

Meeting Minutes



Duty to Cooperate: New Forest District Council & Winchester City Council

Purpose Duty to Cooperate – Initial Meeting	Date & Time 22/07/2025 – 13:00
Location MS Teams	

Attendees

Name	Job Title / Organisation	Email
James Smith (JS)	Planning Policy Team Leader / New Forest District Council	[REDACTED]
Peter McGowan (PM)	Senior Policy Planner / New Forest District Council	[REDACTED]
Jessica Heredge (JH)	Planning Policy Officer / New Forest District Council	[REDACTED]

Emma Betteridge (EB)	Principal Planning Officer / Winchester City Council	
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Items Discussed

1. Introductions

- a. Brief introductions from all attendees.

2. Update on Local Plan timetables

- a. JS gave an update on the current status of NFDC's Local Plan Review, and intended timetable through to submission. Uncertainty noted in light of LGR and scheduled Mayoral elections in Spring 2026.
- b. EB provided an update on WCC's Local Plan. WCC are awaiting a decision from the Inspector following hearings earlier this year, however have very recently commenced work on the next Local Plan.

3. Housing need and distribution

- a. JS provided an update on housing need, confirming that the standard method local need figure of 1,511dpa is approximately 6x NFDC's current delivery rate. JS noted that the heavily constrained nature of the NFDC area means it is unlikely that need can be met in full.
- b. EB noted that WCC have been approached by several Local Planning Authorities, and has encouraged NFDC to approach all authorities within Hampshire to request assistance in accommodating unmet need. EB further noted that should NFDC formally request assistance from WCC, WCC would need to see that NFDC have followed a 'no stone left unturned' approach. JS confirmed this would be the case.

4. Employment need/provision

- a. PM gave an update on employment need, and the ongoing employment needs assessment. PM confirmed that outputs from this study are expected at the end of July, and noted that at present, it is anticipated that NFDC will be able to meet its employment need in full.
- b. PM noted uncertainty surrounding implications of the Solent Freeport.

5. Mitigating impacts of development on international nature conservation designations (e.g., recreational mitigation)

- a. JS noted that NFDC's key issues for mitigation are recreational mitigation on designated sites, and nutrient mitigation in watercourses.
- b. JS noted NFDC involvement/participation in PfSH mitigation schemes.
- c. EB noted that WCC do not fall within the 13.8km buffer, however do fall within the 15km zone of influence.

6. Other strategic issues

- a. JS and EB confirmed no further strategic issues to mention at this time.

7. Frequency of meetings and date for next meeting

- a. Agreed that next meeting to take place prior to NFDC's Regulation 18 consultation.

Agreed Actions & Priorities

1. JS to collate information for WCC on NFDC's work on private Waste Water Treatment Works (WWTWs) and nutrients.
2. NFDC to circulate meeting invitation for the next meeting, to take place in early October 2025.

Next Meeting

Both parties agreed that the next meeting should take place prior to NFDC's Regulation 18 consultation, which is currently anticipated to take place in October/November 2025.

Agreement that the next meeting will be early October; NFDC to schedule and circulate agenda.