

Test Valley Borough Council

WCC response to Revised regulation 18 (2025) consultation

Responses to Chapter 2 - National, Regional and Local Context

Paragraph 2.15

Winchester City Council supports the description of the positive collaborative working undertaken across South Hampshire through the Partnership for South Hampshire set out in paragraph 2.15.

Paragraph 2.17

Winchester City Council notes the contents of the Duty to Cooperate Topic Paper. The Council notes that a Statement of Common Ground between the two authorities was signed last year and published in support of the WCC Local Plan Regulation 19 consultation in October 2024. WCC has maintained a dialogue with TVBC since that date and will be keen to prepare an updated SoCG to support the emerging TVBC local Plan over the coming months.

Paragraph 2.18

Winchester City Council (WCC) notes the comments in paragraph 2018 regarding Natural England on compensatory habitats, and the need for a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) to be updated. WCC recently published a HRA (July 2024), Addendum (November 2024) and Air Quality Assessment (November 2024) in support of its Local Plan which dealt with similar issues. These documents are all available from the Local Plan Examination website at <https://www.localplan.winchester.gov.uk/examination-page> and may provide useful context for that work.

Responses to Chapter 3 - Spatial Strategy and Housing Needs

Paragraph 3.37

Winchester City Council notes the comment in paragraph 3.37 that TVBC does not have any current requests to help meet unmet housing needs from neighbouring authorities. WCC does not intend to submit such a request to TVBC, but considers it is likely that such requests may be received during the current consultation, and notes that the Duty to Cooperate Topic Paper does record that Havant Borough Council has sought a formal commitment for TVBC to deliver 2,000 dwellings in unmet need from Havant Borough. Paragraph 3.37 in the TVBC Regulation 18 Local Plan therefore seems to be at odds with the information that has been included in the TVBC Duty to Co operate Topic Paper. WCC are aware through its own Duty to Cooperate conversations that Havant Borough

Council have an unmet housing need of 9,292 homes, Portsmouth have an unmet housing need of 4,377 homes and Gosport have an unmet housing need of 4,800 homes.

WCC reiterates its comment submitted in Regulation 18 Stage 1 consultation that Local Planning Authorities like TVBC should be including an unmet housing need allowance over and above their Standard Method which can help to meet any unmet housing need in the wider PfSH area.

Spatial Strategy Policy 6 (SS6): Meeting the Housing Requirement

Winchester City Council notes the revised housing site allocations set out in this policy and elsewhere in the Plan document. The Council does not wish to raise any objections to any allocations, but understands that additional work is to be undertaken to understand and respond to infrastructure requirements and environmental impacts of this increased level of housing development, and it is expected that will address any cross boundary impacts. Winchester City Council published last year a series of documents which may be helpful in identifying and addressing any cross-boundary impacts, including the Habitats Regulations Assessment, Infrastructure Delivery Plan and Transport Assessment. These are all available on the Winchester Local Plan Examination page at <https://www.localplan.winchester.gov.uk/examination-page>.