

Wiltshire Local Plan Examination

Proposed Programme of Work

30 January 2026

The following programme of work provides a summary of the estimated timescales associated with the actions arising from the Inspectors' Post Stage 2 Hearings Letter (Examination Document ID12).

The further work is broken down into six Workstreams, which are then articulated as a series of tasks and interdependencies.

Completion of the programme of work will result in a schedule of proposed modifications to the draft Plan and either new or updated evidence documents. The main documents relating to tasks are indicated in italics in the respective rows in the workstream tables.

The programme of work has been prepared to demonstrate the likely timeframes for delivering two alternative options: Option A - a rebased Plan extending to 2038; and Option B - a rebased Plan extending to 2042. All month references are to months in 2026.

As requested in paragraph 34 of ID12, the Council will provide monthly progress updates by: 27 February 2026, 31 March, 30 April, 29 May, 30 June, 31 July, 28 August (and if necessary, 30 September, 30 October and 30 November).

		Timeframes (2026)	
Workstream 1: Spatial strategy ID12 paragraph(s): 4-21, 24-26, 30 and 31 [linked to Workstream 5]		Option A 2038	Option B 2042
W1.1	<p>Establish revised housing and employment needs for plan period to 2038 and an extended plan period to 2042, both rebased to 1 April 2023, as a basis for setting housing and employment requirements at plan area, Housing Market Area (HMA) and Functional Economic Market Area (FEMA) respectively.</p> <p><i>Informs Housing and Employment Topic Papers and Addendum to Revised Spatial Strategy (RSS).</i></p>	January - February	January - February
W1.2	<p>Assess rebased housing supply and sources of supply (including draft Local Plan allocations) for housing at main settlements and rural areas, against the submitted draft Plan's spatial strategy (but without a stepped requirement and excluding Policy 21 Salisbury Area New Community) to identify any shortfalls, as well as where supply may need to be improved.</p> <p><i>Informs Housing Topic Paper and Addendum to RSS.</i></p>	January - February	January - February
W1.3	<p>Reassess employment land needs at FEMA level including sectors. Review delivery strategy for employment including supply of sites against needs to identify any shortfall.</p> <p><i>Informs Employment Topic Paper and Addendum to RSS.</i></p>	February - March	February - March
W1.4	<p>Building on tasks W1.1 to W1.3 work to commence on an assessment of jobs workers alignment to inform the formulation of alternative development strategies.</p> <p>This will inform alternative distributions of employment land within the three FEMAs for inclusion as part of the testing of additional alternative distributions of housing and employment between the four HMAs.</p> <p><i>Informs Housing and Employment Topic Papers (as appropriate) and Addendum to RSS.</i></p>	February - March	February - March

W1.5	<p>Identify and assess through Sustainability Appraisal, and as appropriate Habitat Regulations Assessment, additional alternative development strategies to enable housing and employment land requirements to be met over a rebased plan period (without a stepped housing requirement) to 2038 (and 2042) and include alternative distributions between the four HMAs to address shortfalls in the Salisbury HMA and support higher delivery over the plan period, including in the context of the overall strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reassessment of broad locations for growth for the purposes of testing strategies - Role of rural areas for the purposes of testing strategies (links to Task W5.1). <p>High-level, proportionate evidence will be used to formulate alternative development strategies including transport, constraints, infrastructure and land availability.</p> <p><i>Informs Addendum to RSS, Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessment</i></p>	March - April	March - April
W1.6	<p>Alongside W1.1 - W1.5, undertake preparatory work to inform revisiting site selection process.</p> <p><i>Informs Addendums to the 'Planning for...' documents.</i></p>	February - April	February - April
W1.7	<p>Building on Task W1.5, identify preferred distribution of growth (Spatial Strategy) informed by Sustainability Appraisal and as appropriate Habitats Regulations Assessment.</p> <p><i>Informs Addendum to RSS, Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessment.</i></p>	April	April
<p>Key Milestone:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing and employment requirements at plan area, HMA and FEMA levels identified. • Identified preferred distribution of growth for the four HMAs (inc. main settlements and rural areas). 			

W1.8	<p>Building on Tasks W1.6 and W1.7, commence site selection work to address residual housing and employment requirements as appropriate. This work will encompass a reassessment and consideration of the potential allocation of the broad locations for growth (Chippenham, Melksham and Trowbridge) and reserve sites identified in Policy 3 'Reserve sites for housing and broad locations for growth', alongside updating of evidence as necessary.</p> <p><i>Informs Addendums to the 'Planning for...' documents.</i></p>	April (progresses through to July)	April (progresses through to November)
W1.9	<p>Commence work on transport modelling to assess preferred distribution of growth and engage with infrastructure providers to identify additional infrastructure to support growth.</p> <p><i>Informs update to transport evidence and Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP).</i></p>	May (progresses through to July)	May (progresses through to November)
W1.10	Update Viability Assessment to support the additional work and the draft Plan, including the assessment of additional proposed site allocations.	June-July	October - November
W1.11	<p>Complete site selection work, including Sustainability Appraisal and as appropriate Habitat Regulations Assessment in the selection of sites, and infrastructure planning (W1.9) to inform development of policies for proposed site allocations (and broad locations for growth if required).</p> <p><i>Informs Addendums to the 'Planning for...' documents, updates to Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessment.</i></p>	July	November
<p>Key Milestone</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of site selection process Additional housing and employment allocations identified (and broad locations for growth if required) 			
W1.12	Development and assessment* (through Sustainability Appraisal and Habitat Regulations Assessment) of policy and consequential changes to the draft Plan that cover the amendments to the spatial strategy and new site allocations and, if required, broad locations for growth. This will include the removal of Policy 21 Salisbury Area New community and consequential changes to the draft Plan.	July - August	November - December

	<p>* Assessment will be undertaken at the same time for all workstreams resulting in proposed policy modifications to draft Plan (Links to W2.4, W5.4 and W6.1).</p> <p><i>Informs schedule of proposed modifications to draft Plan arising from additional work, and updates to Sustainability Appraisal and Habitat Regulations Assessment</i></p>		
W1.13	<p>Completion of schedule of proposed modifications to draft Plan arising from additional work and associated evidence documents, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addendum to Revised Spatial Strategy • Housing Topic Paper • Employment Topic Paper including explanation of plan's approach to delivery of employment land • Addendums to 'Planning for...' documents to reflect revisited site selection process • Updates to Sustainability Appraisal • Updates to Habitats Regulations Assessment • Updated Infrastructure Delivery Plan • Other evidence and assessments, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Transport - Flood risk evidence - Viability Assessment 	September	December

Completion of Workstream 1

		Timeframes (2026)	
Workstream 2: Planning for strategic logistics development and Policy 64 (Additional employment land) ID12 paragraph(s) reference: 22 and 23		Option A 2038	Option B 2042
W2.1	<p>Building on W1.3 (as appropriate), commence consideration of how Plan addresses market demand for strategic logistics (regional and national) including testing the capacity of M4 Junction 17 with growth scenarios.</p> <p>Undertake high-level, proportionate assessment of land at M4 Junction 17 to identify alternatives for assessment through Sustainability Appraisal.</p>	February - March	February - March

	<i>Informs Strategic Logistics Topic Paper.</i>		
W2.2	<p>Building on W2.1 complete Sustainability Appraisal and identify potential allocation(s) / broad location for strategic logistics for transport modelling (informs W1.9).</p> <p><i>Informs Strategic Logistics Topic Paper and updates to Sustainability Appraisal</i></p>	April	April
W2.3	<p>Building on outputs from W2.2 and W1.9/W1.11, draft new policy for strategic logistics and make consequential changes to Policy 64 'Additional employment land'.</p> <p>Draft further proposed modifications to Policy 64 to improve effectiveness and address flexibility (links to Workstream 1 and assessment of employment need and sites).</p> <p>Update Viability Assessment as appropriate (links to W1.10).</p> <p><i>Informs Strategic Logistics and Employment Topic Papers</i></p>	July	November
<p>Key Milestone</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed modifications to Policy 64 Clarified approach to strategic logistics at M4 Junction 17 			
W2.4	<p>Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessment of policy changes arising from Task W2.4. Action as part of W1.12.</p> <p><i>Informs schedule of proposed modifications to draft Plan arising from additional work, updates to Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessment.</i></p>	July - Aug	November - December
W2.5	Completion of evidence documents, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic Logistics Topic Paper Employment Topic Paper Proposed modifications to draft Plan (linked to schedule in W1.13) 	September	December
Completion of Workstream 2			

Workstream 3: Categorisation of strategic / non-strategic policies			Timeframes (2026)	
ID12 paragraph(s) reference: 28			Option A 2038	Option B 2042
W3.1	Review submitted Plan policies and produce a note to identify strategic and non-strategic policies in line with NPPF and legislation and propose a form of modifications to the Plan to reflect the outcome. [This task may need to be updated as the examination progresses to reflect any proposed main modifications to policies.]		May	May
Completion of Workstream 3				

Workstream 4: Approach to policy supersession			Timeframes (2026)	
ID12 paragraph(s) reference: 29			Option A 2038	Option B 2042
W4.1	Prepare note to clearly set out which elements of existing policies are proposed to be partially superseded, having regard to EXAM 5 and building on EXAM 7 and any changes arising from the programme of work. [This task may need to be updated as the examination progresses to reflect any consequential changes.]		August	November
Completion of Workstream 4				

Workstream 5: Approach to neighbourhood area designation requirements and rural areas			Timeframes (2026)	
ID12 paragraph(s) reference: 30 and 31 [linked to tasks in Workstream 1]			Option A 2038	Option B 2042
W5.1	Commence review of draft Plan's approach to housing requirements across rural areas (includes neighbourhood plan requirements for rural settlements) and neighbourhood plan requirements for main settlements. Considers sources of housing land supply across all rural areas to inform Tasks W1.2 and W1.5.		February - April	February - April

	<i>Informs Addendum to Rural Housing Requirements paper and Housing Topic Paper</i>		
W5.2	<p>Building on W1.5 and W1.6, update and clarify methodology through a review of the Rural Housing Requirements paper (SD/18) and reassess requirements for areas designated for neighbourhood planning to help inform any revisions to the Plan's policy approach, and update evidence where necessary.</p> <p><i>Informs Addendum to Rural Housing Requirements paper</i></p>	April - May	April - May
W5.3	<p>Building on W5.2, draft proposed main modifications, as appropriate, to the draft Plan including the provision of housing supply contingency (if required).</p> <p><i>Informs schedule of proposed modifications to draft Plan arising from additional work</i></p>	June - July	June - July
<p>Key Milestone</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clarified approach to housing delivery within rural areas, including requirements in neighbourhood area designations and any proposed modifications to Plan as necessary. 			
W5.4	<p>Undertake Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessment on policy changes as appropriate. Action as part of W1.12.</p> <p><i>Informs schedule of proposed modifications to draft Plan and updates to Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessment.</i></p>	July - August	November - December
W5.5	<p>Completion of evidence documents, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Addendum to Rural Housing Requirements paper - Proposed modifications to draft Plan (linked to schedule in W1.13) 	September	December
<p>Completion of Workstream 5</p>			

		Timeframes (2026)	
		Option A 2038	Option B 2042
Workstream 6: Approach to Gypsies and Travellers ID12 paragraph(s) reference: 32	<p>W6.1 Draft modification to the Plan to provide certainty that the needs of Gypsies and Travellers are being addressed in a separate Development Plan Document (linked to schedule W1.13). Should a new Policy be required it will be assessed through Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessment, as appropriate.</p> <p><i>Informs schedule of proposed modifications to draft Plan arising from additional work.</i></p>	August	August
Completion of Workstream 6			

Wiltshire Local Plan: Programme of Work Timeline

Milestone as detailed within programme of work

Workstream 1 (W1): Spatial Strategy

Workstream 2 (W2) : Planning for strategic logistics development and Policy 64

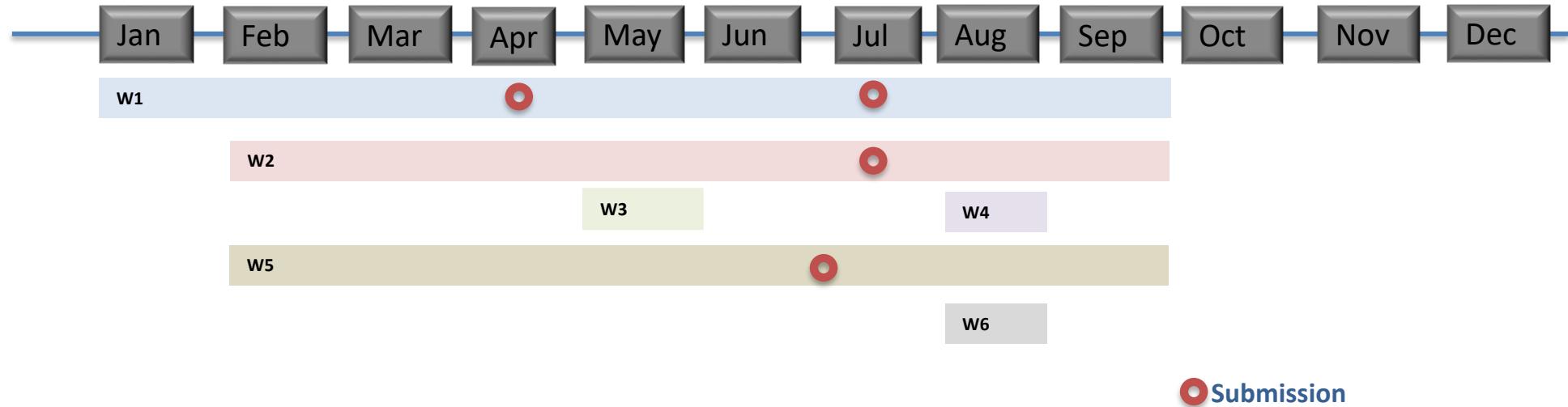
Workstream 3 (W3) : Categorisation of strategic / non-strategic policies

Workstream 4 (W4) : Approach to policy supersession

Workstream 5 (W5): Approach to neighbourhood area designation requirements and rural areas

Workstream 6 (W6) : Approach to Gypsies and Travellers

Option A: to 2038



Option B: to 2042

