



Winchester Local Plan

Matter 3 Hearing Statement

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MATTER 3: THE PLAN'S VISION AND STRATEGIC POLICIES SP1, SP2 AND SP3

Issue 1: Whether the Vision and strategic policies SP1, SP2 and SP3 are positively prepared, justified, effective and consistent with national policy.

Policy SP2

1. Given the transitional arrangements set out in NPPF December 2024 paragraphs 234-236) would a modification requiring a Plan review within a stated timescale be clear and effective? Given the above national policy would such a modification be necessary for soundness?

- 1.1.1 Yes, a robust policy will be required to ensure the timely delivery of a review of the Local Plan. Gladman would recommend a policy similar to that used in the Bedford 2030 plan and submit the following wording for consideration:

Policy XX: Reviewing the Local Plan Update

The Council will undertake an immediate review of the Local Plan Update. An updated plan will be submitted for examination no later than 30 months after the date of adoption of the plan. In the event that this submission date is not adhered to, the policies relating to the supply of land will be deemed out of date in accordance with paragraph 11d) of the National Planning Policy Framework. The reviewed plan will secure levels of growth that accord with the Standard Method and any growth deals that have been agreed.

2. To accord with national policy at NPPF paragraph 60, to boost significantly the supply of homes, should the numbers expressed in policy SP2 be stated as minimums?

- 1.1.2 Yes, these figures should be expressed as minimums.

Policy SP3

1. Does the policy strike the right balance between protecting the countryside and promoting development to meet local needs? Should the policy explicitly recognise the sustainability of locations immediately adjacent to existing settlement boundaries or previously developed land?

1.1.3 Gladman would support an amendment made to the policy to provide for more flexibility recognising that locations immediately adjacent to the settlement boundary are just as sustainable as locations within the boundary.

1.1.4 A move to a criterion-based settlement boundary policy would be supported, particularly in the interim between the potential adoption of this plan and preparation of a Local Plan the delivers the housing needs as set out through the new standard method introduced in late 2024.