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## **Test Valley Borough Council Local Plan**

### **Refined Issues and Options Consultation on the next Local Plan (Summer 2020)**

### **Draft Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report Consultation**

Thank you for consulting Wiltshire Council on the above documents. At this early stage of your plan making process we would wish to offer the following comments.

Wiltshire Council has carried out early stages of engagement with Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC) to inform plan making for the respective authorities. Wiltshire is currently undertaking a Local Plan Review (LPR) which will plan for the period 2016-2036. It is anticipated that this work on identifying strategic cross boundary matters will continue throughout the preparation of both the 'next Local Plan' for TVBC and the Wiltshire LPR.

In terms of plan making, Wiltshire Council is cognisant of the functional relationship that settlements such as Ludgershall and Tidworth have with nearby settlements in the Test Valley area of Hampshire in terms of access to employment, retail and wider services. As such, these cross-boundary effects, along with meeting local housing need and transport issues are matters that Wiltshire Council and TVBC have a common interest in considering through plan preparation. Wiltshire Council is therefore committed to ensuring that these matters will be kept under review through the duty to cooperate.

### **Meeting the need for housing**

At this stage, it is considered that each authority is capable of meeting their own housing needs within their own boundary. However, considering the functional relationship between Ludgershall/Tidworth and nearby settlements such as Andover, it will be important to ensure sufficient land is released to meet local needs in both Wiltshire and Test Valley.

## Transport and infrastructure

With relation to transport matters, we would like to make the following specific comments on the refined issues and options consultation paper:

- There is an opportunity provided by linking the Romsey rail service to an extended Transwilt service i.e. providing a direct route from Romsey to Swindon, and support should be provided for the provision of this service within the emerging plan;
- Cycle route enhancements between Andover and Amesbury via Grately and Cholderton is recommended. It is expected that the delivery of the A303 tunnel works will support some improvements between Solstice Park and Allington Track. There is also the potential to improve the cycle route between Grately Rail Station and employment land at Porton Down. However, if a new rail station were to be provided at Porton Down, this would not be a necessity;
- Depending on the approach taken to allocating additional employment land within TVBC, we may have concerns which relate to the impact of additional employment land, particularly business parks, being allocated in the Andover area and the effect this will have on the A338/A346 and A342. The A338/A346, although a Primary route, is not suitable for HGVs and any additional land earmarked for employment development at Andover should have restrictions placed on the use of the A342/A338; and
- The document makes reference to electric charging infrastructure for new developments. Will on-street residential charging also be considered? In this regard we are mindful of the advice set out in the recent Government publication relating to grants for such infrastructure (see <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/grants-for-local-authorities-to-provide-residential-on-street-chargepoints>).

## Sustainability Appraisal – Draft Scoping Report

In relation to the consultation on the draft Scoping Report specifically, we would like to make the following comments:

- The scoping report makes reference to significant inward and outward commuting flows with Wiltshire but does not go as far as identifying the effects of this. It seems that the document is very much focused on TVBC and Hampshire, perhaps lacking sufficient consideration of issues that may affect Test Valley, Wiltshire and other neighbouring authorities.
- Built and proposed development at Salisbury, Tidworth/Ludgershall and Amesbury may potentially affect TVBC in a range of ways e.g. air quality, climate change, commuting flows, transport, biodiversity etc. Consideration could be given to the Wiltshire Core Strategy, Wiltshire Housing Site Allocations Plan and neighbourhood plans in the policies/plans/programmes review, baseline assessment and in key



issues (as well as account of policies/plans/programmes of other neighbouring authorities).

- It is likely that given the proximity of TVBC to many military bases in Wiltshire that there could be an impact on the local authority arising from the Army Basing Programme. Potential impacts could be discussed in the Scoping Report.

## Update on the Wiltshire Local Plan review

Wiltshire Council has now published its revised Local Development Scheme (LDS, July 2020), which takes account of the effect the COVID-19 pandemic has had on the overarching timeline for reviewing the adopted Wiltshire Core Strategy. In line with the LDS, we are planning to undertake further informal (Regulation 18) consultation later this year.

We trust these comments are helpful and look forward to meeting with you in due course to discuss our respective plans.

