

- The remit of the **Economic Development and Planning Directorate** is to promote a thriving and growing local economy in Wiltshire, while ensuring that everyone in Wiltshire lives in a high quality environment, protecting the county so that it continues to be an attractive and healthy place to live in, work in and visit. The following areas are key priorities amongst a wide range of economic development, development management, environmental and employment work undertaken by the service, including the Wiltshire 100 Programme and Business Support Service.
- **Wiltshire Core Strategy**
The Wiltshire Core Strategy will set out the overall strategic planning policy for Wiltshire for the period until 2026, to meet the needs of Wiltshire's communities by planning for the new jobs required by our economy and the new homes for our growing and ageing population while balancing the need to protect the environment. The Planning Inspectorate has now concluded that it provides an appropriate basis for the planning of the county over the plan period. Cabinet considered the adoption of the Core Strategy on 16 December and recommended its adoption at a special meeting of Full Council which will take place on 20 January. The Core Strategy will provide the overarching context within which further Development Plan Documents are prepared including the Chippenham Site Allocations DPD.
- **Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)**
CIL is a new charge that local authorities in England can place on new development in their area. It is designed to contribute towards bridging the 'funding gap' between the total cost of new infrastructure to support development and the amount of funding available from other sources. Wiltshire Council's Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) identifies a range of physical, community, and 'green' infrastructure projects that will be required to support the level of development as set out in the Wiltshire Core Strategy. In addition, 25% of relevant CIL receipts will be passed to parish councils where a neighbourhood development plan is in place, and 15% to areas without one. The proposed CIL rates, based on the up to date development plan, evidence base and viability assessment, was consulted on in 2012 and 2014. We are now in the examination process, with hearings set for January, and seeking to adopt and implement CIL before April 2015.
- **The Swindon and Wiltshire LEP**
Local Enterprise Partnerships were set up in 2011 and Government expects local authority members of LEPs to prioritise economic development and work collaboratively across LEP areas. Wiltshire Council is the Accountable Body for and partner of the Swindon and Wiltshire LEP, which constitutes 14 Board Members including leaders of local business, local government, the Army and Further / Higher Education. Government in 2013 asked Local Enterprise Partnerships to develop Strategic Economic Plans, which would form the basis of a 'Growth Deal' with Government through which Government funding and other flexibilities would be secured for the delivery of local priorities in skills, key growth sectors, business support and infrastructure. Swindon and Wiltshire LEP has secured £129.3 million from the Government's Local Growth Fund to support economic growth in the area, with £12 million of new funding confirmed for 2015/16 and £50.1 million for 2016/17 to 20121. The LEP is also responsible for the £41.5 million allocation for Swindon and Wiltshire from the European Structural and Investment Fund (ESIF) matched by £37.67 million from public and private sources to support skills, growth, and innovation. Furthermore, City Deal – Growth Through Knowledge has secured £1.4 million from Government matched by £30.4 million from public / private sources to create a model for upskilling military leavers and other employees throughout Wiltshire.