

## Village Design Statement Validation Checklist

<b>Village Design Statement for:</b>	<b>Hindon</b>
<p><b>(i) Does the VDS describe the distinctive character of the village and the surrounding countryside?</b></p>	<p>The section entitled “History of Hindon” provides a detailed description of the geographical and historic background to the settlement.</p> <p>Section 3 “Life in the Village” writes about the setting of the village, and the fact that it is within the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire AONB. This section describes communications within the village, referring to road and rail access and also access in terms of telephone and internet communications. “The People” sub section describes the village’s amenities and its various organisations. A description of the village as it is today is also provided.</p> <p>The village has suffered in the past from small affordable cottages being bought as second homes, in some cases being used only a few times in the year, and cottages are on occasions enlarged as families grow. Both of these situations have led to a reduction in the availability of smaller, affordable housing for young members of the community who are forced out of the village and prevent new younger people from coming in.</p> <p>The VDS in section 4 also provides detail about the local highways, tracks and pathways, boundaries, landscaping and open areas describing how these different features all contribute to the character of Hindon. In particular, reference is made to the impact of increasing car ownership and volume of traffic on the settlement, particularly in light of its many narrow roads. This issue is impacting on the character of the settlement.</p>
<p><b>(ii) Does the VDS show how character can be identified at three levels:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The landscape setting of the village</b></li> </ul>	<p>Section 3 describes the landscape setting of the village. It explains that Hindon is set in open countryside that is part of the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire AONB. The chalk downland supports a local agricultural industry mostly arable with sheep, dairy and beef cattle, but this provides little employment. The village lies mainly on the south facing slope to a small valley</p>

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	that runs west to east set between Fonthill Abbey Wood in the south and Great Ridge Wood in the northeast. It is on the southwest edge of Salisbury Plain with Hawking Down and Berwick Down. The open nature of the village's surrounding is a major feature of the village and well worth preserving.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The shape of the settlement</b></li> </ul>	Section 3 goes on to describe the shape of Hindon. It describes the High Street as being tree-lined, wide and spacious and that the houses are largely built in terraces running down the High Street and in little lanes running off it. This has resulted in many of the cottages having gardens divorced from the properties themselves. In spite of the open setting of Hindon there is little spare land within the village and any space that exists in the village should be preserved. Power lines and telephone cables have been laid underground in. One of the issues local to Hindon that is raised in this section is the lack of off road car parking spaces with regular double parking on the road and pavement on the west side of the High Street.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The nature of the buildings themselves</b></li> </ul>	Section 5 refers to the architecture and materials used in Hindon, with reference to walls, roofs, windows and doors, and also examines building heights. There is good use of photographic evidence in this section as examples.
<b>(iii) Does the VDS draw up design principles based on the distinctive local character?</b>	The VDS includes a number of guidelines that follow on from a discussion of issues. There are guidelines relating to " <i>Life in the Village</i> ", guidelines relating to " <i>Highways, Footpaths &amp; Open Amenities</i> " and guidelines relating to " <i>Architecture and Materials</i> ". These are well thought out and address specific local issues.

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<b>(iv) Does the VDS work in partnership with the local planning authority in the context of existing local planning policy and influence future policies.</b>	<p>Section 1.2 explains how the VDS has been produced by members of the village’s Design Statement Team to reflect the views expressed via the consultation process with participation from Salisbury District Council (SDC) Forward Planning Department.</p> <p>Section 1.3 goes on to explain that the aim of the document in the planning process and that the purpose of the document is to guide future development by providing a descriptive framework of the distinctive features that have shaped the village and which are viewed as important today. The VDS can be referred to by all, including architects, builders, those seeking planning permission, and Hindon Parish Council and Salisbury District Council when considering planning applications.</p>
<b>(v) Has the VDS been developed, researched, written and edited by local people? Is it representative of the views of the village as a whole? Has the process involved a wide section of the village community in its production?</b>	The VDS explains how all the residents of Hindon were invited to contribute to the design statement through public meetings, surveys, and an exhibition. It represents a distillation of the views of the residents of Hindon. This document was produced by members of the village’s Design Statement Team to reflect the views expressed via the consultation process.
<b>Other comments:</b>	<p>References are made in this VDS to the now former Salisbury District Council and Salisbury District Local Plan (paragraphs 1.2, 1.3, 5.1). The South Wiltshire Core Strategy is now the statutory development plan for South Wiltshire rather than the Salisbury District Local Plan although the Core Strategy does save a number of Local Plan policies. An addendum with the following wording should therefore be added to this VDS:</p> <p><i>This VDS was produced at a point in time. Therefore, there may be references in it that are now superseded. This includes references to the former Salisbury District Council and the Salisbury District Local Plan. The Salisbury District</i></p>

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	<p><i>Local Plan has been superseded by the South Wiltshire Core Strategy, albeit a number of Local Plan policies are saved in the Core Strategy. Similarly, there may be references to policies in the South Wiltshire Core Strategy that at the time of writing were still emerging. However, the VDS is still considered to be compliant with local policy on design matters. Finally, any references to the VDSs being adopted as Supplementary Planning Guidance or as a Supplementary Planning Document are also now superseded, as all VDSs are now approved as material planning considerations by the Council instead.</i></p> <p><i>The VDS has been subject to a recent review by officers and considered up-to-date and relevant, and has subsequently been approved at the Southern Area Planning Committee on 24 January 2013 as a material planning consideration.</i></p>
<b>Overall Conclusions:</b>	<p>The Hindon VDS seeks to influence the design of future development within the village. It identifies the key characteristics of the village and highlights what residents consider to be important consideration for the design of future development proposals. It provides clear guidance to developers as to what should be respected and acknowledged by new buildings in order to help preserve the local scene.</p> <p>The VDS has been assessed by officers and considered to meet the objectives set out in this validation checklist.</p>
<b>Recommendation:</b>	<p>It is recommended that, subject to the addition of the proposed addendum, the VDS for Hindon be approved as a material planning consideration for the purposes of development management.</p>