

# YOUR PLACE YOUR PLAN.

Winchester District Local Plan

## Winchester City Council Local Plan Examination

### Hearing Statement Matter 19:

Monitoring

April 2025



**Winchester**  
City Council

**Matter 19 Monitoring**

**Issue: Whether the Plan would be able to be monitored effectively to ensure timely delivery of its proposals?**

Monitoring ..... 3

# Monitoring

## **1. How would the implementation of Plan policies be achieved? What mechanisms are there to assist development sites to progress?**

WCC response:

1.1 The council will monitor the implementation of the Plan through the Authorities Monitoring Report (AMR), which is published annually every December on the Council's website. AMRs use a wide range of data and indicators in order to assess whether the objectives of the policies are being met. By undertaking this monitoring, it will provide an early indication of whether certain policies could be improved or are not effective which may trigger the need for the council to consider a partial or full review of the Local Plan.

1.2 In the event that development sites are not progressing as expected there are a number of mechanisms the council would employ:

- Engagement (email, phone calls or face-to-face meetings) with site promoters or, where known, site developers to gather insights into the reason for lack of progress and act as a facilitator where appropriate,
- Regular forums to allow developers, agents and promoters to engage with the Council directly and where reasons for lack of progress can be discussed and resolutions sought,
- Close working with the Council's Development Management team to facilitate site progression, as well as agencies responsible for delivery of key elements of site, such as Hampshire County Council for education and highways, the NHS for health infrastructure, and the Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England.
- Engagement with neighbouring authorities where trends in delivery delays can be discussed, ideas for facilitating delivery can be shared and region-wide issues can be addressed,
- Engagement with Homes England in its role as the government's homes accelerator, or exploration of forms of funding or other plans or programmes available to support development,
- A review of the Plan, specific policies or producing supporting or supplementary planning documents where a specific issue is identified that can be addressed this way.

## **2. How would the implementation of the Plan be monitored? Would it be effective? How would the results of monitoring be acted upon?**

WCC response:

1.3 The council recognises the importance of effective and meaningful monitoring in order to ensure the Plan policies are successfully meeting the Plan's objectives. It has a strong track record of consistent and effective monitoring in

the form of the AMR. This has been published on an annual basis against indicators and policies, and enables the effects of Plan policies to be monitored, allowing the Council to respond quickly where these may not be working as anticipated. The Plan's performance against AMR indicators, which themselves are reviewed and updated over time taking account of changes in circumstances, will act as a trigger for review of policies which may not be performing as expected.

- 1.4 Reviews at least every five years are a legal requirement for all local plans (Regulation 10A of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012). National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Paragraphs 31, 32 and 33 establish the framework for the review of Local Plans. Local Authorities are expected to be informed by relevant and up to date evidence. It also states that a review of strategic policies will be required should the government's standard housing figure change significantly (which has recently happened).
- 1.5 As the government's standard method for Winchester District has significantly increased from 676 homes per year to 1,157 homes per year, Cabinet on the 12/02/25 agreed to an immediate review of the Local Plan which has been set out in the Interim Local Development Scheme ([ED16](#)).

### **3. Overall does the Plan deal adequately with uncertainty?**

WCC response:

- 1.6 The Plan has been prepared in the full knowledge that there is always a level of uncertainty in plan making which is currently, with the change in the government administration, going through a stage of unprecedented change. For example, the city council is aware that the government will be in the Summer 2025 publishing the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act (2023) secondary legislation which will include details about the revised plan-making system and there will be public consultation on National Development Management policies. Allied to this the Council is not directly responsible for the delivery of many of the indicators, such as housing, facilities and other infrastructure. The level of certainty can be maximised through well-evidenced, clear and positive development management and strategic policies, which the council considers are contained within the Plan. These ensure that developers and other interested parties can be clear about where development will be accepted, what type of development, and how constraints and opportunities are expected to be dealt with.
- 1.7 It is essential that the policies that are included in the Local Plan are effective and more importantly, they are delivering the Plan's vision and objectives. Every December the council publishes the AMR. The AMR plays an important role in monitoring the existing adopted Local Plan.

- 1.8 The Monitoring Framework sets out a basis for assessment of the Plan's performance through the Plan Period against indicators and will signal when a change in the Plan's circumstances mean a review of the policies is required. The AMR includes a range of indicators relating to housing which covers a range of housing matters including; among others, statistics on housing delivery, strategic site delivery, number of affordable houses, CIL collected and employment and retail floorspace.