

# **Bath and North East Somerset Council and Wiltshire Council**

## **Bath and North East Somerset Local Plan Partial Update**

**Statement of Common Ground** (Addendum  
to CD-SD031: Statement of Common Ground  
between B&NES Council and Wiltshire  
Council, August 2021)

May 2022

## **1. Introduction and Context**

- 1.1 In August 2021 Bath & North East Somerset Council (B&NES) and Wiltshire Council agreed a Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) relating to engagement between the two authorities on the Bath & North East Somerset Council Local Plan Partial Update (LPPU). This SoCG is an addendum to the August 2021 SoCG and updates it in respect of ongoing engagement on the LPPU. It relates to the Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) undertaken of the LPPU and specifically representations made by Wiltshire Council on the HRA published at Regulation (Reg) 19 stage and the further assessment and amendments made to the HRA at submission to address the issues raised in Wiltshire Council's representations.

## **2. Habitats Regulation Assessment**

- 2.1 In response to consultation on the LPPU (Draft Plan, under Reg 19) Wiltshire Council submitted a representation which raised issues around the HRA that supported the Reg 19 Local Plan Partial Update. Wiltshire Council suggested that B&NES Council should consider whether the potential for in-combination effects of policies and allocations in the LPPU with the Wiltshire Housing Sites Allocation Plan (2020) needs to be considered. Given that the Bath and Bradford-on-Avon Special Area of Conservation (SAC) straddles the B&NES/Wiltshire Council boundary, and the protected bats are transient this is considered by both authorities to be a potential cross boundary strategic issue.
- 2.2 B&NES assessed the potential for in-combination effects of the two plans and amended the HRA (in particular Annex C relating to 'In-combination assessment of other plans and projects') accordingly. An addendum to the HRA (submission version) was prepared and submitted alongside the LPPU in December 2021 for Examination (Examination Core Document, reference CD-SD009)
- 2.3 The amendments proposed to the HRA and incorporated within the addendum, submission version (CD-SD009) have been discussed with and are supported by Wiltshire Council. As such Wiltshire Council agree that its representation on the Draft Plan (raised under Reg 19) has been satisfactorily addressed.

## **3. Signatories**

- 3.1 This statement of common ground is agreed on 20th May 2022 by Bath and North East Somerset Council and Wiltshire Council.

Signed: **Simon De Beer, Head of Planning Services**  
On behalf of Bath and North East Somerset Council

Signed : **Georgina Clampitt-Dix, Head of Spatial Planning**  
On behalf of Wiltshire Council