

Winchester City Council Scoping Consultation

Question 1

How would you prefer the Council to engage with you when developing the Local Plan 2044? Tick all that apply:

- ☒ Updates via email, social media or website

Attending drop-in sessions to discuss specific issues

- ☒ Through more interactive web-based consultation material
- ☒ Online events or presentations
- ☒ View online presentations

Be able to view local plan documents in my local library

- ☒ Having webinars available online to review at my convenience

Via my local councillor/ward member

Question 2

At which points during the preparation of the Local Plan 2044 would you like to receive

updates? (Tick all that apply)

- ☒ All of the different stages (or select individual stages below)

Consultation on the proposed local plan evidence and content

Publication of the Gateway 2 observations

Publication of the Gateway 3 observations

Consultation on the proposed local plan

Submission of the local plan for independent examination

Publication of the date and place of the examination hearings and name of the examiner

If there is a decision of the examiner to pause the examination

Publication of documentation setting out what work the planning authority has undertaken

in the pause period and any modifications proposed to the local plan.

[Type here]

Publication of the examiners report

Adoption of the local plan

Question 3

Whilst the exact amount of housing and employment required has yet to be determined, we are inviting views at this stage on potential additional spatial development options. This is to ensure we have considered all possible approaches to meeting national policy requirements, including any alternatives and the reasons for suggesting them. Are there any additional options that we should be considering?

No

Yes – please explain your reasoning

Answer Yes

Whilst the historic approaches that have been described within the scoping document are reasonable, East Hampshire District Council anticipates that they will need to be rationalised with a view to supporting the delivery of the spatial development strategy that will start to emerge from the Hampshire and the Solent Combined County Authority over the 30-month plan-making period. Therefore, cross-boundary dialogue with individual neighbouring authorities such as East Hampshire District Council and increasing dialogue with the combined authority will be important for identifying opportunities for strategic-scale development. These opportunities could be associated with strategic public transport networks such as mainline railways, especially in light of the new NPPF's policies relating to development opportunities, housing densities and well-connected stations. More broadly speaking, there may be opportunity to identify a transport-focused spatial strategy option (taking account of NPPF Policy TR1) that would optimise development within appropriate walking and cycling distances of sustainable transport networks and connections. The Department for Transport's Connectivity Tool could be used as a principal input for identifying a spatial strategy in this respect. In common with East Hampshire, transport is likely to be a significant source of future greenhouse gas emissions for Winchester district and reducing this source of emissions will therefore be important for meeting the Council's net zero carbon commitments.

Question 7

Do you agree that new homes should be designed to achieve a maximum water capacity use of 100 litres per person per day which is currently in the adopted Local Plan 2040 (Policy CN4) and should be rolled forward to the Local Plan 2044?

Yes – continue with the same standard in the Local Plan 2044

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No – use a different standard in the Local Plan 2044

No - the plan should refer to the relevant building regulations

No – take a more flexible approach in the Local Plan 2044

Don't know

Answer No – take a more flexible approach in the Local Plan 2044

East Hampshire District Council supports the continued application of the 100 litres per person per day (l/p/d) standard as a proven and deliverable minimum requirement for new housing. However, given the increasing pressures on water resources arising from population growth, climate change and the need to protect sensitive river environments, EHDC through its emerging Supplementary Plan is seeking to promote the achievement of 90 l/p/d wherever feasible.

EHDC considers that Winchester City Council should give serious consideration to incorporating a 90 l/p/d target within its Local Plan. A more ambitious standard would help reduce demand on constrained water supplies, support the protection of internationally important chalk streams and river catchments, and improve long-term water resilience across the region. While any mandatory requirement must be supported by evidence on viability and deliverability, promoting 90 l/p/d would provide a clear direction of travel and reflect the scale of the water resource challenges facing Hampshire.

EHDC therefore supports retention of 100 l/p/d as a minimum standard but encourages Winchester City Council to pursue opportunities to achieve 90 l/p/d in new development wherever possible. This would strike an appropriate balance between deliverability and environmental ambition.

Question 10

We are looking at different ways to provide Gypsy and Traveller accommodation. Do you support the Council considering the following options in the Local Plan 2044?

Please select Yes or No for each:

Allocating land in the Local Plan 2044 for new, stand-alone sites

Answer Yes - EHDC supports allocating sites where there is a clearly identified need and suitable sites are available. Allocations can provide certainty, help meet accommodation needs and reduce unauthorised development.

Requiring larger developments in the Local Plan 2044 to include pitches or plots

Answer Yes - East Hampshire District Council supports, in principle, the exploration of requiring larger developments to provide Gypsy and Traveller pitches or plots, as this could help increase delivery of accommodation, contribute towards meeting identified needs and provide residents with access to existing services, facilities and

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infrastructure. However, any such approach should be applied flexibly rather than through a blanket requirement, recognising that not all large developments will be suitable locations. Consideration should be given to site-specific factors, including viability, design, management arrangements, local demand and the preferences of Gypsy and Traveller communities, to ensure provision is deliverable, sustainable and meets the needs of future occupiers.

Setting clearer requirements to help assess new sites in the Local Plan 2044

Answer Yes - Clear criteria can provide certainty for applicants, communities and decision-makers. They can help ensure new sites are located in sustainable locations, integrate appropriately with their surroundings, have suitable access to services and infrastructure, and avoid unacceptable impacts on the environment, landscape and neighbouring residents.

*One key omission from the scoping consultation is that there appears to be no reference to **Travelling Showpeople accommodation** in Question 10, or elsewhere within the document. While the consultation seeks views on options for meeting the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers, it does not address the needs of Travelling Showpeople as a separate group. National planning policy requires local authorities to assess and plan for the accommodation needs of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople, and therefore Travelling Showpeople accommodation should be given equal consideration within the consultation. This would help ensure that the Local Plan 2044 is prepared on a comprehensive and inclusive basis.*

Question 20

Do you agree that the 2024 Strategic Transport Vision and Objectives are appropriate for guiding the future transport evidence work?

Vision

Answer No – greater mention should be given to aspects that the transport evidence will specifically inform i.e. increasing accessibility to daily services by locating development in sustainable locations and increasing use of sustainable transport modes, particularly cycling and walking.

Objective 1 – Promoting Healthy Living

Answer Yes – could be enhanced by adding locating development in the most sustainable locations.

Objective 2 - Creating healthy places and streets

Answer No – this will not be informed by the transport evidence.

Objective 3 - Developing Strategic connectivity

Answer Yes

[Type here]

Question 21

Do you agree that the parking standards in Local Plan 2044 should take into account evidence including the settlement hierarchy and the DfT Connectivity tool?

Answer: Yes to both

Question 22

Do you think the current thresholds used by Hampshire County Council to decide when a Transport Assessment is required to assess the transport impacts of new development are appropriate?

Answer: Yes to all

If you have answered no to any, please state what should change and why:

Question 28

Which of the following actions should the Local Plan 2044 include to support the priorities set out in the Local Nature Recovery Strategy? Please rank in order of priority:

Protecting and enhancing designated and priority habitats and wildlife sites

Creating, restoring and connecting to existing ecological networks

Delivering measurable biodiversity net gain and wider nature recovery through development

Supporting priority habitat creation and restoration (e.g. woodland, grassland, heathland,

wetlands and coastal habitats)

Improving river corridors, wetlands and water quality

Supporting priority species recovery

Delivering nature-based solutions for climate resilience, flooding and environmental quality

Enhancing green infrastructure and access to nature to benefit health and wellbeing

Answer: East Hampshire District Council considers that all of the listed actions are important and should form part of an integrated approach to nature recovery. The actions are highly interrelated and collectively contribute to the delivery of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy. As such, the Council is not in a position to rank them in order of importance.

However, if Winchester City Council considers it necessary to prioritise actions within the Local Plan, EHDC suggests that priority should be given to measures that secure

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the greatest strategic and long-term environmental benefits. In particular, the protection and enhancement of designated and priority habitats, the creation and restoration of ecological networks, and the improvement of river corridors, wetlands and water quality should be central considerations. These actions provide the foundation for wider nature recovery, support biodiversity resilience at a landscape scale, and help deliver multiple environmental benefits, including climate adaptation, flood mitigation and ecosystem recovery.

The Council also considers that nature-based solutions, habitat restoration, biodiversity net gain and green infrastructure should be integrated throughout the Plan and delivered alongside development wherever possible. A holistic approach will be most effective in achieving the ambitions of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy and securing meaningful, long-term gains for biodiversity and environmental quality.