

REVIEW of FACILITIES AND SERVICES TO
INFORM THE SETTLEMENT HIERARCHY
2021.

Background Paper to inform the Local Plan
2038.

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 This background paper sets out the guidance and local data that will be used to formulate the settlement hierarchy for the Market Towns and Rural Area of the new Local Plan.
- 1.2 Winchester District is predominately rural with over 50 smaller settlements in addition to Winchester itself. The landscape has in the past led the way the settlements have evolved and developed, resulting in towns and villages with strong, distinctive characters.
- 1.3 The Winchester District Local Plan Part 1 - Joint Core Strategy (JCS, adopted March 2013) sets out the development strategy for the District. This is based on a “settlement hierarchy” approach which ranks and classifies settlements, based on the availability and accessibility of a broad range of facilities, a settlement’s economic role and the environmental constraints to development. The spatial strategy follows the following classifications;
- Winchester Town
 - South Hampshire Urban Areas
 - Market Towns and Rural Area
- 1.4 The classification of towns, villages and rural settlements is an important tool in planning terms, for purposes of supporting the implementation of local plan policies. Settlements that are in a higher tier of the hierarchy will often be more sustainable locations for new development, because residents would be able to access a greater range of services and facilities more easily, without the need to travel by private car which is the least sustainable form of transport and which adds most carbon emissions the reduction of which is a key council objective in achieving carbon neutrality by 2030.
- 1.5 A settlement hierarchy can also help decision-makers to understand the role and character of different settlements, which is necessary for supporting efforts

to maintain and enhance their character. Settlements work by providing a range of services for their residents and for a wider area – typically the bigger the settlement the more services it has and the wider area it serves.

- 1.6 The settlement hierarchy is being updated to form part of the evidence base for the emerging Local Plan 2018-2038, which will cover those parts of the district outside of the South Downs National Park. The previous settlement hierarchy update was in 2009 and this current update is necessary because, over time, the number and range of facilities and services within settlements may have changed and as a result the hierarchy may need to be adjusted. In addition to this some services such as high speed broadband, which were not included in the previous list of services, have become much more important particularly in light of the pandemic and the need for people to be able to work effectively from home. High speed broadband has therefore been added to the list of facilities and services and some of the categories have been sub divided to try to give a more accurate picture (see Table 1).
- 1.7 The council is consulting on its Strategic Issues and Priorities Document (www.localplan.winchester.gov.uk) which proposes possible development strategies for future development in the district. The possible approaches could include changing the existing settlement hierarchy to include a larger or smaller number of the more sustainable settlements in the hierarchy, so updating information on the facilities and services available is important work to underpin a decision on this.

Policy Context

- 1.8 The Government's National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) does not provide specific advice for the production of settlement hierarchies. However, as a broad matter of principle, it notes that planning policies and decisions should play an active role in guiding development towards sustainable solutions, taking local circumstances into account, to reflect the character,

needs and opportunities of each area (paragraph 9, NPPF). Furthermore, to promote sustainable development in rural areas, housing should be located where it will enhance or maintain the vitality of rural communities.

- 1.9 Planning policies should identify opportunities for villages to grow and thrive, especially where this will support local services. Where there are groups of smaller settlements, development in one village may support services in a village nearby (paragraph 78, NPPF). These aspects of national policy suggest that indicators of service provision and accessibility should be considered, and the role of different settlements in Winchester District taken into account, as part of a future development strategy.

2. Methodology

- 2.1 The revised settlement hierarchy has been undertaken with information supplied by parish councils in 2019 as part of the new Local Plan work. It has also been necessary to add to the list of facilities and services, specifically This will help to ensure that any new planned developments contribute to the overarching aim of achieving sustainable development in line with the council's carbon neutrality targets ([see Carbon Neutrality Action Plan](#))
- 2.2 The audit of facilities and services will form one part of the method for determining a settlement hierarchy. The audit results could subsequently be augmented with other information (e.g. population estimates) to establish a Local Plan settlement hierarchy.

Background

- 2.3 The Winchester Settlement Hierarchy covering the [Market Towns and Rural Area Background Paper](#) (May 2009), which was prepared to inform the Local Plan Part 1 (LPP1), relied on planning guidance that was contained at the time in the Government's PPS1. This national policy statement included a list of suitable "key services" that could be audited for identifying a settlement hierarchy. In the context of this guidance, the previous background paper set out a list of key services that would likely be accessed on a daily basis and which could therefore generate significant numbers of car journeys. These "key services" were:

- Convenience store
- Post office
- Primary school
- Local jobs
- Frequent bus service to nearest main centre
- Mainline railway station.

The LPP1 background paper presented a ranking of settlements in Winchester District using scores that reflected access to local services and facilities. In addition to the key services that are listed above, the presence of other facilities, such as doctor's surgeries, were also taken into account. A weighting was applied to scores so that key services scored double the amount of points as other services and facilities. The audit was presented in an appendix to the background paper, in the form of a settlement analysis matrix.

- 2.4 To inform the current update to the settlement hierarchy, a community facilities audit was undertaken in the spring of 2019, with the assistance of parish councils. The results of this audit and other desk-based resources have been used to score and rank the settlements in Winchester Council's planning area. This excludes the South Downs National Park, which now has its own Local Plan and settlement policies. This ranking has been translated into the revised settlement hierarchy included in Table 2 of this paper. Some areas have been sub divided to provide more detail such as the availability and frequency of public transport and new categories of high speed broadband and renewable energy facility have been added.

Summary of Methodology

- 2.5 Information about the availability of local services and facilities has been sought from parish councils, by means of a questionnaire. Other online and GIS information sources and site checks have been used to determine the presence of leisure and recreation facilities, GP and other health services, and public transport provision.
- 2.6 A points-based scoring system has been used to rank the settlements, with points being scored for the presence of services and facilities. A settlement's accessibility to services and facilities has also taken into account, with more points being gained for good or satisfactory accessibility to selected services,

where a higher score was determined by geographical proximity from the centre of a settlement. (See Table 1 below).

- 2.7 The scores for each settlement are given at Appendix A, together with comments identifying the type of services and facilities that were identified and that contributed significantly to the score. Full results of the scoring are also included in the large matrix of scores within Appendix A, to enable local residents to comment on all aspects of how the methodology has been implemented.

Table 1: Facility Scoring Methodology (newly added or further broken down categories highlighted yellow)

Facility or Service	Score	Source
Retail		
Supermarket (>400m2 trading floor space)	3	Parish Facilities Audit 2019
Convenience Store (<400m2 trading floor space)	2	Parish Facilities Audit 2019
Other Convenience Retail (Daily Needs)	1	Parish Facilities Audit 2019
Education		
Pre School/Nursery	2	HCC Website
Primary School (Including Infant and Junior)	2	HCC Website
Secondary School	2	HCC Website
Other Education Establishment	2	HCC Website
Healthcare		
Doctors	2	NHS Direct Website
Dentist	2	NHS Direct Website
Opticians	2	NHS Direct Website
Facilities		
Library	1	HCC Website
Petrol Station	1	Parish Facilities Audit 2019
Community/ Village Hall	1	Parish Facilities Audit 2019
Post Office (Open more than 5 days a week)	2	Parish Facilities Audit 2019
Post Office (Open less than 5 days a week)	1	Parish Facilities Audit 2019
Chemist	1	Parish Facilities Audit 2019
Bank	2	Parish Facilities Audit 2019
Café/Restaurant (A3)	1	Parish Facilities Audit 2019
Public House/Social Club (A4)	1	Parish Facilities Audit 2019
Take Away (A5)	1	Parish Facilities Audit 2019
Church	1	Parish Facilities Audit 2019
Recreation		
Children's Play Area	1	Parish Facilities Audit 2019
Outdoor Sports Facilities	1	Parish Facilities Audit 2019

Other Parks or Open Space	1	Parish Facilities Audit 2019
Built Leisure	1	Parish Facilities Audit 2019
Transport		
Daily Bus Services (Hourly)	3	HCC Website
Daily Bus Services (Infrequent)	2	HCC Website
Weekly Bus Services	1	HCC Website
Main Line Train Station (Frequent)	3	Network Rail Website
Main Line Train Station (Infrequent)	2	Network Rail Website
Employment		
Office	2	Parish Facilities Audit 2019
Warehouse	2	Parish Facilities Audit 2019
Workshop	2	Parish Facilities Audit 2019
Infrastructure		
Mains Gas (Large Coverage)	2	Parish Facilities Audit 2019
Mains Gas (Limited Coverage)	1	Parish Facilities Audit 2019
Mains Drainage (Large Coverage)	2	Parish Facilities Audit 2019
Mains Drainage (Limited Coverage)	1	Parish Facilities Audit 2019
High Speed Broadband	2	Parish Facilities Audit 2019
Renewable Energy Facility	2	Parish Facilities Audit 2019

3. Ranking and Settlement Hierarchy

3.1 Table 2 below highlights the ranking of the settlements in accordance with the scores from Appendix A. As noted above, these scores are based purely on the presence of relevant services and facilities.

Table 2: Settlement Hierarchy Groupings

Category	Settlement
Town (score of over 50)	Winchester
Market Towns and Larger Villages (score of 30-50)	Bishop's Waltham, New Alresford, Denmead, Wickham, Waterlooville (Newlands), Whiteley, Colden Common, Kings Worthy, Waltham Chase
Other Settlements in the Market Towns and Rural Area (with settlement boundaries) (score of below 30)	South Wonston, Swanmore, Sparsholt, Otterbourne, Sutton Scotney, Southwick, Micheldever, Micheldever Station, Old Alresford, Compton Down, Knowle, Littleton, Curdridge, Hursley, Southdown
Other Settlements in the Market Towns and Rural Area (without settlement boundaries) (score of below 30)	Durley Street, North Boarhunt, Woodmancott, Curbridge, Northbrook, Northington, Stoke Charity, Wonston, Swarraton, Hundred Acres, Shedfield, Bishops Sutton, Compton Street, Durley, Newtown, Headbourne Worthy, Otterbourne Hill, Crawley, Bighton, Shawford, Shirrell Heath, Gundleton, East Stratton, Soberton Heath

3.2 It is intended that the cut off points in the current LPP1 settlement hierarchy remain until the outcomes of the consultation responses on the Strategic Issues and Priorities (SIP) document have been received. If it is decided to promote a new spatial strategy in the emerging Local Plan then it may become appropriate to review the cut off points for each of the groupings above, with the possibility of moving some settlements into a higher or lower grouping of the hierarchy and possibly allocating settlement boundaries to some of the settlements which don't have them currently. Whatever the outcome of the SIP consultation it is important to have an updated hierarchy in order to maximise sustainable development opportunities.

Appendix A: Scoring and ranking of Winchester settlements (Outside the South Downs National Park)

Settlement	Retail			Education			Medical			Facilities							Recreation				Transport			Employment			Infrastructure				Score							
	Supermarket (>400m2 trading floor space)	Convenience Store (<400m2 trading floor space)	Other Convenience Retail (Daily Needs)	Pre School/Nursery	Primary School (Including Infant and Junior)	Secondary School	Other Education Establishment	Doctors	Dentist	Opticians	Library	Petrol Station	Community/ Village Hall	Post Office	Chemist	Bank	Café/Restaurant	Pub/Social Club	Take Away	Church	Children's Play Area	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Other Parks or Open Space	Built Leisure	Daily Bus Services (Hourly)	Daily Bus Services (Infrequent)	Weekly Bus Services	Main Line Train Station (Frequent)	Main Line Train Station (Infrequent)	Office		Warehouse	Workshop	Mains Gas	Mains Drainage	High Speed Broadband	Renewable Energy Facility	
Winchester	3	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	0	0	3	0	2	2	2	2	2	2	0	55
Bishop's Waltham	3	2	1	2	2	0	0	2	2	2	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	0	3	2	0	0	0	2	2	2	2	2	2	0	49	
New Alresford	3	2	1	2	2	2	0	2	2	2	1	0	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	3	2	0	0	0	2	2	2	2	2	2	0	49	
Denmead	3	2	1	2	2	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	1	2	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	3	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	2	2	2	0	44	
Wickham	3	2	1	2	2	0	0	2	2	2	0	0	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	2	2	2	0	44	
Colden Common	3	2	0	2	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	2	2	2	0	36	
Kings Worthy	3	2	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	2	2	2	0	34	
Whiteley	3	2	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	2	2	2	2	2	0	33	
Waltham Chase	0	2	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	2	2	2	0	30	
South Wonston	0	2	0	2	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	2	2	0	29	
Swanmore	0	2	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	2	2	0	27	
Sparsholt	0	0	1	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	2	2	0	26	
Otterbourne	3	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	2	25	
Sutton Scotney	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	2	2	0	24	
Knowle	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	2	2	2	0	23	

Settlement	Retail			Education			Medical			Facilities							Recreation			Transport				Employment			Infrastructure				Score						
	Supermarket (>400m2 trading floor space)	Convenience Store (<400m2 trading floor space)	Other Convenience Retail (Daily Needs)	Pre School/Nursery	Primary School (Including Infant and Junior)	Secondary School	Other Education Establishment	Doctors	Dentist	Opticians	Library	Petrol Station	Community/ Village Hall	Post Office	Chemist	Bank	Café/Restaurant	Pub/Social Club	Take Away	Church	Children's Play Area	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Other Parks or Open Space	Built Leisure	Daily Bus Services (Hourly)	Daily Bus Services (Infrequent)	Weekly Bus Services	Main Line Train Station (Frequent)	Main Line Train Station (Infrequent)	Office		Warehouse	Workshop	Mains Gas	Mains Drainage	High Speed Broadband	Renewable Energy Facility
Littleton	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	2	2	2	2	0	22
Curdrige	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	1	1	2	0	21
Hursley	0	0	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	1	1	0	21
Southwick	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	2	2	2	2	2	0	19
Shedfield	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	2	0	18
Bishops Sutton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	2	2	0	16
Compton Street	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	0	16
Durley	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	1	1	0	2	15
Newtown	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	2	0	15
Headbourne Worthy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	2	0	14
Micheldever	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	14
Otterbourne Hill	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	0	14
Crawley	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	0	13
Micheldever Station	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	2	2	0	0	1	1	2	0	13
Bighton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	2	2	2	2	0	12
Shawford	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	0	12
Old Alresford	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	2	1	1	2	0	12

Settlement	Retail			Education			Medical			Facilities							Recreation				Transport				Employment			Infrastructure				Score					
	Supermarket (>400m2 trading floor space)	Convenience Store (<400m2 trading floor space)	Other Convenience Retail (Daily Needs)	Pre School/Nursery	Primary School (Including Infant and Junior)	Secondary School	Other Education Establishment	Doctors	Dentist	Opticians	Library	Petrol Station	Community/ Village Hall	Post Office	Chemist	Bank	Café/Restaurant	Pub/Social Club	Take Away	Church	Children's Play Area	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Other Parks or Open Space	Built Leisure	Daily Bus Services (Hourly)	Daily Bus Services (Infrequent)	Weekly Bus Services	Main Line Train Station (Frequent)	Main Line Train Station (Infrequent)	Office	Warehouse		Workshop	Mains Gas	Mains Drainage	High Speed Broadband	Renewable Energy Facility
Shirrell Heath	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	0	12
Gundleton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	2	2	2	2	0	11
Compton Down	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	0	11
East Stratton	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	11
Soberton Heath	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	2	0	10
Southdown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	0	9
Durley Street	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	9
North Boarhunt	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	8
Woodmancott	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	2	0	7
Curbridge	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	6
Northbrook	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	6
Northington	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	6
Stoke Charity	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	5
Wonston	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	5
Swarraton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	4
Hundred Acres	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	4