

Information Item

Subject:	Wiltshire Core Strategy
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Weblink:	http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/wiltshirecorestrategyexamination.htm

Summary of announcement:

Core Strategy update

Following the examination in public on the draft Wiltshire Core Strategy that ended in July last year, the independent Planning Inspector appointed by the Government to examine the Core Strategy has issued his preliminary findings.

The Inspector has indicated that the housing requirement in the Core Strategy should be raised from 37,000 to 42,000 for the Plan period 2006 to 2026. Work is now being undertaken to review the evidence underpinning the plan to determine how the higher housing growth should be disaggregated across Wiltshire and how this housing will be delivered including through the development of a new housing allocations development plan document.

Specifically in relation to Chippenham, the Inspector has highlighted issues regarding the assessment of options for strategic sites at the Town particularly in relation to the transportation effects of proposals. He has suggested that these sites are removed from the Plan to allow the Council to review its approach to development allocations at the Town and that this could be done through a new development plan document so as not to hold up progress with the submitted Core Strategy.

The Inspector has also raised concerns regarding: the need to update the viability evidence to justify the level of affordable housing being required within the Plan; the assessment of the level of Gypsy and Traveller sites; and the expediency by which town centre retail frontages and settlement boundaries can be reviewed.

The Council has responded to these and other findings and has prepared timetables including public consultation for the production of two new development plan documents - one for Chippenham and the other to provide additional housing allocations elsewhere in Wiltshire - which was reported to Cabinet on 21st January 2014 through a revision to the Council's Local Development Scheme.

Further information on the Inspector's preliminary findings and Council's response can be found on the Council's website at:

<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/wiltshirecorestrategyexamination.htm>