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Examination of the Winchester District Local Plan 2020-2040 (the District Plan/the Plan)

Inspector: R Barrett MRTPI IHBC

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Examination web pages: [Local Plan Examination - Winchester District Local Plan](#)

Inspector Note 17

1. I bring to your attention the written ministerial statement (WMS) of 27 November 2025¹ by Matthew Pennycook MP, Minister of State for Housing and Planning. That provides an update on the implementation of Government reforms to the plan-making system in England. It was accompanied by a letter to the Chief Executive of the Planning Inspectorate of the same date titled Local Plan Reforms – Update to the Duty to Co-operate².
2. The matter of the Duty to Cooperate, along with any consequential soundness issues have been aired throughout the examination. However, at this stage, does the Council have any comments on the implications for the examination of the Government's intent to abolish the Duty to Cooperate? Given that the MM consultation for this examination is underway, please can I have a response to this question by **5pm 15 December 2025**.
3. Please can the Council add this Inspector Note to the examination website, along with the WMS and letter to PINS. On receipt of the Council's letter I will consider the most appropriate way to proceed.
4. At this stage, I am not seeking, nor envisage accepting, any responses to this letter from any other parties to the examination.

Yours sincerely

R Barrett

Inspector appointed to examine the Winchester District Local Plan 2020-2040

11 December 2025

¹ <https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-statements/detail/2025-11-27/hcws1104>

² https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/69286415345e31ab14ecf67d/Local_Plans_letter_to_PINS.pdf

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