

# **WILTSHIRE AND SWINDON STRUCTURE PLAN 2016**

A Joint Structure Plan Alteration covering the  
Administrative Areas of  
Swindon Borough Council and Wiltshire County Council

**ADOPTED**  
**Explanatory Memorandum**  
**&**  
**Written Statement**

**April 2006**



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پر رابطہ قائم کریں۔

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## FOREWORD

The Structure Plan provides a strategic policy framework for land use planning, development and transport across the administrative areas of Wiltshire (incorporating Wiltshire County and Swindon Borough) up to 2016. This framework is used to inform the more detailed Local Development Frameworks produced by the Borough and District Councils against which decisions on development are made.

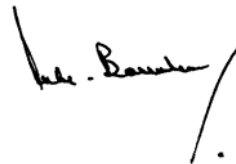
The Wiltshire and Swindon Structure Plan 2016 is an Alteration to the Wiltshire Structure Plan 2011. This means that the majority of policies have remained the same, with alterations to other policies to ensure the Plan is consistent with national and regional planning guidance to guide development across Wiltshire up to 2016.

The Structure Plan 2016 has passed through a number of formal, public stages on its way to adoption by the two Strategic Planning Authorities. A Deposit Draft Alteration was placed on deposit for public consultation in October 2003. This was followed by an Examination in Public (EIP) in June and July 2004. The EIP Panel's recommendations were published in October 2004 and, following consideration of these, the Strategic Planning Authorities published Proposed Modifications for public consultation in August 2005. The Structure Plan was agreed for adoption by Swindon Borough Council on 26 January 2006 and Wiltshire County Council on 7 February 2006. The Structure Plan was formally Adopted on 1 April 2006.

The Plan forms part of the development plan for Wiltshire for a period of three years or until it is replaced by the new Regional Spatial Strategy for the South West.



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## CHAPTER ONE

### INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This Structure Plan sets out strategic planning policies for the area of Wiltshire County and Swindon Borough for the period up to 2016, in support of a strategy for their future development and the conservation of their heritage.
- 1.2 This Structure Plan has been prepared jointly by Wiltshire County Council and Swindon Borough Council in accordance with the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended by the Planning and Compensation Act 1991). This requires a single Structure Plan to be prepared for the whole of the former County area of Wiltshire. **Figure 1.1** shows the Plan Area and its constituent local authorities, plus community areas used for service planning purposes.
- 1.3 The previous Structure Plan (Wiltshire Structure Plan 2011) has been altered and rolled forward to cover the period to 2016. This means that the majority of policies in the Wiltshire Structure Plan 2011 remain the same and have been carried forward into this Plan but that a small number of policies have been altered. Only limited alterations to the previous Plan were considered necessary instead of a major review because the Plan was regarded as broadly compatible with national and regional planning guidance.
- 1.4 The policies are set out in bold **CAPITAL** type. The accompanying text explains, qualifies and interprets the policies. Together, these form the Explanatory Memorandum. The policies are also set out separately at the end of the document, together with the Key Diagram, to form the Written Statement. The Key Diagram acts as a geographical index to the policies.

#### **The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004**

- 1.5 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 strengthens the role of regional planning by replacing Regional Planning Guidance with statutory Regional Spatial Strategies (RSS) and making RSS, which also replaces the Structure Plan, part of the development plan. The Act also replaces Local Plans with Local Development Frameworks (LDF). An LDF contains Local Development Documents (LDDs) including Development Plan Documents (DPDs) that together with RSS will form the Development Plan.
- 1.6 Under the transitional arrangements of the Act, this Plan is “saved” for a period of 3 years from the date of adoption or until RSS revisions are published by the Secretary of State that replaces its policies in whole or in part. The South West Regional Assembly (SWRA) as Regional Planning Body is responsible for preparation of RSS for the South West. The timetable for preparation of RSS indicates that an examination in public of the draft RSS will take place during spring 2007 and the Secretary of State will issue the new RSS early 2008. The adoption of this Plan will ensure that a strategic policy framework is in place for this interim period providing a context for Local Transport Plans and new Local Development Documents, as well as any Local Plans

being completed under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. All Local Plans will be assessed for conformity against this Structure Plan. Although the Plan in places refers to Local Development Documents, in appropriate circumstances, this should be interpreted as Local Plans where they have not been superseded by Local Development Documents.

### **The Role of the Structure Plan**

- 1.7 The Structure Plan has three main functions:
- i) To provide a framework of strategic policies for local planning and development control decisions;
  - ii) To ensure that provision for development is realistic and consistent with national and regional policy; and
  - iii) To secure consistency between development plans at the local level for neighbouring areas.
- 1.8 The Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) requires all relevant planning decisions to be "plan led", that is in accordance with Development Plans, unless material considerations indicate otherwise: thus the need for up-to-date and relevant Structure Plans is of paramount importance.
- 1.9 Together with Local Plans or the new Local Development Documents (where these supersede policies in Local Plans), the Structure Plan will form the Development Plan for Wiltshire and Swindon in the period until it is superseded by a new Regional Spatial Strategy.
- 1.10 The role of the Structure Plan within the planning process will therefore be to provide an up-to-date statement of strategic planning policy. Local Plans or the new Local Development Documents will act as the detailed basis for day-to-day development control decisions.
- 1.11 The Structure Plan is a broad land use and transport strategy which establishes the main principles and priorities for the future development of the area. It provides a measure of certainty about the medium-term to long-term time scale within which the new Local Development Documents should be prepared and decisions on planning applications taken, and hence sets a framework for co-ordinating action.
- 1.12 For the County and Borough Councils, the Structure Plan establishes a common basis, in terms of the overall scale and distribution of development and land uses, for a range of plans and programmes for the services they provide. These include Local Transport Plans (LTPs), Economic Development Strategies and investment programmes for education and social services. The Structure Plan also complements many of the County and Borough Councils' other strategies and initiatives, together with those of other agencies such as the Environment Agency and Countryside Agency. The Plan will help guide and influence the work of public and private bodies in the Plan Area.

**Figure 1.1 Wiltshire Structure Plan Area and Local Authority and Community Areas**

