

22nd May 2026

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Lead Member of the Examining Authority (Lime
Down Solar Park)
Planning Inspectorate
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Dear Ms Laver,

RE: Update on Wiltshire Council Draft Local Plan

As indicated in Wiltshire Council's Written Representation [[REP1-138](#)], the council committed to providing the Examining Authority with an update following the Cabinet and Council decisions regarding the council's Draft Local Plan.

The draft Wiltshire Local Plan review was submitted for examination in November 2024. It had been in preparation since 2017 against a background of changing national planning policy, including levels of homes to be planned for, and reforms to the planning system. The Plan was submitted in line with transitional arrangement and in recognition that work on a new Plan would be needed to address higher housing numbers and a longer plan period on adoption.

In February 2026, following consideration of the council's proposed programme, the Inspectors set out two options for the council, to either (i) withdraw the Local Plan from examination or (ii) request that the Inspectors draft a final report (which would recommend non-adoption).

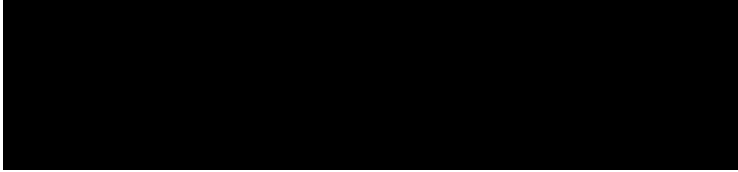
Wiltshire Council's Full Council meeting on 19 May 2026 resolved to withdraw the Local Plan from examination.

The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026 for the new Local Plan system came into effect in March 2026, and the council, as an authority with a housing need figure that has substantially increased, is required to publish its timeline and intention to commence a new plan by 30 June 2026. The 30-month prescribed timescale for plan preparation must commence by 31 October 2026.

Wiltshire Council's Cabinet will consider a report on 25 June 2026 to set out the timetable for the preparation of the new Local Plan.

I trust the above is helpful, however should you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Nic Thomas
Director of Planning, Economy and Regeneration
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