

WILTSHIRE LOCAL PLAN & MALMESBURY NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

A meeting was held on the 20th June between representatives from the three councils involved in the Malmesbury Neighbourhood Plan [MNP] and officers from WC Spatial Strategy to agree a process by which the MNP could be updated in line with the evolving Wiltshire Local Plan [WLP]. The MNP was made in February 2015 and extends to 2026; it includes the parishes of Brokenborough and St Paul Malmesbury Without. It is important that the strategic WLP and the MNP complement each other in order for a holistic approach to planning for the period 2016 to 2036 to be taken.

The strategic policies in the evolving WLP would establish a framework for the town's growth with the detail set out through local policies in the MNP. Additional to an overall scale of growth for the plan period, the WLP could set a direction for the provision of infrastructure investment, a scale of affordable housing, a definition of the town centre area and objectives for a strategy to support this role, and to set down principles for landscape and heritage protection as well as mitigating flood risk.

WC has worked with consultants to identify a set of alternative development strategies that highlight different choices about the distribution of future growth in the County. Malmesbury has been placed in the Chippenham Housing Market Area [HMA] along with Calne, Chippenham, Corsham, Devizes, and Melksham. The rate of development in Chippenham represents a mid-point between rolling forward the present strategy uncapped and a higher growth option reflecting both its prospects for future growth and to suppressed demand in the past. As a consequence rates of development at Calne, Corsham Devizes and Malmesbury have been reduced.

It is suggested that the housing figure identified for the town was appropriate given the number of constraints that were highlighted – land availability, capacity of education, impact upon views of the Abbey, impact upon the town's heritage and the need for better transport infrastructure including car parking provision.

It is suggested that a small, cross-parish group is formed to work with a WC officer to update the MNP. A Statement of Common Ground would be agreed with WC that would identify the areas that needed working on and the timescales for this work to be completed. This way the WLC and MNP would keep in step. It was tentatively suggested that a Regulation 14 pre-submission stage could be achieved by early in 2020.

Cllr Roger Budgen
Richard Spencer-Williams
24.06.19