

Foreword

The pace of change can be daunting but I am confident that by planning positively for the challenges we face, we can ensure that Wiltshire has an exciting and prosperous future.

Over the past three years, you were asked for your views on the kind of place you would like south Wiltshire to be in 20 years time. I am delighted that over 8,500 of you took the opportunity to comment on this vision showing how much you care for the area where you live. In this strategy we set out the steps necessary to make our shared vision of the future a reality.

Analysis of your responses identified a clear agreement that we should take positive measures to plan for the new housing, especially affordable homes, and jobs which are so important for our long term success. You also shared our view that future growth needs to be carefully planned, so that it does not erode the very characteristics of south Wiltshire that we all hold so dear. I am pleased that the issues of scale and location of strategic growth produced such a robust and healthy debate and feedback.

This document sets out planning policies designed to ensure that settlements remain viable, resilient and healthy over the next 20 years and indicates where managed growth will be encouraged. It is the first step towards producing a single planning strategy for the whole of the Wiltshire council area. Essentially the strategy is designed to be deliverable and to ensure we can deliver the actions we have to take for the future.

These are challenging times and Wiltshire Council believes that this Core Strategy will ensure that south Wiltshire will continue to be a thriving and vibrant area, where people can learn and develop their skills, enjoy a good quality of life and good health within a safe, clean neighbourhood. They can appreciate an environment which makes the most of natural landscapes and historic buildings and combined with exciting new buildings and facilities. An area where the economy is thriving and holds a consolidated place within the wider region, and where people, irrespective of their background, can realise their potential and enjoy their lives. Facing up to a changing world can be difficult, and in many ways it is easier to deny that change is happening.

However, change is inevitable and if we want thriving, prosperous and safe places to live, work and visit in the future, and we all need to work together to manage and shape that change. In this way the future will not be one of uncertainty and threat, but of opportunity and prosperity.

I believe that, having listened very carefully to our communities, we have now taken the tough decisions necessary to ensure that south Wiltshire not only has a proud history but also a vibrant future.



Councillor Jane Scott Leader,
Wiltshire Council.

