

## **Chairman's Announcement - Wiltshire Local Plan Review**

The Local Plan was endorsed by both Cabinet and Full Council in July, and it is now being prepared for public consultation in the autumn.

The Local Plan will set out the vision and framework for housing, infrastructure and land for employment growth for the next 15 years, until 2035, and is the most important place-shaping document for Wiltshire.

It has been in development since 2017, and has been through several stages of engagement, consultation and changes based on evidence and the feedback from communities, developers and businesses across Wiltshire.

Following work to assess the number of homes needed, the number of planned homes in the Plan has been significantly reduced from its last iteration. When the Plan was consulted on in 2021, it proposed 45,630 homes over 20 years to 2036, but the updated Plan proposes 36,740 homes, of which over 21,900 homes have already been built or are committed. It also maximises the number of brownfield sites to help protect as much of the Wiltshire countryside as possible.

It requires 40% of all new greenfield housing developments of 10 homes or more to be affordable, with greater flexibility to make it easier to provide affordable housing in villages where there is clearly identified demand, but those developments will still need to be proportionate to the size of a village.

Another key component of the Plan is its ambitious sustainability policies, as new developments will have to meet zero carbon standards, including energy generation such as solar panels. Biodiversity in Wiltshire will improve too, as the Plan policies set out a 20% net gain for all new developments, compared to the 10% legal requirement. All new developments must also have cycling and walking connections.

The council will publicise and let communities know of the autumn consultation when the dates are confirmed. Once the public consultation is complete and all comments have been considered, the Plan will be examined by an independent Planning Inspector before it is adopted.

To read the draft Plan and policies, please see: [www.wiltshire.gov.uk/planning-policy-local-plan-review](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/planning-policy-local-plan-review)