

October 6th

#WALC2026

Wiltshire Association of Local Councils County Conference

**PARISH
ONLINE**

**COMMUNITY
FIRST**



WALC

Wiltshire Association
of Local Councils

Morning Session

Time	Session	Speaker(s)	Title	Room
09:30	Registration		Coffee in the Foyer	Foyer
10:00	Welcome	Welcome to Swindon	Madam Deputy Mayor, Cllr Gayle Cook	Avebury & Kennet Suite
		Welcome to Conference	Chris Mewse, Parish Online	
10:10	Opening Session	NALC and the 21st Century Parish and Town Councillor and Clerk	Jonathan Owen Chief executive	
10:55	Plenary Session	Good Communication for all Town and Parish Councils	David Pugh External Relations Director, Merlin Entertainments	
11:40	Coffee			Foyer
Workshop Sessions Choose one of the following Workshop Sessions				
12:00	Session A	Road Safety and Speeding Q&A	Perry Payne Wiltshire and Swindon Road Safety Partnership	Avebury & Kennet Suite
	Session B	An Introduction to the Wiltshire Association of Local Councils Environment Network	Cate Watson Climate and Biodiversity Officer Jacky Macqueen Wiltshire Climate Alliance Steering Group	Dean Suite
	Session C	Neighbourhood Planning in Parish Online	Chris Mewse, Parish Online	Hawksworth Suite

Afternoon Session

	Workshop Sessions	Choose one of the following	Workshop Sessions	
13:30	Session A	Financial control – Fraud prevention, VAT compliance, procurement and other hazards.	Steve Parkinson The Parkinson Partnership LLP	Dean Suite
	Session B	Engaging with Emergency Responding Agencies	Chris Manuel Community Resilience Lead Officer Wiltshire & Swindon Prepared (LRF)	Avebury & Kennet Suite
	Session C	Delivering Cost Effective Community Events	Ryan Child – Events Manager Westbury Town Council	Hawksworth Suite
14:20	Coffee			Foyer
14:50	Plenary Sessions	Parish Council Engagement with the Principal Authority	Cllr Mel Jacob – Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Communities, Partnerships, Engagement, Libraries, Leisure, Culture, Commercial Services, Governance and Operational Services. Wiltshire Council Cllr Vinay Manro Cabinet Member for Adults and Health. Swindon Borough Council	Avebury & Kennet Suite
15:50	Closing Address	Cllr George McCaffery, WALC Chair		
16:00	Finish			



Teresa Strange
Clerk & RFO
Melksham Without Parish
Council

Chair of the Wiltshire &
Swindon Branch of SLCC
(Society of Local Council Clerks)

Welcome to Swindon

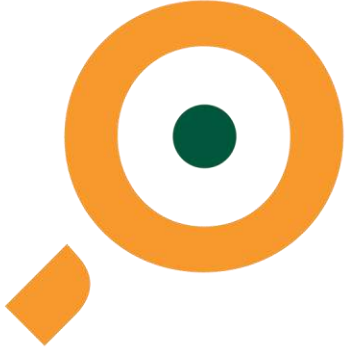
Madam Deputy Mayor, Cllr Gayle Cook



SWINDON
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Our Sponsor

Chris Mewse

PARISH
 **ONLINE**

Wiltshire Association of Local Councils

October 2026

Jonathan Owen, nalc ceo

NALC AND WALC

Thank you to councils, councillors and clerks and the county association for your involvement and support - never been more important to work together to support our communities and help lead local change.

Continuing to work together to

- Provide services to councils, day-to-day practical support, general advice and guidance;
- Sharing and communicating good practice
- Influencing local, regional and national government and other parts of the public and private sector to recognise the role and potential of sector.

WALC – 86% membership, 409 NALC website registrations.

Star Council nominations 8 this year. 48 signatories to the Civility and Respect Pledge. 18 accredited with Local Council Award Scheme.

OUR SECTOR IS ON THE UP!

- Local councils providing support to communities in so many ways, tackling climate change, promoting community cohesion, pushing for affordable housing, contributing £20bn to local change.
- New councils being set up across the country with around 60 in the pipeline
- Sector issues raised 1000 times in recent Parliamentary debates
- Total amount now raised in precepts, £942m. (Up £83m) 173 councils now raise a precept of at least £1m (up 23). Band D average £99.79
- WALC - £52.3m. Average Band D £189. 18 super councils

NALC UPDATES -NEW CHAIR!

- Cllr Iain Hamilton (Merseyside) is our new chair prioritising: stronger governance in the sector, stronger partnerships and a stronger voice on behalf of the sector.
- Strong governance: Review of standing orders in progress, launch of an AI tool to help CALCs and councils navigate our advice (NORA) and significant changes to annual governance returns with supporting resources.
- Strong partnerships: With Local Government Association, Association of Democratic Services Officers, and other representatives of principal authorities. Society of Local Council Clerks including on civility and respect.
- Project Keystone looking at how we work and with county associations

STRONG VOICE - NALC LOBBYING ON YOUR BEHALF

Overseen by our Policy Committee (7 councillors and 1 county officer)

- Motions from county associations (listed on our website and in policy register – 100s of policy positions!)
- Government consultations – flagging up sector views and concerns: recent ones include best value, time-off for public duties, planning
- Legislation and Regulations – evidence to committee's and inquiries and direct engagement with MPs and Peers on Devolution and Community Empowerment Act, Representation of the People Bill and Buses Bill.

Aiming to mobilise the wider sector too through our Engaging Parliament Toolkit

SOME ACHIEVEMENTS

Lobbying and responding to Government consultations and pressing motions from county associations have achieved many changes, including in recent years:

- No referenda principles
- Access to neighbourhood planning and community ownership funding
- Commitment to remote meetings and standards reform, including stronger sanctions
- Martyn's Law thresholds increased from 100-200 capacity for smallest councils
- Recognition of key role in devolution and Local Government Re-organisation
- Changes to audit thresholds for largest councils
- Increasing the number of councils and review of community governance review guidance

LABOUR GOVERNMENT JULY 2024

New Government, improved NALC approach

- Engaged public affairs support from agency Connect
- Set up Westminster Forum (28 MPs and Peers including our vice-president, Baroness Scott of Bybrook OBE)
- Worked on five bills and three committees
- Secured amendment to require local authorities to engage with parish and town councils on new neighbourhood governance arrangements (Clause 62 of the Devolution and Community Empowerment Act).

ANOTHER CHALLENGE, ANOTHER NEW GOVERNMENT!

- Andy Burnham as PM. Angela Rayner returning as secretary of state for housing, communities and local government. Minister Jim McMahon's portfolio explicitly includes parish and town councils (for first time).
- NALC has met with new Minister and civil servants – local councils must not be simply consultees but key delivery partners in achieving objectives on growth, public service reform, environmental action, democratic renewal and community governance – Leading Local Change.
- New Government reviewing things including local government re-organization and deepening devolution.

NALC PRIORITIES – AND YOURS?

- Ensuring sector has voice on new unitaries, strategic and mayoral authorities
- Improved standards including meaningful sanctions
- Ability to hold remote meetings
- Fair funding – access to grants and above all exclusion from referenda principles or capping
- What would be yours?

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

- You can see the full report and more resources on our 21c Public Servant website
<https://21stcenturypublicservant.wordpress.com/>
- You can catch us on LinkedIn or drop us an email:
c.needham.1@bham.ac.uk
d.mckenna@bham.ac.uk



CURRENT AND FUTURE CHALLENGES

- Principal **councils withdrawing services**
- **Complexity of place**
- **Communities are in distress**
- **Councillor engagement**
- **Behaviour and standards issues**
- **Clerk isolation**
- **Local government re-organisation**
- **Civil emergencies**
- **Artificial Intelligence**
- **Working in and with complexity**
- **Developing and valuing new ways of working**
- **What other challenges do you perceive and what does it mean for our sector?**

THRIVING IN THIS NEW ENVIRONMENT AND LEADING LOCAL CHANGE

Councils will need to act as

Connectors : linking and bringing together the developing network of local institutions and neighbourhood bodies to support their residents

Communicators : as trusted local sources of information with a human face supporting local places

Catalysts : leading local communities' response to cost of living, promoting cohesion, health and well-being and unexpected challenges that will emerge.

NORA

NALC's Online Resource Assistant

- NORA is NALC's new AI-powered resource assistant, available now to NALC member councils.
- Ask NORA questions about the parish and town council sector. Its answers are based on NALC resources and it does not search the wider internet.
- Find relevant guidance more quickly. NORA signposts and links you to the NALC resources used in its answers.
- Check before you act. Use the NALC resources links to verify important information and explore the guidance in more detail.
- To access NORA: Log in to the NALC website and click the star icon in the bottom-right corner of the screen.

SOME ASKS AND THANKS!

- Register for NALC website and take a look at NORA
- Sign up to the civility and respect pledge, consider the local council award scheme and nominate a Star Council
- Promote good governance in your council
- Raise the profile of your work with local residents, MPs, and other local partners
- To all the councillors and clerks for the work they do supporting their communities
- To county associations, county officers and teams; and their office holders for helping NALC and local councils



Good communication for all town and parish councils

Wiltshire Association of Local Councils

Conference 2026

Tuesday 6th October

Setting the stage

Beyond the agendas: modern
communications for town and parish
councils

*Building trust, strategic storytelling
and community confidence*

What are we here to achieve?

- **The vision trap:** avoid communicating solely about isolated issues, one pothole or grass-cutting contract at a time. This transactional approach obscures the council's value.
- **The big picture:** connect everyday actions to your wider mission. Explicitly address what you want this parish council to be known for within the community.
- **Defining the identity:** whether your focus is *'preserving our village heritage'* or *'building a sustainable future'*, ensure every public update reinforces this core identity.
- **Value over bureaucracy:** remind residents of the why behind the what, turning dry statutory actions into a cohesive story of community progress.

Compelling storytelling: building confidence

Show the impact, not just the minutes

- **Human-centric updates:** shift the focus of announcements from bureaucratic approvals to real-world outcomes. Instead of *‘the council approved £5,000 for park benches’*, frame it as *‘new accessible seating brings generations together at the local park’*.
- **Before and after:** use strong visual storytelling, such as side-by-side photos or short video clips, to show the tangible results of the council's work.
- **Celebrate small wins:** *regular, positive stories create a ‘reservoir of goodwill’. This public confidence protects the council's reputation when tough or contentious decisions have to be made later.*

Bringing the community on the journey

Co-authoring the village future



Closing the feedback loop

When residents raise concerns about local issues like traffic or anti-social behaviour, explicitly show how their input shaped the council's final response.

'You Said, We Did' framework

Use this simple, highly effective framework in newsletters and social media updates to visibly demonstrate that you are listening and acting on feedback

Consultation over information

Involve the community early in projects before decisions are fully finalised, proving their voices genuinely impact local outcomes.

Amplifying profile through collaboration

Partnering to boost local reach



The echo chamber problem

Parish council official pages often suffer from limited reach. Tap into wider existing community networks to expand your voice.

Reciprocal PR

When the council provides grants, venue space, or backing to community groups, schools, or sports clubs, actively ask them to highlight that support on their own communication channels.

Co-created content

Tag, share, and celebrate the success of local organisations. Their independent public endorsement builds immense institutional credibility for the council.

Crisis management: neither aggression nor evasion

Navigating storms and contentious issues

- **The danger of extremes:** when hit with a negative story, avoiding the issue entirely breeds suspicion, while reacting defensively escalates the conflict. Find a balanced, professional middle ground.
- **The measured response:** take a step back to separate emotion from facts. Respond with calm, professional transparency without getting drawn into online arguments or comment-section debates.
- **Establishing a protocol:** agree in advance on who speaks for the council, what facts are verifiable, and ensure all official statements remain objective, brief, and anchored in the public interest.

Case study: handling a negative story (e.g. the ex-clerk)

Managing legacy reputational risk

1. **Acknowledge dispassionately:** acknowledge the issue openly if required by press or public inquiry, but keep the language strictly factual. Do not engage in historical blame games, speculation, or gossip.
2. **Draw a clear line:** visibly separate the past from the present. Detail the specific, robust measures and internal audits the current council has implemented to ensure the issue cannot happen again.
3. **Pivot to Action:** shift the focus entirely onto the positive work, transparency improvements, and strict safety protocols that the council operates under today.

The modern 'channels mix'

Reaching every corner of the parish

- **The Digital Anchor**

A clean, accessible website serving as the definitive, legal source of truth for minutes, agendas, and transparency codes.

- **Social Media**

Facebook pages utilised primarily to celebrate community success and broadcast updates, keeping comment sections actively moderated under a strict house policy.

- **The Noticeboard**

Well-maintained physical noticeboards in high-footfall areas for residents who prefer or rely entirely on offline communication.

- **Printed Newsletters**

Targeted, high-quality physical newsletter drops to ensure every single household feels included in the council's journey.

Possible next steps

Putting strategy into motion

- **Define the mission:** hold a council workshop to agree on the three core themes or achievements the council wants to be known for this year.
- **Build the asset map:** identify five local community groups the council supports and approach them to plan collaborative, reciprocal social media posts.
- **Adopt a crisis protocol:** ensure the clerk and all councillors are entirely aligned on who handles difficult press or social media situations before they happen.



Thank You

Questions?



Wiltshire and Swindon

ROAD SAFETY

PARTNERSHIP

Wiltshire and Swindon Road Safety Partnership

WALC Annual Conference
Tuesday 6th October 2026

Perry Payne
Chair of WSRSP Delivery Group

Partners

Wiltshire Police

Justice Traffic, Citizens In Policing, RPU, Traffic Management, S.C.I.T, (FCIU)
Community Engagement Officer, Bike Safe Lead. Wilts Police Comms.

Wiltshire Council

Head of Highways Asset Manager & Commissioning,
Road Safety Education Manager,
Wiltshire Council Comms

Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue

Road Safety Advisors

Partners

National Highways

Route Manager, Bristol and the Southwest

Bath and Wiltshire Air Ambulance

Operations and Safety Manager

British Horse Society

Safety Engagement, Development and Training Officer

Swindon Borough Council

Senior Specialist – Traffic Management



Wiltshire and Swindon

ROAD SAFETY

PARTNERSHIP

Contravention of Weight Limits

Aim

To produce a strategy and implement a policy to identify, report and reduce repeated contravention of weight limits by Heavy Goods Vehicles in Wiltshire.

The purpose is to ensure the safe and effective use of the UK road network by enforcing legal weight limits. Overweight vehicles pose a risk to public safety, accelerate road wear, and increase infrastructure maintenance costs. This policy outlines enforcement measures, responsibilities, and procedures to manage and deter breaches of weight restrictions

Contravention of Weight Limits

NOTE

It is important to note this policy refers to breaches of weight limits (such as 3.5 or 7.5 tonnes weight limits) which are lawfully signed and supported by a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO). Vehicles which are themselves overladen and/or overweight are dealt with via a separate process.

This policy refers to “The right load.....but on the wrong road!”

Contravention of Weight Limits

Objective's

To:

Engage and work with members of the public, local and parish councils to establish a robust and effective identification and reporting policy for HGV contraventions of weight limits

Work with DVSA and the Traffic Commissioner of the West of England to develop an efficient and effective reporting and enforcement policy.

Develop a strategy to implement policy and raise awareness.

Contravention of Weight Limits

Outcomes

Improve road safety for all users

Reduce environmental damage and nuisance to local communities

Protect property, road infrastructure and the highway network

Ensure a fair, consistent, proportionate and effective enforcement policy

Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO'S)

- TRO's imposing weight limits on roads are typically issued for 2 reasons.
- To reduce environmental damage and nuisance to local communities
- Or otherwise for structural reasons in that the infrastructure of the road is such that it means it is structurally unsuitable for use by vehicles over a certain weight.

Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO'S)

Environmental TRO's often provide a lawful exemption to enable heavy goods vehicles to have access to properties/businesses if required.

An example might be that access is required for deliveries of some kind, perhaps materials for a construction.

The access for vehicles making such deliveries would be lawful, but the route cannot be used by other vehicles exceeding the TRO limit if they have no specific need for such access.

Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO'S)

- Currently, enforcement by Wiltshire Police relating to vehicles who are in breach of lawfully signed weight limits which are appropriately supported by a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO), occurs when an officer is physically present to witness the offence.
- It is dealt with by means of a £50 Fixed Penalty Notice.
- No fines or points are issued, and the Licence of drivers is not affected.

Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO'S)

In common with all forces, Wiltshire Police have extensive operational commitments and limited resources and thus inevitably cannot be constantly present.

This can mean that unfortunately although a fixed penalty is/can be issued, it doesn't always deter operators or drivers, and vehicles can return.

This is why a different methodology for a more effective and long-term solution is something Wiltshire Police and other partners are currently working together to develop.

Contravention of Weight Limits

**Who has
powers?**

Police

Local Council (Trading Standards) (TRO's)

Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA)

Traffic Commissioner

Local Council /Trading Standards

In summary:

Whist Trading Standards have significant powers, they cannot stop vehicles, and enforcement is a collaborative effort often relying on intelligence and targeting specific, problematic routes.

Trading Standards work with the Police to deal with immediate stops with Trading Standards focussing on the business/operator side which means any issues relating to goods carried and the associated systems and processes.

Trading Standards cannot take formal action (caution or prosecution) only on the basis of a vehicle being seen within a restriction, but Police can if they witness the event.

Wiltshire & Swindon Trading Standards will forward any complaints or intelligence relating to potential offences to Wiltshire Police, together with any supporting evidence.

Police

- In the **UK**, weight-limit breaches (like ignoring a 3.5 and 7.5 tonne sign) can be enforced **either by the police or by a local council**, but they are **legally different systems** with different consequences.
- Police enforcement (criminal law).
Legal basis is the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and the Road Traffic Act 1988. Offences under these Acts are enforced by police officers and are technically a criminal motoring offence. This policy refers to enforcement relating to breaches of legally signed weight limits supported by a Traffic Regulation Order.

Police

- Direct Police enforcement occurs when a vehicle is established as found committing the offence and is dealt with by way of a fixed penalty notice and/or by reporting to DVSA.
- Fines and points are not issued
- Joint enforcement action with DVSA and/or Trading Standards can also be undertaken. Referral to the Traffic Commissioner can occur

Outcome for Police action

Wiltshire Police recognise the powers held the DVSA and Traffic Commissioner are far more likely to result in a permanent resolution to vehicles in breach of weight limits supported by TRO's, than the initial warnings or the fixed penalties awarded by the Police.

The methodology developed in partnership with the DVSA has established an efficient and effective means of data sharing so that reports of breaches and initial warnings are collated by the Police and then subsequent breaches are formally reported to the DVSA

The DVSA will, in the first instance, either write to the person concerned explaining that a complaint has been received with associated clear expectation that no further breaches will occur - or the DVSA may take further action.

Legislative Powers - DVSA

- Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE)
- Road Traffic Act 1988
- Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008
- Goods Vehicles Operating Licensing Act 1995

DVSA

- **The DVSA** often work with the Police but can work alone and have very significant powers.

They can carry out roadside inspections and prohibitions which means they can:

1. **Stop Heavy Goods Vehicles**

(..... and it's an offence if vehicles don't comply).

DVSA

- 2. Carry out roadside inspections to ensure vehicles are roadworthy and compliant with safety regulations.

This includes:

mechanical checks such as brakes, steering, lights, tyres, couplings and trailer connections, mirrors, suspension, windscreen condition and emissions.

Weight and load checks to see if a vehicle is overloaded and examine if loads are securely fastened and issue an immediate **Prohibitions Notice (PG9)** to prevent the vehicle being driven further until the issue is fixed.

DVSA

3. **Verify that both the driver and the business are operating legally.**

They do this by;

Checking **drivers hours** by means of the inspection of tachograph records,

Checking **Licensing** by checking vocational Licences and operators Licences,

and **carry out interviews under caution** at the roadside which can be used as evidence in court.

DVSA

- 4. **Exercise Powers of enforcement and sanctions** which means they can issue various penalties for non-compliance found during investigations.

Examples include **Fixed Penalties** for offences such as overloading or faulty equipment, **immobilisation** (wheel clamping) in serious cases such as extreme overloading or failure to pay financial deposits for fines,

Court Prosecution in magistrates court of individuals or businesses for severe breaches, or a **referral to the Traffic Commissioner** who has the power to completely revoke a business Licence to operate commercial vehicles.

DVSA

5. **Carry out further investigations and monitoring**

This includes:

A power of entry to operating centres or businesses to inspect maintenance records and vehicle fleets.

Documentation checks such as Operators Licence details, maintenance records, previous defect reports, insurances, tachograph printouts, training records.

DVSA Action

The DVSA will:

- Maintain records of previous contacts
- Engage with the Operator and carry enforcement, as necessary. Their expectation is that the offence is not repeated, and enforcement will be commensurate with noncompliance.

This may include:

- Making a formal site visit and carry out detailed inspections if necessary.
- Reporting the Operator to the Traffic Commissioner

Due to GDPR restrictions, specific outcomes cannot be shared.

Traffic Commissioner

- **Traffic Commissioners** are *regulators of commercial road transport* — but **they do *not* have direct powers to enforce road weight limits on public highways themselves** (e.g., stopping an overweight lorry at a bridge or a village route).
- They cannot issue fixed penalties or fines.
- Instead, their authority is by means of strong regulatory powers relating mainly to the *licensing and regulation of vehicle operators*, and they can take action against operators whose vehicles repeatedly *break laws or licence conditions, including weight-related issues*.

Traffic Commissioner

Traffic Commissioners Regulate Operator Licensing for goods vehicles (HGV's) under the Goods Vehicle (Licensing of Operators) Act 1995. Breach of weight limits is treated as serious because it affects road safety, damages infrastructure and compromises fair competition. Their Powers mean they can:

1. **Send a warning letter** with the expectation the operator will comply
2. **Take action against an Operators Licence:**

Suspend, Revoke, Curtail (Reduce the numbers of vehicles allowed) or refuse to grant a new Licence.

(HGV Operators cannot lawfully operate without a Licence – vehicles can potentially be impounded and even sold)

Traffic Commissioner

2. Require Operators and/or Transport managers to attend a Public Enquiry.

This questions management practices, maintenance systems and compliance controls and can be triggered by reports from DVSA or Police

3. Take action against Transport Managers

By suspending or removing a Transport manager's "good repute" (fitness to hold a Licence) or disqualify someone from acting as a Transport Manager (temporarily or permanently).

Traffic Commissioner

Will require an evidence base before taking action.

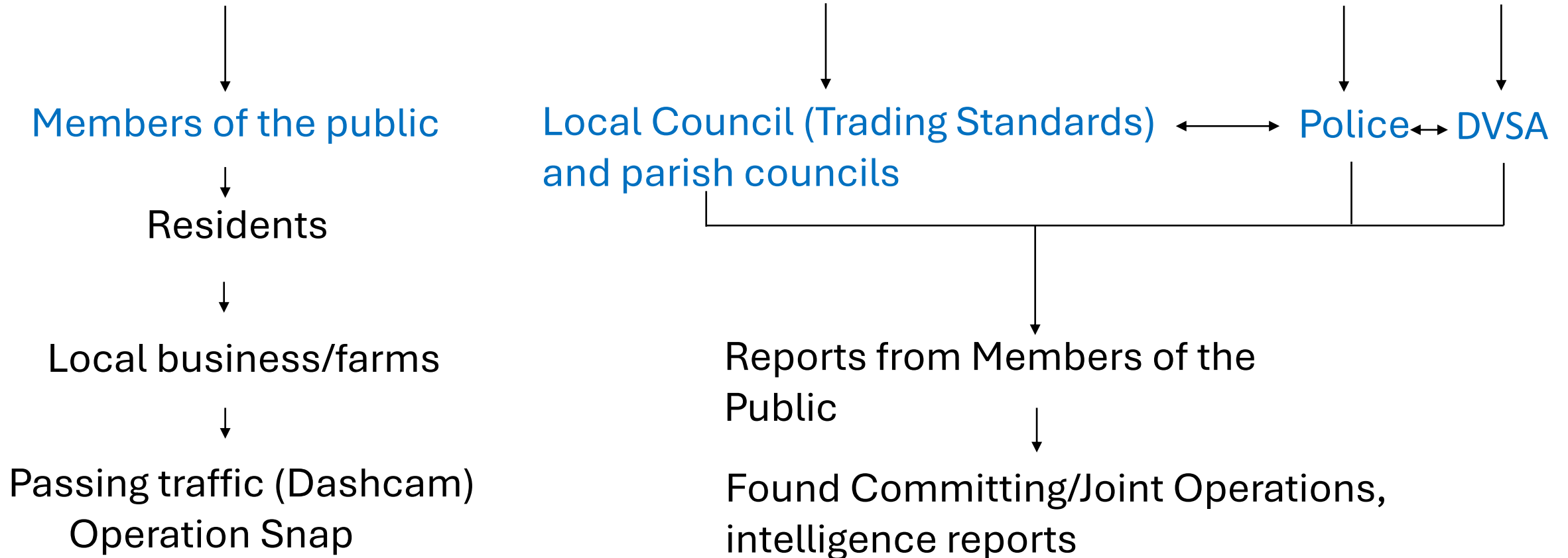
If the DVSA refer to the Traffic Commissioner, then it is usually deemed that there will have been sufficient evidence gathered by the DVSA to enable to Traffic Commissioner to proceed with whatever action is necessary.

The audit trail developed by the Police recording information, opening and maintaining a file on an Operator, together with their referral to DVSA will assist.

Any DVSA action and associated outcomes will also form part of the evidence base.

Contravention of Weight Limits

Identifying offences – who can help?



Contravention of Weight Limits

Methodology

Report received by DVSA



Record made and warning letter sent



Further Report received by DVSA



Further action taken
(could include full inspection)



Further reports received



Report to traffic commissioner for further enforcement
(Potential to revoke Operators License)

Report received by Police



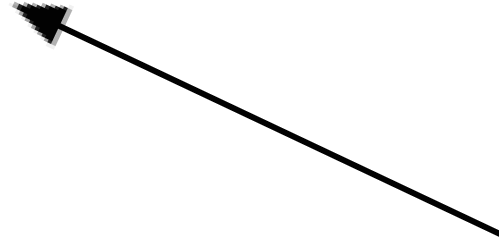
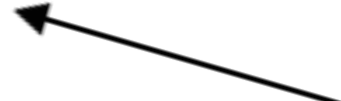
Record made and company contacted
and initial report made to DVSA



Further reports received



Report to DVSA
(including previous
history)

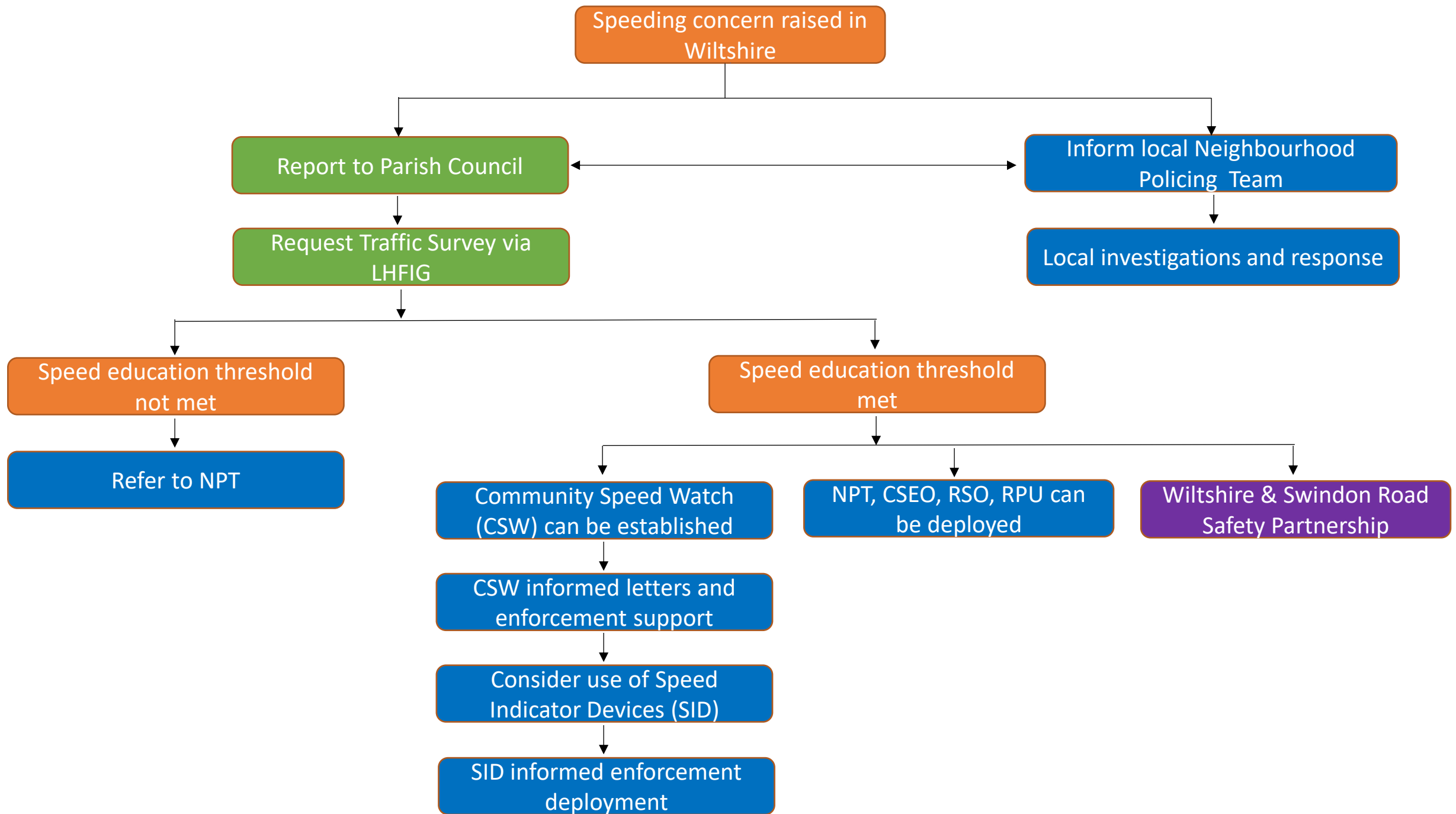


Community Outcome

The predicted outcome is that there will be a substantial reduction in repeated offending.

Repeat offenders will be identified and targeted

Assurance that DVSA and Traffic Commissioner actions can escalate exponentially until compliance is achieved



WALC Environment Network

Cate Watson

Climate and Biodiversity Officer, Chippenham Town Council

WALC Environment Network

First meeting in January 2026, meet every two months

Aims: To create a network of climate and ecological support, information and advice for WALC members that helps us to take positive action for the environment and our communities

This includes;

- Reducing carbon emissions e.g. low carbon travel, energy efficiencies
- Protecting green spaces and restoring nature
- Reducing waste and encouraging reuse and repair
- Building resilience to the impacts of the climate and nature crisis



How can the Network support us to take positive actions for the environment?

- Presentations highlighting local climate and biodiversity activities (Chippenham and Corsham councils) to share ideas and examples of best practice
- Carried out surveys and break out room discussions about potential topics of interest and to explore issues facing local councils.
- Working with Wiltshire Climate Alliance to encourage screenings of the Public Emergency Broadcast across Wiltshire. Example of a cross county initiative
- People's Emergency Briefing





Suggestions for other cross council projects

Breakout group discussions

1. What are your suggestions for general countywide initiatives that you would like the WALC Environmental Network to explore e.g. biodiversity, energy, campaigns, engaging with Wiltshire Council
2. Are there any cross council projects that you'd like to work together on with your nearest local councils? e.g. tree planting across parish borders, creating green corridors, river health and flooding. Please give examples if you can



How can the Network support councils with limited resources?

Environmental Network feedback

- Lots of small councils with very limited staff time
- Lone Councillor/officers trying to champion the environment without support

3. How can Councils facing these issues be supported?

- Match up lone Councillors/officers with their local environment groups (WCA)
- Creating hyper local climate clusters e.g. small groups of Councillors/officer from different councils to support each other
- Pairing up Councillors/officers with those able to offer mentorship
- Any other ideas?



Next meeting: 29 October at 12:00-13:00 on Teams

Discussing impacts of heatwaves across Wiltshire and Swindon and sharing examples of guidance and best practice

Any questions?

Introducing Rosie Walker, The Woodland Trust





WALC Annual Conference

People's Emergency Briefing Discussion

6 October 2026

Jacky Macqueen BVetMed MRCVS
Wiltshire Climate Alliance
Market Lavington

In November 2025, the National Emergency Briefing brought together leading experts to present the latest evidence on the climate and nature crisis to politicians and other influential people in Westminster.

www.nebriefing.org



PEB Screening Map

1 October 2026

4,688 Total screenings
3,098 Already held
1,590 Planned



PEB Screenings in Wiltshire

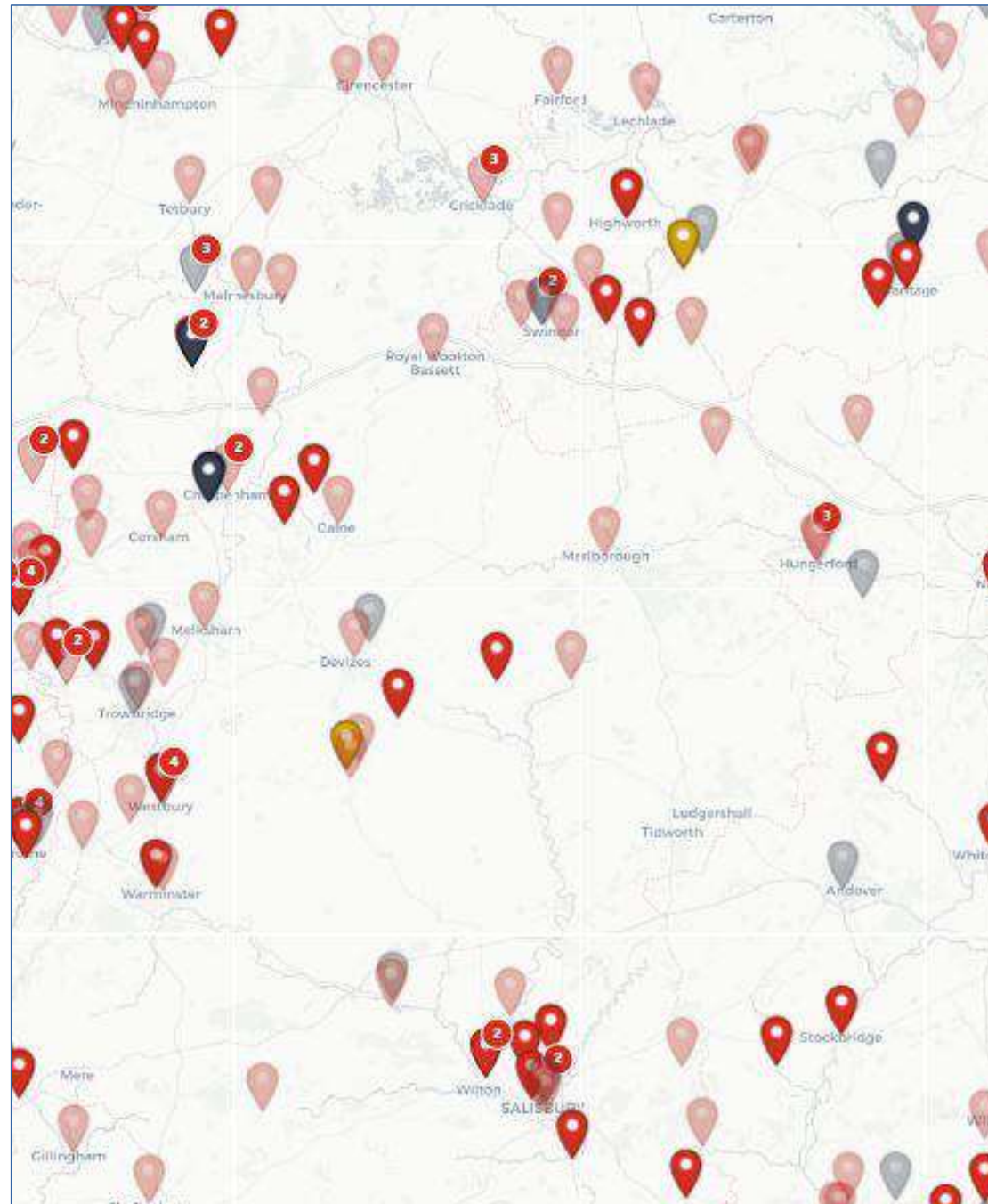
1 October 2026

116 screenings

25 councils

13 churches

3 schools



Nationally

239 council screenings by 159 councils

“Councils are on the front lines of the climate and nature crisis and serve as core Category 1 Responders under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004, with a responsibility to assess risks, plan for emergencies, and protect the public during crises.

We've also seen councils working directly with residents to build community resilience action groups and explore issues around food security, community energy, and nature recovery.

I think there's a potentially powerful story here: how councils are working with residents and calling on the government to ensure the public is properly informed about the risks our communities now face. It's very inspiring. “ *PEB*



A call to action for local councils

SUPPORTED BY



Local Councils Resource Pack



Introduction

The National Emergency Briefing calls on the UK government to deliver a live, televised emergency briefing on the climate and nature crisis in order to fully inform the public of the risks we face from the climate and nature crisis.

The National Emergency Briefing was held in Westminster in November 2025. It featured leading experts who briefed an invited audience of over 1,200 politicians and leaders from business, culture, faith, sport and the media. The briefing set out the implications of climate and nature breakdown for health, food systems, national security and the economy.

Following the briefing, a 50-minute documentary, the *People's Emergency Briefing*, has been produced. It contains footage of that event and is being screened across the UK in civic centres, cinemas, community halls, and churches.

The film is intended to build support for a government-led televised briefing to inform the public about the full scale of the crisis and show what level of response is now needed. MPs are being asked to add their names to a Parliamentary Call to that effect.

The initiative is:

- ✓ Politically neutral
- ✓ Evidence-led
- ✓ Designed to promote an understanding of risks

Contents

- Why should your council consider hosting a screening?
- Hosting an internal screening for staff and/or members
- Discussion topics for councils
- For Residents: Asking your council to host a screening
- Next Steps

Asset Library 1 of 2

Groups to Invite - a list of the many local groups you could send invitations to

MP Invitation - template invitation with advice on handling a refusal or non-response

Councillor Invite - local councils have a vital role to play

Other Invitations - template invites for a range of other groups

Guide To Ticketing - to help ticket your event, if needed

Customisable Launch Poster - add your event details to our promotional poster in Canva ([white background version](#) also available)

Posters To Grab Attention - a range of posters and flyers to backup your event poster

Suggested Social Media Posts - some ideas to help your social media promotion

Local Press Assets - how to find contact details and invite local journalists

Technical Guide - using projectors and hiring equipment

Timeline Checklist - a 'T-minus X weeks' checklist to make sure you're on-track

Discussion Guide - everything you need to host the post-film chat

Screening Handout — print-out for your audience

Handout if MP / other politicians attending – print out for your audience on how to get the most out of your MP

Summary of NEB for MPs - a 3-side print out to give to your MP

Watch. Chat. Act.



People's
Emergency
Briefing

Screenings everywhere for everyone

People's Emergency Briefing



On the climate and nature crisis

Market Lavington

Film screening and discussion on
what this means for our community

16

Market Lavington Community Hall
Friday 26th June 2026 7pm

Join us and Brian Mathew MP for a showing of the
People's Emergency Briefing – an eye-opening 50-minute
film bringing together nine leading UK experts with the
latest evidence and why it matters for things like:

• Extreme weather • Food security • Health • Cost of living

Seats are free but please register in advance.
For more information and to book your seat,
follow this QR code (Ticket Tailor)
<https://buytickets.at/na243/2219282>



Public Notice: You are invited to attend a screening of The People's Emergency Briefing

An eye-opening film featuring nine
leading UK scientists and experts
updating us on the latest in the
climate and nature crisis and its
impacts on everyday national life.

Including:
• extreme weather
• food security
• health
• cost of living

Based on the National Emergency Briefing in
Westminster, as covered by ITV, C4, and the Times.
Followed by a short open discussion about what we
can do and what it means locally.

Featuring Chris Packham, Deborah Meaden, surprise
guests, and a wide range of Brits.

Please note: The film is only being shown at
in-person screenings, not online. Bring a friend
or neighbour. Please book your free seat asap.



Come talk to your MP about the weather



People's
Emergency
Briefing

Screenings everywhere for everyone

If you care about:

local flooding ☐
air pollution ☐
the cost of living ☐
food prices ☐

you might want
to catch this.



People's
Emergency
Briefing

Screenings everywhere for everyone

Featuring: Your neighbours Your local MP Your future And possibly some nibbles



People's
Emergency
Briefing

Screenings everywhere for everyone

Ideas arising from a Local Council PEB screening

- Solar panels on Leisure Centre
- Exploring opportunities for community energy wind and solar farms
- Preparing to offer a level of home energy advice including thermal cameras
- Looking to stimulate more home solar/battery activity, esp in poor EPC developments, ideally multiple homes installing together.
- Considering strengthening pollution monitoring for Thames
- Looking for more water butt sites around public buildings for community use
- Considering water supply for allotments
- Looking for ways for growers to better share surplus veg
- Encourage wildlife corridors through gardens
- Considering how to share recipes for tasty plant rich food
- Eco Fest to share ideas and information and encourage wider community in Cricklade to take action (hall booked for March)

Action
Hope
Emergency
Urgent

Frighening
Anxiety
Accelerating
Hopelessness
Challenge
Great Speakers
Devastated
Gritty
Instability
Collapse
Cascading
Worry
Possibilities
Solvable
Opportunities
Help
Interesting
Punchy
Knowledgeable
Alarmed
Now
Government Action
Solutions
Solutions Available
Act Now
Legacy
Future?
Unprepared
Uncomfortable
Collaborate
Emergency
Action
Hope
Urgent
Action
Hope
Motivating (if we adapt) | Economic (if we adapt) | Healthier (if we adapt)

Encouraging
actionable points
Scared
Weather
Sustainability
Nature
Vegetarianism
Solar Power
Growing your own vegetables
Tipping Point (losing control)
Believing we can make a difference
Lowest Biodiversity (UK)
Reduction
Renewables
Responsibility
Economics are achievable
Just do it
Action
Achievable
Angry
Education
Possible
Fear
Hope
Hope
Urgent
Action
Hope

Community response to local PEB screening

26 new people expressed interest in getting involved in local action on climate and nature initial meeting next week seeking to start project groups on -

- Energy (Home & Community)
- Food & Wellbeing
- Nature & Gardening

WALC PEB screening

County Hall, Trowbridge

10 November 2026

11.30am to 14.00pm

Save the Date

www.nebriefing.org



*Come and see for yourself
and join the discussion*



City, Town and Parish Council Engagement

Wiltshire Council

Key messages

Our aspiration:

“Strengthening open, trusted communication and meaningful engagement between Wiltshire Council and town and parish councils to deliver shared priorities”.

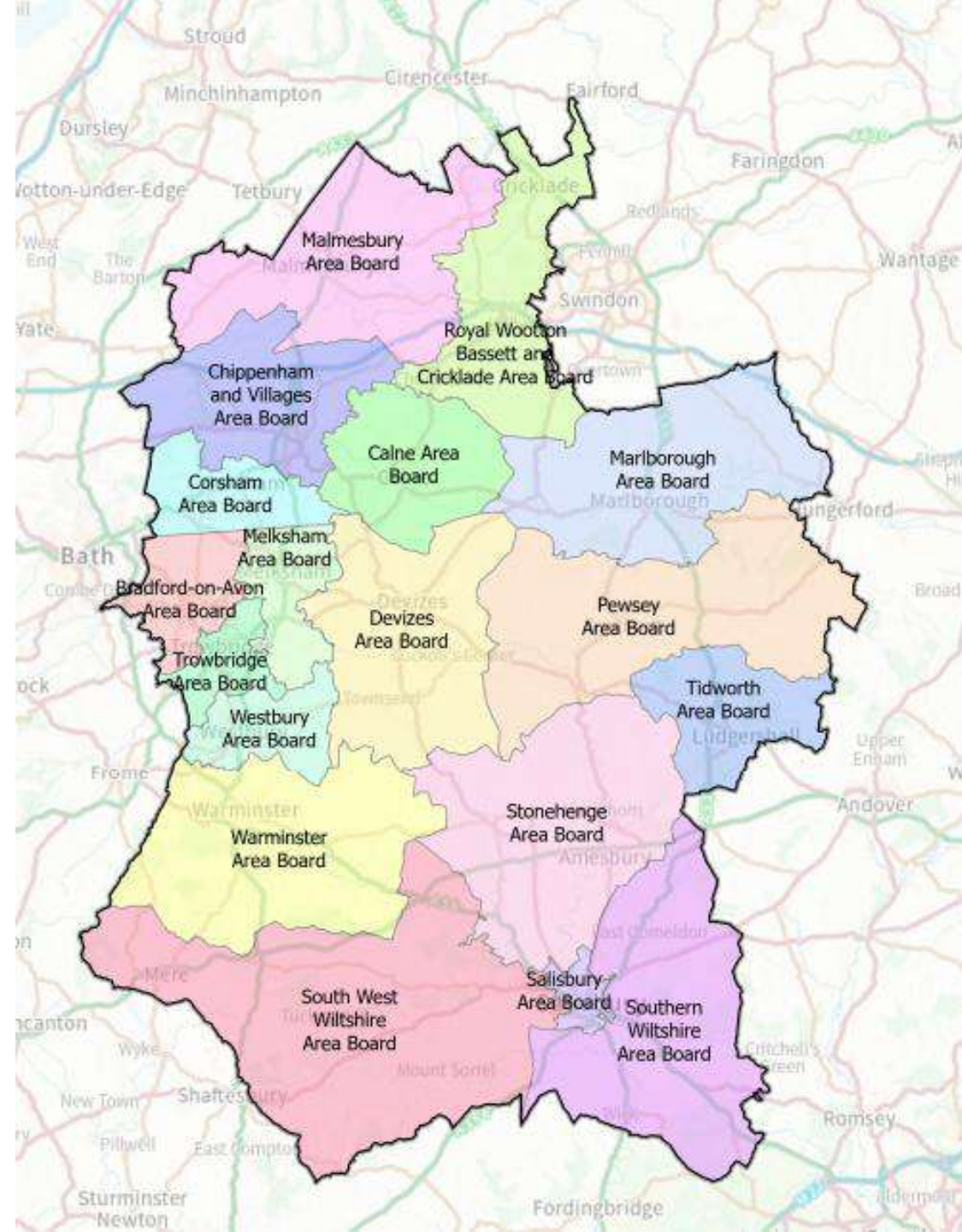
To be achieved through:

- Community Area Board model
- Regular communication
- Two-way engagement
- Devolution and partnership working
- Strategic partnership agreement

Community Area Board Model

- Strong, well-established model since 2009.
- 2025/ 2026 Area Board review has put an increased emphasis on effective local engagement
- City, town and parish council involvement in the model is critical to achieving success
- Area Boards are encouraged to deliver a varied programme of business meetings, engagements (e.g. events, workshops, surveys, outreach events, focus groups) to address local priorities.
- Increased focus on measuring impact and ensuring that community feedback is recorded and responded to through new resolution powers.
- Effective funding investment remains a key role

Community Area Grant (capital)	Local Youth (revenue)	Older and Vulnerable Adults (revenue)	Local Highways and Footways (capital)
£400,000	£347,700	£138,600	£500,000



What does success look like?

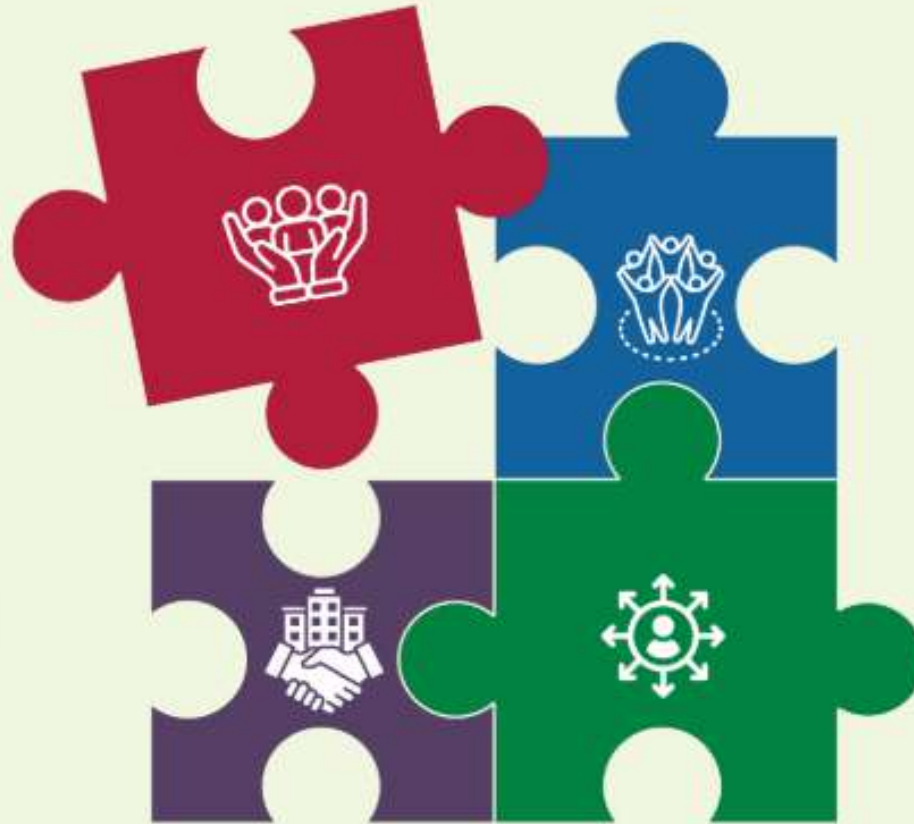
Success for the new Area Boards is being able to demonstrate delivery against 4 key principles:



Continuous, equitable and inclusive **local engagement**, with a wide cross-section of the community.



The building and sustaining of **strong, area-based partnerships**.



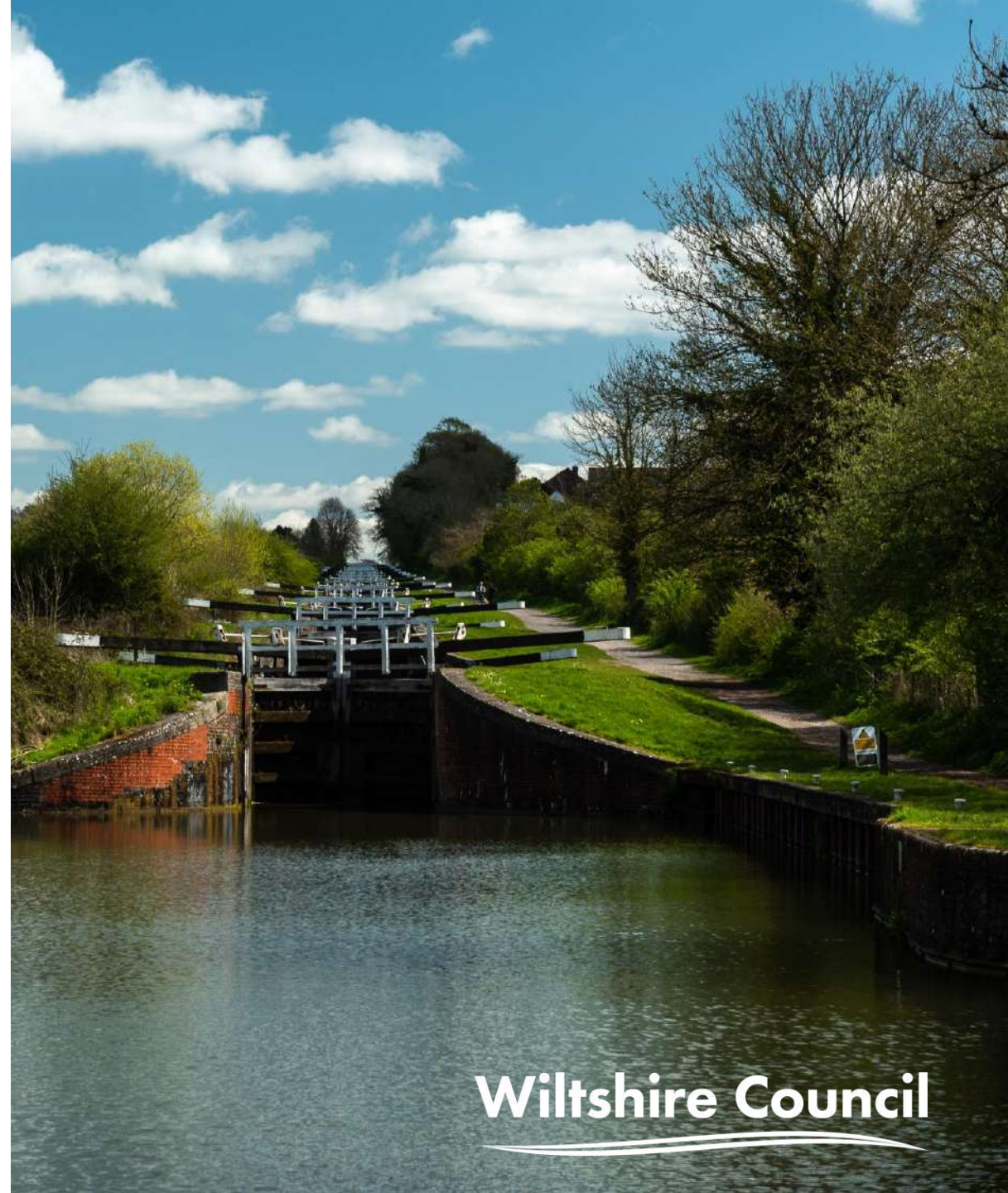
Empowered and **resilient communities** who are supported with appropriate advice, guidance and investment.



Clear **local leadership and decision making** that is transparent, evidence led and democratic.

Regular communication

- The weekly town and parish council newsletter is designed to ensure councils receive timely and important corporate and service information that may affect you or your respective communities.
 - Informs town and parish councils about council services, policy changes and opportunities.
 - Supports partnership working and devolution ambitions.
 - Provides a regular route for cascading important messages to residents through local councils.
- New style newsletter will be live from October and will include celebration of parishes.
Feedback welcome.



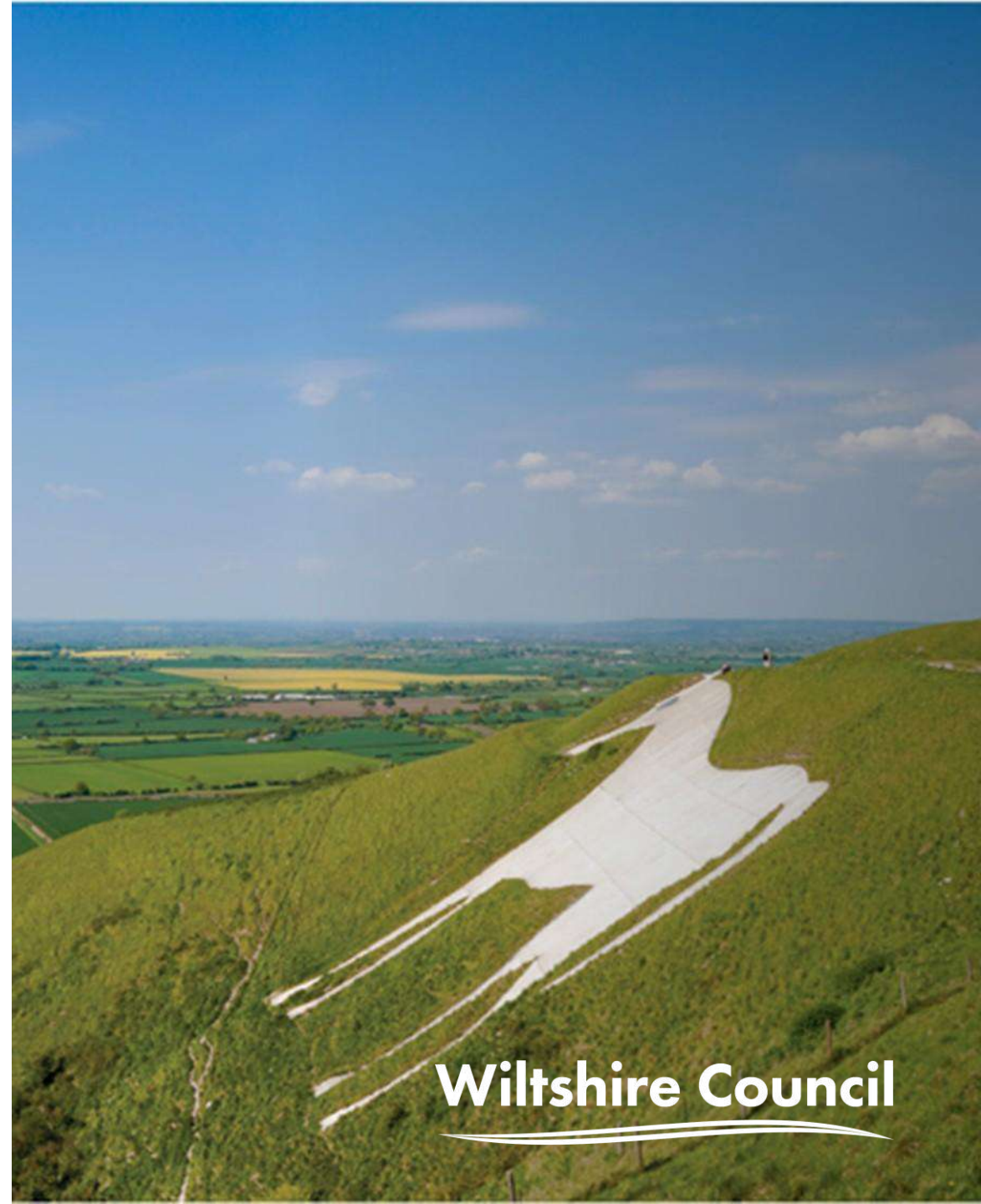
Two-way engagement

- Monthly officer meetings for Wiltshire Council and parishes hosted by Director of Communities.
- All city, town and parish clerks are encouraged to attend.
- Jointly populated agenda, bringing WC services and key, relevant partners to present and discuss priority topics.
- Officers help unpick challenging issues and link up parishes to relevant officers and departments
- Survey to be launched requesting parish feedback on what works well and areas for development.
- Considering a specific meeting for smaller parishes – ensuring all voices are heard.



Devolution and partnership working

- New Service Devolution and Community Asset Transfer Policy in development – November 2026 Cabinet consideration
- Strong emphasis on increasing funding and support to communities/ town and parish councils e.g.
 - Crisis and Resilience Fund – Hubs Programme
 - Locally Identified Infrastructure Projects (LIIPs)
 - Community Wellbeing Fund
 - Community Lottery



Strategic partnership agreement?

Wiltshire Council is keen to explore with towns, parishes and the city council, the introduction of a partnership agreement. The aspiration of this would be to:

- Set a renewed commitment to partnership working between Wiltshire Council and local councils of Wiltshire, focused on improving the lives of residents.
- Agree a shared partnership vision, with clear aims and priorities that achieve it.
- Create a tangible and measurable partnership delivery plan, built on evidenced challenges and identified opportunities.



Questions?