

**Winchester District Local Plan Part 1 – Joint Core Strategy
Public Examination**

**The Programme Officer
C/O Winchester City Council
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Dear Parish Clerk

**Winchester District Local Plan Part 1 - Joint Core Strategy
Public Examination Hearings**

You will be aware that Parish Councils have been consulted at each stage of the preparation of the Winchester District Local Plan Part 1 and were notified in January 2012 of the publication of the Pre-Submission Plan and in June when the Plan was submitted for examination by an independent Inspector. The City Council has also notified you that the hearings will commence on 30 October and of the Pre-Hearing Meeting, which was held by the appointed Inspector yesterday (12 Sept).

Several Parish Councils that commented at the Pre-Submission or Submission stages have indicated that they wish to appear at the hearings, but many others have not commented or asked to participate. In many cases this may be because you are content with the Plan's provisions for your area or have no comments to make. However, there may be other participants at the hearings who will raise issues relating to your Parishes, particularly parties promoting development in those larger villages with a housing target (Local Plan Policy MTRA2). Some Parishes may also be affected by the Plan's strategic allocations at Barton Farm, North Whiteley and West of Waterlooville.

Therefore, the City Council has suggested, and the Inspector has agreed, that there should be a 'hot seat' for Parish Councils at the hearings considering Policy MTRA2 and the strategic allocations. This will allow Parishes to take part in the hearings when there are discussions specifically about the planning strategy and development targets for their areas. The draft programme envisages discussion of the Market Towns and Rural Area policies on 6 November (Issue 8) and the Inspector suggests that discussion of individual MTRA2 settlements should be in the afternoon (starting at 2.00pm). Discussion of the three strategic allocations is programmed for 1 and 2 November (Issues 5, 6 and 7). The current version of the hearing programme and participants can be viewed here:

<http://www.winchester.gov.uk/planning-policy/local-plan-part-1/examination/examination-information/>

The villages listed in Policy MTRA2 are as follows:

Bishops Waltham
New Alresford
Colden Common
Denmead
Kings Worthy
Swanmore
Waltham Chase (Shedfield Parish)
Wickham (already listed as a participant)

Those most likely to be affected by the strategic allocations are Whiteley and Curdridge (North Whiteley), Denmead (West of Waterlooville) and Headbourne Worthy and Kings Worthy (Barton Farm). Curdridge Parish Council is already listed as a participant regarding North Whiteley.

The Inspector would therefore like to extend an invitation to the above Parishes for the relevant hearing session and you should contact the Programme Officer if you are interested in attending. It will not be possible to say exactly when during the hearing your area may be discussed, but for the MTRA issues (6 Nov) the Inspector will reserve one seat around the table for a Parish Council representative and the reps can take the 'hot seat' if/when the discussion moves to their area. A similar arrangement would apply for the strategic allocations (1 and 2 Nov) but with fewer Parishes involved in each.

I hope Parish Councils will find this a useful additional opportunity to be involved at this key stage of producing the planning strategy for the District. However, please remember that the hearings are aimed at helping the Inspector to examine the soundness of the Plan and any contributions should be directed towards this. Any written statements that participants wish to submit should address the questions raised by the Inspector for each issue and must be submitted to the Programme Officer by noon on 12 October. It is not compulsory for participants to produce such statements.

If you have any queries about the process or the matters raised above please feel free to contact the Programme Officer or the Strategic Planning Team at the City Council.

Yours faithfully

Rosemary Morton
Programme Officer
Winchester District Local Plan Part 1- Joint Core Strategy