

Date: 26 February 2026

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Dear Mr Mileham and Mr Wildgoose,

Wiltshire Local Plan examination - Update February 2026

Further to our letter dated 30 January, in response to your letter dated 22 December 2026, I am pleased to provide Wiltshire Council's first monthly update.

The following table, taken from the Proposed Programme of Work submitted to you on the 30 January 2026, demonstrates that good progress has been made in respect of the first tasks associated with 'Workstream 1: Spatial Strategy'. These ostensibly address the need to review our Local Housing Need and employment demand for the rebased Plan. Alongside this, we are progressing other tasks and have attached an overview diagram to illustrate progress made since we submitted our response to your letter (ID12).

Workstream 1: Spatial strategy ID12 paragraph(s): 4-21, 24-26, 30 and 31 [linked to Workstream 5]	Option A 2038	Option B 2042	Status
Establish revised housing and employment needs for plan period to 2038 and an extended plan period to 2042, both rebased to 1 April 2023, as a basis for setting housing and employment requirements at plan area, Housing Market Area (HMA) and Functional Economic Market Area (FEMA) respectively. <i>Informs Housing and Employment Topic Papers and Addendum to Revised Spatial Strategy (RSS).</i>	January - February	January - February	Complete
Assess rebased housing supply and sources of supply (including draft Local Plan allocations) for housing at main settlements and rural areas, against the submitted draft Plan's spatial strategy (but without a stepped requirement and excluding Policy 21 Salisbury Area New Community) to identify any shortfalls, as well as where supply may need to be improved. <i>Informs Housing Topic Paper and Addendum to RSS.</i>	January - February	January - February	Complete

In addition to the good progress made on the first two tasks in Workstream 1, we are progressing activity across the wider Proposed Programme of Work. As anticipated, work to revise the Spatial Strategy is being shaped by the outputs from the revised housing and employment needs with immediate focus being applied to the establishment of updated requirements to plan for to 2038 (Option A) and 2042 (Option B).

We are currently focusing on developing alternative distributions of growth and have commenced work as anticipated to inform revisiting the site selection process. Work in terms of infrastructure evidence is similarly progressing, with initial engagement with infrastructure providers, focusing on education, transport, utilities, and health provision.

The discrete workstream on rural areas and neighbourhood area requirements is also underway, as is the workstream on planning for strategic logistics.

Finally, work is being undertaken in parallel in terms of preparing for the initial phases of Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) on the emerging spatial options. Early appraisal work is being prepared so that a full SA and HRA can meaningfully inform the iterative development of the submitted Plan through the remaining examination.

Looking ahead to the future monthly updates

We remain confident that progress across all Workstreams is on track and aligned with the Proposed Programme of Work submitted to you on 30 January. As requested in ID12, we continue to ensure that workstreams are properly sequenced and inter linked, particularly where technical evidence and strategic policy development need to proceed in parallel. A fuller update on all workstreams will be provided in our March report.

Whilst we haven't yet received your response to our letter dated 30 January 2026, we nonetheless consider the work we are doing is on track to address all the concerns you have raised.

We hope that this update is helpful and look forward to your feedback in due course.

Yours sincerely

A black rectangular box redacting the signature of Nic Thomas.

Nic Thomas
Director - Planning, Economy and Regeneration

Progress on Proposed Programme of Work (February 2026)

Darker shade indicates progress to date against timescale.

