

Subject: Wiltshire Council responds to Local Plan Inspectors, expressing disappointment and setting out the next steps
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Wiltshire Council LOCAL PLAN

Wiltshire Council responds to Local Plan Inspectors, expressing disappointment and setting out the next steps

Wiltshire Council has formally responded to the Planning Inspectors following their 27 February letter about the Wiltshire Local Plan Examination.

The Inspectors wrote to the council with two options – to either withdraw the Local Plan from examination or request that the Inspectors draft a final report, which would recommend non-adoption.

In response, the council has strongly expressed its disappointment at the Inspectors' conclusions and the limited options presented for the future of the Plan, which has been in development for nine years.

The council has taken every reasonable step to prepare a Local Plan capable of being found ‘sound’ despite significant pressures, including a shifting national planning policy environment and increased housing requirements. It has worked constructively throughout the examination and provided a realistic and pragmatic programme for addressing the issues raised during the examination process.

The council is also concerned about significant changes in the Inspectors’ position compared to the recommendations given in December 2025, and the fact that the Inspectors did not take up the council’s offer to clarify any assumptions to avoid misunderstandings.

The decision on the Inspectors’ two options for the Local Plan will now be considered by Cabinet on 6 May and then Full Council on 19 May.

[Find out more about the Local Plan examination](#)



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