

**Malmesbury Town Council.**

**Planning and Environment Committee.**

**Local Plan review.**

**1. Purpose of the report.**

**1.1** To update committee on Wiltshire Council's Local plan review and to formulate a response before the consultation expiry date yet to be confirmed but expected to be 6 weeks from a date early in 2021.

**2. Background.**

2.1 Wiltshire Council is legally required to maintain an up-to-date planning policy for the County, made in line the Council's Local Development Scheme. As the Government's Future of Planning White Paper could take several years to be in place, it is considered necessary to continue to progress Wiltshire's Local Plan as currently programmed.

2.2 Local Plans are shaped by setting out the Government's requirements for a level of growth that each area needs to accommodate, in this case up to 2036.

2.3 By having a consultation period prior to making a draft plan, it will enable Wiltshire Council to gain views of the community and stakeholders to consider/include on the draft plan thinking in early 2021.

2.4 In March 2019, Wiltshire Council identified four Housing Market areas (HMAs), at Chippenham, Salisbury, Swindon, and Trowbridge as the appropriate basis for housing growth across Wiltshire. The Swindon element will be dealt with by Swindon Borough Council.

2.5 In April 2019, a preferred housing requirement of 40,840 to 45,600 was identified by Wiltshire Council for the Chippenham, Salisbury, and Trowbridge areas. The minimum number was set by Government and the higher number was based on analysis from long term migration trends/forecasts. The Government, however, is reviewing the method used by Local planning authorities, so this may change. Forecasts estimate an additional 26 Hectares of land will be needed for Businesses and jobs. The local Plan must accommodate these scales of growth.

2.5 The Hierarchy of settlements is set out in the Wiltshire Core Strategy (Core Policy 1) The levels are A: Principal Settlements, B: Market Towns, C: Local Service Centres, and D: Large Villages and Small Villages.

2.6 The aim is to focus growth on the main settlements, levels A and B, with Malmesbury being in level B. How this will affect Malmesbury is outlined in Appendix A.

2.7 A secondary objective of the Local Plan is Wiltshire Core Strategy (2015), strategic objectives 2: Addressing climate change, which includes, renewable energy generation, improving the energy performance of new buildings, sustainable construction, tackling flood risk delivering green infrastructure and sustainable transport. These will be reviewed and incorporated into the new Local Plan and so deliver Wiltshire Council's carbon reduction aspirations along with compliance with legislation and National Planning policy expectations to be carbon neutral by 2030.

2.8 All representations received will need to be considered in preparing the draft plan in accordance with regulation 19 of the Town and Country Planning regulations 2012 (as amended). This is scheduled for quarter 4 2021 but may be delayed due to the Covid 19 pandemic. The Government expects all local planning authorities to have an up-to-date plan in place by 2023.

### **3. Proposal.**

Committee are asked to discuss and formulate a response on the possible affects to us in a timely manner.

### **4. Risks / Financial Cost.**

At present there are no risks or financial costs involved in doing any of the above.

**Cllr Philip Exton**