

At its meeting on the 24 March 2026, Full Council made the decision set out below following recommendations of cabinet of its meeting had 18 March 2026. In line with part 4.5 of the Winchester city council constitution - Budget and Policy Framework Rules (para 2.4), the Council's decision will become effective on the expiry of five clear days after the publication of this notice of decision, unless the Leader objects to it in that period.

Agenda item: adoption of the Winchester District Local Plan 2040 (CL177)

Resolved:

Part 1 – Winchester District Local Plan 2020–2040 (adoption)

- 1. That the inspector's conclusions that the Winchester District Local Plan 2020–2040 is legally compliant and sound, subject to the recommended main modifications, are accepted.**
- 2. That the Winchester District Local Plan 2020–2040, incorporating the inspector's main modifications (as amended), additional modifications and associated changes to the policies map, is adopted in accordance with Regulation 26 of the Town And Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended) and Section 23(2) and (3) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended).**
- 3. That upon adoption of the Winchester District Local Plan 2020–2040, the existing development plan documents (local plan part 1 – joint core strategy, local plan part 2 – development management and site allocations, and the gypsy, traveller and travelling showpeople development plan document) are withdrawn as they will be superseded.**
- 4. That authority is delegated to the Corporate Head of Planning and Regulatory Services to make any non-material corrections to the Winchester District Local Plan 2020–2040, including factual updates, grammatical or formatting amendments, prior to publication in accordance with the town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended).**

Reasons:

The purpose of report CL177 was twofold. Firstly, it sought cabinet endorsement of the Winchester District Local Plan 2020–2040 and Cabinet's recommendation to Full Council was that the Plan be formally adopted. Secondly, it outlined the next steps in plan-making, including the proposed programme for commencing work on the next local plan which will extend the Planning Framework for the District to 2044 – this was a decision for Cabinet.



The examination process for the Winchester District Local Plan 2020–2040 has now concluded. The inspector’s report was received on 27 February 2026 for fact checking. The report confirms that the duty to co-operate has been met and that, with the recommended main modifications (as amended by the inspector), the Winchester district proposed submission local plan (regulation 19) 2020–2040 satisfies the requirements referred to in section 20(5)(a) of the planning and compulsory purchase act 2004 and is sound. The final inspector’s report had also been received and was included in the agenda pack for full council. At this stage in the statutory plan-making process the council cannot introduce further main modifications, amend policy wording or alter site allocations.

Full Council was therefore ultimately presented with two options available to it: to adopt the local plan incorporating the inspector’s recommendations, or to withdraw the plan and recommence the plan-making process. Withdrawal was not recommended.

The council’s existing development plan documents are increasingly out of date, particularly in relation to housing delivery and climate policy, and no longer provide the robust basis for decision-making originally intended. Adoption of the new local plan would provide an up-to-date and comprehensive policy framework to guide development across the district outside the south downs national park. It would support the determination of planning applications, provide greater certainty for communities and investors, and set clear expectations for neighbourhood planning and the delivery of development and infrastructure. Report cl177 summarises the preparation of the local plan, including submission of the regulation 19 plan to the secretary of state in November 2024, the examination in public hearing sessions held between April and June 2025, and public consultation on the proposed main modifications and associated changes between December 2025 and January 2026. Once adopted, the Winchester district local plan 2020–2040 will replace the existing local plan part 1 (joint core strategy), local plan part 2 (development management and site allocations) and the gypsy, traveller and travelling showpeople development plan document, and will form a key part of the statutory development plan used to determine planning applications. The report also outlines the implications of forthcoming national changes to the plan making system, including government reforms which introduce a streamlined local plan preparation process with an expected 30-month timetable. In anticipation of these changes, the report sets out the proposed programme for commencing work on the next local plan to 2044 and seeks delegated authority to publish the notice of the council’s intention to commence preparation of the new local plan by 30 June 2026 and this was a decision supported by the cabinet.

Council noted a revised version of CL177 had been presented to council subsequent to the cabinet meeting which was inclusive of minor necessary amendments and these are detailed on the supplementary agenda.

At its meeting on 24 March 2026, council asked questions and then debated the recommended minute of cabinet, and the details set out in the corresponding report (CL177 revised).

Council voted on the recommended minute of Cabinet which was carried.

Date of publication of notice: 25 march 2026