational/Visitor Pressure from new Development on the New Forest Internationally Designated Nature Conservation Sites

3.6. Topic 2 includes the following sub-issues which have been topics for cross boundary discussion with Strategic Partners:

- a. Mitigation to offset recreational and visitor pressure from new development on the New Forest internationally designated sites, comprising the New Forest Special Protection Area (SPA), New Forest Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and New Forest Ramsar site (hereafter referred to as the New Forest designated sites).

Topic 2: Recreational/Visitor Pressure from new Development on the New Forest Internationally Designated Nature Conservation Sites

Sub-issue a: Mitigation to offset recreational and visitor pressure from new development on the New Forest internationally designated sites, comprising the New Forest Special Protection Area (SPA), New Forest Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and New Forest Ramsar site (hereafter referred to as the New Forest designated sites)

Previous position summary (additional information can be found within the September 2023 Duty to Cooperate Report)

Joint working as part of the New Forest Mitigation Project Steering Group ('the steering group') has been undertaken to inform the preparation of the Plan. As covered within paragraphs 3.19-3.21 of the main document to which this document is appended, this involved working with Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council, Dorset Council, Eastleigh Borough Council, Natural England, New Forest District Council, New Forest National Park Authority, Southampton City Council and Test Valley Borough Council on mitigating the 'in-combination' recreational use impacts arising from new development that impacts on the New Forest designated sites. A Memorandum of Understanding was prepared in 2022 which describes how each planning authority within the identified 13.8km 'zone of influence' will ensure that additional recreational impacts arising from new residential and other forms of overnight accommodation development within their planning area are mitigated so that new development does not have an adverse impact on the New Forest designated sites.

The Councils that sit on the steering group had jointly commissioned Footprint Ecology to produce a report (New Forest Strategic Access Management and Monitoring Report October 2023) to be informed by the undertaking of visitor surveys; updating of evidence regarding recreational effects from planned development on the New Forest designated sites; and the undertaking of research into the potential approaches to mitigation. This report had not yet been finalised when the September 2023 Duty to Cooperate Report was produced.

Separate to Wiltshire's response to Regulation 19 comments and further engagement addressed below, it is relevant to note that on 7th May 2024, Cabinet approved revised mitigation measures

<p>to manage recreational pressures on the New Forest protected sites, which included the requirement for Strategic Access Management and Monitoring (SAMM) measures for all residential and tourism/visitor accommodation development with the 13.8km zone of influence. Evidence for this change has come from the New Forest SAMM report by Footprint Ecology which was commissioned by all local planning authorities lying within the 13.8km zone to find a consistent strategic approach to mitigation.</p>	
<p>Regulation 19</p>	
Category	Details
Strategic planning issue	To ensure that the recreational impacts of new residential and overnight accommodation development are mitigated so that new development does not have an adverse impact on the New Forest SAC, SPA and Ramsar site.
Responses received from Strategic Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural England (NE) • New Forest District Council (NFDC) • New Forest National Park Authority (NFNPA)
Key issues identified from the representations	<p>Natural England</p> <p>Natural England have noted a heavy reliance upon Suitable Areas of Natural Greenspace (SANG) within policies for site allocations. Additionally, it has been advised that clarity is needed over SANG in policy terms and in terms of its deliverability, with some concern raised over the size of some allocations and their ability to deliver on-site SANG.</p> <p>New Forest District Council</p> <p>It is acknowledged that allocations for some 590 dwellings via Policies 24, 26, 27 and 28 will fall within the 13.8km visitor catchment area for the New Forest SPA/SAC/Ramsar sites, leading to a consequential recreational impact on the New Forst SPA/SAC/Ramsar sites, unless appropriately mitigated. Whilst the approach of utilising SANGs to mitigate the impact of this planned development is supported, it has been suggested that further clarity be provided with respect to how windfall development within the catchment area will mitigate their recreational impact. It is suggested that the wording of Policy 88 be amended to require all development within the catchment to fully mitigate/address their recreational impacts in accordance with Wiltshire’s New Forest Mitigation Strategy.</p> <p>New Forest National Park Authority</p> <p>It has been noted that the draft Plan makes provision for circa 800 net new dwellings within the 13.8km ‘zone of influence’ from the New Forest’s designated sites (policy allocations, redevelopments and windfall). Although reference is made within the draft Plan to a ‘New Forest Mitigation Strategy’ (2023) which has been updated following consultation with Natural England, the updated Mitigation Strategy was not made available for the Regulation 19 consultation – this should be submitted to the examining inspector and consultees and should address the impacts of windfall development, site allocations and other forms of additional overnight accommodation to</p>

	<p>ensure legal compliance. Despite this, based on Wiltshire’s interim mitigation strategy and the HRA and appropriate assessment, the National Park Authority supports the main elements of the Council’s mitigation strategy for recreational impacts on the New Forest, which is consistent with the approach adopted by other local authorities, including the requirements for on-site SANG for sites of over 50 dwellings, contributions from smaller sites towards SANG provision and requirement for all development to contribute towards strategic access management and monitoring measures within the New Forest’s designated sites. Support is also given to Policy 29.</p>
<p>Post Regulation 19</p>	
Category	Details
<p>Activities in response to representations</p>	<p>Following the Regulation 19 Consultation, a report (New Forest Strategic Access Management and Monitoring Strategy (henceforth referred to as the ‘SAMM Strategy’)) commissioned by Test Valley Borough Council on behalf of BCP Council, Dorset Council, Eastleigh Borough Council, Fareham Borough Council, Forestry England, Natural England, New Forest District Council, New Forest National Park Authority, Southampton City Council, Test Valley Borough Council and Wiltshire Council (this group of local councils and bodies is henceforth referred to as ‘the steering group’) was circulated in October 2023 with the steering group for review. This version of the report for review followed multiple former draft versions which were circulated with the steering group for comment/discussion. The purpose of the report was to recommend a package of mitigation measures to address additional recreational impacts from new development across the 13.8km zone of influence upon the New Forest designated sites.</p> <p>A joint New Forest SAMM Strategy is being prepared by the steering group. In order to progress this, a series of meetings were held between the members of the partnership and a smaller working group (Wiltshire Council, New Forest National Park Authority and Natural England (henceforth referred to as ‘the working group’)) on 13th and 16th November 2023 and 7th February, 8th March, 20th June, 18th July and 5th September 2024. Additionally, Wiltshire Council has also been involved in meetings with Natural England on a bi-weekly basis which has been used to facilitate regular engagement and inform on progress of ecological issues, such as recreational impacts on the New Forest protected sites.</p> <p>The meetings between the steering group allowed for feedback on the SAMM Strategy prepared by Footprint Ecology and the progression of a joint standalone New Forest SAMM Strategy (as supported by Natural England), as opposed to an SPD, to deliver sufficient mitigation across all authorities within the steering group. The joint mitigation strategy has been pulled together by the working group and shared with the wider steering group for review and comment. Comments on the joint strategy from the</p>

	<p>wider steering group were reviewed on 5th September and the joint strategy is now in its final stages of drafting.</p> <p>Wiltshire are progressing a separate revised recreational mitigation strategy document which will cover the requirements in respect of SANG provision within Wiltshire and the matters approved by Cabinet in May 2024. This strategy needs to align with the joint New Forest SANG Strategy being prepared by the joint working group and so has been progressed concurrently with the joint strategy. Wiltshire's revised strategy document sets out the mitigation requirements for windfall development which falls within the New Forest protected sites zone of influence. Provision for windfall development will address concerns raised by both New Forest District Council and New Forest National Park Authority raised at Regulation 19 over how additional unplanned windfall development would be managed. This approach has been covered within the meetings between the steering group and the working group, and the steering group were briefed on the report that went to Cabinet well in advance.</p>
<p>Ongoing activity and collaboration</p>	<p>Moving forward, the joint New Forest SANG Strategy will be finalised and published within the coming months and used to guide mitigation required from new development within the zone of influence of the New Forest protected areas. The joint strategy will be adopted by all councils within the steering group and contributions will be sought from new overnight development within the 13.8km zone of influence on a sliding scale based on the proximity of a given council's area to the New Forest designated sites.</p> <p>The joint New Forest SANG Strategy will be brought forward alongside Wiltshire Council's strategy for SANG provision within Wiltshire, which will be used to ensure that windfall development also makes contributions towards SANG provision, be it on-site provision or contributions depending on the scale of the site and any relevant site-specific constraints.</p> <p>Statements of common ground are being prepared with Dorset Council, New Forest District Council, New Forest National Park Authority, Test Valley Borough Council and Natural England which shall cover any remaining areas of disagreement in relation to comments received at Regulation 19, in addition to covering the progress on mitigating recreational pressure on the New Forest designated sites where relevant.</p>

Topic 3: Mitigation of impact on Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) including impacts on protected bats and Special Areas of Protection (SPA)

3.7. Topic 3 includes the following sub-issues which have been topics for cross boundary discussion with Strategic Partners:

- a. North Meadow Special Area of Conservation (SAC) mitigation
- b. Mitigation to offset impact of development on protected bat species: Bath and Bradford on Avon SAC
- c. Mitigation of impact on Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) including impacts on protected bats and Special Areas of Protection (SPA)
- d. Managing risk of nutrient pollution in the River Test catchment/Solent protected sites

Topic 3: mitigation of impact on Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) including impacts on protected bats and Special Areas of Protection (SPA)	
Sub-issue a: North Meadow Special Area of Conservation (SAC) mitigation	
Previous position summary (additional information can be found within the September 2023 Duty to Cooperate Report)	
Prior to Regulation 19, joint working between Cotswold District Council, Swindon Borough Council, Wiltshire Council and Natural England was undertaken in respect to the North Meadow part of the North Meadow and Clattinger Farm Special Area of Conservation (SAC) which culminated in the preparation of the North Meadow and Clattinger Farm Special Area of Conservation Interim Recreation Mitigation Strategy 2023-2028 (May 2023) (IRMS). The Strategy represents an approach to mitigate recreational impacts, associated with new developments, on the North Meadow component area of the SAC.	
Regulation 19	
Category	Details
Strategic planning issue	To ensure that the recreational impacts of new residential and overnight accommodation development are mitigated so that new development does not have an adverse impact on the North Meadow and Clattinger Farm SAC.
Responses received from Strategic Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural England • Cotswold District Council
Key issues identified from the representations	<p>Across several policies it is suggested that policy should stipulate that contributions should be made to help offset increased recreational pressure on reserves/assist with reserve management. - <i>Natural England</i></p> <p>Cotswold District Council have worked with Wiltshire Council and Swindon Borough Council to prepare a recreational impacts mitigation strategy focusing on the North Meadow component area of the SAC. This strategy enables development to come forward that might otherwise impact negatively on the SAC and that will also ensure that further accessible</p>

	greenspaces and opportunities for local people and visitors are enhanced or created. - <i>Cotswold District Council</i>
Post Regulation 19	
Category	Details
Activities in response to representations	<p>Wiltshire Council has maintained regular engagement with both Cotswold District Council, Swindon Borough Council and Natural England following the Regulation 19 consultation through engagement in quarterly North Meadow Recreational Mitigation Strategy Steering Group Meetings. Additionally, Wiltshire Council has benefitted from bi-weekly meetings with Natural England which has been used to facilitate regular engagement and inform on progress of ecological issues, such as recreational impacts on the North Meadow component area of the SAC.</p> <p>Further meetings between the steering group have facilitated additional joint working, with the meeting held on 10th October 2023 allowing the Councils to respectively confirm that Cotswolds District Council had adopted the IRMS on 19th June 2023, that Swindon Borough Council had adopted the IRMS on 13th July 2023 and that Wiltshire Council was due to adopt the IRMS on 17th October 2023. The IRMS was subsequently adopted by Wiltshire Council in October 2023. The IRMS will be in place until 2028, and data collected as part of the monitoring elements of the IRMS will enable the strategy to be reviewed moving forwards.</p> <p>Following the adoption of the IRMS, the steering group continued to meet on 23rd January 2024, 16th April 2024 and 9th July 2024. Over the course of these meetings drafting was commenced on a Memorandum of Understanding between the three Councils to facilitate further joint working moving forward, in addition to the exploration of additional project opportunities in line with the mitigation strategy and discussion over the indexing of funds to be received from qualifying development within the zone of influence.</p>
Ongoing activity and collaboration	<p>In line with index-linking funds to be secured from new development, a statement is due to be released annually which shall update the funding to be secured from development. Furthermore, work will continue on the Memorandum of Understanding, and additional joint working will take place into the future over the lifespan of the IRMS to provide annual updates related to index-linking, the management of funds gained from the charges on qualifying development and review of the data collected as part of the monitoring elements of the IRMS to develop a future strategy for the North Meadow and Clattinger Farm SAC. The next steering group meeting is due to take place on 1st October 2024.</p> <p>Additionally, Wiltshire Council are in the process of preparing statements of common ground with Swindon Borough Council and Natural England. A</p>

	statement of common ground was signed with Cotswold District Council on 15 th September 2024.
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Topic 3: Mitigation of impact on Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) including impacts on protected bats and Special Areas of Protection (SPA)	
Sub-issue b: mitigation to offset impact on development on protected bat species: Bath and Bradford on Avon SAC	
Previous position summary (additional information can be found within the September 2023 Duty to Cooperate Report)	
<p>The Bath and Bradford on Avon Bats SAC is designated for supporting internationally important populations of hibernating greater horseshoe, lesser horseshoe and Bechstein’s bat. The Bath and Bradford on Avon Bats SAC is comprised of a network of significant underground sites in both the Wiltshire and Bath and North East Somerset administrative areas, including four nationally important Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) split between both the authority areas. Woodlands to the east and south-east of Trowbridge are known to support a large and internationally significant breeding meta-population of Bechstein’s bat that is functionally and demographically linked to the Bath and Bradford on Avon Bats SAC. It is additionally recognised that the landscape surrounding Trowbridge is important for greater and lesser horseshoe bats, with roosts of conservation significance recorded in the area likely to also be associated with the Bath and Bradford on Avon Bats SAC. Given the cross-boundary nature of the Bath and Bradford on Avon SAC and its associated sites, work to preserve and protect the habitat necessitates cross-boundary work with Bath and North East Somerset via the duty to cooperate process in addition to work with Natural England.</p> <p>The guidance currently in place for the Bath and Bradford on Avon Bats SAC constitutes the Trowbridge Bat Mitigation Strategy SPD (February 2020) and the Bat SAC Planning Guidance for Wiltshire (September 2015). Engagement through the duty to cooperate has predominately occurred within the preparation of the local plan review, from 2017 to 2023 and has constituted emails and meetings. At the point of the September 2023 Duty to Cooperate Report, to which this document is appended, Wiltshire Council were reviewing the Trowbridge Bat Mitigation Strategy SPD (2020) with Natural England.</p>	
Regulation 19	
Category	Details
Strategic planning issue	To ensure that new development would not lead to a detrimental impact on the designated bat populations within the Bath and Bradford on Avon SAC.
Responses received from Strategic Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bath & North East Somerset Council • Natural England
Key issues identified from the representations	Would welcome further cross boundary dialogue with respect to the approach to HRA, particularly within the Bath and BoA Special Area of Conservation. - <i>Bath & North East Somerset Council</i>

	<p>Across several policies it is suggested that policy should stipulate that contributions should be made to help offset increased recreational pressure on reserves/assist with reserve management. - <i>Natural England</i></p> <p>Bradford on Avon specific - NE have outlined its value for ecology and SAC. - <i>Natural England</i></p>
Post Regulation 19	
Category	Details
Activities in response to representations	<p>Wiltshire Council has facilitated regular engagement between the relevant strategic partners Bath and North East Somerset Council (B&NES) and Natural England through quarterly and bi-weekly meetings respectively. Meetings held with B&NES on 15th November 2023 and 14th March, 11th June and 10th September has allowed for an open dialogue with the Council to convey any cross-boundary issues, such as those relating to the Bath and Bradford on Avon Bats SAC where necessary. Additionally, regular bi-weekly meetings with Natural England have facilitated discussion over the SAC and assisted with the review of the Trowbridge Bat Mitigation Strategy SPD (2020) which is currently ongoing.</p>
Ongoing activity and collaboration	<p>The Council is continuing to engage with Natural England to collaborate on reviewing and revising the Trowbridge Bat Mitigation Strategy SPD (2020). Updates may be provided to B&NES via the councils' quarterly meetings, which are intended to continue beyond the submission of the Plan. Additionally, Wiltshire Council is in the process of preparing statements of common ground with both B&NES and Natural England.</p>

Topic 3: Mitigation of impact on Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) including impacts on protected bats and Special Areas of Protection (SPA)	
Sub-issue c: managing the risk of increasing recreational and visitor pressure on the Salisbury Plain SPA	
Position summary (additional information can be found within the September 2023 Duty to Cooperate Report)	
<p>Salisbury Plain is a chalk plateau covering a large proportion of southern and eastern Wiltshire, supporting internationally important populations of rare and declining bird species including the Stone-curlew. The Salisbury Plain Special Protection Area (SPA) and its 6.4km zone of influence (Zol) covers a considerable area of south Wiltshire, extending a small way into the western area of Test Valley borough.</p>	
Regulation 19	
Category	Details
Strategic planning issue	To ensure the plan manages the risk of increasing recreational and visitor pressure on the Salisbury Plain SPA.

Responses received from Strategic Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Test Valley Borough Council
Key issues identified from the representations	<p>Test Valley Borough Council</p> <p>Test Valley Borough Council confirmed that they would wish to continue to engage with Wiltshire Council in meeting our obligations under the Habitats Regulations to ensure that the status the Salisbury Plain SPA is protected in the context of local plan development proposals.</p>
Post Regulation 19	
Category	Details
Activities in response to representations	Wiltshire Council are preparing an SoCG with Test Valley Borough Council which will address matters raised in representations.
Ongoing activity and collaboration	<p>Wiltshire Council have prepared an HRA and Mitigation Strategy for Salisbury Plain SPA (reviewed in June 2024) which sets out the authority's approach to managing recreational impacts on this designation and this has been endorsed by Natural England along with the accompanying strategic HRA.</p> <p>With a view to assisting Test Valley Borough Council with the progression of their emerging Local Plan, Wiltshire Council and Test Valley Borough Council have engaged in discussions about strategies for cross boundary mitigation in relation to this designation and agree that they will continue to work proactively together. Email correspondence regarding Salisbury Plain SPA and cross boundary working has been ongoing between Test Valley Borough Council and Wiltshire Council since November 2023, and to date, meetings have taken place on 5th December 2023, 31st January 2024, 23rd May 2024 and 22nd August 2024. A further upcoming meeting, but with Natural England also in attendance, is being arranged at the request of Test Valley Borough Council and is likely to take place early to mid-October 2024.</p> <p>Additionally, Wiltshire Council has also been involved in meetings with Natural England on a bi-weekly basis which has been used to facilitate regular engagement and inform on progress of ecological issues, such as mitigation to address recreational and visitor impacts on the Salisbury Plain SPA.</p>

Topic 3: Mitigation of impact on Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) including impacts on protected bats and Special Areas of Protection (SPA)
Sub-issue d: managing risk of nutrient pollution in the River Test catchment/Solent protected sites
Position summary (additional information can be found within the September 2023 Duty to Cooperate Report)

The 'Solent Protected Sites' include Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Areas (SPA) and Ramsar sites, known as European sites (formally also referred to as Natura 2000 sites and now known as the national site network). These include: Solent Maritime SAC, Portsmouth Harbour SPA, Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar site, and Chichester and Langstone Harbours SPA and Ramsar Site

A small part of Wiltshire falls within the catchment area of the River Test which drains into the Solent. Since 2019, Natural England has required that new developments within catchments draining to the Solent must be nutrient neutral to prevent additional nutrient loading from urban runoff and sewage. While Wiltshire Council is not the lead authority for the Solent catchment area, the Council maintains an effective working relationship on nutrient matters with the Partnership for South Hampshire (PFSH) comprising of Portsmouth City Council, Southampton City Council, Eastleigh Borough Council, East Hampshire District Council, Fareham Borough Council, Gosport Borough Council, Havant Borough Council, New Forest District Council, New Forest National Park Authority, Test Valley Borough Council, Winchester City Council, and Hampshire County Council.

Regulation 19

Category	Details
Strategic planning issue	To ensure the plan manages the risk of increasing nutrient pollution in the River Test catchment / Solent Protected Sites.
Responses received from Strategic Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Test Valley Borough Council • Natural England
Key issues identified from the representations	<p>Test Valley Borough Council</p> <p>Test Valley Borough Council confirmed that they would wish to continue to engage with Wiltshire Council in meeting our obligations under the Habitats Regulations to ensure that the status of the Solent protected sites are protected in the context of local plan development proposals.</p> <p>Natural England</p> <p>Natural England confirmed that the proposed allocation site at Ludgershall (Policy 40: Land South East of Empress Way) is within the hydrological catchment of the Solent Protected Sites which will require measures to ensure nutrient neutrality.</p>

Post Regulation 19

Category	Details
Activities in response to representations	Wiltshire Council have adopted a strategic nitrogen mitigation scheme ¹⁴ for overnight developments located in the River Test catchment in Wiltshire. The scheme enables nitrogen credits to be purchased for the offset of nitrogen entering the protected watercourse. The credit-based system sits alongside other potential offset solutions such as securing mitigation through private providers, or delivery of bespoke nutrient solutions on-site

¹⁴ Wiltshire Council, Phosphorus and Nitrogen Mitigation, <https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/article/6209/Phosphorus-and-nitrogen-mitigation>

	which must be signed off by Natural England. Wiltshire Council will continue to work collaboratively and constructively with strategic partner bodies. Additionally, Wiltshire Council has bi-weekly meetings with Natural England which serve to facilitate regular engagement and inform on progress of ecological issues, such as mitigation to address nutrient impacts on the River Test and Solent Protected Sites.
Ongoing activity and collaboration	Wiltshire Council are preparing SoCGs with both Test Valley Borough Council and Natural England which will address matters raised in representations, including proposed minor modifications.

Topic 4: Address and manage phosphate levels in the Hampshire Avon

3.8. Topic 4 includes the following sub-issues which have been topics for cross boundary discussion with Strategic Partners:

- a. Mitigation for water quality and nutrient enrichment on the Hampshire Avon

Topic 4: Address and manage phosphate levels in the Hampshire Avon
Sub-issue a: mitigation for water quality and nutrient enrichment on the Hampshire Avon
Previous position summary (additional information can be found within the September 2023 Duty to Cooperate Report)
<p>Abstraction Licensing Strategies indicate that many of Wiltshire’s rivers are over abstracted or over licensed, particularly the Hampshire Avon and Upper Kennet. This puts stress on the natural environment of these rivers that are likely to be exacerbated in the future due to climate change. The issue is of acute concern within the Hampshire Avon due to its status as an internationally important chalk river which is designated as a Special Area of Conservation for its sensitive habitats and species.</p> <p>Currently, phosphorus concentrations exceed the appropriate targets required in the conservation objectives for the River Avon SAC over a number of reaches. It is Wiltshire Council’s role, together with neighbouring authorities for which the catchment of the Hampshire Avon covers, to ensure that new development does not result in non-compliance with SAC water quality targets or compound existing problems of target exceedance and to proactively work to deliver mitigation measures.</p> <p>To date, cross boundary work has been principally delivered through discussions as part of the Hampshire Avon Working Group (HAWG), which includes Natural England; the Environment Agency; New Forest District Council; New Forest National Park Authority; Wessex Water; Test Valley Borough Council; Dorset Council; and Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council.</p>

Additional detail on the work to date as part of the HAWG can be found at paragraphs 3.13 - 3.18 of the main Duty to Cooperate document which this document is appended to.	
Regulation 19	
Category	Details
Strategic planning issue	To consider and, where appropriate, collaborate to ensure phosphate issues on the Hampshire Avon are addressed.
Responses received from Strategic Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural England (NE) • Environment Agency (EA) • Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC)
Key issues identified from the representations	<p>Natural England</p> <p>NE have advised that the Council need to review the policies for residential allocations which fall within the River Avon SAC and Kennet and Lambourn Floodplain SAC catchment. These policies require more consistent and robust policy text, for example “measures aimed at neutralising the levels of phosphates flowing into the River Avon Special area of Conservation (SAC) to improve water quality” should be worded to reflect legal requirements for habitats sites, for example “include measures to demonstrate nutrient neutrality in perpetuity”.</p> <p>Additionally, NE have noted that they are unable to advise that the Water Resource Management Plan (WRMP) can avoid harm to internationally important sites. NE have advised that they will continue to work with Wessex Water, the EA and Wiltshire to reach the level of certainty required.</p> <p>Environment Agency</p> <p>The EA have stated a water cycle study should have been undertaken as part of the evidence base for this Review, specifying that this should cover the whole plan area. Without this water cycle study, the EA have stated that the associated risks of developing in the Marlborough Sewage Treatment Works (STW) catchment (and Hampshire Avon) have not been adequately assessed. The knock-on effect of this is that there is a lack of evidence that existing river and groundwater water quality status and wastewater infrastructure have been evaluated when determining if the locations of new development allocations are appropriate. The EA have identified that several wastewater treatment works within the Hampshire Avon catchment may be exceeding environmental capacity (under the Water Framework Directive and/or the Habitats Directive) by 2035, if not before.</p> <p>In recommending the completion of a water cycle study, the EA have advised to engage in discussions with relevant partners, such as Wessex Water, to help refine the scope of the water cycle study.</p> <p>Test Valley Borough Council</p>

	<p>TVBC have expressed a clear desire within their response for continued engagement with respect to the Avon SAC and Solent Region SPA, SAC and Ramsar, with specific reference to achieving nutrient neutrality for residential and overnight accommodation development, for phosphates and nitrates respectively.</p>
<p>Post Regulation 19</p>	
Category	Details
<p>Activities in response to representations</p>	<p>Wiltshire Council held a meeting with the EA on 16th November 2023, ahead of receiving the EA's Regulation 19 response. Among other matters relevant to separate topics set out within this document, the EA highlighted that there was no further sewerage capacity on the Hampshire Avon and it was confirmed at this stage that a Water Cycle Study (WCS) had not been prepared to date. Additionally, comments made by Wessex Water are of relevance, who advised within their Regulation 19 response that there is a forecast deficit in the supply and demand of water due to additional planned growth and abstraction licence changes driven by the need to protect the environment, advising this is especially the case for the Hampshire Avon catchment. Wessex Water has noted that for the Hampshire Avon catchment, regulators have requested that abstraction be capped at recent actual abstraction such that water abstraction is not increased from the catchment to meet new growth.</p> <p>Following receipt of the EA's Regulation 19 response and the comments of Wessex Water, Wiltshire Council instructed work in February 2024 to address points of concern raised by the EA and in turn reduce the challenge to the Plan. The commissioned work principally included a review of the existing Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) and preparation of a WCS to demonstrate that the Plan and its proposals can be delivered. This section is focussed on the WCS in so far as its relation to the Hampshire Avon, with the SFRA discussed later in this document.</p> <p>To facilitate joint working in relation to water quality and resource, a meeting was set up on 25th March 2024 which included the Strategic Partners NE and the EA and was also attended by Wessex Water. The meeting facilitated discussion over the Water Resource Management Plan being progressed by Wessex Water and the possibility of data sharing with Wiltshire Council, with the EA and NE present to provide comments on relevant parts of the Water Resource Management Plan. Additionally, the meeting facilitated discussion from NE regarding license headroom which is linked to the scope for abstraction within the Hampshire Avon.</p> <p>Additionally, a bi-weekly meeting was set up with NE from 16th April 2024 onwards to facilitate discussion on environmental issues, including the Hampshire Avon. In addition to these regular meetings, further opportunity</p>

was provided to NE to input into the scope of the Wiltshire WCS in a meeting held between NE, Wiltshire Council and Wiltshire's appointed consultant preparing the WCS on 7th May 2024, whilst the Stage 2 WCS was in preparation.

To further inform the WCS, an additional meeting was held with Wessex Water on 14th May 2024. The meeting allowed Wessex Water to update on the progress of the Water Resources Management Plan and demand management strategy for the Hampshire Avon, and for Wiltshire Council to update on the draft Plan and WCS and ways of working together moving forwards.

Whilst the WCS was being progressed, Wiltshire Council continued to contribute to HAWG meetings, which have been held on 17th January, 13th March, 12th June and 11th September 2024. Among other initiatives, the HAWG meetings have facilitated joint working and assisted with the progression of the allocation of the Local Nutrient Mitigation Fund for nutrient mitigation within the Hampshire Avon which assists in addressing phosphate issues. Additionally, it has provided a regular meeting for Wessex Water to update on wastewater treatment capacity with both Natural England and the Environment Agency present to contribute.

Within the 13th March 2024 HAWG meeting, Wiltshire Council updated other working group members on Wiltshire's Revised Nutrient Neutrality Strategy which was taken to Cabinet on 6th February. The revised approach to development within the Hampshire Avon principally establishes a scheme of phosphorus credits for planned development at a fixed cost per kilogram of phosphorus, provided supply of mitigation is available. Unplanned development is expected to make its own arrangements. Where unplanned development will use alternative mitigation separate of the council-led scheme, this must be agreed with NE.

The Stage 2 WCS was provided to Wiltshire Council on 22nd August 2024 for comment and includes engagement with neighbouring Local Planning Authorities for the request and receipt of site allocation and commitment data to inform the WCS. With respect to the water quality of the Hampshire Avon, the WCS has concluded that subject to upgrades to wastewater treatment works (WwTWs), additional planned growth can be accommodated in all cases. There are some catchments of specific concern with poorly performing storm tank overflows at WwTWs and Wiltshire will need to engage with relevant water companies to ensure these overflows are addressed prior to an increase in wastewater demand being generated by new development. With respect to abstraction, the

	<p>WCS confirms that there is sufficient evidence to recommend an 85 litres per person per day design standard (Policy 96) from new development, with suggestions made to engage with water companies to incentivise even lower consumption. However, it is noted that in some water resource zones, the forecast percentage of growth is lower than expected during the Local Plan period. It is recommended that Wiltshire investigate this further once final water company Water Resource Management Plans have been published.</p>
<p>Ongoing activity and collaboration</p>	<p>Moving forward, new development within the Hampshire Avon will continue to be phosphorous neutral, as set out within Wiltshire’s Revised Nutrient Neutrality Strategy. Additionally, Wiltshire Council are continuing to engage with the HAWG on a quarterly meet basis, which will assist in providing a joined-up approach to the delivery of nutrient mitigation and enhancement measures within the Hampshire Avon, in addition to maintaining engagement with Strategic Partners. Further to this, Wiltshire will continue to engage with NE in regular meetings to inform environmental issues, including the Hampshire Avon.</p> <p>Wiltshire Council notes that Wessex Water’s Water Resource Management Plan which is of relevance to the Hampshire Avon is in its final stages before it is published which represents a key document which shall confirm availability of sufficient water resource within the area to support planned growth without unacceptable ecological damage. Wiltshire Council intends at this stage to provide an update to the WCS once the Water Resource Management Plan has been published, should it be necessary.</p> <p>Wiltshire Council will engage with water providers and sewerage undertakers within the Hampshire Avon catchment to provide planned growth figures to ensure sufficient upgrades are in place for the treatment of wastewater resulting from new development.</p> <p>Statements of Common Ground are being prepared with the EA, NE and, all neighbouring authorities within the HAWG (except for Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council).</p>

Topic 5: Impacts on and improvements to the strategic road network

- 3.9. Topic 5 includes the following sub-issues which have been topics for cross boundary discussion with Strategic Partners:
- a. Strategic road network
 - b. Impact of development at Ludgershall
 - c. Shaftesbury bypass

Topic 5: impacts on and improvements to the strategic road network	
Sub-issue a: strategic road network	
Previous position summary (additional information can be found within the September 2023 Duty to Cooperate Report)	
<p>The strategic road network (SRN) within Wiltshire comprises a section of the M4 in the north of the county, including Junctions 16 and 17, the A419 to the north of Swindon, the A36 between the north of Warminster and south of Salisbury, and the A303 from Mere to Amesbury. Enabling the safe, reliable, predictable, efficient, often long distance, journeys of both people and goods (DfT Circular 01/2022) along the SRN constitutes a cross-boundary issue which necessitates discussion with strategic partners to assess the impact upon the SRN resulting from the provisions of the Local Plan Review, namely, but not limited to, the cumulative impact of the allocation of new development.</p>	
Regulation 19	
Category	Details
Strategic planning issue	To consider the capacity of the existing transport network and its ability to accommodate planned growth. Where there is insufficient capacity, to plan for upgrades to the transport network to support the provision of necessary growth.
Responses received from Strategic Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Highways (NH) • Swindon Borough Council (SBC) • Bath and North East Somerset Council (B&NES) • Somerset Council (SC)
Key issues identified from the representations	<p>National Highways</p> <p>NH have noted the logistics demand around junctions within the M4 corridor and planned employment growth at Junction 17. NH have identified that Wiltshire Council (WC) are currently awaiting an MRN bid to secure funding from the DfT to address the impacts of planned growth on this junction, however, NH has noted that this funding is not yet secured and that there is a need to consider an outcome in which the MRN funding bid for M4 Junction 17 is unsuccessful.</p> <p>Concern is raised that the model used for forecasting increased traffic flow demand against capacity is not the best for assessing local impacts at individual junctions or development locations and it is unclear if further work will be undertaken to investigate the impacts of traffic flow changes on SRN capacity. NH has expressed that they wish to understand traffic flow changes compared to the 2018 Base scenario, to understand the real impact of existing conditions and whether operational assessments will be undertaken for key SRN junctions, namely M4 Junction 16, together with a sensitivity assessment for M4 Junction 17. There is the potential for further operational assessments being required subject to the outcome of further review of traffic flow impacts.</p>

Recommendations were made that the wording of Policy 64 be amended with respect to Junction 16 and 17 to refer to the DfT Circular 01/2022, as opposed to DfT advice.

It is noted that Policies 52, 58 and 60 seek to deliver housing and employment within the Trowbridge Housing Market Area. However, given existing network constraints on the A36 Corridor, National Highways (NH) are keen to understand the cumulative impact of planning and committed growth in these locations, with a desire to further review the transport evidence base in this respect.

Policy wording alterations have been suggested to Policy 64(e) and Policy 72 to include specific reference to the need to maintain the safe and efficient operation of the SRN in line with DfT Circular 01/2022.

An updated Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) is required which should identify improvements required to the SRN, namely the A36 and A303, together with defining a funding and delivery strategy. Concern is raised that there appears to be a significant shortfall in funding available for transport schemes presently.

Swindon Borough Council

SBC have raised concern that Royal Wootton Bassett (Policy 47) lacks a wider transport strategy, suggesting that unplanned developments in this area may be difficult to manage to deliver a comprehensive approach to sustainable growth and infrastructure improvements. The capacity of Junction 16 of the M4 is subject to ongoing discussions and technical work on transport modelling and it is unclear as to what work has been undertaken on testing transport impacts should unallocated employment site options within Wiltshire come forward.

SBC have stated in respect of Policy 64 (additional employment land) that policy wording amendments should be made which require employment land development adjacent to M4 Junction 16 to have impacts of the development assessed in accordance with Department for Transport Advice; development proposals not prejudicing the delivery of other planned growth; and the funding and delivery mechanism of any required improvements/alternations to M4 Junction 16 and the surrounding transport network having been agreed and secured.

Bath and North East Somerset

Travel flows into Bath from the east of the city remain an important cross boundary strategic issue. B&NES therefore support the efforts to re-open Corsham Station and proposed new road to link the A4 with the A350.

	<p>B&NES wish to maintain a dialogue on these issues and other interventions which seek to reduce the impact of car traffic into the east of Bath and discuss the approach being taken to ongoing transport modelling of the Wiltshire strategy and associated interventions.</p> <p>Somerset Council Minor amendment suggested to Appendix 2 of the September 2023 DtC report - reference to the A303 in the former South Somerset District Council section is missing.</p> <p>In Somerset east area National Highways have issued holding objections for development on the periphery of Frome and villages near the A36 until a programme of improvements is in place. Allocated growth in Trowbridge is to NE and SW but there are also reserve sites later in the plan period. Clarification on the impact of proposals on the A36 is sought.</p>
Post Regulation 19	
Category	Details
Activities in response to representations	<p>In response to concerns raised relating to the impact of planned growth to the strategic road network, Wiltshire Council held a meeting with National Highways on 6th December 2023 to establish an acceptable route forward and, following this, the council developed a scope of works to address highways concerns raised and in turn reduce challenge to the Plan. The scope of the works largely relates to an update of Wiltshire’s Transport Evidence Base (TEB), the Wiltshire Transport Model (WTM) and Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP).</p> <p>Additionally, principally in respect of the M4, a further meeting between National Highways, Wiltshire Council and Swindon Borough Council was also held on 6th December 2023 to discuss Local Plan modelling.</p> <p>With respect to remaining SRN roads, regular meetings have been held with Bath and North East Somerset and Somerset Council on 15th November 2023 and 14th March, 11th June, 10th and 25th September 2024, providing an opportunity to discuss strategic cross-boundary matters. Additional meetings have been held with Test Valley Borough Council and Hampshire County Council, though these discussions largely relate to Policy 40, an allocation at Ludgershall and are discussed in further detail below, within Topic 5b.</p> <p>Once the scope of works was agreed with the guidance of National Highways, Wiltshire Council appointed a consultant to progress an update of the TEB and WTM which commenced in March 2024. The drafting of these updates has been informed by key meetings with National Highways on 17th June, 1st July, 12th and 25th September 2024. As the transport</p>

	evidence base has been updated, work on the IDP has been progressed to reflect any necessary mitigation measures required. The updated TEB will reflect upon outputs from the revised WTM and will address commentary provided by National Highways and will in turn address related comments from neighbouring local planning authorities.
Ongoing activity and collaboration	<p>Wiltshire Council are committed to an on-going programme of engagement with National Highways, to ensure that any concerns are identified and addressed. Principally, this involves working through and completing/addressing issues within the statement of common ground, which represents an evolving document between Wiltshire Council and National Highways. As and when issues within the statement of common ground have been resolved, an updated version of the statement of common ground will be issued, and any implications of the work undertaken will subsequently inform proposed adjustments to policy wording or updates to the IDP. The ongoing work is to be informed by further meetings and engagement with National Highways.</p> <p>Similarly, the Council is in the process of preparing statements of common ground with Swindon Borough Council, Bath and North East Somerset Council and Somerset Council. Wiltshire Council will continue to engage with Bath and North East Somerset Council and Somerset Council in quarterly meetings and engage with Swindon Borough Council on cross-boundary issues.</p>

Topic 5: impacts on and improvements to the strategic road network
Sub-issue b: impact of development at Ludgershall
Previous position summary (additional information can be found within the September 2023 Duty to Cooperate Report)
<p>Development at Ludgershall relates to an allocation within the Plan at Land South of Empress Way, Ludgershall (Policy 40). The allocation constitutes approximately 66ha of land for residential led development.</p> <p>Relevant to the topic of impact to the strategic road network, the Plan outlines that immediate vehicular access to the site will be required from Empress Way and Moyne Drive, but development will facilitate a southern link road, connecting to Andover Road to the east. This is intended to be coordinated with the neighbouring highway authority (Hampshire County Council) and planning authority (Test Valley Borough Council). The timing of the delivery of the Andover Road connection will be determined by an agreed trigger point to be established through a transport assessment, in collaboration between the developer and the relevant highway and planning authority. Any future need to expand the town into Test Valley Borough Council's administrative area will be the subject of review in future development plans.</p>

<p>The allocation necessitates cross-boundary working in part due to the location of the site adjacent to Wiltshire’s boundary and the associated potential for traffic impact impacting a neighbouring planning authority, and in part due to the need to work with neighbouring highway authorities to deliver the necessary link road to support future development.</p>	
<p>Regulation 19</p>	
Category	Details
Strategic planning issue	To consider the capacity of the existing transport network and its ability to accommodate planned growth. Where capacity is lacking, to plan for upgrades to the transport network to support the provision of necessary growth.
Responses received from Strategic Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Test Valley Borough Council • National Highways • Hampshire County Council
Key issues identified from the representations	<p>National Highways</p> <p>National Highways (NH) have stated that given the size and isolation of the Ludgershall allocation, it is recommended that specific reference be made in the policy wording to require consideration of Strategic Road Network impacts and mitigation needs.</p> <p>Test Valley Borough Council</p> <p>Noted that delivery of Policy 40 (Land South East of Empress Way, Ludgershall) is subject to a southern link road to Andover Road (A342), with the trigger point for this subject to a transport assessment. However, concern is raised over a lack of clarity as to what the trigger for the link road being required will be, and what the consequent implication for proposed phasing of development is. It is noted that the point of access to Andover Road and a significant section of the link road itself are located within Test Valley’s boundary.</p> <p>Paragraph 4.198 makes reference to working with Hampshire County Council (HCC) as highway authority for Hampshire, but does not mention TVBC as local planning authority (LPA), who would be required to grant planning permission for the access. Request that a specific reference is made to working with TVBC on this matter.</p> <p>Hampshire County Council</p> <p>It is noted that Policy 40 would require a new access to the A342. The plan currently fails to note that to facilitate this access, a new crossing of the Andover to Ludgershall MoD freight branch railway will be required. The access should ensure that the strategic flow of traffic on the A342 is not compromised as a consequence of the development. The new link road, new junction and the rail crossing must be funded by the developer and are expected by Hampshire County Council to appear within the Infrastructure Delivery Plan that supports the Local Plan.</p>

	<p>Should the allocation at Ludgershall come forward Hampshire County Council stated that they will seek a contribution towards delivery of a high-quality cycling route to connect the development with Andover together with connections to bus stops to facilitate longer distance travel. It is stressed that the development needs to be highly permeable for active travel modes, with the current approach failing to place sufficient focus on active and sustainable travel modes such that it conflicts with Hampshire’s adopted plan which seeks to reduce dependency on the private car.</p>
<p>Post Regulation 19</p>	
<p>Category</p>	<p>Details</p>
<p>Activities in response to representations</p>	<p>As established within Topics 3a and 3b, Wiltshire Council have been liaising with National Highways on works to update its evidence base. The scope of works largely relates to an update of Wiltshire’s Transport Evidence Base (TEB), the Wiltshire Transport Model (WTM) and Infrastructure Delivery Plan.</p> <p>Wiltshire Council appointed a consultant to progress an update of the TEB and WTM which commenced in March 2024. The drafting of these updates has been informed by key meetings with National Highways on 6th December 2023, 17th June, 1st July, 12th and 25th September 2024. The updates are of relevance to the site allocation at Land South of Empress Way, Ludgershall (Policy 40) and will assist in establishing that the impact to the SRN from the Ludgershall application is manageable and that in turn the site is deliverable.</p> <p>Additionally, meetings have been held with both Test Valley Borough Council and Hampshire County Council on 25th March (Test Valley Borough Council only), 6th June and 16th September 2024. The meetings have been used to share the approach to traffic modelling as evidence supporting the respective authorities Local Plans and the Ludgershall allocation. As part of this, additional evidence is being provided from a consultancy on trigger points which will be added into the WTM, seeking to address concerns relating to when a link road will be required.</p> <p>It is noted that wording amendments have been suggested in response to comments raised which will be provided to the Inspector.</p>
<p>Ongoing activity and collaboration</p>	<p>The review of the TEB and WTM is ongoing and is associated with meeting concerns set out by National Highways which will be covered within a statement of common ground. The drafting of the statement of common ground is ongoing as further issues are addressed as a result of the additional clarity being provided by the TEB and WTM review as it is progressed.</p>

	<p>Additionally, a statement of common ground between Test Valley Borough Council, Wiltshire Council and Hampshire County Council is also under preparation.</p> <p>Wiltshire Council will continue to engage with and be guided by National Highways as the review of the TEB and WTM is moved towards completion. Additionally, Wiltshire Council will continue to maintain positive and proactive engagement with both Test Valley Borough Council and Hampshire County Council in respect of the Ludgershall allocation.</p>
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Topic 5: impacts on and improvements to the strategic road network	
Sub-issue c: Shaftesbury bypass	
Previous position summary (additional information can be found within the September 2023 Duty to Cooperate Report)	
<p>Shaftesbury is located within Dorset Council's administrative area and is situated adjacent to the shared administrative boundary with Wiltshire Council. The A350, which connects the M4 Junction 17 to Bournemouth, currently runs through Shaftesbury and forms part of the Department for Transport's vision within the Road Investment Strategy 2: 2020-2025 (RIS2) as the main strategic route to connect the M4 to the Dorset Coast. To relieve congestion on the A350, the North Dorset District-Wide Local Plan (2003) set aside land for a Shaftesbury outer bypass on the eastern side of the town, which leads into Wiltshire Council's administrative area to the north of Shaftesbury. The reserved land was carried through into the currently adopted North Dorset Local Plan Part 1 (2016) (Policy 18) and is included within the draft Dorset Council Local Plan (January 2021 consultation) (SHAF6). The delivery of this bypass therefore represents a cross-boundary issue which necessitates engagement with strategic partners who have an interest in the delivery of the bypass, namely Dorset Council and National Highways.</p> <p>Wiltshire Council previously agreed with Dorset Council that the Kennet District Local Plan (2004) Policy TR20 now forming part of the Saved Policies of the adopted Wiltshire Core Strategy (2015) (Appendix D) relating to the Shaftesbury bypass could be deleted. It was proposed that Policy 74 Strategic Transport Network in the draft Wiltshire Local Plan provides for improvements to the strategic road network which render the provisions of Policy TR20 obsolete.</p>	
Regulation 19	
Category	Details
Strategic planning issue	To cooperate with strategic partners to facilitate improvements to the strategic route provided by the A350 connecting the M4 to the Dorset Coast.
Responses received from Strategic Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dorset Council
Key issues identified from the representations	<p>Dorset Council</p> <p>Dorset Council support the recognition of the A350 as part of the Strategic Transport Network within the Policy, together with reference to the National Highways Strategic M4 to South Coast Study. It is considered that the</p>

	wording of the Policy provides sufficient flexibility to allow any improvements to the A350 corridor resulting from this study. Dorset Council confirmed their support of the removal of the reserved bypass corridor for the A350 at Shaftesbury and the inclusion of the wording of Policy 75 related to this.
Post Regulation 19	
Category	Details
Activities in response to representations	Wiltshire Council has not identified any necessary further activities in relation to the approach to the Shaftesbury bypass in response to representations received at Regulation 19 Stage. It is noted that National Highways has provided no comments in relation to the Shaftesbury Bypass at Regulation 19 stage.
Ongoing activity and collaboration	Wiltshire Council will continue to engage with Dorset Council and where necessary National Highways on matters relating to the Shaftesbury bypass. A statement of common ground is being drafted with Dorset Council to establish an agreed position on cross-boundary matters, including Dorset Council's support for the approach being taken in the Wiltshire Local Plan (i.e. the removal of the saved policy, and introduction of a new general highways - Policy 75).

Further cross boundary issues

- 3.10. In addition to further discussion on specific issues which do not fall within the above topics but nonetheless have formed a key part of Duty to Cooperate process, these additional topics cover discussions on:
- a. Flood risk
 - b. Historic environment
 - c. Landscape
 - d. Cotswold Water Park

Further cross boundary issues	
Sub-issue a: flood risk	
Previous position summary (additional information can be found within the September 2023 Duty to Cooperate Report)	
Wiltshire Council have proactively engaged with the Environment Agency in respect to flood risk throughout the preparation of the draft Plan through formal and information consultations and meetings in addition to email correspondence and a joint working group. Engagement has led to amendments to the flood risk policies in the plan, changes to site proposals within the plan and the drafting of a SoCG.	
Regulation 19	
Category	Details

Strategic planning issue	To ensure the plan protects and reduces the risk to both existing and future residents and their properties as well as enhance water courses through natural flood risk management.
Responses received from Strategic Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment Agency (EA)
Key issues identified from the representations	<p>Environment Agency</p> <p>The EA advised that the existing SFRA level 1 requires updating before it can be reliably used to inform allocations (see bullet point list below). It was highlighted within the EA response that there have been national policy changes, including climate change allowances, and new flood modelling in some areas since the current SFRA 1, which led to their request for an updated SFRA. Consequently, the EA is of the view that new site allocations which include areas of flood risk are unsound until they are supported by an updated SFRA level 1 (and level 2, where identified as necessary by the level 1).</p> <p>Additionally, suggestion was made by the EA that the current wording of Policy 95 (Flood Risk) was disproportionately focussed on surface water flood risk, identifying that all sources of flooding must be represented within the Policy. Additional minor wording alterations were suggested to Policies 4 (Climate Change) 6 (Chippenham Principal Settlement), 88 (Biodiversity and Geodiversity), 89 (Biodiversity Net Gain), 90 (Trees, Hedgerows and Woodland), 93 (Green and Blue Infrastructure). Additionally, site specific comments were made on the following Policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy 7 – Land South of Chippenham and East of Showell Farm; • Policy 8 – Chippenham Town Centre; • Policy 10 – Land Off Spitfire Road, Calne; • Policy 12 – Corsham; • Policy 16 – Malmesbury; • Policy 17 – Melksham; • Policies 24, 25, 26, 27 & 28 – Wider Salisbury • Policy 33 – Maltings Flood Risk • Policy 43 – Shrewton • Policy 45 – Land at Chipping Knife Lane • Policy 52 – Trowbridge • Policy 55 – Innox Mills, Trowbridge • Policy 56 – Trowbridge Central Area • Policy 57 – Bradford on Avon • Policy 58 – Warminster Market Town • Policy 59 – Land at Brook Street, Warminster • Policy 61 – Land West of Mane Way, Westbury

Post Regulation 19	
Category	Details
Activities in response to representations	<p>A meeting was held with the EA on 16th November 2023, prior to the receipt of their Regulation 19 response, to discuss the issues which they were planning to raise and the next steps forward in how these issues could be addressed. The key outcomes of this meeting were that Wiltshire Council would review the current SFRA evidence base in light of the concerns raised by the EA and prepare a Statement of Common Ground in 2024. With respect to the concerns raised by the EA regarding the wording of Policy 95 (Flood Risk), Wiltshire Council disagree with some of the points made and are only supportive of limited amendment at this stage.</p> <p>Following receipt of the EA's Regulation 19 response and discussion with the LLFA, Wiltshire Council instructed work in February 2024 to address points of concern raised by the EA and in turn reduce the challenge to the draft Plan. The commissioned work principally included a review of the existing SFRA and preparation of a Water Cycle Study to prove beyond all reasonable doubt that the Plan and its proposals can be delivered.</p> <p>The neighbouring authorities Somerset Council (SC) and Bath and North East Somerset (B&NES) were updated on Wiltshire Council's position and the desire to review the existing SFRA and the preparation of a Water Cycle Study in a meeting held on 14th March 2024. It was resolved as part of this meeting that B&NES would provide data to support the review of Wiltshire's SFRA.</p> <p>A meeting was held with the EA on 18th April 2024 in order to update on SFRA and Water Cycle Study progress and to seek timely responses on SFRA work being undertaken by Wiltshire Council's consultant to effectively maintain a more open dialogue with the EA, Wiltshire Council and Wiltshire Council's consultant in the preparation of flood risk review work moving forward. Preparation of the SFRA has continued since this meeting, with a further meeting held between Wiltshire Council, Wiltshire Council's consultant and the EA on 24th September to discuss the EA's comments on the draft SFRA to address any remaining concerns.</p>
Ongoing activity and collaboration	<p>Wiltshire Council's consultant is in the process of finalising the review of the SFRA in line with advice provided by the EA, including feedback received within the meeting of 24th September, to bolster the existing evidence prepared by Wiltshire Council that the allocated sites are deliverable. Additionally, Wiltshire Council are continuing to work closely with the EA in the preparation of a Statement of Common Ground.</p> <p>Wiltshire Council will continue to have an open dialogue with the EA in the preparation of the SFRA review.</p>

Further cross boundary issues

Sub-issue b: historic environment

Previous position summary (additional information can be found within the September 2023 Duty to Cooperate Report)

Wiltshire Council have engaged with Historic England in the preparation for Regulation 19 on site specific issues and the World Heritage Site, resulting in amendments being made to sites proposed within the plan, minor changes to policies and supporting text relating to the historic environment and the removal of a site from the site selection process.

Regulation 19

Category	Details
Strategic planning issue	Ensuring the protection and conservation of the historic environment.
Responses received from Strategic Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Historic England (HE)
Key issues identified from the representations	<p>Historic England</p> <p>HE requested that Wiltshire Council ensure that the Regulation 18 representations from HE have been addressed and recommended that a heritage topic paper (HTP) be prepared which pulls together the heritage evidence and works towards a positive strategy for Wiltshire would be beneficial. Additionally, regard should be had to the provisions of the Historic England Advice Note 3 Site Allocations and their setting guidance.</p> <p>It was highlighted that the evidence behind the heritage work and the site selection process needs to be illustrated, and that more clarity is needed on where heritage feeds into the site selection process.</p> <p>A number of recommendations were made to bolster a ‘positive’ approach to heritage for example, more reference to the World Heritage Site and the positive impacts of brownfield development first.</p> <p>Site specific comments were made relating to site Policies 7, 8, 15, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 46, 48, 49, 53, 55, 61 and 62. Comments for improving the wording of Policy 100 relating to the World Heritage Site were also made.</p>

Post Regulation 19

Category	Details
Activities in response to representations	In respect of the preparation of a HTP, Wiltshire Council have noted that a document of this nature would be useful in signposting to existing evidence and some existing but not yet published, evidence and assessment. It would also be useful for a HTP to signpost to those elements and policies of the draft Plan where heritage has played a key role in the plan making process and to demonstrate that the Local Planning Authority (LPA) has considered

	<p>heritage throughout the site selection and policy formulation processes. Accordingly, a HTP has been produced. With respect to the concerns raised by Historic England, it is envisaged that this HTP will highlight where heritage informs the plan, assisting in showing the ‘positive strategy’ for heritage which is already factored into the plan; signpost to existing evidence which has influenced the plan to demonstrate heritage has informed the site selection process and publish some existing assessment for sensitive sites that used Historic England Advice Note 3 Site Allocations.</p> <p>With respect to concerns raised in relation to specific sites and the availability of Heritage Impact Assessments (HIA), these comments were reviewed with heritage experts within the Council. It was considered that the site selection evidence can form a basis for this type of assessment but that in some instances more detailed HIA of sensitive sites would be required, namely for site allocations made under Policies 7, 23, 25, 26, 27, 28 and 61. The Council engaged Chris Blandford Associates (CBA) on 25th January 2024 to prepare the aforementioned seven additional HIAs.</p> <p>In respect of the remaining site policies, it is suggested in the SoCG with Historic England that there are minor wording changes to Policy 8 and 55 and minor changes to the concept plans for Policies 48 and 49 to better reflect heritage evidence. The SoCG with Historic England also provides detail of liaison with heritage experts including Historic England’s requests for clarity on whether Wiltshire’s heritage experts agree with the SA.</p>
<p>Ongoing activity and collaboration</p>	<p>Wiltshire Council have published the HIA produced by CBA and the HTP as supporting documents for the submission of the Wiltshire Local Plan to address concerns raised by Historic England during the Regulation 19 process.</p> <p>Additionally, Wiltshire Council are in the process of preparing a SoCG with Historic England, and met with Historic England on the 11th July 2024 to discuss a draft SoCG in addition to allowing an opportunity to discuss the preparation of HIAs and progress on the HTP. Wiltshire Council shared the draft HIAs with Historic England and met with Historic England on the 9th August 2024 to discuss the work. Comments from Historic England on the draft HIAs were then received and fed into the refinement of the assessments.</p> <p>Wiltshire Council will continue to have an open dialogue with Historic England to inform the Plan in its preparation for examination and this will be documented in the SoCG where necessary.</p>

Further cross boundary issues	
Sub-issue c: landscape	
Position summary	
<p>The national significance of the landscape of Wiltshire is acknowledged in the designation of 44% of the area administered by Wiltshire Council as a National Landscape (formerly Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty), while a small area of the New Forest National Park is also present within the south of the county, which is within the administrative area of the New Forest National Park Authority. Through the preparation of the Wiltshire Local Plan review, regard has been had to both the designated landscapes within Wiltshire’s administrative boundary and adjacent to it. Given the cross-boundary nature of the landscape designations within Wiltshire, it is necessary to engage with neighbouring authorities and relevant prescribed bodies through the duty to cooperate.</p>	
Regulation 19	
Category	Details
Strategic planning issue	To ensure the protection of landscapes both within Wiltshire and within neighbouring planning authority areas, including through the avoidance of harm to the setting of protected landscapes.
Responses received from Strategic Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Forest National Park Authority (NFNPA)
Key issues identified from the representations	<p>New Forest National Park Authority</p> <p>Paragraph 5.165 should be further strengthened by including reference to the requirement to ‘seek to further’ the statutory National Park purposes places on ‘relevant authorities’ (including neighbouring planning authorities) by the recently amended Section 11A of the National Parks & Access to the Countryside Act 1949.</p> <p>Paragraph 5.167 should be revised to reflect the strengthened legal duty to ‘seek to further’ the two statutory National Park purposes set out in section 11(A) of the National Parks & Access to the Countryside Act 1949, as amended by the Levelling Up & Regeneration Act 2023.</p> <p>Policy 91 currently largely focusses on development within Wiltshire affecting National Landscapes and should be amended to explicitly refer to the impacts of development on the adjacent New Forest National Park. It currently only references the ‘duty of regard’ towards the statutory National Landscape purpose but not the equivalent duty related to National Park purposes.</p>
Post Regulation 19	
Category	Details
Activities in response to representations	The NFNPA state that, on the whole, they consider Wiltshire Council to have met its legal duty to cooperate with NFNPA. However, it is noted that one response by NFNPA has indicated that some minor wording amendments

	<p>are required to ensure that the Plan demonstrates a 'duty of regard' to the designated landscapes within neighbouring authorities' administrative areas.</p> <p>Wiltshire Council have maintained positive engagement with NFNPA and are in the process of drafting a statement of common ground with the authority. It is through this statement of common ground that Wiltshire Council will seek to address the concerns raised by NFNPA and any necessary wording amendments will be put forward in a schedule of minor changes to the Plan to the Inspector, including a factual amendment to reflect legislative changes on the 'duty of regard' and to include National Parks within Policy 91 'Wiltshire designated landscapes'.</p>
Ongoing activity and collaboration	Wiltshire Council intend to continue to positively engage with NFNPA, principally through the finalising of the statement of common ground between the two authorities to address concerns raised at Regulation 19 stage.

Topic 3: Mitigation of impact on Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) including impacts on protected bats	
Sub-issue d: Cotswold Water Park	
Previous position summary (additional information can be found within the September 2023 Duty to Cooperate Report)	
<p>The Cotswold Water Park is an area of more than 177 lakes set in over 42 square miles of Wiltshire, Gloucestershire and Oxfordshire created from decades of sand and gravel extraction. In recognition of the ecological importance of the area, in 2021 much of the Cotswold Water Park was designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) for its rich array of water birds and aquatic plants.</p> <p>As drafted, the Wiltshire Local Plan no longer contains a specific policy for Cotswold Water Park, instead continued protection of this asset is addressed by other policies within the Wiltshire Local Plan. Supporting text has however been included as part of Policy 88 Biodiversity and Geodiversity where it is outlined that future development at and/or impacting the Cotswold Water Park must conserve and where possible enhance its biodiversity value.</p>	
Regulation 19	
Category	Details
Strategic planning issue	To recognise, conserve and where possible enhance the biodiversity value of the Cotswold Water Park.
Responses received from Strategic Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cotswold District Council
Key issues identified from the representations	<p>Cotswold District Council</p> <p>Highlighted Cotswold Water Park as a strategic cross boundary issue of particular interest. The deletion of the CWP policy is noted but support is</p>

	given to the CWPs continued protection as addressed by other policies in the plan and its extended designation as an area of SSSI. Welcomed continued retention of supporting text on the CWP within the Local Plan Review, to continue to recognise the distinctive qualities of the area and help a consistent approach across the relevant local plan areas.
Post Regulation 19	
Category	Details
Activities in response to representations	No further activity has been undertaken in relation to progressing plans specific to Cotswold Water Park, with draft Policy 88 providing a strategy for biodiversity and geodiversity which will be relevant to development within the Water Park. Cotswold District Council have supported this approach within their Regulation 19 response.
Ongoing activity and collaboration	Development at Cotswold Water Park will be managed through district wide policies. Wiltshire remains open to cross boundary working with Cotswold District Council should any cross-boundary issues relating to the Cotswold Water Park arise in the run up to the submission of the Plan for examination. A statement of common ground has been prepared with Cotswold District Council, which covers the councils' joint position on the Cotswold Water Park.