



Basingstoke
and Deane

Draft Local Plan (2024-2042)

Duty to Co-operate Framework

**DRAFT for Regulation 18 consultation, November
2025**



1. Introduction	3
2. Strategic Partnerships.....	4
3. Strategic cross boundary matters.....	8
4. Membership of Cross-Authority Working Groups.....	20
5. Collaboration on Evidence Base	21
6. Responding to Requests to Engage.....	23
7. Next Steps	24

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Duty to Co-operate Framework has been prepared to outline the key strategic matters affecting Basingstoke and Deane as well as highlighting the ways in which there has been collaboration on these matters since the early stages of preparing the Local Plan.
- 1.2 The Duty to Co-operate places a legal duty on local planning authorities, county councils (in two tier areas), and prescribed public bodies to engage constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis to maximise the effectiveness of the Local Plan in the context of strategic cross boundary matters. The definition of a strategic (cross boundary) matter as set out in the Localism Act (2011) is “sustainable development or use of land that has or would have a significant impact on at least two planning areas”, however it also captures matters that would be a county matter in two tier authorities, such as highways.
- 1.3 The PPG states that “paragraphs 20-23 of the NPPF set out the matters that the strategic policies should make provision for, this is not an exhaustive list and authorities will need to adapt this to meet their specific needs”. (Paragraph: 014 Reference ID: 61-014-20190315).
- 1.4 Such matters include (but are not limited to) housing and employment needs and distribution, gypsy and traveller needs, infrastructure affecting more than one planning area, highways/transport matters and nutrient neutrality.
- 1.5 This Framework is part of the Local Plan evidence base and will continue to be updated as the plan progresses through the statutory rounds of consultation in line with the [LDS](#). It is not the intention of this document to provide the details of every discussion and all joint working that supports the Local Plan. However, it does outline all matters that contribute to the Duty to Cooperate process.
- 1.6 In addition to this Framework, a Duty to Co-operate Statement and Statements of Common Ground will be produced and published as the Local Plan process evolves. Updated documents will form part of the Regulation 19 consultation.

2. Strategic Partnerships

Neighbouring Authorities/ Hampshire County Council

- 2.1 The local planning authorities and county councils that are relevant in the context of the Duty to Cooperate for Basingstoke and Deane are Hart District Council, East Hampshire Borough Council, Winchester City Council, Test Valley District Council, and West Berkshire Council, Wokingham Council, Rushmoor Borough Council, Reading Borough Council and Hampshire County Council.
- 2.2 The council is in regular communication with neighbouring authorities. Meetings with all individual authorities take place frequently in order to ensure ongoing communication on cross boundary matters. The frequency of meetings also reflects the types of issues to discuss and progress on key matters.
- 2.3 In addition, there is an established structure of inter council meetings at different levels for authorities within Hampshire including Development Plans Group which meets quarterly and provides a forum for generating best practice, networking with neighbouring authority officers and identifying cross-boundary issues.
- 2.4 In addition to meetings, the council also maintains contact with all neighbouring planning authorities through written correspondence, updating them on the latest stages of the Local Plan and inviting them to make representations at each stage of the process.
- 2.5 Being part of a two-tier administrative area, the council also works in close collaboration with Hampshire County Council (HCC) in respect of its statutory planning functions and its role as local highways authority, local education authority, lead local flood authority, minerals and waste, land ownership and community infrastructure. Liaison groups have been established to ensure ongoing close working on key topics such as the Basingstoke Regulators group where highway matters are discussed monthly with HCC and National Highways.

The Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England

- 2.6 These three organisations are prescribed bodies in the context of the duty to cooperate and the council endeavours to work proactively with them throughout the development of the Plan, in addition to consultation at all formal stages of plan preparation. This has included the development of specific policies within the plan, including the approach taken to issues such as flooding and water quality, biodiversity and heritage. The organisations are key stakeholders in the development of the Local Plan evidence base, including the completion of the Water Cycle Study, Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and Heritage Impact

Assessment. They have also fed into the Integrated Impact Assessment, including the Habitats Regulations Assessment.

Transport and Highways Authorities

- 2.7 Local authorities should work with neighbouring authorities and transport providers to develop strategies for the provision of viable infrastructure which is necessary to support sustainable development. As outlined above, Hampshire County Council (HCC), as transport authority and highway authority covering the borough of Basingstoke and Deane, has been involved throughout the preparation of the Local Plan both in policy development and, more specifically, the completion of the Site Assessment process, and ongoing work on the Transport Assessment and the Infrastructure Delivery Plan. National Highways has also been involved in the development of the Transport Assessment and has been consulted at key stages on the Plan's preparation in addition to being a member of the Basingstoke Regulators group.
- 2.8 The strategic transport model that the council is using for its Transport Assessment also covers West Berkshire Council, and arrangements are being made for the outputs to be discussed with WBC's LHA.
- 2.9 There has also been engagement with the Civil Aviation Authority, office of Rail and Road, Network Rail and Stagecoach who have been formally consulted at key stages on the Plan's preparation and been involved in site specific discussions in inform policy development.

Education

- 2.10 The LPA has worked closely with Hampshire County Council as the Local Education Authority (LEA) on all matters relating to the Local Plan and infrastructure planning. The LEA was engaged through the site assessment process to ensure that any potential impacts upon educational infrastructure were fully understood and taken into account in formulating the council's growth strategy. These discussions have informed the council's Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP), and have been reflected, where relevant, in the site allocation policies. The LPA and Hampshire County Council LEA are preparing information requested by West Berkshire LEA to inform understanding of the impacts of LP proposals on their district.

Health

- 2.11 The National Health and Service Commissioning Board and Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) were previously consulted on the emerging evidence base particularly in relation to housing provision to ensure a joined-up approach to health care provision. This liaison now takes place with the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Integrated Care board (ICB) which has been involved in the site assessment process and also policy development relating to site allocations, in addition to informing the Infrastructure Delivery Plan. The

LPA meets with the ICB on a monthly basis, and they are also consulted at key stages of the Plan's preparation.

Local Enterprise Partnership and Local Nature Partnership

- 2.12 Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) and Local Nature Partnerships (LNP) have both been identified in the Town and Country Planning Regulations 2012 as bodies that those covered by the duty 'should have regard to' when preparing local plans and other related activities. In April 2024 the Local Enterprise Partnerships transferred their functions to local authorities.
- 2.13 The Hampshire and Isle of Wight Local Nature Partnership was established in 2012 to help bring about improvements in the local natural environment. The council is a member of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Local Nature Partnership and will continue to engage on emerging issues such as Biodiversity Net Gain and Local Nature Recovery Networks.

Utilities Including Water Companies

- 2.14 Although private sector utility providers are not covered by the 'duty to cooperate', the council actively involves them in the plan making process in order to ensure the Plan meets the tests of soundness including deliverability. Key companies working in the borough include Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN), Thames Water, Southern Water and South East Water who have been consulted on relevant draft documents including the Infrastructure Delivery Plan. In relation to electricity, the council engages with SSEN on an ongoing basis about strategic energy planning. The council provides information to SSEN about future development to inform updates to their Distribution Future Energy Scenarios (DFESs) on an annual basis, and has also responded to the consultations on SSEN's Grid Supply Plans (GSPs). In relation to the water companies, they are part of the steering group involved in the completion of the Water Cycle Study to ensure a joined-up approach to water supply and wastewater treatment.

Office for Nuclear Regulation

- 2.15 There are two licensed nuclear installations located in close proximity to the northern border of Basingstoke and Deane's administrative boundary. The Office of Nuclear Regulation (ONR) administers the Government's policy on the control of development and provides advice to Local Planning Authorities. The council has worked proactively with the ONR, the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE), and the emergency planners at West Berkshire Council and HCC in formulating the Plan's approach to development within the areas affected by the installations (most notably the settlement of Tadley), including a specific policy addressing the issue, and will continue to do so as part of its annual monitoring.

Consultation with other stakeholders

- 2.16 Engagement is not limited to those organisations defined as duty to co-operate bodies above and will include many other stakeholders including infrastructure providers. All stakeholders will be involved in relevant technical evidence base work and invited to respond to formal consultation on the Local Plan. Details regarding the specific issues and discussions with these partners is explained more thoroughly in the next section.

3. Strategic cross boundary matters

3.1 As detailed above there are a range of strategic cross boundary matters identified to date relevant to Basingstoke and Deane.

Housing Delivery

The draft Local Plan aims to deliver sufficient land to meet the housing need for the Local Plan area (the standard method) and, in assessing the housing requirement for the plan-period, the amount of existing pipeline development is taken into consideration. The council intends to meet its identified housing needs in full over the plan period.

At the time of writing there have been no unmet housing needs highlighted to the council by adjoining authorities in the wider area.

Relevant duty to co-operate bodies and considerations

Hart District Council, Reading Borough Council, Rushmoor Borough Council, Test Valley Borough Council and Wokingham Borough Council: There has been engagement on an ongoing basis since starting work on the new Local Plan including regular meetings at key stages of each authorities plan preparation to discuss the evidence base and cross boundary issues.

East Hampshire District Council: There has been engagement on an ongoing basis since starting work on the new Local Plan including regular meetings at key stages of each authorities plan preparation to discuss the evidence base and cross boundary issues.

A Statement of Common Ground was prepared to support the East Hampshire Draft Plan and signed in January 2024.

West Berkshire Council: There has been engagement on an ongoing basis since starting work on the new Local Plan including regular meetings at key stages of each authorities plan preparation to discuss the evidence base and cross boundary issues.

As the emerging Basingstoke Local Plan's updated spatial strategy (2025) includes two draft housing allocations that are close to the boundary with West Berkshire (Land at Oakley Farm, Wash Water and Land at West End Farm, Mortimer), more frequent meetings have taken place in July, August and October 2025 to discuss the emerging spatial strategy informed by early site assessment findings. More detailed engagement will continue with the council but also relevant stakeholders and infrastructure providers in Berkshire.

Winchester City Council:

There has been engagement on an ongoing basis since starting work on the new Local Plan including regular meetings at key stages of each authorities plan preparation to discuss the evidence base and cross boundary issues.

The 2024 draft Local Plan (subject to consultation in early 2024) contained a draft site allocation for a new settlement close to the borough boundary with Winchester district, named Popham Airfield. There has been ongoing engagement relating to this site for a number of years and representations were made by Winchester City in 2024 in response to consultation. More regular meetings have taken place in July and October 2025 following the proposal to increase the size of the allocation as a response to issues raised through the consultation. Detailed engagement will continue with the council.

A Statement of Common Ground was prepared to support the Winchester Draft Plan and signed in January 2024.

Hampshire County Council (HCC): HCC Adult Services have been consulted through both formal consultation and via informal mechanisms as the Local Plan evolves in relation to Extra Care and Older Persons housing in relation to the evidence base (IDP, site assessment) and policy approach.

Mechanisms for Engagement

Meetings/Discussions with selected authorities at officer and member level with a view to agreeing Statements of Common Ground prior to Pre submission consultation.

Collaboration on evidence base where appropriate.

Consultations on draft Local Plan (Regulation 18).

Consultation on Proposed Submission Local Plan (Regulation 19).

Provision for Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Show people

An updated Gypsy, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople Assessment is being produced to inform the likely need for gypsy and traveller accommodation over the plan period taking account of the changes in the definition of travellers. This assessment will be informed by communication with neighbouring authorities.

Whilst the assessment is still being finalised, the council intends to meet gypsy and travellers needs over the plan period in full.

At present, there is no formal identified need for transit accommodation.

The council has been approached by a number of neighbouring authorities to ask if unmet needs within their administrative areas could be accommodated.

Relevant duty to co-operate bodies

East Hampshire: East Hampshire District Council approached the council in August 2023 with regards to G&T accommodation and the difficulties meeting needs, seeking an update on the council's position and ability to assist. BDBC responded explaining that there is already a high need and lack of sites in the borough. Therefore, it would not be possible to accommodate need from outside the borough.

West Berkshire Council: G&T accommodation, evidence base and difficulties meeting needs remains an item on the agenda in DtC meetings. There is a current shortfall in the West Berkshire Local Plan that West Berkshire are looking to address through a new Plan informed by an updated GTAA.

Winchester City Council: Winchester City Council approached the council in August 2023 with regards to G&T accommodation and the difficulties meeting needs seeking an update on their position and ability to assist. BDBC responded explaining that there is already a high need and lack of sites in the borough and that it would not be possible to accommodate need from outside the borough.

Wokingham Borough Council: Wokingham Borough Council approached the council in December 2023 with regards to G&T accommodation and the difficulties meeting needs seeking an update on their position and ability to assist. BDBC responded explaining that there is already a high need and lack of sites in the borough and that it would not be possible to accommodate need from outside the borough.

Hart District Council: G&T accommodation, evidence base and difficulties meeting needs remains an item on the agenda in DtC meetings.

Reading Borough Council: G&T accommodation, evidence base and difficulties meeting needs remains an item on the agenda in DtC meetings.

Rushmoor Borough Council: G&T accommodation, evidence base and difficulties meeting needs remains an item on the agenda in DtC meetings.

Test Valley Borough Council: G&T accommodation, evidence base and difficulties meeting needs remains an item on the agenda in DtC meetings.

Hampshire County Council: The role of Gypsy Liaison officer for the area sits with HCC who are consulted on the evolving evidence base. HCC does not own or manage any specific Gypsy, Traveller, Travelling Showpeople or transit sites within the borough. BDBC has written to HCC to enquire about the availability of land within their ownership for G&T provision.

Mechanisms for Engagement

Evidence base preparation - contact via the consultants that are preparing the GTAA update.

Consultations on draft Local Plan (Regulation 18).

Consultation on Proposed Submission Local Plan (Regulation 19).

Economic Growth

An Economic Needs Assessment has been prepared to support the Local Plan. The Local Plan includes specific draft employment land allocations and a Basing View and Town Centre policy which support economic growth and continue to support a strong economy.

Relevant duty to co-operate bodies

All neighbouring Local Authorities have been engaged as part of the Local Plan process. Those neighbouring authorities linked via strategic transport corridors, particularly the M3 (Hart DC, Winchester DC, Rushmoor BC) have been part of ongoing discussions in relation to sub-regional employment needs and the evidence base. More detailed discussions have taken place with Test Valley BC regarding logistics provision and the evolving Local Plan evidence base in both areas. In addition, over recent months at DtC meetings in July, and October with Winchester City Council proposals for a logistics sites close to the borough boundary have been discussed. There have been no specific requests from neighbouring authorities for assistance with meeting unmet employment needs.

Mechanisms for Engagement

Meetings/Discussions with selected authorities at officer and member level.

Consultations on draft Local Plan (Regulation 18).

Consultation on Proposed Submission Local Plan (Regulation 19).

Retail and Leisure provision

The council has produced a town centre masterplan and strategy for the Basingstoke Leisure Park. An updated retail assessment (2025) has also been produced regarding the need for retail floorspace over the plan period. Cooperation with businesses and providers will ensure that the retail and leisure offering within the town remains competitive and viable.

Relevant duty to co-operate bodies

Through the Local Plan process the council continues to monitor the leisure and retail provision particularly in light of post-covid changes liaising with infrastructure providers including Hampshire County Council through regular DtC meetings and more formal consultation on the Local Plan.

Sport England, sports governing bodies: Sport England and other sports governing bodies have been engaged with in the process of producing the Leisure and Recreational Needs Assessment whereby they input into the borough's need for sports facilities (including built facilities and playing pitches) and community buildings. The organisations are formally consulted at key stages in the Local Plan process.

Mechanisms for Engagement

Consultations on draft Local Plan (Regulation 18).

Consultation on Proposed Submission Local Plan (Regulation 19).

Infrastructure

New development proposed by the Local Plan will have implications for a range of health, education, community, utility and cultural infrastructure providers. Note: Transport and water quality are covered in separate sections.

Water-related infrastructure will also be required as parts of the borough are affected by water supply, surface water, drainage and water quality issues.

These issues are cross boundary in many instances, shared with neighbouring authorities.

Relevant duty to co-operate bodies

Hampshire County Council: Hampshire County Council is the local education authority for Hampshire. The council has ongoing meetings with HCC in relation to proposed site allocations regarding the impact on existing educational facilities and the provision for new education facilities including primary, secondary, pre-school and SEN facilities. There has been involvement from the Education Authority in the site assessment process and Infrastructure Delivery Plan to understand where there is capacity at existing schools and or scope to expand schools based on the draft spatial strategy.

West Berkshire Council: Two proposed draft site allocations (2025) are close to the West Berkshire boundary, and liaison with the district council and the local education authority in West Berkshire is underway to consider this matter further.

Integrated Care Board (ICB) (formally Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG):

The council and the Hampshire and Isle of Wight (HIOW) ICB meet regularly, to inform the spatial strategy, proposed draft site allocations and health related infrastructure set out in the IDP. More specifically, comments from the ICB have fed into the site assessment process to understand capacity of existing infrastructure, to identify projects listed in the emerging Infrastructure Plan and allocation of CIL funds to date. The HIOW ICB has responded to formal Local Plan consultations. The north-western part of the borough falls within the Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and West Berkshire ICB and the council will continue to seek to engage with them to explore potential impacts and identify suitable mitigation, if required.

NHS Property Services and Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust:

NHSPS manages, maintains and improves NHS properties and facilities, working in partnership with NHS organisations. The council and Hampshire Hospital NHS Foundation Trust meet monthly to discuss health infrastructure issues in the borough, in particular to discuss the provision of a new hospital at south west of Basingstoke.

Southern Water, Thames Water and South East Water: The council is in regular dialogue with the water companies that cover the borough. They have been involved in the production of the Water Cycle Study, sitting on the steering group and have responded to formal consultation at key stages of the Local Plan.

Mechanisms for Engagement

Meetings/discussions with providers.

Site-specific meetings with selected authorities and bodies in relation to key issues at an officer and member level.

Consultations on draft Local Plan (Regulation 18).

Consultation on Proposed Submission Local Plan (Regulation 19).

Transport

While most of the impacts on the transport network from development will be within the Borough, Basingstoke and Deane's transport network takes traffic through the Borough to and from neighbouring authorities and a number of site allocations are close to the borough boundary. In addition, some limited impacts may be felt on the strategic transport network.

A Transport Assessment is being prepared for the Local Plan which has involved regular discussions with Hampshire Highways and National Highways. Specific

working groups have been set up to consider individual issues such as the impact of Southern Manydown, and a Regulator Meeting takes place each month.

Relevant duty to co-operate bodies

Hampshire County Council: Hampshire County is the local Highways Authority. Hampshire County Council Countryside Service also acts as the Highway Authority with regards to Public Rights of Way (PROW). There has been ongoing input from Hampshire County Council into the Transport Assessment and DtC meetings are held regularly to inform the approach to the evidence base and Local Plan.

West Berkshire Council: Two proposed draft site allocations (2025) are close to the West Berkshire boundary, and liaison with West Berkshire Council in its capacity as highway authority for the area will consider this matter further.

Wokingham Borough Council: The main transportation route from Basingstoke to Reading is via the transport network in Wokingham. Ongoing engagement takes place on this and other issues via DtC meetings.

National Highways: National Highways (NH) (formerly Highways England) manages the strategic road network. National Highways are interested in any adverse impacts from the council's planned development on the strategic road network in the district, as well as cross boundary impacts. National Highways are involved in the preparation of the Transport Assessment, inputting into the modelling, in particular in relation to strategic matters and major roads. They are also consulted at key stages in the Local Plan process and are part of the Basingstoke Regulators group.

Network Rail: Network Rail are responsible for the rail network, and meetings have been held at key stages of the Local Plan process to discuss the spatial strategy and proposed site allocations. They are formally consulted at key stages in the Local Plan process.

South West Trains and Stagecoach: These organisations have been involved in discussions around the station approach area and creation of a transport hub in Basingstoke Town Centre as well as the spatial strategy and proposed site allocations. They are formally consulted at key stages in the Local Plan process.

Mechanisms for Engagement

Meetings/discussions/workshops with selected authorities.

Site-specific meetings/discussions and workshops with selected authorities at officer and member level.

Consultations on draft Local Plan (Regulation 18).

Consultation on Proposed Submission Local Plan (Regulation 19).

Aldermaston Weapons Establishment (AWE)

Due to the presence of two licenced nuclear installations located in close proximity to the borough boundary there are a number of constraints relating to new development in and around Tadley. The sites are operated by AWE PLC on behalf of Ministry of Defence (MOD). The regulator is the Office of Nuclear Regulation (ONR).

Relevant duty to co-operate bodies

West Berkshire Council: This matter is a standing item on the agenda for DtC meetings with planning policy officers. Emergency Planners are also employed by West Berkshire Council and they have been consulted on the evolving spatial strategy and approach to Tadley including site allocations.

Wokingham Borough Council: AWE is formed of two sites, one of which lies within Wokingham Borough Council area, therefore as part of ongoing engagement any appeal decisions within the DEPZ for both sites are closely monitored and as part of regular DtC meetings the policy approach is discussed.

Aldermaston Weapons Establishment (AWE): Engagement has been undertaken at keys stages of the Local Plan process to discuss emerging spatial strategy and evidence base.

Office for Nuclear Regulation: ONR are consulted at key stages of the Local Plan process and the response to the Regulation 18 consultation informed the policy approach in the draft Local Plan. There has also been engagement regarding the draft site allocation, Skates Lane, which lies particularly within the DEPZ.

Mechanisms for Engagement

Meetings/discussions with selected authorities.

Consultations on draft Local Plan (Regulation 18).

Consultation on Proposed Submission Local Plan (Regulation 19).

Flood Risk

The Local Plan is accompanied by an SFRA and sequential test which have informed site selection and the spatial strategy. The Environment Agency (EA) and Lead Local Flood Authority have been consulted on the SFRA and the EA have provided comments on the application of the sequential test.

Relevant duty to co-operate bodies

Hampshire County Council (LLFA): Hampshire County Council is the Lead Local Flood Authority and provides guidance on surface water and groundwater flooding.

The Environment Agency: The EA has a statutory function in terms of flooding. The Council continues to work proactively with the EA to manage flood risk in the borough.

Mechanisms for Engagement

The Council continues to meet and liaise with both the EA and the LLFA as suitable, to proactively manage flooding risk.

Consultations on draft Local Plan (Regulation 18).

Consultation on Proposed Submission Local Plan (Regulation 19).

Natural, Built and Historic Environment

To ensure the Local Plan has due consideration for important elements of the natural environment through the protection and provision of green infrastructure and biodiversity assets, discussions have been held with relevant bodies to inform the evidence base and development of policies.

In relation to the natural environment; Thames Basin Heaths is protected from adverse impacts arising from development under European and UK legislation. A method of mitigation is the delivery of Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG). Collaboration on this issue has allowed for the Local Plan Policy to be drafted in a manner consistent with neighbouring affected authorities.

The Test and Itchen river catchments are affected by nutrient neutrality (nitrogen) where they flow into the protected sites in the Solent. Development in the River Itchen catchment is also required to be nutrient neutral (phosphorus) to protect the River Itchen SAC. To achieve solutions for these issues, collaboration across affected authorities, water companies and other organisations has been required. This has also informed the HRA and Local Plan policy on nutrient neutrality. Discussions with Natural England are ongoing regarding compensatory measures for the River Itchen SAC on the River Test and River Meon.

With regards to heritage, there are various heritage assets including Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas within the borough along with archaeological sites. Any potential impacts on these assets needs to be fully considered through the evidence base and in developing the Local Plan policies.

Relevant duty to co-operate bodies

Hart District Council; Rushmoor Borough Council; Wokingham Borough Council: all three authorities along with Basingstoke and Deane lie within the mitigation area for Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Areas. Therefore, continued engagement has taken place through the regular duty to co-operate meetings on this issue to ensure the impacts of the Local Plan are considered in terms of SANG provision.

Test Valley Borough Council: The River Test flows south/southwestern into the Test Valley Borough Council area. The river flows down to the Solent via the

protects RAMSAR sites. Due to the European protection afforded to the water entering the area, on going communication is required to ensure that suitable nutrient off-setting is achieved.

Partnership for South Hampshire and Solent Mitigation Partnership:

Members include the Environment Agency, Southern Water, Portsmouth Water, Havant Borough Council, South Downs National Park Authority, Isle of Wight Council, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, Chichester District Council, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, East Hampshire District Council and the PfSH authorities. With regards to nutrient neutrality, the partnership has adopted a proactive approach to developing a mitigation strategy that helps developers minimise the environmental impact of projects and plans to achieve nutrient neutrality. The Local Nutrient Mitigation Fund is being used to create nutrient reduction projects across the Solent catchment. The partnership meets regularly (every 6 weeks) and regularly reviews the supply and demand for nutrient mitigation across the catchment, as well as other relevant water quality issues.

Water Companies: Meetings have been held with Water Companies active in the borough and they sit on the steering group for the WCS.

North Wessex Downs National Landscape: Parts of the borough lie within the North Wessex Downs National Landscape. The council recently adopted the 2025 management plan for the National Landscape and engages with the management plan group, as suitable, in relation to planning proposals affecting the National Landscape including consulting them on the development of the spatial strategy and policy development.

Natural England: The council works with Natural England on nature conservation issues including the protection and enhancement of biodiversity. Natural England has been involved in the preparation of evidence base documents specifically the Sustainability Appraisal, and the Habitats Regulations Assessment. There has also been meetings/correspondence with Natural England on water quality and nutrient neutrality issues. In response to the Regulation 18 consultation in 2024, Natural England made representations which have since been discussed in further detail with the council.

Environment Agency: The council works with the Environment Agency to address a number of issues in terms of protecting the natural environment. The Environment Agency has been involved in the preparation of evidence base documents specifically the Sustainability Appraisal, and the Habitats Regulations Assessment and Water Cycle Study. It also advises on water quality monitoring and the implementation of policy relating to water quality and the Water Framework Directive.

Hampshire County Council: Hampshire Country Council remain a key body for providing information in relation to the status of areas that are of high importance for biodiversity and ecology. The council works closely with the Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC) to share data and to monitor protected sites. Hampshire Country County have also prepared the Local Nature Recovery

Strategy (LRNS) and BDBC were an active part of relevant working groups established to feed into the development of the LRNS.

The Local Nature Partnership (Hampshire and Isle of Wight): Consulted at key stages of the Local Plan process.

Historic England: Historic England wishes to ensure that the protection of the historic environment is fully taken into account at all stages and levels of the local planning process and the council works with HE to ensure that such matters are fully considered through the Plan making process. Meetings were had after the Regulation 18 consultation in 2024 to discuss the approach to relevant policies including site allocations, and consider requirements for a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA). Historic England have responded to formal consultation at key stages in the Local Plan process.

Hampshire County Council (archaeology): The county councils' archaeological advisor has been engaged with in the process of producing the HIA and has fed into the site assessment process. The team is formally consulted at key stages in the Local Plan process.

Mechanisms for Engagement

Meetings/discussions with selected authorities. Continued engagement in relation to relevant evidence base studies.

Consultations on draft Local Plan (Regulation 18).

Consultation on Proposed Submission Local Plan (Regulation 19).

Climate Change

In 2019 a climate emergency was announced for the borough. The declaration set ambitious targets for the council to become carbon neutral in its operations by 2025 and for a net zero carbon borough by 2030. Climate Change policies are contained within the draft plan.

Relevant duty to co-operate bodies

Winchester City Council and Test Valley Borough Council: Winchester City Council is progressing its new Local Plan with detailed policies regarding the climate emergency that are substantially similar to the advice contained within the Council's Net Zero Carbon Study. Winchester City Council led on engagement with other authorities to explore best practice and the potential for a joint evidence base (including with Test Valley Borough Council). The council continues to work with councils on this issue.

Mechanisms for Engagement

Meetings/discussions/workshops with selected authorities.

Consultations on draft Local Plan (Regulation 18).

Consultation on Proposed Submission Local Plan (Regulation 19).

Minerals and Waste

The council works with Hampshire County Council as the Minerals and Waste Planning Authority to ensure that draft policies have regard to the Minerals and Waste Plan. The potential for prior extraction and safeguarding areas are considered at the plan making stage.

Relevant duty to co-operate bodies

Hampshire County Council (Minerals and Waste Planning Authority):
Hampshire County Council is the Minerals and Waste Planning Authority. HCC have been consulted through the site assessment process where they have flagged up the potential for the prior extraction of minerals which should be explored and considered at the policy making stage where relevant. HCC Minerals and Waste Team have responded to the Issues and Options and Regulation 18 2024 Local Plan consultations.

Mechanisms for Engagement

The council meets with Hampshire County Council as part of the Duty to Co-operate and the Minerals and Waste Team are consulted as part of the site assessment.

In addition, the key Local Plan consultation stages, provide the opportunity for the Minerals and Waste team to respond.

4. Membership of Cross-Authority Working Groups

4.1 Basingstoke and Deane officers engage with the following working groups on a regular basis:

- **HIPOG:** As part of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Local Government Association there is an established structure of inter council meetings, including at chief planner level.
- **Development Plan Group:** A group of officers from unitary and district authorities in Hampshire, alongside Hampshire County Council. The group provides a space to discuss issues related to Local Plan preparation and any issues that authorities are facing. Cross boundary issues often arise during these discussions.
- **Planning Research Liaison Group (PRLG):** A group of officers from unitary and district authorities in Hampshire, alongside Hampshire County Council. The group meets quarterly to discuss issues of relevance to spatial planning in Hampshire in relation to technical research and reporting.
- **Local Nature Recovery Strategy Local Authority Working Group:** To produce the Hampshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy.
- **PfSH Natural Environment Group:** A group of officers from unitary and district authorities in south Hampshire, alongside Hampshire County Council which enables the relevant authorities including the Environment Agency and water companies to administer a join approach to nutrient neutrality issues including mitigation and related issues set out in the Environment Act. The group has replaced the original PfSH Water Quality group.
- **PfSH Quality Places Practitioners Group:** Discuss urban design issues across Hampshire to support learning from best practice examples elsewhere
- **Thames Basin Heaths Joint Strategic Partnership Board (JSPB):** The Board meets to discuss mitigation measures that would be required should residential development take place within the SPA 5km buffer zone¹.
- **Hampshire Hospital Trust Liaison Meeting:** Meet regularly to discuss proposals for new hospital provision in BDBC.
- **Basingstoke Regulators Meeting:** Discuss transport related proposals for the borough and - includes, BDBC, HCC and National Highways.
- **Hampshire and Isle of Wight Integrated Care Board Liaison Meeting:** To discuss the provision of healthcare infrastructure across the borough, including the impact of the emerging spatial strategy. To inform the development of the council's Infrastructure Delivery Plan.

¹ Further information is set out in the Joint Delivery Framework, which can be accessed through the following web link, <http://www.hart.gov.uk/index/top-planning/planning-policy/planning-policy-spa.htm> .

5. Collaboration on Evidence Base

5.1 Preparing the evidence base that supports the Local Plan requires support and collaboration from a range of partners and stakeholders as set out below.

Document	Purpose	Other Organisations
Integrated Impact Assessment Scoping Report	To establish the scope for the SA work on the draft Local Plan and a baseline of information against which to assess the likely effects of reasonable alternatives using the SA framework.	The Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England.
Integrated Impact Assessment	Combined process for appraising the requirements of the SEA, HRA and EqIA.	The Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England.
Water Cycle Study	Assess the potential impact of projected growth on water resources in the borough with regards to water supply capacity, wastewater capacity and environmental capacity in the water environment.	The Environment Agency, Hampshire County Council, Thames Water, Southern Water, South East Water Natural England.
Strategic Flood Risk Assessment	Provide information on all types of flooding in the borough including groundwater and fluvial, taking account of climate change forecasts. Includes Level 1 and Level 2 assessments for relevant sites.	The Environment Agency and Hampshire County Council (LLFA).
Site Assessment	Assess promoted and other potential development sites against a set of detailed technical criteria to inform decision making on site allocations.	Utility companies, EA, HCC (Education), HCC (Highway Authority), HCC (Archaeology), HCC (Minerals and Waste), HBIC, Integrated Care Board, water companies and other key bodies.
Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment	To understand the need within the borough for Gypsy and Traveller	Hampshire Local Planning Authorities, HCC (Gypsy Liaison).

	pitches and also Travelling Show People.	
Transport Assessment	Assess the highways impacts of the local plan and consider mitigation options.	HCC (Highways), National Highways.
Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment	Considers promoted and potential development sites, providing information on their suitability, availability and achievability.	Landowners, developers, registered social landlords, planning agents, HBF.
Heritage Impact Assessment	To ensure the significance of heritage assets are understood.	Historic England, HCC (Archaeology).
Economic Needs Assessment	To consider future employment floorspace requirements and assess the quality of the borough's existing employment stock.	Businesses and relevant agents.
Leisure and Recreational Needs Assessment	Considers the borough's need for sports facilities (including built facilities and playing pitches) and community buildings.	Sport England, sports governing bodies and local sports clubs and community groups.
Infrastructure Delivery Plan	To set out the infrastructure requirements to support planned development.	Utility providers, National Highways, HCC (Highways); HCC (Education), Hampshire and Isle of Wight ICB (Health).

6. Responding to Requests to Engage

- 6.1 The council may receive requests to engage that might be in the form of an email, meeting or consultation from neighbouring authorities and relevant bodies. In all of these cases the council is committed to respond in a timely manner and engage with others at both officer and, where appropriate, Councillor level. The council considers proposals for joint evidence gathering and, where suitable, work in a collaborative manner to achieve outcomes that support sustainable development.
- 6.2 As outlined above, the council remains committed to engagement that is both collaborative and constructive, albeit there may be instances where it is necessary to raise objections or concerns regarding cross boundary working. These might be, for example, in relation to other plans where there are strategic issues which may have implications for the borough.

7. Next Steps

- 7.1 As the Local Plan progresses, co-operation and collaboration with others will continue with both those named within the Localism Act and wider bodies with a statutory or other key role in the delivery of the Local Plan.
- 7.2 The requirement to consult widely through the various stages of plan preparation and the need to fulfil the Duty to Co-operate has helped to build a good understanding of key issues and established good working relationships with local authorities, prescribed bodies and other parties who are key to the successful delivery of the Local Plan. It is important that collaboration and engagement continues.
- 7.3 This document will be reviewed and published at relevant stages reflecting any progress made on strategic matters during the preparation of the Local Plan. At Regulation 19 the council will also publish a Duty to Cooperate Statement and Statements of Common Ground.