

The adopted Local Plan contains the following Vision -

*“Winchester District is a special place characterised by a rich historical and cultural heritage and attractive countryside and is home to a diverse population and a variety of business sectors. The District should retain the distinctive characteristics of the three key areas so as to maximise opportunities to address change in a positive way that ensures it remains an attractive place to live, visit, work and do business:-*

- the County Town of Winchester needs to meet its housing and community requirements and to diversify its economy through the promotion of the knowledge, tourism, creative and education sectors, whilst respecting the highly valued features and setting of the Town;*
- areas at Waterlooville and Whiteley on the southern fringes of the District need to provide homes, jobs, physical and social infrastructure whilst creating a strong sense of community identity and protecting nearby environmentally sensitive sites, to create extended communities in this part of South Hampshire;*
- the market towns and many villages that fall within the rural area are to remain viable settlements offering where possible a range of local services and facilities, and be allowed to grow to respond to local needs, whilst retaining their individual identity and rural character. Development in those settlements that lie in the South Downs National Park should respect its purposes”.*

The *Strategic Issues and Priorities* (SIP) consultation in February 2021 set out this adopted vision. It also outlined the work undertaken by Winchester Town Forum in considering a vision for the City to 2030 and three specific approaches, namely

- Spatial: The City Made by Walking
  - People Power! Establishing Mechanisms the Enable Communities to...
  - Auditing & Sharing Resources: Creating and Sharing Data is Empowerment
- proposed revised vision, and supporting objectives, are set out on the next page

The SIP consultation sought views as to whether the adopted Local Plan Vision was still appropriate for the emerging Local Plan, and whether there were any elements of the Winchester Town Forum’s Winchester 2030 document that could be used to help inform the vision for the Local Plan. Views were also sought regarding a set of proposed Local Plan Objectives. The responses to this consultation were reported to LPAG in September 2021.

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## **Proposed Draft Vision For the Local Plan**

Further consideration of the responses, the requirements of national planning policy and advice from the Planning Advisory Service has resulted in the following draft Vision and Objectives for the emerging Local Plan –

Winchester District has unique natural, cultural and historic assets which means it is an attractive place to live and work. The challenges of changes to the environment, economy and lifestyles will be met in a positive manner. The natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage will be enhanced. Key assets such as chalk streams and the setting of the national park will be protected. New development will address the needs of the area and enhance the sustainability of communities, natural environment and the economy and respond to the wider relationship with neighbouring authorities. The area will be better placed to adapt, be resilient to and mitigate climate change and help the council to address its climate emergency declaration.

Development in the area will be delivered in a way which achieves the following outcomes –

- the County Town of Winchester will continue to be the cultural and economic centre of the district with a significant range of services, facilities and employment, and as such will be a centre for growth. The high-quality environment will attract a range of new uses as the role of the town evolves. The visitor and tourism economy, and creative and education sectors will be increasingly important. Regeneration will make the best use of previously developed land, which will be delivered while protecting and enhancing the character and the wealth of historic assets.
- areas in the south will continue to grow as planned forming part of the wider south Hampshire economy. Significant housing and employment development will be delivered while protecting and enhancing natural assets. Physical and social infrastructure will be provided to reinforce and maintain a strong sense of community and identity.
- the market towns and rural villages will remain attractive settlements, accommodating changes to communities and the economy, with modest growth to meet their needs supporting the resilience of local services and facilities whilst retaining their individual identity, historic assets and rural character.

This vision will be delivered by the application of the following spatial objectives and policies across the plan area. These collectively will ensure that proper

consideration is given to the impact of development on environment, economy and society to achieve sustainable development.

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## **Spatial Planning Objectives**

The following objectives have been developed from the previous core strategy, taking into account the revised vision set out above and relevant themes in the Council Plan.

### Tackling the climate emergency and creating a greener district

- Maximise the use of land as a resource which is needed to accommodate growth through the promotion and prioritisation of brownfield land, making best and most efficient use of available land which is suitable for development, and achieve high quality design which makes a positive contribution to the public realm.
- Maintain and enhance Winchester District's valuable environments including both the urban and rural areas as well as the built and natural environments and improve wildlife assets through the Biodiversity Action Plan.
- Ensure that development is designed to provide biodiversity net gain, and does not have an adverse impact on landscape character and historic environment and the unique and special characteristics of the South Downs National Park.
- Provide, protect and enhance green infrastructure to include open spaces, green links and wildlife corridors with support from the Biodiversity Action Plan.
- Mitigate and protect the area from the impacts of, and adapt to the effects of the climate emergency by promoting design, lifestyle and business to reduce carbon emissions, promote recycling and minimise waste.
- Maximise the use of low carbon infrastructure and construction methods and drainage systems and encourage the use of locally sourced materials, to protect the integrity of the natural systems and resources.

### Living Well

- Promote health by improving air quality, increasing opportunities for walking and cycling and enhancing access to outdoor recreation and the natural environment.
- Delivering inclusive communities with a range of services and infrastructure in sustainable neighbourhoods, including community infrastructure, green infrastructure and employment.
- Supporting measures which encourage sustainable and active transport and reducing the need to use the private car.

### Homes for All

- Delivering high quality and adaptable new housing to meet local needs, including a range of sizes, types of residential accommodation and tenures.

### Vibrant local economy

- Ensuring the economy is able to grow and respond positively to covid-19 and other challenges by accommodating changing business needs and opportunities, including growing the visitor and tourism economy, and creative and education sectors.
- Identify sufficient sites and premises to meet business needs and support the delivery of the infrastructure required to support it, including transport and communications infrastructure.
- Supporting the cultural, visitor and tourism economy, including links and access to destinations including Winchester City and the South Downs National Park.
- Support green growth, including the low-carbon economy through encouraging energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies.