

Duty to Co-operate Meeting Note

Between Winchester City Council (WCC) and Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council (BDBC)

Date: 8 October 2026

Attendees

- Adrian Fox, Strategic Planning Manager, Winchester City Council (WCC)
- Jo Brombley, Planning Policy Manager, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council (BDBC)

Matters Discussed

Water Supply and Infrastructure Constraints

JB provided an update on the ongoing water supply challenges affecting parts of Basingstoke and Deane Borough. Significant issues relating to the balance between water demand and available supply currently remain unresolved, impacting upon the determination of planning applications and the progression of local plan preparation.

BDBC intends to progress its plan-making programme with a new style Local Plan and will be issuing its Notice of Intention to Commence Plan-Making, accompanied by a six-week scoping consultation running from 9 October to 20 November 2026.

Discussion on Water Resource Planning

AF highlighted that Portsmouth Water plans over a significantly longer timeframe than many other water companies. It was noted that Portsmouth Water prepares its Water Resource Management Plans over a 50-year planning horizon, helping to ensure that future water demands and infrastructure requirements are considered over the longer term.

Cross-Boundary Co-operation

AF advised that Winchester City Council was entering the final week of its Local Plan Scoping Consultation and emphasised the importance of maintaining regular dialogue between the two authorities on matters relating to water supply and demand. Both parties agreed that continued engagement and information sharing would be beneficial in understanding emerging constraints, infrastructure requirements and the implications of future development proposals across the wider area.

Agreed Actions

1. Maintain ongoing dialogue regarding emerging evidence on water supply, demand and infrastructure capacity and keep WCC informed of any implications for plan-making and decision-taking.
2. Continue Duty to Co-operate engagement on strategic matters relating to water resources and local plan preparation.