MEETING NOTE

Meeting: Winchester City Council and Environment Agency

Attendees: Bethany Edwards (WCC); Anna Rabone (Environment Agency)

Date: 25 September 2026

Time: 2:30pm – 3pm

Purpose of Meeting

To provide an overview of the Winchester District Local Plan 2044 Scoping Consultation to assist the statutory consultee with responding to the consultation and understanding the matters most relevant to their organisation.

Key Discussion Points

- WCC provided an overview of the Local Plan 2044 Scoping Consultation, including its purpose, structure and programme for preparation.
- Discussion focused on flood risk, climate change, water quality and environmental considerations that may be relevant to future policy development.
- The Environment Agency highlighted the importance of continuing engagement as evidence and policy work progresses through the plan-making process.
- It was confirmed that Suz Greenwood would be the principal point of contact for future engagement and consultation responses.

Areas of Potential Interest to the Environment Agency

- Question 1: Preferred methods for engagement during the preparation of the Local Plan 2044.
- Question 2: The stages of Local Plan preparation at which updates should be provided.
- Question 3: Additional spatial development options that should be considered to meet future housing and employment needs.
- Question 6: Whether tackling climate change should continue to be a key focus throughout the Local Plan 2044.
- Question 7: Whether the water efficiency standard of 100 litres per person per day should be carried forward into the Local Plan 2044.

- Question 26: Locations within the Plan area that experience flooding from sources such as heavy rain, rivers or groundwater.
- Question 27: Locations where new development or green infrastructure could help reduce flooding through natural flood management.
- Question 28: The actions the Local Plan 2044 should prioritise to support the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.
- Question 29: Whether the existing open space quantity standards, accessibility thresholds and typologies remain appropriate.

Outcome and Next Steps

- WCC agreed to send the Environment Agency a highlighted copy of the Scoping Consultation document, identifying the questions most relevant to its responsibilities and areas of interest.
- Environment Agency agreed to review the Scoping Consultation and consider submitting comments on the areas most relevant to its responsibilities.
- Environment Agency noted that, given the consultation timescale, a proportionate response focused on key matters would be the most practical approach.