

**Wiltshire Housing Site Allocations Plan
Examination in Public**

Statement of Common Ground

between

Wiltshire Council

and

Swindon Borough Council

1 April 2019

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Introduction

1. This Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) has been prepared by Wiltshire Council and Swindon Borough Council (the parties) to inform the Examination of the Wiltshire Housing Site Allocations Plan (the Plan). The Plan is being prepared to support the delivery of the Spatial Strategy set out within the Wiltshire Core Strategy (WCS) (adopted January 2015). The Plan will, once adopted, form part of the Development Plan for Wiltshire.
2. The SoCG clarifies that there are no strategic cross-boundary issues relating to the preparation of the Plan given that it is a Part II plan prepared to support the delivery of the Wiltshire Core Strategy.

Agreed Matters

3. The following matters are agreed.
4. Strategic cross-boundary matters were considered through the preparation of the Wiltshire Core Strategy 2026 (adopted January 2015) and Swindon Borough Local Plan 2026 (adopted March 2015); and demonstrated through respective Duty to Co-operate Statements.
5. The Wiltshire Core Strategy (Core Policy 2) includes, alongside housing requirements for the three Housing Market Areas (HMAs), 900 homes at West of Swindon within Wiltshire relating to commitments at Moredon Bridge and Ridgeway Farm. The latest published housing land supply statement (base date of 1 April 2017) shows that planning permissions relating to West Swindon are well advanced in their implementation (622 homes completed) with the rest expected by 2026; and it is agreed that these homes at West Swindon should be counted towards delivery of housing within Wiltshire Council's administrative area.
6. In line with Core Policies 1 and 2, Spatial Strategy of the WCS, land to the west of Swindon urban area is not a location where additional growth should be directed to in the North and West HMA within the Plan.
7. It is not the role of the Plan to consider the need to allocate further housing at the West of Swindon. This is a matter being addressed through the Local Plan Reviews including the review of the WCS.

Nature of Joint Working

8. The parties are working collaboratively and on an ongoing basis on cross boundary strategic planning matters relating to Swindon and Wiltshire. In September 2017, Wiltshire Council (the Council) and Swindon Borough Council (SBC) agreed aligned programmes in their Local Development Schemes (LDSs) for the review of their respective local plans underpinned by a proposed Swindon and Wiltshire Joint Spatial Framework in order to plan for the period to 2036.
9. SBC and the Council recently approved revised LDSs at their Cabinet meetings of 20 and 26 March 2019 respectively¹. These papers also endorsed the preparation of a

¹ [Swindon Borough Council Cabinet 20 March 2019](#) Agenda Item 12
[Wiltshire Council Cabinet 26 March 2019](#) Agenda Item 6

joint Statement of Common Ground to confirm the extent of joint working between the two parties in terms of the Local Plan Reviews (2016 to 2036) in the light of changes to the National Planning Policy Framework and associated guidance since July 2018. This will clarify the strategic cross boundary issues between the two authorities and the future role of the Joint Spatial Framework. This is a matter for a future SoCG.

Conclusion

10. Both parties agree that as the Plan is being prepared to support the delivery of the Spatial Strategy set out within the WCS, all strategic cross-boundary matters were appropriately considered through the preparation of the Part I WCS.

Signed:

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

Date: ...1 April 2019.....

Signed:

Phil Smith
Service Manager Planning Policy
Swindon Borough Council

Date: ...1/4/19.....