



# Active Travel England

West Offices (City of York Council)

Station Rise,

York

YO1 6GA

9 October 2024

To whom it may concern,

This letter sets out how Active Travel England (ATE) has worked with Winchester City Council on the development of the Winchester local plan.

As context, ATE is a statutory consultee for planning applications above certain thresholds. It is not a prescribed body for local plan making. To inform any future approach, ATE undertook a local plan pilot project running from December 2023 to April 2024. The pilot sought views on how we could assist local planning authorities in the preparation of local plans, to secure the best possible outcomes for active travel and associated planning objectives (e.g. health, wellbeing and the environment). In some cases, ATE provided suggestions on how draft local plans could be improved in terms of active travel considerations, while explaining to local planning authorities that this was to draw matters and other information to their attention, but did not represent ATE's formal position on the local plan.

I can confirm that the planning policy team in ATE has worked with officers from Winchester City Council as part of the pilot project, and I am grateful for their assistance to us in this project.

As part of the project, ATE provided feedback on the Regulation 18 Winchester Local Plan policies. Officers from Winchester provided information to ATE through the course of the project and worked with us on completing a survey, discussing their requirements in a meeting with us and attending a workshop with other pilot authorities.

ATE provided suggestions on where polices could be strengthened, and where the links between active travel and other planning objectives could be improved on 22 December 2023, which were discussed in a call on 4 January 2024. ATE provided more information on 11 January.

Winchester City Council requested ATE to respond to the regulation 19 consultation, that was launched on 29 August 2024. As the pilot project has now completed, ATE is unable to

undertake a detailed review of the draft regulation 19 plan and provide a response to the consultation. However, I did want to place on record that much of the feedback provided by ATE on the Regulation 18 Local Plan policies have resulted in changes to the policies in the new plan, which place a stronger emphasis upon active travel and securing the best outcomes for active travel and associated planning objectives.

To illustrate this, the draft regulation 19 plan:

- Includes stronger wording around safe and accessible active travel throughout the Local Plan
- Prioritises the needs of walking, wheeling and cycling as set out in LTN 1/20 and creates safe and attractive routes to public transport
- Improves references on active travel routes to key services, towns and village centres and railway stations, such as in strategic policy D2 (Design Principles for Winchester Town); and D4 (Design Principles for Market Towns and Rural Villages)
- Has enhanced wording around the delivery of specific cycling and walking infrastructure secured through the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan and the Winchester Movement Strategy
- Includes definitions of the terms 'active travel' and 'mobility hubs' to improve the clarity and specificity of policies.

I have therefore provided this letter to demonstrate that Winchester City Council has worked closely with ATE on making amendments to the regulation 18 policies, which strengthens the consideration of active travel and its associated benefits.

Yours Sincerely,

