

**Service: Economic Development and Planning**

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**Date prepared: 10 December 2018**

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## Councillors Briefing Note No. 374

### **Wiltshire Housing Site Allocations Plan Update - Focused consultation on the Schedule of Proposed Changes**

We held a [focused consultation on the council's Schedule of Proposed Changes](#) to the above Plan and associated evidence base documents from 27 September - 9 November 2018 following correspondence with the appointed planning inspector in August 2018.

The consultation was widely publicised on the council's website, as well as through press releases, social media, parish/town council newsletters and Elected Wire. All documents were made available for the commencement of the consultation at the council's main offices and all council run libraries in Wiltshire.

The consultation generated 541 representations from 298 organisations and members of the public. In addition, a petition containing 348 signatures was submitted in respect of the proposals associated with the allocation of Elm Grove Farm, Trowbridge.

A report on the consultation, including a breakdown of the main issues raised has been submitted to the inspector and published on [our website](#).

Following the close of the focussed consultation, officers identified a technical error that resulted in a number of consultees in our database (approximately 22% of all consultees) not being directly written to about the consultation.

A number of parish councils while receiving three newsletters sent directly to them, which included the text from the letters the council sent to consultees, did not receive a separate communication about the consultation.

Despite not directly contacting a number of consultees, the consultation was nonetheless accessible and widely promoted, thereby offering ample scope for all those with an interest in the plan to comment. Indeed, of those who we did not directly notify, we nonetheless

received comments from some of these on the published materials. We also attracted attention from a significant number of people who had not commented before.

For the avoidance of doubt and to positively address the error, only those parties that are potentially affected by this error (including parish councils who were not sent a communication other than the newsletters and have not responded) will be provided with the opportunity to comment.

Letters will be sent to all relevant parties allowing them to comment over a six-week period starting Tuesday 11 December 2018 to Tuesday 22 January 2019. As before, all comments received will be forwarded to the Inspector for consideration through the examination process.

This additional consultation means a short delay in the examination programme, however it is anticipated that the hearing sessions will be commenced around the end of the first quarter of 2019.