

Examination of the Wiltshire Local Plan Review

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27 June 2025

Dear Mrs Clampitt-Dix,

Wiltshire Local Plan examination – Outcome following Stage 1 hearings

1. Further to the conclusion of the Stage 1 hearings relating to the Duty to Cooperate (DtC) which were held on 24 June 2025, we are writing to you to set out our initial views on the next steps for the examination.
2. As you will be aware, section 33A of the Localism Act (2004) imposes a duty on Local Planning Authorities to co-operate with other Local Planning Authorities, County Councils and other prescribed bodies or other persons by engaging constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis in relation to strategic matters in Local Plan preparation.
3. Having considered all of the written and oral evidence before us up to this point, we are satisfied that at this stage the examination can proceed to Stage 2 which will consider the soundness and remaining matters of legal compliance of the plan. To avoid the potential for any abortive work, we have to date, focussed our preparation on matters relating to the DtC and staged the hearings accordingly. Therefore, a further set of Matters, Issues and Questions (MIQs) will be prepared and issued to you in due course and in advance of the next set of hearing sessions. For certainty, please note that our final conclusions on the DtC will be set out in our report and may be informed by relevant discussions in subsequent hearings and associated written evidence as the examination progresses.
4. We will now make contact with the Council via the Programme Officer to schedule the further hearing sessions for Stage 2 and to set out the accompanying deadlines for hearing statements. In order to take into account the forthcoming school summer holiday, and the need for further preparation, it would seem prudent to look for hearing dates in the autumn.
5. We have asked the Programme Officer to add a copy of this letter to the examination website to keep participants and other interested parties up to date. We are not inviting, and do not envisage accepting, any comments or additional evidence from other examination participants at the stage and until the further set of MIQs have been published.
6. If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to let us know via the Programme Officer.

Yours sincerely,

Philip Mileham and Gareth Wildgoose

INSPECTORS