

**ID5**

**Shropshire Council. Examination of Shropshire Local Plan 2016-2038**

**Inspectors:** Louise Crosby MA MRTPI & Carole Dillon BA (Hons) MRTPI

**Programme Officer:** Julie Ruler

Tel: 01743 254651, email: [programme.officer@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:programme.officer@shropshire.gov.uk)

---

Mr West  
Planning Policy  
Shropshire Council  
PO BOX 4826  
Shrewsbury  
SY1 9LJ

22 March 2022

Dear Mr West

**Written Ministerial Statement on Nutrient Levels in River Basin Catchments – 16 March 2022**

We are writing to draw your attention to the above Written Ministerial Statement (WMS) issued today by the Secretary of State for Environment Food and Rural Affairs. A link to the WMS is provided at the bottom of this letter.

Amongst other things, this signals changes in the approach to the assessment of development proposals in river catchments where water bodies that are protected sites under the Habitats Regulations are in an unfavourable condition due to nutrient pollution.

A number of local planning authorities (LPAs) have been newly listed as having protected water bodies affected by this. We understand that Shropshire is one of those LPAs and that Natural England last week issued updated advice to the Council.

We are aware that in response to earlier Natural England and Environment Agency advice in relation to the River Clun catchment, the Council is already pursuing the identification of suitable, deliverable and costed mitigation measures for residential development in the River Clun catchment. We understand that this work is being delivered for the Council by specialist consultants and will:

- a. set out a phosphate calculator;

- b. develop a phosphate budget for housing;
- c. recommend the most appropriate mitigation measures based on costings and effectiveness;
- d. assess opportunities for broad locations for the recommended measures; and
- e. advise on implementation mechanisms.

In the meantime, we would be grateful to know whether the WMS has any further implications for proposals in the submitted Plan, particularly in respect of the delivery of housing and employment land, and, if any further mitigation is required, which may necessitate further work to be carried out and/or changes to the Plan.

Please let us know a timescale for your response. We are not inviting a response from representors to this letter.

On receipt of this letter, please would the Council upload it to the Examination library and add a link to it on the Latest news and updates page.

Yours sincerely

Louise Crosby and Carole Dillon

Examining Inspectors

Link to WMS:

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-statements/detail/2022-03-16/hcws688>