

Wiltshire Local Plan

Publication Stage Representation Form

Ref:	(For official use only)
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Part B – Please use a separate sheet for each representation.

Please note, in your representation you should provide succinctly all the evidence and supporting information necessary to support your representation and your suggested modification(s). You should not assume that you will have a further opportunity to make submissions.

After this stage, further submissions may only be made if invited by the Inspector, based on the matters and issues he or she identifies for examination.

3. To which part of the Wiltshire Local Plan does this representation relate?

Policy:	Paragraph:	Table:	Figure:
Site:	Other: Spatial Vision & Sustainability Appraisal		

4. Do you consider the Wiltshire Local Plan is:

(i) Legally compliant	Yes:		No:	X
(ii) Sound	Yes:		No:	X
(iii) Complies with the duty to co-operate	Yes:	X	No:	
<i>Please indicate with an 'X' as appropriate</i>				

4b. If you think the Wiltshire Local Plan is not sound, please indicate the reason(s) why:

(1) Not positively prepared	
(2) Not justified	X
(3) Not effective	X
(4) Not consistent with national policy	X
<i>Please indicate with an 'X' as appropriate</i>	

See separate statement of representation procedure (guidance note) for further information on 'soundness'.

5. Please give details of why you consider the Wiltshire Local Plan is not legally compliant or is unsound or fails to comply with the duty to co-operate. Please be as precise as possible. If you wish to support the legal compliance or soundness of the Wiltshire Local Plan or its compliance with the duty to co-operate, please also use this box to set out your comments.

The 2004 Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (as amended by the Planning Act 2008) states *'Development plan documents must (taken as a whole) include policies designed to secure that the development and use of land in the local planning authority's area contribute to the mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change.'*

Paragraph 152 of the NPPF states that planning should help to *'shape places in ways that contribute to radical reductions in greenhouses gas.'* Paragraph 153 of the NPPF (including footnote 53) goes on to explain *'plans should take a proactive approach to mitigating and adapting to climate change'* and that this should be *'in line with the objectives and provisions of the Climate Change Act 2008'*. The Climate Change Act 2008 sets a legal duty for the Secretary of State to ensure that the net UK carbon account for the year 2050 is at least 100% lower than the 1990 baseline.

The Wiltshire Carbon Emissions Baselines and Reduction Pathways Report, March 2022 by Anthesis states *'Planning will largely dictate the connectivity of new developments to core services and the possible reduction in required travel distances, through Local Plan site allocations.'*

Whilst the spatial vision in the Plan seems relatively sound, it is evasive on the scale of emission reductions to be achieved and whether the Plan would/should be in alignment with the Climate Change Act. Furthermore, there seems to be no obvious link between the Plan and Wiltshire Council's climate emergency declaration (which is only mentioned once in paragraph 5.110).

The Town Council considers that Plan documents need to include an audit of the predicted carbon emissions over the lifetime of the Plan (including impact of new development and baseline emissions) to enable the LPA to demonstrate that the Plan policies will contribute to achieving the carbon emission reductions required by the Climate Change Act.

Furthermore, the revised plan covers the period from 2020 to 2038. Under the Climate Change Act, the Government sets falling five yearly carbon budgets (recommended by the Climate Change Committee) to the ultimate net zero commitment in 2050. Because of the 18-year plan period, the local plan overlaps with carbon budgets 3, 4, 5 and 6. The 6th Carbon Budget commits the UK to achieving a 77% reduction in carbon emissions by 2037 from 1990 levels.

Carbon budgets are not mentioned. Nor is there an evidence base assessing the carbon emissions the Plan's strategy will give rise to, or whether the Plan policies are consistent with Wiltshire Council's climate emergency declaration (net zero by 2030), the UK-wide target (net zero by 2050), and/or the 6th carbon budget.

It is therefore unclear whether the Plan is legally compliant and whether the policies within the Plan are robust enough to achieve the emissions reductions Wiltshire Council and the UK as a whole has committed to. A Plan which cannot demonstrate this cannot, reasonably, pass the NPPF soundness test.

(Continue on a separate sheet/expand box if necessary)

5a. If you wish to make a separate representation, relating to legal compliance, soundness or the duty to cooperate in relation to the accompanying Sustainability Appraisal (SA), please make them here.

The Sustainability Appraisal fails to include any carbon emissions auditing of either Local Plan policies, or allocated sites and how this was then taken into account in the process of site selection.

The Town Council is aware of other LPA's using carbon emissions modelling/testing to assist in Local Plan making, and considers that further work and evidence on carbon emissions is required in order to test the adequacy of the Plan in relation to minimising the impact on climate change. Without this evidence the Sustainability Appraisal is not considered to be justified (in terms of soundness).

(Continue on a separate sheet/expand box if necessary)

6. Please set out the modification(s) you consider necessary to make the Wiltshire Local Plan legally compliant and sound, in respect of any legal compliance or soundness matters you have identified at 5 above. (Please note that non-compliance with the duty to co-operate is incapable of modification at examination). You will need to say why each modification will make the Wiltshire Local Plan legally compliant or sound. It will be helpful if you are able to put forward your suggested revised wording of any policy or text. Please be as precise as possible.

In order to make the Plan sound, the Town Council recommends further wording be added to the Spatial Vision or its supporting text to reinforce obligations under the Climate Change Act 2008 and the climate emergency that Wiltshire Council has declared.

It is recommended that the LPA develops further evidence, working up from the analysis already carried out for Wiltshire Council's climate emergency declaration, both to test the adequacy of the Plan approach and to strengthen their defence of the positive climate based policies they have already developed. This evidence should include an audit of the predicted carbon emissions over the lifetime of the Plan, including the impact of new development and baseline emissions.

The further evidence collected on carbon emissions should be used to inform a revised Sustainability Appraisal. This should include auditing of carbon emissions associated with site allocations, which can then be used to re-assess the sustainability of these allocations and assist in the process of site selection using a much stronger, quantitative evidence base.

(Continue on a separate sheet/expand box if necessary)

7. If your representation is seeking a modification to the plan, do you consider it necessary to participate in examination hearing session(s)?

No , I do not wish to participate in hearing session(s)	X	Yes , I wish to participate in hearing session(s)
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8. If you wish to participate in the hearing session(s), please outline why you consider this to be necessary:

This topic is complicated and technical and therefore may be more appropriate for a hearing.

(Continue on a separate sheet/ expand box if necessary)

Please note the Inspector will determine the most appropriate procedure to adopt to hear those who have indicated that they wish to participate in hearing session(s). You may be asked to confirm your wish to participate when the Inspector has identified the matters and issues for examination.

9. Do you wish to be notified of any of the following?

Please tick all that apply.

The submission of the Wiltshire Local Plan Review for Independent Examination	X
The publication of the report of the Inspector appointed to carry out the examination	X
The adoption of the Local Plan Review	X

Please ensure that we have either an up-to-date email address or postal address at which we can contact you.

Signature:		Date:	
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