

Bath Preservation Trust/224
Additional Representation 1: Compliance issues
Cross border/boundary issues

ID7/1/H Has section 110 (duty to cooperate) of the Localism Act 2011 been met?

1. We note the Inspector's recently-posted assessment (ID/8) that the duty in the new Act is not applicable to plans which have completed the preparation stage and have already been submitted.

2. However we believe there is insufficient evidence across the core strategy of collaboration with Wiltshire. We referred to this in our representations **224/7S, 224/9,224/45 and 224/46**. West Wiltshire provides a significant catchment for in-commuters to Bath for jobs, education and medical care. Bath is to some extent dependent on lower cost housing in West Wiltshire's market towns. The River Avon also travels along a prolonged course through the County of Wiltshire, which accommodates *inter alia* the last sluice gate (in Melksham) where river flow can be managed before the B&NES boundary. Wiltshire is not part of the West of England Partnership and for this reason we believe that planning is not sufficiently integrated across this County Boundary. This view is supported by In Wiltshire County's own submission to the Core Strategy **384/1** where they comment that *'The functional relationships that exist between Wiltshire and B&NES require cross boundary solutions.'*

3. In light of the new Act we would submit that for **soundness** the Core Strategy should make much clearer reference to collaboration with Wiltshire on many of the Core Strategy's key matters.