

# Wiltshire Council

## Cabinet

1 December 2020

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**Subject:** Regulation 18 Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended) - Consultation to inform the Wiltshire Local Plan Review

**Cabinet Member:** Cllr Toby Sturgis Cabinet Member for Spatial Planning, Development Management and Property

**Key Decision:** Key

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### Executive Summary

This paper sets out the next steps for consulting on the Wiltshire Local Plan Review. Local Plans are informed and shaped by setting out the government's requirements for the level of growth that each area needs to accommodate, in this case from the period up to 2036.

Cabinet at its meeting on 24 March 2020 approved a timeline for the Wiltshire Local Plan Review, which enables consultation to be undertaken with the community and stakeholders on how we might deliver the required level of growth across Wiltshire.

By undertaking consultation prior to any actual allocations being made in a draft Local Plan, people will have the opportunity to put forward their views and inform the Council's thinking in early 2021. These views will then inform the details of the draft Plan.

The report presents the proposed content for an extensive consultation on the direction of the Wiltshire Local Plan Review. This includes possible growth options for each of the County's main settlements. We are keen to receive feedback during the consultation on these possible options, before they are considered at the next stage of the Local Plan later in 2021. In addition, there is a separate element consulting on the planning framework for rural areas.

At each main settlement it is proposed to consult on what might be an appropriate scale of growth over the new plan period, 2016 to 2036. This is presented as an amount of additional new homes and land for employment development and compared to the current Wiltshire Core Strategy proposals. Comment is invited on whether changes to rates of growth are too high, what obstacles stand in the way, or too low, what are the opportunities.

Initial discussions have taken place with each Town Council about 'place shaping priorities' in each main settlement. The consultation will invite comment from each community on how well these represent the community's

vision and its needs and what needs changing in the next phase of the Local Plan, which will be the publication of a 'draft Local Plan later in 2021.

Each community will of course be concerned about where development may take place in the future beyond the current plan. Until now this information has been drawn from the Strategic Housing and Employment Land Availability Assessment. This is a simple register that every Council must retain, which shows every land parcel that an owner or prospective developer has promoted for development. The range of land put forward can often create uncertainty and concern. The consultation for early 2021 presents a range of potential development sites that narrows down these land parcels to a set of reasonable alternatives and invites comments from the community to influence the next steps in plan making, prior to selecting sites for development, either as part of the Local Plan Review or as Neighbourhood Plan allocations. It is worth noting that if land is put forward in this consultation it is not necessarily going to be allocated for that but we want our communities views on these sites suitability for future development.

Possible preferred sites are shown at the Principal Settlements of Chippenham, Salisbury and Trowbridge. This continues the current strategy of focussing growth at the three largest settlements. We are testing these proposals in more detail because if they are not appropriate then we will need to reconsider the role of each town and contemplate a very different distribution of growth amongst all the County's settlements to the current strategy.

Another background paper sets out how we might deliver a Government requirement to provide housing extending to each Large Village and Local Service Centre. This builds on discussions that took place last year with Parish Councils. Each community is to be invited to comment and say what level of growth is suited to their settlement. Appropriate changes can then be made before the plan is drafted later in 2021.

A Climate Change paper examines the role the Local Plan Review can play in helping to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030.

In line with the Council's current Local Development Scheme (July 2020) Consultation is due to commence early 2021 for a minimum period of 6 weeks consistent with the Council's Statement of Community Involvement. However, due to the escalating COVID-19 situation the start date will need to be kept under review with the final decision made under delegated authority. Any change to the start will also affect the start of the consultation on the Gypsies and Travellers Plan considered by Cabinet on 13 October.

In designing the consultation approach, care will be taken to make the consultation material and methods for responding as accessible as possible for all, recognising the technical nature of some documents.

The outcome of the consultation will help inform the draft Local Plan, that is due to be published quarter 4, 2021 for consultation. Prior to this a report will be brought back to Cabinet with a summary of the consultation process and results.

Although the Government intends to reform the local plan process, their proposals are subject to consultation and will take time to implement. It is important in the interim to continue to make progress on the Local Plan as the changes will not alter the need to plan positively for growth.

**Proposal(s)**

**That Cabinet:**

- (i) Approves the documents as set out in Appendices 1, 2, 3 and 4 for consultation to inform the content of the Wiltshire Local Plan Review, subject to amendment in (ii);**
- (ii) Delegates authority to the Director for Economic Development and Planning in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Spatial Planning, Development Management and Property to: make any necessary changes to the consultation documents in (i) in the interest of clarity and accuracy before they are finalised for publication; finalise evidence documents relating to the consultation; and make arrangements for and undertake statutory consultation with the start date to take into consideration the COVID-19 position; and**
- (iii) Receives a report after the consultation summarising the main issues raised.**

**Reason for Proposal(s)**

To ensure that progress continues to be made on maintaining an up to date Local Plan for Wiltshire in line with the Council's Local Development Scheme and statutory requirements.

**Terrence Herbert  
Chief Executive**

## **Wiltshire Council**

### **Cabinet**

**1 December 2020**

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**Subject: Consultation to inform the Wiltshire Local Plan Review**

**Cabinet Member: Cllr Toby Sturgis Cabinet Member for Spatial Planning, Development Management and Property**

**Key Decision: Key**

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### **Purpose of Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to seek:
  - (i) Approval for the documents as set out in Appendices 1, 2, 3 and 4 to this report for consultation to inform the content of the Wiltshire Local Plan Review;
  - (ii) Authorise the Director for Economic Development and Planning in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Spatial Planning, Development Management and Property to: make any necessary changes to the consultation documents in the interest of clarity and accuracy before they are finalised for publication; finalise evidence documents relating to the consultation; and make arrangements for and undertake statutory consultation.

### **Relevance to the Council's Business Plan**

2. The Business Plan 2017-2027 'Forward Thinking' seeks to: create strong communities in Wiltshire. The Local Plan aligns with all three of its priorities: Growing the Economy, Strong Communities and Protecting the Vulnerable. For example, 'Growing the Economy', recognises the importance of job creation and improving housing supply to enable people to live and work locally. Delivering development where it is needed forms one of the goals of the Business Plan.

### **Background**

3. Cabinet at its meeting on [30 April 2019](#) considered an update to the preparation of the Wiltshire Local Plan Review. A housing range (40,840 to 45,600 homes for the period 2016 to 2036), from which a preferred housing requirement would be identified for Wiltshire was endorsed; and alternative development strategies for distribution of growth as an appropriate basis for further assessment, including testing the upper end of the housing range, agreed. The minimum number in the range was set by the Government's standard method. The higher number is based on analysis using long term migration trends and forecasts suggesting that additional housing would be

needed to increase the level of resident workers to avoid net in-commuting (see Appendix 2, 30 April Cabinet paper).

4. This built on the Cabinet's agreement on [26 March 2019](#) (Wiltshire Local Plan Review Update paper) , that the identified four Housing Market Areas (HMAs), based around Chippenham, Salisbury, Swindon and Trowbridge would form an appropriate basis on which to consider the distribution of housing growth across Wiltshire.
5. In the case of the Swindon HMA, it was previously envisaged that cross-boundary working with Swindon Borough Council would necessitate publishing an informal Joint Spatial Framework. Changes in the way the Government now expect Councils to fulfil a 'statutory duty to co-operate' and in the way housing needs are assessed now no longer make that necessary.
6. The April 2019 Cabinet Report set out reasonable alternative development strategies for each HMA showing how housing and employment growth could be distributed based on different assumptions relating to economic, social and environmental factors. These each set out different scales of growth for assessment by HMA for each of their main towns (Principal Settlement and/or Market Towns, as defined in the Wiltshire Core Strategy) and wider rural area.
7. Following Cabinet, meetings were held with:
  - (i) representatives of relevant town and parish councils (and neighbourhood plan groups) on a town basis to consider the different growth options for each, as well as local priorities in planning for the period to 2036;
  - (ii) representatives of rural parish councils (and neighbourhood plan groups) to develop ideas about rural policies to support the resilience of Wiltshire's rural communities within the rural area (Local Service Centres, Large and Small Villages; as defined by the Wiltshire Core Strategy), including their role in providing for new homes;
  - (iii) developer's forum to consider site availability, delivery and viability issues, and provide the opportunity to comment on the alternative development strategies.
8. The outcomes of these informal consultations can be viewed via this [link](#). The intention was to continue the town-based discussions and agree place shaping priorities and scales of growth for places with relevant town and parish councils through the preparation of statements of common ground. However, while some discussions have continued, due to the COVID-19 situation this intention has not been achieved.
9. In [March 2020](#), Cabinet through approving a revised Local Development Scheme (LDS), agreed a revised timetable for the Local Plan Review to allow for an additional stage of public consultation during Summer 2020 on the emerging strategy. However, this was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the new timeline is reflected in the current LDS ([July 2020](#)), with consultation programmed around January 2021.

10. The additional stage of consultation enables the Council to build on the emerging evidence base and targeted engagement undertaken, as set out above, providing for full public engagement ahead of the draft Plan being finalised. It also allows for the Council to consult on the change to the scope of the plan due to the LDS making provision for a separate single-issue plan to address the housing needs of gypsies and travellers; which was the subject of a report to Cabinet on 13 October 2020.
11. As set out in that report, consultation on the Wiltshire Local Plan Review will be undertaken at the same time as consultation on the Gypsies and Travellers Plan.
12. The Government published its Planning for the Future White Paper proposals for reform of the planning system in August and separate proposals on changes to the current planning system, with consultation on both closing in October. The Planning White Paper proposals signal quite far reaching changes to the local plan process and content of local plans. Fundamental changes will likely require primary and secondary legislation and so both the content and timing of when changes will take into effect are unknown. Prospective changes do not however alter the need to progress the plan in order to plan positively for growth and shape our communities. Any such overhaul is likely to include transitional arrangements that will allow local plans in preparation to progress largely as currently envisaged. Changes could, however, mean an early review of the Plan. Officers will monitor changes in legislation or national policy as part of the plan making process.

### **Main Considerations for the Council**

13. Testing of the alternative development strategies has now been completed and an emerging spatial strategy identified that distributes the higher level of growth across the County. This is set out in **Appendix 1**, Emerging Spatial Strategy. This involved the use of sustainability appraisal to compare the different strategies at HMA level. The appraisal helped to determine which performed best in sustainability terms and was used to inform strategy formulation. One alternative common to each HMA was rolling forward the existing strategy with each main settlement (and rural area) accommodating the same proportion of growth as the Wiltshire Core Strategy but using the up to date assessment of need for new homes and employment land.

#### Emerging Spatial Strategy

14. The alternative development strategies assessed for each HMA were considered by Cabinet in April 2019 and are summarised in Appendix 1, 'Emerging Spatial Strategy'. They take into account the results of public consultation. Changes to the Spatial Strategy are proposed that mean Wilton will have its own strategic housing requirement and no longer be planned for with Salisbury; and Bulford and Durrington will become Large Villages allowing for them to be planned for separately from Amesbury.

15. The Emerging Spatial Strategy document brings together the main findings of sustainability appraisal and a short assessment of whether its conclusions help to address climate change by supporting a sustainable pattern of development (e.g. by focussing growth at main settlements - Chippenham, Salisbury, Trowbridge and the market towns - to help reduce the need to travel and to make best use of existing infrastructure). It then identifies the proposed overall level of new homes and employment land for each main settlement and rural part of the HMA, over the plan period, together with what remains to be planned for once existing housing completions and commitments have been accounted for. In addition, targets for brownfield land are included for the towns to encourage new homes to be brought forward on such land.

16. The brownfield target forms one of the delivery principles proposed in the Spatial Strategy. The delivery principles seek to clarify the role of both Wiltshire Council through its Local Plan and Town and Parish Councils through their Neighbourhood Plans in planning for growth and include:

- *To maximise the use of previously developed land and support urban renewal where needed, each of the main settlements will have a target amount of new homes for its urban area.*
- *The Council will allocate land for development through the Local Plan where it is necessary to do so. It will be necessary to do so to ensure the scale of the County's housing and employment needs are met and to ensure a supply of deliverable land. It will also do so where there are large or complex sites or where land for greenfield development crosses the boundaries of neighbourhood plan areas or into rural parishes that adjoin an urban area.*
- *To support the Local Plan, each community will be encouraged to determine themselves where additional development take place by the preparation of a neighbourhood plan. A task for all neighbourhood plans will be to help manage the use of brownfield land for new uses and additional new homes.*

17. The Local Plan is required by national policy to set housing requirements for neighbourhood planning. For the towns, it is proposed that this takes the form of the brownfield target (rural areas are discussed in paragraph 22 below) to help maximise the use of brownfield sites, support place shaping and renewal of our towns; placing local communities at the heart of planning. This will require closer working between the Council and Town Councils to support the preparation of plans.

18. It is inherently difficult to predict with certainty how many new homes could be brought forward on brownfield sites, as these often come forward as windfall sites. As such, targets are proposed based on an analysis of past contributions from this source; which in some cases may be higher than the level of homes left to be planned for. Neighbourhood planning processes will be able to consider these targets and seek to positively identify deliverable sites in plans, which in turn will help reduce the need for greenfield sites in the future as well as providing contingency in housing supply across Wiltshire.

## Planning for Wiltshire's main settlements

19. Alongside, the 'Emerging Spatial Strategy' document, 'Settlement Statements' have been prepared for each main settlement, which provide more detail about what the priorities are for a place in planning for the future and the choices for the location and form growth might take. Links are provided under **Appendix 2** to each of these. Within each statement are questions to encourage people to respond and help shape the basis on which policy will be formulated for the draft Local Plan. The statements include and seek comments on:

- (i) Proposed scale of growth for a settlement (2016 to 2036) - additional new homes and employment land as relevant, compared with current Wiltshire Core Strategy;
- (ii) Place shaping priorities to guide the development of a settlement (outcomes to be achieved for a place);
- (iii) Potential development sites on the edge of towns - the justification for these is set out in an accompanying Site Selection Report;
- (iv) Settlement profiles on important services and infrastructure that will need to be taken into consideration in planning for each place (education, energy, green infrastructure, health and transport), as well information on the local economy and housing needs that require addressing.

20. The Principal Settlements of Chippenham, Salisbury and Trowbridge will accommodate in excess of a third of all growth over the plan period. Given the important role of these communities in the Spatial Strategy and the important role of the Local Plan in identifying sites, preferred development sites have been identified for these places and comments are sought. For the other Market Towns, the site selection process has paused at the identification of sites considered to be reasonable alternatives and views invited on these. This will allow for communities themselves, where appropriate (see above delivery principles), to determine which sites may be acceptable for allocation through the preparation of neighbourhood plans.

## Planning for the rural areas

21. The Spatial Strategy identifies the rural parts of Wiltshire outside of the main settlements as contributing around 6,700 new homes (15%) over the plan period. The Local Service Centres and Large Villages, as identified in the Wiltshire Core Strategy (including Bulford and Durrington, see paragraph 14 above), are identified as settlements which are best placed to support growth in the rural area as they contain jobs and businesses, and services and facilities providing for the needs of the communities they serve. It is vital that planning supports the role of these settlements and that they grow in ways that sustain them.

22. As experienced through the preparation of the Wiltshire Housing Site Allocations Plan, it is the local communities themselves that are often best able to determine how the smaller settlements should change through preparing neighbourhood plans. **Appendix 3** 'Empowering Rural Communities' sets out how the emerging Local Plan Review proposes to plan



for the rural areas. This takes into consideration the informative discussions that took place in the rural workshops last year. In summary, it:

- (i) Aims to set a framework to support neighbourhood planning to address local housing needs through an amended Core Policy 44 'Rural Exception Sites and Community Led Housing';
- (ii) Clarifies that guidance to support the implementation of policy, and a digitally enabled approach to rural housing needs surveys would be prepared that enables local market as well as affordable housing needs to be captured;
- (iii) Sets out housing requirements for each Local Service Centre and Large Village to help guide neighbourhood plans;
- (iv) Proposes that for small villages: there will be a 'zero' requirement due to Small Villages not having such a strategic role as the other rural settlements; infill can continue to come forward and/or rural exception sites be identified where there is local evidence of need; and
- (v) Suggests that other settlements could be designated as Small Villages or an existing Small Village un-designated where appropriate through the preparation of a neighbourhood plan.

#### Climate change and reversing biodiversity loss

23. In the light of the Council's acknowledgement of a climate emergency, the opportunity should be taken through the informal consultation to test our thinking and further develop our evidence to inform policies in the draft Plan. Five linked key policy themes, in addition to the Spatial Strategy, that will help support the Plan's objective in respect of adapting to and mitigating climate change have been identified:

- tackling flood risk and water management;
- enhancing green/blue infrastructure and biodiversity;
- delivering sustainable design and construction;
- encouraging sustainable, renewable energy generation and management; and
- promoting sustainable transport, active travel and improving air quality.

24. It is proposed that the consultation builds on these themes and asks people to help us develop what we already know about the social, economic and environmental challenges facing Wiltshire in terms of a changing climate - e.g. understanding the viability of carbon neutral new development; delivering a decarbonised and sustainable energy strategy; tackling retrofitting of existing building stock; creating and sustaining a 'green economy'; reversing biodiversity loss. **Appendix 4** 'Addressing climate change and biodiversity net gain through the Local Plan - raising the ambition' sets out the approach to consultation on these key themes. It considers the effectiveness of the existing Core Strategy policies that relate to climate change adaptation and mitigation. It also reflects on the work of the Global Warming and Climate Emergency Scrutiny Task Group.

25. The document concludes with a series of policy recommendations, based upon the five interlinked themes for tackling climate change and biodiversity loss along with consultation questions.

### Evidence documents

26. The Council is also working on evidence base studies that inform development of policies in the Local Plan, which where complete will also be made available for comment during the consultation. They include the Wiltshire Retail and Town Centre Study 2020 (Avison Young), which will inform revised town centre and retail policies in the Local Plan (and form the basis for replacing the dated policies within the former district local plans) and makes recommendations for development management policies.

### Consultation Arrangements

27. Subject to Cabinet approval, preparations will be made to finalise and publish the consultation material. Consultation will be undertaken for a period of at least six weeks in accordance with the Council's Statement of Community Involvement and statutory requirements. In line with the [July 2020](#) LDS, this is proposed to commence in January 2021. However, due to the escalating COVID-19 situation the start date will need to be kept under review with the final decision made under delegated authority. Any change to the start will also affect the start of the consultation on the Gypsies and Travellers Plan considered by Cabinet on 13 October 2020. As part of the consultation the following arrangements will be put in place:

- (i) Letter or email to consultees on the spatial planning consultation database, providing notification of the consultation;
- (ii) Publication of a notice in local newspapers to cover Wiltshire;
- (iii) Online publication of all consultation documents on the Council's website including consultation portal;
- (iv) An item about the consultation in the Parish/Town Council email Newsletter;
- (v) Publication of a notice on 'Our Community Matters' websites;
- (vi) Notification of the consultation to be distributed through Community Area Board networks leading up to and during the consultation period as necessary;
- (vii) Promotion via established social media channels to advertise and advise about the consultation;
- (viii) Hosted online event(s) for interested parties within the community and other stakeholders;

- (ix) Discussions with relevant authorities on cross boundary strategic planning matters.

28. In the light of COVID-19, consistent with the Council's Statement of Community Involvement Temporary Arrangements, Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) (Coronavirus) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 and Planning Practice Guidance the consultation material will not be displayed at Council offices and libraries in the interest of public safety. Bespoke measures will be put in place for anyone unable to access the online consultation documents.

29. In addition to the documents outlined above the Interim Sustainability Appraisal Report will be published as part of the consultation documents, as well as an initial informal screening opinion in relation to the Habitats Regulations Assessment.

### Next Steps

30. All representations received will then need to be considered in preparing the draft Plan; once the draft Plan is prepared further consultation will be undertaken (Regulation 19 Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended) stage). This is programmed in the LDS to commence Quarter 4 2021. It is proposed that a report summarising the main issues is presented to Cabinet following the close of the consultation.

### **Overview and Scrutiny Engagement**

31. Overview and Scrutiny has not been formally engaged in the proposals in this report. However, the recommendations of the Global Warming and Climate Emergency Scrutiny Task Group will be taken into consideration in the preparation of the draft Plan.

### **Safeguarding Implications**

32. There are no safeguarding implications arising directly from the proposal.

### **Public Health Implications**

33. Planning for sustainable development to meet the employment, housing and infrastructure needs of communities helps foster their wellbeing. Well planned development and good place shaping supports health and wellbeing of local communities, for example, through the provision of green infrastructure and infrastructure to encourage active travel (walking and cycling). Maintaining up to date policy for Wiltshire supports the timely delivery of social infrastructure to improve resilience of local communities.

### **Procurement Implications**

34. There are no direct procurement implications relating to the proposals in the report. However, the development of the draft Local Plan will need to be supported by appropriate evidence which may need to be procured (see

financial implications below). Any future procurement will be undertaken in line with corporate procedures.

### **Equalities Impact of the Proposal**

35. The Council is subject to a public sector equality duty introduced by the Equality Act 2010. Consultation will be carried out in accordance with the Council's adopted Statement of Community Involvement and associated Temporary Arrangements that are in place in the light of the COVID-19 situation. This takes an inclusive approach to consultation ensuring that everyone can be involved.
36. An Equality Impact Assessment will be carried out alongside the preparation of the Plan and will accompany the draft Plan when it is submitted to the Secretary of State for examination.

### **Environmental and Climate Change Considerations**

37. In developing the Plan regard will continue to be given to the Wiltshire Council Climate Change motion (26 February 2019), as part of policy and proposal formulation. To be legally compliant, the Plan must include policies designed to ensure that the development and use of land in the local planning authority area contributes to the mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change<sup>1</sup>.
38. Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessment form an integral part of the plan making process. These help to ensure negative environmental impacts are avoided, and policies and proposals deliver development in a sustainable manner.

### **Risks that may arise if the proposed decision and related work is not taken**

39. The principal risk is that progress is not made with developing an up to date Local Plan for Wiltshire, which will support plan led growth in the County and provide a framework for neighbourhood plans to be prepared. The Government expects all local planning authorities to have an up to date plan in place by 2023. If this is not done, the Council will be at risk of unplanned development on an ad hoc basis determined by the Secretary of State through planning appeals.

### **Risks that may arise if the proposed decision is taken and actions that will be taken to manage these risks**

40. Sections of communities may be concerned about new development taking place near to where they live. This is being mitigated by working with the Council's Communications Team to design the consultation material and enable effective communication and engagement during the preparation of the plan.

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<sup>1</sup> [Section 182 of the Planning Act 2008](#) [section 19 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004](#).

41. There could be some confusion about how the consultation relates to the Government's reforms to the planning system and what the implications are for the Local Plan Review. There is also a risk that the outcome of the consultation on the standard methodology for housing could mean that the overall level of growth being planned for needs to increase, which may have implications for the timing of the Plan as well as the proposed distribution of growth. This may mean higher figures for main settlements or the consideration of a new settlement and may require further consultation to be undertaken. Should additional sites be needed these can be drawn from the sites being tested through the consultation.
42. Officers will need to monitor changes in legislation or national policy as part of the plan making process.

### **Financial Implications**

43. The financial implications associated with undertaking the consultation will be met from 2020/2021 Spatial Planning budget. Aligning the consultation with that for the Gypsies and Travellers Plan will help minimise costs overall.
44. It is anticipated that new evidence will be required to support the evolving Plan (e.g. viability assessment, transport assessments) and the Plan will need to be progressed through subsequent stages of preparation including examination. While as far as possible this will be developed using technical expertise of officers within the Council there will be the need to procure support from external sources where this is not possible to ensure timely delivery of the Plan. Provision will be made for this in the 2021/2022 and 2022/2023 Spatial Planning base revenue budgets.

### **Legal Implications**

45. The Council has a statutory duty to prepare and maintain a Local Plan for Wiltshire (referred to in legislation as development plan documents), for which the process is set out in Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) and Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended).
46. This consultation is an additional stage of consultation undertaken in accordance with Regulation 18 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended). The Council must carry out this engagement in accordance with its Statement of Community Involvement and related Temporary Arrangements that are in place in the light of the COVID-19 situation. Further, section 33A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) requires the Council to cooperate with neighbouring authorities and other bodies constructively, actively and on an on-going basis to address any strategic cross boundary issues associated with the Plan.
47. Once adopted, the Plan will form part of the statutory development plan for the area and be used as such for determining relevant planning applications across Wiltshire.

## **Workforce Implications**

48. Preparation and implementation of the Wiltshire Local Plan Review has workforce implications across the Council, as well as the Spatial Planning service. For example, specialist input from other services is required in relation to site proposals and policy development, as well as from legal due to the statutory nature of the process and communications in relation to preparing for consultations. Subject to ongoing support in relation to COVID-19, Community Engagement Managers may also have an important role in supporting the consultation. Staff will need to be prioritised to work on the plan as the need arises.

## **Options Considered**

49. The options open to the Council are limited as Wiltshire Council is legally required to maintain up to date planning policies for the county, and progress should continue to be made in line with the commitment in the Council's Local Development Scheme.

50. As the proposals in the Planning White Paper are uncertain at this stage and could take several years to be in place due to the legislative change required it is considered necessary to continue progressing the plan as currently programmed.

## **Conclusions**

51. The proposed consultation will enable the views of the local community and other stakeholders to be taken into account on important elements of the Local Plan.

## **Sam Fox (Director - Economic Development and Planning)**

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Report Authors:

Georgina Clampitt-Dix  
Head of Spatial Planning  
[Georgina.clampitt-dix@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:Georgina.clampitt-dix@wiltshire.gov.uk)  
Tel: 01225 713472

Tim McCombe  
Spatial Planning Manager (Acting)  
[Tim.mccombe@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:Tim.mccombe@wiltshire.gov.uk)  
Tel: 01225 718472

Date of report:

19 November 2020

## **Appendices**

Appendix 1: Wiltshire Local Plan Review - Emerging Spatial Strategy

Appendix 2: Wiltshire Local Plan Review - Settlement Statements & Site Selection Reports

Appendix 3: Wiltshire Local Plan Review - Empowering Rural Communities

Appendix 4: Addressing climate change and biodiversity net gain through the Local Plan - raising the ambition

### **Background Papers**

None