

ED45

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

Inspector: R Barrett MRTPI IHBC

Programme Officer: Ms Jill Taylor.

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

Inspector Note 18

1. The Inspector requested comment from the Council on the implications for the examination of the Government's intent to abolish the Duty to Cooperate [ED43a, ED43b, ED43c]. That intent is outlined in the written ministerial statement (WMS) of 27 November 2025¹ by Matthew Pennycook MP, Minister of State for Housing and Planning, 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 Inspector has received the Council's response. [ED44] She now invites comments on the Council's position [ED44] from respondents who commented on the matter of the Duty to Cooperate at Regulation 19 stage. Any responses should be succinct, focussed only on the matters raised in the Council's response, should not repeat matters raised previously and should be no more than 500 words in length. Please provide responses via the Programme Officer by **5pm 9 January 2026**.
3. This is an Inspector led consultation. It is separate to the MM consultation underway at present. The Inspector will have regard to all comments made in coming to her final conclusions on the soundness of the Plan.

Yours sincerely

R Barrett

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

16 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