

West of England

**Bath & North East
Somerset Council**



**North
Somerset
COUNCIL**

**South Gloucestershire
Council**

West of England Joint Planning Strategy February 2014

Introduction

1. The four local planning authorities of Bath & NE Somerset, Bristol City, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire which comprise the West of England will continue to work together with the West of England Local Enterprise Partnership, Local Nature Partnership, neighbouring authorities, Government agencies, and other public bodies on strategic cross-boundary matters. Joint working will continue to take place constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis to deliver effective strategic planning to support sustainable development.
2. We demonstrate this through the West of England authorities working together to produce:
 - A new West of England Strategic Housing Market Assessment to replace the 2009 SHMA using the most up to date evidence available.
 - A joint planning strategy to guide future growth and development across the West of England

The West of England SHMA

3. The new West of England SHMA will cover the period 2016 -2036. This will provide the strategic context for the review and roll-forward of local plans. The four authorities will prioritise and resource this process to ensure that a robust SHMA is finalised by spring 2015. The replacement SHMA will provide a key evidence base for the review of strategic policies of the West of England Local Plans.
4. To facilitate this, the West of England authorities will prioritise and resource a joint process of assessing the implications of the SHMA outputs. This will provide an opportunity for each Council to work with the other West of England Unitary Authorities in identifying future

needs and pursuing complementary strategies capable of delivering and supporting economic and social growth across the sub-region.

The West of England Joint Planning Strategy

5. The strategic planning implications resulting from the updated evidence base will be addressed through a West of England joint planning strategy prepared by the four authorities, working with adjoining authorities external to the West of England where necessary. Building upon the current West of England Strategic Framework, the West of England Joint Planning Strategy will provide a formal coordinated strategic context to inform local plan reviews.
6. The West of England joint planning strategy will identify: the overall quantum of housing and jobs within the West of England and their distribution across the sub-region; the overall spatial strategy; strategic priorities; and strategic infrastructure necessary to deliver the spatial strategy for the West of England. Joint studies will be procured to support this process such as spatial options.
7. The West of England authorities are committed to work together on the basis of the following broad timetable. This will be refined as work progresses:

2014	Interim SHMA findings
2015	Final SHMA
2015-2016	Respond to evidence and assess spatial options
2016-2017	Finalisation of joint planning strategy
2016-2021	Adoption of new local plans

Dated:14th March 2014

Signed

Bath & NE Somerset



Bristol City



North Somerset



South Gloucestershire

