

REPORT TITLE: ADOPTION OF THE WINCHESTER DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN 2040 AND THE PREPARATION OF THE LOCAL PLAN 2044

CABINET - 18 MARCH 2026

FULL COUNCIL - 21 MAY 2026

REPORT OF CABINET MEMBER: Cllr Jackie Porter, Cabinet Member for Place and Local Plan

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WARD(S): ALL (TO THE EXTENT THAT THEY ARE NOT WITHIN THE SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK)

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is twofold. Firstly, it seeks Cabinet endorsement of the Winchester District Local Plan 2020–2040 and Cabinet’s recommendation to Full Council that the Plan be formally adopted. Secondly, it outlines the next steps in plan-making, including the proposed programme for commencing work on the next Local Plan which will extend the planning framework for the district to 2044.

The examination process for the Winchester District Local Plan 2020–2040 has now concluded. The Inspector’s Report was received on 27 February 2026 for fact checking. The Report confirms that the Duty to Co-operate has been met and that, with the recommended Main Modifications (as amended by the Inspector), the Winchester District Proposed Submission Local Plan (Regulation 19) 2020–2040 satisfies the requirements referred to in Section 20(5)(a) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and is sound. The final Inspector’s Report is awaited.

At this stage in the statutory plan-making process the Council cannot introduce further Main Modifications, amend policy wording or alter site allocations. Full Council will therefore ultimately have two options available to it: to adopt the Local Plan incorporating the Inspector’s recommendations, or to withdraw the Plan and recommence the plan-making process. Withdrawal is not recommended.

The Council's existing development plan documents are increasingly out of date, particularly in relation to housing delivery and climate policy, and no longer provide the robust basis for decision-making originally intended. Adoption of the new Local Plan will provide an up-to-date and comprehensive policy framework to guide development across the district outside the South Downs National Park. It will support the determination of planning applications, provide greater certainty for communities and investors, and set clear expectations for neighbourhood planning and the delivery of development and infrastructure.

This report summarises the preparation of the Local Plan, including submission of the Regulation 19 Plan to the Secretary of State in November 2024, the Examination in Public hearing sessions held between April and June 2025, and public consultation on the proposed Main Modifications and associated changes between December 2025 and January 2026. Once adopted, the Winchester District Local Plan 2020–2040 will replace the existing Local Plan Part 1 (Joint Core Strategy), Local Plan Part 2 (Development Management and Site Allocations) and the Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Development Plan Document, and will form a key part of the statutory Development Plan used to determine planning applications.

The report also outlines the implications of forthcoming national changes to the plan-making system, including Government reforms which introduce a streamlined Local Plan preparation process with an expected 30-month timetable. In anticipation of these changes, the report sets out the proposed programme for commencing work on the next Local Plan to 2044 and seeks delegated authority to publish the Notice of the Council's intention to commence preparation of the new Local Plan by 30 June 2026.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Part 1 – Winchester District Local Plan 2020–2040 (Adoption)

Cabinet recommends to Full Council that:

1. The Inspector's conclusions that the Winchester District Local Plan 2020–2040 is legally compliant and sound, subject to the recommended Main Modifications, are accepted.
2. The Winchester District Local Plan 2020–2040, incorporating the Inspector's Main Modifications (as amended), Additional Modifications and associated changes to the Policies Map, proceeds to Full Council on 21 May 2026 for adoption in accordance with Regulation 26 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended) and Section 23(2) and (3) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended).

3. Upon adoption of the Winchester District Local Plan 2020–2040, the existing Development Plan Documents (Local Plan Part 1 – Joint Core Strategy, Local Plan Part 2 – Development Management and Site Allocations, and the Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Development Plan Document) are withdrawn as they will be superseded.
4. Authority is delegated to the Corporate Head of Planning and Regulatory Services to make any non-material corrections to the Winchester District Local Plan 2020–2040, including factual updates, grammatical or formatting amendments, prior to publication in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended).

Part 2 – Preparation of the Winchester District Local Plan to 2044

Cabinet agrees:

5. To delegate authority to the Strategic Director, in consultation with the Director of Legal, to:
 - a. publish the Notice of Intention to commence preparation of the Local Plan to 2044 by 30 June 2026;
 - b. approve and publish a revised Local Plan timetable; and
 - c. commission external consultancy support, where required, to assist with the preparation of the Local Plan to 2044 in line with the proposed 30-month plan-making process.

IMPLICATIONS:

1 COUNCIL PLAN OUTCOME

Greener Faster

- 1.1 The Local Plan has a key role to play in moving the district towards Carbon Neutrality by 2030, the City Council's Nature Emergency declaration and creating a greener district. All of these key aims are at the centre of the new plan and underpin its strategic and development management policies.
- 1.2 Work was undertaken to assess the cost implications associated with meeting net-zero carbon for new residential dwellings through energy standards that have been established by the Low Energy Transformational Initiative (LETI). Incorporating the LETI energy standards for residential development, and the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) energy standards for non-residential development into the Plan, will help support the aim of achieving carbon neutrality. Full details of this approach, which also promotes an energy hierarchy, renewable energy, low carbon energy development and energy storage can be found in the policies set out under the topic Carbon Neutrality and Designing for Low Carbon Infrastructure and the accompanying Carbon Neutrality and Embodied Carbon Topic Paper which is available on the Local Plan website. The approach that the city council has taken towards carbon neutrality in the Local Plan, including the enhanced energy efficiency standards in Policy CN3 and embodied carbon Policy CN8, were all endorsed by the Local Plan Inspector.
- 1.3 The Plan, and its development strategy defined by Policy SP2, Spatial Strategy and Development Principles, directs new development in the most sustainable locations in the district (Winchester, market towns and larger rural settlements) and prioritises brownfield sites over greenfield land. These policies, in combination with a number of policies covering other topics, promote sustainable development and travel. For example, the Sustainable Transport and Active Travel topic incorporates the concept of 20-minute neighbourhoods, which ensures good access to facilities and services, and this is complimented by the High Quality and Well-Designed Places and Living Well topic which underlines that a key element of achieving good design is ensuring development is permeable and well connected to surrounding areas. These policies, which shape the location and nature of new development, sit alongside a range of other policies which are intended to protect and enhance the attributes which make the district such a varied and attractive place including the countryside, natural environment and biodiversity (green and blue infrastructure).

Thriving Places

- 1.4 The Local Plan sets out how we will enable Winchester District to continue to have a vibrant economy by providing opportunities for new purpose-built

employment space, the sustainable consolidation and expansion of existing businesses, and preservation of current employment floor space whilst seeking to protect and enhance our town and other centres which provide a range of facilities and services. These places support local communities and align with the Plan's aim of ensuring new development is sustainable by providing good access to retail, leisure and other uses thereby minimising the need to travel.

- 1.5 The evidence base to inform the policies on retail and employment in the Vibrant Economy Topic, the wording of the supporting text and the policies was updated in order to take into account longer-term effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the changing nature of how people work, shop and live.

Healthy Communities

- 1.6 An important function of the new Local Plan is that it needs to fully consider and address how development can help meet the needs of our residents including age ranges, genders and ability in healthy communities. The Local Plan has a key role to play in meeting this objective in terms of promoting active travel, physical activity and creating attractive and connected green infrastructure. These matters need to be fully considered and are an integral part of the design process which is comprehensively covered by new policies set out in the High Quality and Well-designed Places and Living Well topic.
- 1.7 The key outcome in this topic is that design should follow a sound and logical process (Policy D1). Good design will rarely be achieved where an iterative and inclusive process has not been undertaken from the beginning, setting pre-determined outcomes at the outset of the project, before community and stakeholder engagement and proper site and contextual analysis has started. Ensuring the developers follow a 'design process' has been integrated into a number of policies throughout the Local Plan. This topic also refers to the Concept Masterplan approach that has been agreed by Cabinet for major development sites and has already been taken forward on key regeneration sites such as SJM Barracks, Bushfield Camp and Station Approach.

Good Homes for all

- 1.8 The Local Plan has a key role in determining where and how much residential development should be located in the district, outside the South Downs National Park, in accordance with the number of new homes that we need to plan for, which is set by the government through its 'Standard Method'. The government requires all authorities in the country to have a five-year rolling supply of housing land. The adoption of the Local Plan will ensure that the Council has a five year housing land supply which is extremely important in terms of providing a stronger position to resist development on inappropriate sites.
- 1.9 The Plan includes a development strategy and identifies the quantum of housing that will be required predominantly in Winchester, the 3 strategic site allocations, and the market towns and larger villages, to meet the number of

homes that are set by government that we need to plan for ('Standard Method') for our district. The Local Plan's housing requirement at the time of the Local Plan examination was 707 dwellings per year. On top of the Standard Method housing figure to meet our own housing need (which was the number of homes that we needed to plan for under the Government's transitional arrangements), the Local Plan has also included an 'unmet need allowance'. This 'unmet need allowance' has been included to help meet a wider unmet need in neighbouring areas (duty to cooperate).

- 1.10 The Local Plan includes a policy on affordable housing (Policy H5) which sets minimum requirements for affordable accommodation, as a proportion of market housing developments, that reflects the work carried out in the Local Plan Viability Assessment taking into consideration all of the costs of the policies that have been included in the Local Plan. It also covers a range and mix of specialist housing, including student accommodation, self-build and custom build housing, specialist and supported housing, build to rent, acceptable and adaptable homes and the need for Gypsy and Traveller accommodation.

Efficient and Effective

- 1.11 A key part of preparing the Local Plan has been to improve the customer experience which starts with how the Local Plan has been prepared, how we present information and how we engage with the widest possible audience. This has been addressed in a number of different ways – please see section below on Listening and Learning.

Listening and Learning

- 1.12 A key part of the plan making process is to seek early and open engagement on the content and shape of the draft Local Plan. At the heart of any new Plan is the development strategy for the district and the public consultation that has directly informed the five separate stages of public consultation that went into preparing the Winchester District Local Plan. As the Strategic Issues & Priorities Document (SIP) was produced and consulted on during a national lockdown, new ways of engaging people were used in terms of online engagement (which used SLIDO interactive software) and different ways of publicising the public consultation on the SIP in terms of radio advertisements, posters and bus stop advertising.
- 1.13 The council's journey on preparing a new Local Plan involved engaging with Ward Councillors (through Member drop-in sessions), residents, Parish and Town Councils and local community organisations and statutory agencies. This started in 2018 with the Launch of the Local Plan and was then followed with public consultation on the Strategic Issues & Priorities Document (SIP) in 2021 during a national lockdown. The SIP public consultation was recognised by the Royal Town Planning Institute as award winning. This was then followed by a further round of engagement and consultation in the form of draft Regulation 18 Local Plan at the end of 2022. This feedback from the various public consultation and engagement events have directly had an

influence and informed the wording of the Regulation 19 Local Plan that was consulted on for a period of 6 weeks. A further 8 week public consultation has taken place on the Main Modifications, Additional Modifications and the Changes to the Policies which concluded on the 16th January 2026.

- 1.14 Throughout the Plan-making process there has been engagement with the widest possible audience and a key part of this is making a document that is not only accessible but also visually interesting and appealing so that it stimulates and encourages people to read and comment. This builds on the back of the SIP winning the Royal Town Planning Institute's Planning Excellence award for Plan making and being the overall Regional winner for the South East. In recognition that the government wants to allow people to access material online we created a dedicated Local Plan website [Home - Winchester District Local Plan](#)
- 1.15 Throughout the various stages of public consultation, there has been strong encouragement for people to submit their comments on the Local Plan using the Council's consultation portal which has been recently upgraded to a new public consultation platform (Keystone Objective). It is extremely important that the engagement on the Local Plan is undertaken in an easily accessible and user-friendly consultation platform. By actively encouraging people to submit their comments via the consultation portal, this enables grouping together key issue/common points and identify what changes need to be made on its journey towards adoption. All services in the City Council are actively contributing to delivering the organisation's Digital Strategy by adopting modern technologies, streamlining processes, and strengthening digital capabilities to drive greater efficiency, improve accessibility, and deliver an enhanced customer experience.

2 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 2.1 The resources for the preparation of the various elements of the Local Plan have been approved as part of the budget process. The Local Plan reserve supports spend on the local plan, with resources set aside for the current and subsequent local plan. Due to the rising demand for consultants and costs resulting from shortening timescales, it will be necessary to review overall resources during year-end in order to determine whether further funding is required in the Local Plan reserve in order to support the next local plan.
- 2.2 The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government invited Local Planning Authorities that had a Regulatory requirement to produce a new style Local Plan in 30 months to submit Expressions of Interest (EOI) for up to £120K. As part of this EOI process, Council's had to commit to commence plan preparation by 30 June 2026 and commit to publish Gateway 1 self-assessment by 31 October 2026. The City Council is awaiting news whether it has been successful with the EOI.

3 LEGAL AND PROCUREMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The Local Plan must be prepared in line with the process set out in national legislation and government policy guidance. The Local Plan has now been found sound and legally compliant by a Planning Inspector that was appointed by the Secretary of State to conduct the public examination.
- 3.2 Following adoption (which takes effect immediately on the resolution of Council), the Local Plan, along with an 'Adoption Statement' and Integrated Impact Assessment / Habitats Regulation Assessment Adoption Statement, must be published and made available for inspection. Parties involved in the process will also be notified. There is a period of six weeks for legal challenge by way of judicial review, although the Local Plan would remain in effect pending the outcome of any challenge.
- 3.3 The newly adopted Local Plan 2020-2040 will have the status of being a key part of the Council's Development Plan immediately following adoption. All decisions on relevant applications and appeals will need to be in accordance with the Development Plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise. There is no legal requirement for the City Council to adopt the Local Plan, however, local planning authorities are expected to have up-to-date Local Plans for their area. If this Local Plan is not adopted, there will be a further delay before a new Local Plan could be brought forward under the reformed 30 month Local Plan-making system, leaving the council without an up-to-date Local Plan.
- 3.4 The preparation and engagement progress for the Local Plan 2040 has been prepared in accordance with its own [Statement of Community Involvement](#) which was adopted in January 2024.
- 3.5 Officers have commissioned consultants to prepare much of the evidence base to support the drafting of the Local Plan 2040 and to assist them with some of the analysis of the representations that were submitted as part of the public consultation. Appointment of these consultants was undertaken in compliance with the City Council's Contract Procedure Rules.

Main Modification consultation

- 3.6 The Main Modifications public consultation and consultation on the Additional Modifications and the changes to the Policies Map has followed the formal statutory process set out in the relevant legislation. The Main Modification public consultation was the last stage of public engagement before the Local Plan Inspector issued her final report. The Inspector was sent the representations that were made during the Main Modifications public consultation along with a summary of the representations and comments on individual representations. The Inspector has amended some of the Main Modifications as part of her deliberations on the soundness of the Local Plan.

4 WORKFORCE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Strategic Planning Team leads the preparation of the Development Plan Documents (DPDs) and associated documents that are included in the Local Development Scheme (the Local Plan timetable), commissioning consultants and working with support and involvement of colleagues across the whole of the council, neighbouring local planning authorities under the current Duty to co-operate requirements and liaising with statutory agencies (Natural England, Historic England and the Environment Agency *et al*) and the Partnership for South Hampshire (PfSH). Public consultation on the Local Plan is supported by Officers working in the City Council's communication and legal team.
- 4.2 The staff resource available to the Strategic Planning team has been increased in order to assist with moving this Local Plan towards adoption and this resource will also assist the team with the work on the next Local Plan 2044.

5 PROPERTY AND ASSET IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Once the Local Plan has been adopted, it will be the statutory Development Plan which means that any applications that come forward that are made by the council, or involve land in our ownership, will need to be assessed against the policies and proposals in the Plan. There are a number of previously developed sites that have been allocated for future development in the Plan inside Winchester that are wholly or partly in the council's ownership (Station Approach Regeneration Area, Central Winchester Regeneration, Bar End depot, former River Park Leisure Centre and St. Peter's car park for example).

6 CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

- 6.1 There is a statutory requirement to consult at key stages of the Local Plan process. The council has fully engaged and sought the views of residents, businesses and communities as part of the Local Plan-making process.
- 6.2 In terms of the last stage of public consultation, statutory advertisements announcing the Main Modifications public consultation were published in the Mid Hants Observer, the Hampshire Chronicle, there was digital advertisements in the newspapers about the public consultation and an advertisement about the Main Modifications public consultation displayed in both newspapers at the start and towards the end of the Main Modifications public consultation period. There were news items in City Voice about the Main Modification public consultation and everyone on the Strategic Planning database and everyone that was registered on the Local Plan examination website was notified about the Main Modifications public consultation.
- 6.3 Parish and Town Councils were briefed about the Main Modification public consultation at a Parish Liaison meeting that took place on 27th November 2025. The Leaders of both the Conservative and Green Party were briefed

on the contents of the Inspector's letter and the key Main Modifications prior to the public consultation going live.

- 6.4 Posters announcing the Main Modifications public consultation were sent to Parish and Town Council's along with a range of other community organisations who were all asked to display the posters on their notice boards. Posters were also displayed at the local libraries which were 'deposit points' and in the main City Council reception area. All of the deposit points were provided with a poster, paper copies of the Main Modifications, Additional Modifications and Changes to the Policies Map for people to view. A number of Parish Councils included an article about the Main Modifications public consultation in their local residents' newsletters. A video on how to make comments online on the Main Modifications public consultation was available on the Local Plan website.

Proposed Changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

- 6.5 The Government has issued for public consultation a number of proposed changes to the NPPF which closes on 10th March 2026 (please refer to the 'Risk Management' section for a summary of key changes to the NPPF).
- 6.6 The proposed changes to the NPPF will not affect this Local Plan providing that it is adopted before the NPPF is finalised and published. The changes to the NPPF will, however, have important implications for the Local Plan 2044. For example, the NPPF introduces national decision-making policies for the first time and the NPPF is very clear that Local Plans should not repeat, substantially restate or modify the national decision-making policies. It is not known at this stage when the final version of the NPPF will be published but as mentioned above, it is important to adopt the Local Plan 2040 before then.

Consultation and communication

- 6.7 There has been a significant amount of consultation and communication regarding the development of the new Local Plan. Below is a summary table of the discussions and the engagement that have been undertaken up to and including this stage of the process:

Date	Event	Audience
27 June 2021	All Member briefing on Vision	All Members
1 July 2021	Local Plan Advisory Group (LPAG) – which was a cross part working group of Councillors.	LPAG Members (all Members invited, held in public)

27 September 2021	LPAG	LPAG Members (all Members invited, held in public)
20 October 2021	Local Plan design workshop	Agents, interest groups and Members
5 November 2021	Local Plan design workshop	Public and Members
16 November 2021	Local Plan Design Workshop	Public and Members
24 November 2021	LPAG	LPAG Members (all Members invited, held in public)
13 December 2021	LPAG	LPAG Members (all Members invited, held in public)
4 March 2022	All Member briefing – spatial strategy and housing distribution	All Members
9 March 2022	LPAG	LPAG Members (all Members invited, held in public)
March to May 2022	Meetings with Parish Councils and Ward Councillors – SHELAA Sites	Parish Councils and Ward Members
27 June 2022	All Member briefing – Local Plan timetable	All Members
6 July 2022	Member drop-in session - Local Plan Policies	All Members
11 July 2022	Member drop-in session - Local Plan Policies	All Members
1 August 2022	Members drop-in session – Local Plan allocations	All Members

21 September 2022	All Member briefing – Regulation 18 Consultation	All Members
29 September 2022	Scrutiny Committee & Local Plan Advisory Group	Members of this committee, group and other interested parties. Held in public
8 th March 2023	LPAG	LPAG Members (all Members invited, held in public)
10 th August 2023	Local Plan Committee – Local Development Scheme	Local Plan cabinet committee, Members (all Members, held in public)
1 st November 2023	Member drop-in session – changes to Local Plan Topics following the Regulation 18 public consultation	All Members
30 th November 2023	Member drop-in session – changes to Local Plan Topics following the Regulation 18 public consultation	All Members
5 th December 2023	Member drop-in session – changes to the site allocations following the Regulation 18 public consultation	All Members
7 th December 2023	Member drop-in session – changes to the site allocations following the Regulation 18 public consultation	All Members
24 th January 2024	Cabinet – Adoption of the Statement of	Cabinet and All Members, held in public.

	Community Involvement	
23 rd July 2024	All Member Briefing – Local Plan update	All Members
7 th August 2024	All Member Briefing – update on the proposed changes to the NPPF in terms of the potential changes to the Standard Method	All Members
07 November 2025	Briefing by the Strategic Planning Manager on the Inspector's note and the forthcoming Main Modifications public consultation	The Leader, Cllr Horrill and Cllr Lee.
27 November 2025	Parish Council Liaison meeting	All Town and Parish Councils.

- 6.8 As referred to in paragraph 11.51, the public consultation on the Main Modifications, Additional Modifications and the Changes to the Policies Map were undertaken in accordance with the Council's updated Adopted [Statement of Community Involvement](#) (SCI).

7 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 The Local Plan must comply with the requirements of the relevant legislation and the need to deliver sustainable development which encompasses all considerations in relation to the built and natural environment.
- 7.2 The council's declaration of climate and nature emergency are defining issues that have informed the preparation of the Local Plan. The Plan is able to support the objective of dramatically cutting the district's emissions and the district being carbon neutral by 2030. Given that this is such a key area for the council, the discussions around the content of carbon neutrality and how the Local Plan can support the Carbon Neutrality Action Plan have involved the Cabinet Member for the Place and Local Plan, Cabinet Member for the Climate Emergency, WinAcc and Officers from the climate emergency team.

Integrated Impact Assessment

- 7.3 At the start of the Local Plan-making journey the council appointed consultants (Land Use Consultants - LUC) to undertake a Sustainability

Appraisal (SA), Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) and Health Impact Assessment. This work has been prepared alongside and has fed into key stages of the Local Plan making process under the umbrella of the Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA). The Local Plan has also been prepared alongside and been informed by the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA). The SA is an integral part of the process and is used throughout the development of the new Local Plan. It assesses the significant social, environmental and economic effects of the plan to ensure that decisions are made that contribute to achieving sustainable development. The SA assessed individual sites, proposed policies and different delivery options to address the overall housing need.

- 7.4 The same consultants have been appointed to prepare a HRA which has also been used to directly inform the Winchester District Local Plan. The HRA identifies whether any aspects of the Local Plan would cause Likely Significant Effects on, or adverse effects on the integrity of nationally significant designated nature conservation protected sites and demonstrates that where significant impacts have been identified on nature conservation these will be avoided or mitigated.
- 7.5 It is a legal requirement that the Main Modifications are accompanied by an IIA and the HRA which was made available for public comment alongside the recent public consultation. This information is important in supporting the decisions that are made in relation to content of the Local Plan. Whilst it is fully accepted that the IIA is an extensive and technical document, the document has been prepared to meet the legal requirements that are in place at this moment in time.

Impact on air quality

- 7.6 A key part of the Plan-making process has also been to assess the impact of air quality on human health and the impact of additional traffic on the natural environment. The work on the Local Plan has helped to inform the contents of the [City Council's Air Quality Strategy 2025 - 2030](#).
- 7.7 In order to address the impact of air quality on human health a Local Plan Topic Paper on Human health was prepared and is available on the Local Plan website [Winchester District Local Plan](#)
- 7.8 The impact of air quality on nature conservation has been assessed under the HRA as this is a requirement of the Conservation of Habitats and Species 2017. The HRA also assesses the impacts of the Local Plan policies on nationally significant sites including those which were designated under the EU Habitats Directive and Birds Directive. For the development of the Local Plan, this assessment has been an iterative process as the HRA has, in turn has been used to inform the development of planning policies in the Local Plan.
- 7.9 The nationally significant sites include:

- Special Areas of Conservation (SAC);
- Special Protection Areas (SPA); and
- Ramsar sites (which support internationally important wetland habitats listed under Ramsar Convention).

8 PUBLIC SECTOR EQUALITY DUTY

- 8.1 Undertaking an Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) is a key part of preparing a 'sound' Local Plan. The Local Plan making process needs to ensure that the issues and options that are considered do not lead to unlawful discrimination (direct and indirect), against the protected characteristics identified in the Equalities Act 2010. Any proposals should advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those with a 'protected characteristic' (race, age, sex, disability, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, religion or belief and pregnancy or maternity) and all others.
- 8.2 LUC were appointed by the council to undertake an EqIA and a Health Impact Assessment, alongside the Sustainability Appraisal and the Habitats Regulations Assessment cited above, under the umbrella of the Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) which was undertaken alongside key stages of the Plan-making process.
- 8.3 An EqIA of the Main Modifications was undertaken and this concluded that most policies are expected to have either a positive, mixed or neutral relationship with regard to all of the protected characteristics. The EqIA is therefore considered to be generally compatible with the three main duties of the Equality Act 2010 (Appendix 5). This has been confirmed in the Local Plan Inspector's Report.

9 DATA PROTECTION IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 9.1 Any comments that are submitted will be taken into account provided they include people's name and contact details. The council did publish names and associated representations on its Local Plan examination website, but it did not publish any personal information such as telephone numbers, full postal addresses or email addresses.
- 9.2 Copies of any representations that are submitted to the city council as part of the Main Modifications public consultation were forwarded to the Local Plan Inspector, via a Programme Officer. The Programme Officer is employed by the City Council and has reported directly to the Local Plan Inspector who was appointed by the Secretary of State to conduct the Local Plan Examination.
- 9.3 In accordance with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) information will only be kept for the necessary period of time required. The council has an updated privacy policy which can be viewed on the website [Privacy Policy - Winchester City Council](#)

10 RISK MANAGEMENT

- 10.1 Undertaking a Local Plan has involved bringing together a number of different workstreams and a wide range of studies. This work has been undertaken alongside numerous changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) on how Local Plans need to be prepared. The project management of the Local Plan has its own risk assessment which is closely monitored on a regular basis by the Strategic Planning Manager and is reported regularly to the Planning Advisory Committee/Cabinet.

Risk	Mitigation	Opportunities
Financial Exposure	Funding for ongoing project costs are anticipated to broadly fall within the existing budget and funding for Local Plan is expected to be covered by the earmarked reserve. As the preparation of the Local Plan is a corporate Tier 1 project additional funding was agreed in order to reach this important milestone.	We have jointly commissioning research with neighbouring Local Planning Authorities may reduce costs.
Exposure to challenge	Ensure the Plan making process follows national regulations and addresses any subsequent changes to the government guidance. Furthermore, the preparation of the Local Plan has been subject to review and dialogue with counsel.	There is great opportunity through the Local Plan making process to engage with a wide range of people on the future development of the district.
Innovation	Ensuring that Officers in the Strategic Planning team continue to look at creative ways that engages with as many people as possible and reaching out to hard to reach groups is a key part of the Local Plan process. Publicity and the methods	The opportunity has been taken to change the presentation of the Local Plan to make it more appealing and interesting to a wide range of audiences. The stand-alone Local Plan website is kept under review and this is supported by the

	of Local Plan engagement are a key component of this.	branding 'Your Place, Your Plan' building upon the earlier success of the both the SIP, Regulation 18, Regulation 19 and Main Modifications public consultations.
Reputation	The Local Plan website under the current requirements, the Local Development Scheme (timetable for the plan) are both kept up to-date in order to ensure that the council communicates when people can get involved and provide feedback on the Local Plan.	Developing a new Local Plan and engaging with the local community is a real opportunity as it will clearly set out the council vision for the district up to 2040 bringing with it certainty, stability and investment to the area.
Achievement of outcome	The Plan has gone through various statutory stages and it will be necessary to ensure that all of the appropriate steps are undertaken in order to provide a 'sound' Local Plan. Incorporating an 'unmet need allowance' in the plan to help accommodate wider unmet need helps to meet the Duty to Cooperate and ensure the Plan is 'legally compliant'.	The council has declared a climate and nature emergency and there is a great opportunity to provide leadership in terms of not only the presentation and policies of the Local Plan, which seek to reduce/minimise the impact of new development on the environment, but also how the council engages with the local community and other interested parties.
Property	n/a	n/a
Community Support	Develop a Local Plan programme that allowed sufficient time for the consultation and assessment of responses to the various public consultation.	Ensure that the communication methods used for consultation are relevant to the task and ensure those interested in the plan making process are kept up-dated and are provided with

	The Local Plan process is required to comply with several statutory stages of publication. Officers continue to learn from the previous consultations and are open to different and new ideas in order to reach out to the widest range of people and stakeholders, local community groups.	opportunities to participate building on recent work undertaken by the council such as the Winchester Vision 2030, the SIP, the Regulation 18, Regulation 19 and Main Modifications public consultation.
Timescales	Ensure that there is sufficient capacity in the Strategic Planning team to be able to progress the Local Plan and timings are realistic as set out in the Local Development Scheme (timetable for the plan). Temporary resources have been used in order to keep the project timetable on track. Continue to progress the plan as quickly as possible to ensure that the district has an up-to-date Development Plan.	It has been necessary to keep the LDS up-to-date and adjust timescales if necessary.
Project capacity	Ensure that the necessary resources are in place to progress the project. See above commentary on Timescales and Financial Exposure.	Continue to work with colleagues, neighbouring authorities through joint commissioning of evidence studies including, for example, the work on PfSH.
Local Government Reorganisation	The adoption of this Local Plan 2040 will not be affected by Local Government Reorganisation (LGR). The next Local Plan 2044 will need to be	Whilst this Local Plan 2040 can be adopted prior to Local Government Reorganisation, the preparation and the adoption of Local Plan 2044 will be affected by

	progressed without delay to ensure that the City Council is in the best possible position as we move towards LGR.	LGR. The Ministry of Local Housing, Communities and Local Government have confirmed that the new combined authorities will have the discretion to progress emerging constituent Local Plans towards adoption. Adopting this Local Plan will then enable resources to be directed to preparing the Local Plan 2040 whilst having a sound and stable basis for determining planning applications over the next 2-3 years.
Summary of the Proposed Changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) – public consultation from 17th December 2025 to 10th March 2026. • Clear split between plan-making and decision-making policies; • Rule-based National Development Management policies (the National Development Management Policies are not statutory); • Permanent presumption in favour of suitably located	Ensure that the Local Plan continues to plan for the housing requirements and it includes an unmet housing need allowance. Review and respond to the public consultation on the proposed changes to the NPPF.	Adopt this Local Plan 2040 and then resume work on the next Local Plan 2044.

development within settlements, including densification, infill and upward extensions;

- “Default yes” for housing around rail stations, including some Green Belt locations, subject to minimum densities;
- Stronger push for faster Local Plans (c.30 months), with expanded use of Spatial Development Strategies;
- Viability tightened: policy-compliant schemes assumed viable, with less scope for renegotiation at the planning application stage;
- Increased support for small and medium sites, including a new “medium development” category;
- Greater weight on economic growth, clean energy and infrastructure, alongside a more enabling approach to heritage;

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Intention to change through secondary legislation, the ability for Local Planning Authorities to introduce local standards for energy efficiency standards;• Measures to support a diverse mix of homes, including social, affordable, and accessible housing;• Policies on design and “vision-led” transport strategies;• Development Plans should set local parking standards for residential and non residential development;• Requirement for swift bricks;• Protection for chalk streams;• Improved requirements for children’s play, including accessibility;• Local Plan housing allocations to include 10% of sites that are 1–2.5 | | |
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hectares; • Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) exemption for sites under 0.2 ha; and • Suite of other simplified BNG requirements for small and medium sites.		
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11 SUPPORTING INFORMATION:

Introduction and Background

- 11.1 Producing a Local Plan is one of the most important strategic undertakings for the council. The council has a statutory duty to prepare a Local Plan as part of its Development Plan under section 19 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. The planning system in this country is plan-led and statute states that decisions on planning applications must be taken in accordance with the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise.
- 11.2 The Local Plan is a Development Plan Document that sets out the vision, framework and policies for guiding new development in Winchester district over the next 20 years. Local Plans set out a long-term vision and strategy for how an area will evolve and grow in the future, with policies that will shape development across the district outside the South Downs National Park. They address a wide range of issues, from strategic planning matters that affect the whole of the Local Plan area, right down to finer details on the design of development on individual sites.
- 11.3 Local Plans, which are out of date, make managing development difficult and can result in unplanned development being permitted where it is not possible to demonstrate a 5-year housing land supply.
- 11.4 The Local Plan covers the period from 2020 to 2040 and sets out the policies and proposals that will guide and manage the future development of the district over that time. The Local Plan identifies a range of matters such as, where future development will take place, and allocates land for housing, employment, mixed-use and other development, open space, Green Gaps and both Strategic Policies and Development Management policies.

- 11.5 Once the new Local Plan is adopted, it will replace the existing 'Development Plan' (apart from the Hampshire Minerals Local Plan) that currently consists of Local Plan Part 1 – Joint Core Strategy, Local Plan Part 2 – Development Management and Site Allocations and the Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Development Plan Document. Once it has been adopted by the City Council, it will be used to assess and determine the planning merits of development proposals. At this stage of the process, it will have full Development Plan status and will be the starting point for assessing and determining planning applications.
- 11.6 The Local Plan protects the most important characteristics of the district by preserving our unique natural and historical assets and environments from damaging development. It also has a key role to play in assisting the City Council's ambition to have a district that is carbon neutral by 2030.

The Local Plan process – soundness

- 11.7 The Local Plan must currently be prepared in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. This requires the Local Plan to be (amongst other things), subject to public consultation; submitted to the Secretary of State to undergo an independent examination; and subject to a Sustainability Assessment / Habitats Regulation Assessment to test the impacts of the Plan throughout its preparation.
- 11.8 Section 20(2)(b) and 5(b) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 require that the plan submitted by a local authority for examination is one that it considers to be 'sound'.
- 11.9 The current NPPF sets out the tests of soundness against which a Local Plan was tested at the Local Plan examination and whether it meets the legal and procedural requirements. These are the following tests:
- Positively prepared – providing a strategy which, as a minimum, seeks to meet the area's objectively assessed needs; and is informed by agreements with other authorities, so that unmet need from neighbouring areas is accommodated where it is practical to do so and is consistent with achieving sustainable development;
 - Justified – an appropriate strategy, taking into account the reasonable alternatives, and based on proportionate evidence;
 - Effective – deliverable over the plan period, and based on effective joint working on cross-boundary strategic matters that have been dealt with rather than deferred, as evidenced by the statement of common grounds that was published alongside the public consultation on the Local Plan; and
 - Consistent with national policy – enabling the delivery of sustainable development in accordance with the policies in this Framework.

- 11.10 The Local Plan Inspector's Report concludes that the Local Plan is sound and legally compliant, subject to the Main Modifications being made as set out in Appendix 1 of the Inspector's Report.

Consultation and engagement that has informed the preparation of the Local Plan

- 11.11 The preparation of the Local Plan has been underway for several years. The council has now undertaken a total of 5 separate public consultations on the contents of the Local Plan which have all been undertaken in accordance with the [Statement of Community Involvement - Winchester City Council](#).

Launch of the Local Plan

- 11.12 In 2018 work on the Local Plan commenced with the 'Launch of the Local Plan'. Work was paused on the publication of the Strategic Issues and Priorities consultation document for a period of 5 months as the government consulted on a number of fundamental changes to the way that Local Plans needed to be prepared and changes to the standard method. The proposed changes to the standard method would have had substantial implications for the number of homes that the city council needed to plan for. The City Council's housing requirement under the Standard Method would have nearly doubled. However, following a public consultation and comments submitted by the City Council and other Local Planning Authorities, the proposed changes to the standard method were later withdrawn by the previous government. The standard method figure (the number of homes that we need to plan for) temporarily (for the purposes of preparing this Local Plan) reverted to previous levels which this Local Plan was examined under (the housing numbers have now increased again which will need to be addressed in the next Local Plan to 2044).

Strategic Issues and Priorities public consultation

- 11.13 In February 2021 the City Council undertook a 6 week public consultation on the Strategic Issues and Priorities (SIP) document. As the public consultation was undertaken during a national lockdown, the City Council had to develop new and innovative ways of engaging with a wide range of organisations and individuals which ranged from radio advertisements, posters on bus stops and supermarkets and a number of online interactive events using SLIDO software. The public consultation on the SIP won the Royal Town Planning Institute's Planning (RTPI) Excellence award for Plan making and was the overall Regional winner for the South East. Gareth Giles FRTPI, Chair of RTPI South East judging panel, said: *"Winchester's Local Plan Consultation project represented demonstrated excellence in engagement and a willingness to actively learn from, and improve its processes to reach as many people as possible. It is a shining example of innovation in a pandemic context, as well as making use of new technological innovations. Local authorities should look to this as an example of best practice for consultations in their own areas"*.

- 11.14 A summary of the main outcomes from the SIP consultation is contained in this document
<https://www.localplan.winchester.gov.uk/LibraryAssets/attach/146/Local-Plan-SIP-Consultation-Report.pdf>

Local Plan Regulation 18 public consultation

- 11.15 After reviewing all of the comments that had been submitted on the SIP, in November 2022, the city council undertook a further 6 week public consultation on the draft [Regulation 18 Local Plan Regulation 18 Consultation - Winchester District Local Plan](#) which included the sites that had been identified for future development. This public consultation generated over 3,400 comments from individuals, organisations and statutory agencies. There were in fact significantly more as comments often spanned a number of individual points. A summary of the main outcomes from this public consultation is available in this document [Local Plan Regulation 18 public consultation](#) and the [appendices](#).
- 11.16 We undertook a 6 week public consultation on the Proposed Submission Local Plan (Regulation 19) which concluded in October 2024. Following this public consultation, the Regulation 19 Local Plan and accompanying documentation were submitted to the Planning Inspectorate on the 15th November 2024 under the Government's NPPF transitional arrangements. A summary of all of the representations that were submitted at the Regulation 19 stage is available in this document
<https://www.localplan.winchester.gov.uk/assets/inline/996/SD07b-Reg-22-Consultation-Statement-Part-Two-Reg-19-November-2024-.pdf>

Main Modifications public consultation

- 11.17 Following Local Plan hearing sessions that took place in April, May and June 2025 and upon receipt of the [Inspector's Post Hearing Interim Note ED38a](#), an 8 week public consultation took place on the Main Modifications, Additional Modifications and the Changes to the Policies Map. All of the representations that were submitted to this public consultation were reviewed and provided to the Local Plan Inspector with individual responses to the representations. A summary of all of the representations that were submitted to the Main Modifications public consultation are available on the [Local Plan website](#) (ED47a – ED47d).

Engaging with the widest possible audience

- 11.18 A key part of the plan making process is to seek early and open engagement on the content and shape of the draft Local Plan which has taken place in accordance with adopted SCI. At the heart of any new Plan is the development strategy for the district and the public consultation that has taken place in order to shape and inform the content of the Local Plan. The Plan-making process has engaged with the widest possible audience and a key part of this is making a document that is not only accessible but also visually interesting and appealing so that it stimulates and encourages people to read

and comment on it. This is really important and is something that the City Council has worked hard to develop. In recognition that the government wants to allow people to access material online and in order to try and engage with a younger demographic, the Local Plan has a dedicated website [Home - Winchester District Local Plan](#)

- 11.19 All City Council services are actively contributing to the delivery of the organisation's Digital Strategy by adopting modern technologies, streamlining processes, and strengthening digital capabilities. This collective effort is helping to drive greater efficiency, improve accessibility, and enhance the overall customer experience. This approach has also shaped the development of the emerging Local Plan.
- 11.20 Throughout each stage of public consultation, the City Council has strongly encouraged residents to submit their comments, more recently through the upgraded consultation portal (Keystone Objective). Ensuring that engagement on the Local Plan takes place through an accessible and user-friendly platform is essential. By directing feedback through the consultation portal, the City Council can more effectively group together key issues and common themes, enabling clearer analysis of the changes needed as the Local Plan progresses towards adoption.

Supporting Parish and Town Councils

- 11.21 The City Council has also encouraged and supported Parish and Town Councils with undertaking their own engagement and public consultation with their local communities on which sites should be allocated for development to meet the housing target that had been set by the City Council. The details of this Parish and Town engagement with their local communities is set out in the [Local Plan Topic paper on the Site Selection Process](#).
- 11.22 We are supporting four Parish/Town Councils to produce their own Neighbourhood Plans (Denmead, Hursley, New Alresford and Curdrige).
- 11.23 It is important to note that as a result of the Local Plan hearing sessions, there were Main Modifications that introduced a new requirement that if any of the Neighbourhood Plans did not go successfully through and pass a referendum (where over 50% of people must agree to it), any shortfall must be addressed in the early Local Plan review.
- 11.24 Consultation on the Local Plan has involved the City Council undertaking five separate stages of public consultation. It is important to note that under the current regulations there is only a legal requirement to consult on the Local Plan at three stages (Regulation 18, Regulation 19 and as part of the Main Modifications public consultation) which means that the City Council has provided two additional opportunities for people to comment on the Local Plan.

Integrated Impact Assessment, Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

- 11.25 Under the current Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 Local Plans are subject to an SA. The purpose of SA (which has been produced under the umbrella of an Integrated Impact Assessment) is to ensure that the plan preparation process maximises the contribution that a plan makes to sustainable development and minimises any potential adverse impacts. The SA process involves appraising the likely social, environmental and economic effects of the policies and proposals within a plan from the outset of its development.
- 11.26 The SA incorporates the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) process. The SEA Regulations require the formal assessment of plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment and which set the framework for future consent of projects requiring Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). SEA and SA are separate processes but have similar aims and objectives. SEA focuses on the likely environmental effects of a plan whilst SA includes a wider range of considerations, extending to social and economic impacts.
- 11.27 A key part of the SA process is an assessment of 'reasonable alternatives', to enable an assessment to be undertaken to find the most sustainable approach to each issue. The SA appraisal of the different spatial option in terms of where future development should be focussed was carried out prior to and was used to inform the Strategic Issues and Priorities consultation and was consulted upon. The SA has been used as part of the Plan-making process to inform the decision on the preferred options, but is not the sole determinant on which options should be adopted. Other factors, such as the views of stakeholders and the public, and other evidence base studies, also help to inform the decision. The SA is an iterative process with initial conclusions of the assessment being used to refine the policies in the draft Local Plan at Regulation 18 and 19 stages and subsequently at the Main Modifications stage.
- 11.28 Consultation is required on the IIA alongside consultation on the various stages of the Plan's preparation. Comments were received in response to the IIA at Regulation 18 and Regulation 19 consultation stages. An IIA was also undertaken of the Main Modifications and this was also available for comments as part of the public consultation (comments on these documents could be submitted under the respective Main Modification).

Habitats Regulations Assessment

- 11.29 Under the current Conservation of Habitats Regulations 2017 (as amended) Local Plans are subject to a Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA). The HRA is a separate document to the IIA as it provides an assessment of the potential effects of a development plan on one or more nationally significant sites, including Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Ramsar sites. The overall purpose of the HRA is to conclude whether or not a proposal or policy, or the whole development plan,

would adversely affect the integrity of the nationally significant sites in question either alone or in combination with other plans and projects.

- 11.30 In order to initiate the search of nationally significant sites that could potentially be affected by the Local Plan, it is established practice in HRAs to consider European sites (now known as nationally significant sites) within the local planning authority area covered by a plan, and also within a buffer distance from the boundary of the plan area. A distance of 15km has been used in the HRA as a starting point to identify nationally significant sites likely to be affected by impacts relating to development within the Plan area. In addition to this, consideration has also been given to nationally significant sites connected to the plan area beyond this distance, for example through hydrological pathways or emissions from major roads.
- 11.31 In addition to the above requirements, impacts from development in areas outside of the European site boundaries may also occur where habitat contributes towards maintaining the interest feature for which nationally significant sites) is designated (known as 'functionally linked land'). This includes land which may provide offsite foraging and roosting habitat for birds.
- 11.32 Within the Local Plan area there are three nationally significant sites:
- River Itchen SAC;
 - Solent & Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar site; and
 - Solent Maritime SAC.
- 11.33 The city council has worked closely with the Bird Aware Solent project, PFSH and Natural England to update the Solent Recreation Bird Mitigation Strategy. The [Strategy](#) was recently reviewed to cover the period to 2050 (it was previously 2034) and it now includes measures to reduce the recreational impacts on both winter and summer birds.
- 11.34 A HRA of the Main Modifications was made available alongside the public consultation on the Main Modifications. If anyone had any comments on the HRA of the Main Modifications they were able to submit these comments against the respective Main Modification.

Nutrients

- 11.35 On the 16 March 2022, the council received new guidance from Natural England which affected the way that the council has to assess new proposals across the whole district in terms of calculating the impact caused by the wastewater they produce. In the case of the river catchment for the Itchen SAC, which is a significant part of the district, the guidance advises that phosphorous and nitrogen are causing environmental effects. Previously only nitrogen was considered to need mitigation. This was a very significant change and it meant that the council was only able to grant planning permission for new residential development, which potentially affects this

catchment area, where the phosphate as well as the nitrate impact can be appropriately addressed.

- 11.36 The Local Plan team have been working with the support of the Partnership for South Hampshire to identify deliverable solutions for nutrients. The Partnership for South Hampshire (PfSH) Strategic Environmental Planning Team (SEPT) are in receipt of £9.6 million of funding from the Local Nutrient Mitigation Fund (LNMF). Part of this Government funding was specifically allocated to PfSH to support the work in Winchester District as we have both nutrients and phosphates to deal with.
- 11.37 In order to be able to demonstrate to a Local Plan Inspector that the City Council has a Local Plan that meets the requirements of the HRA a [Local Plan Topic Paper on Nutrient Neutrality](#) is available on the Local Plan website that includes more details on nutrients.
- 11.38 The work that PfSH and the City Council have undertaken on a Nutrient Mitigation Strategy has been recently recognised by a [RTPI Commendation](#) in the 2025 National Awards for Planning Excellence in the Planning for the Natural Environment category. The award celebrates outstanding projects that improve the natural environment through conservation, restoration or enhancement.
- 11.39 The HRA of the Main Modifications has concluded that no adverse effects on integrity will occur to nationally significant sites subject to the mitigation measures which are set out in the HRA.

Equality Impact Assessment:

- 11.40 An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) of the Local Plan has been carried out under the umbrella of the IIA, with due regard for the need to provide for the needs and interests of all residents of the district at each stage of the Local Plan making process.
- 11.41 The IIA of the Main Modifications (Appendix 5) to the Winchester District Local Plan has assessed the changes against the nine Protected Characteristics in accordance with the Public Sector Equality Duty, as set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. No negative impacts have been identified in the EqIA.

Main Modifications to the Local Plan

- 11.42 During the examination process a number of Main Modifications were agreed with the Inspector. At the hearing sessions the Inspector encouraged the City Council to work with a person or organisation on matters that needed further clarity or interpretation. It is important to note that none of the Main Modifications (e.g. deleting, altering a policy or paragraph) change anything fundamental that goes to the heart of the Local Plan whereas a Minor Modification is for example, correcting a typo.

11.43 As a result of the Local Plan examination, there were a number of changes to the policy wording or interpretation of an issue or a point that came out of the examination process (which was open to the public) and the City Council was asked by the Inspector to consult on the Main Modifications. A Sustainability Appraisal, Habitat Regulations Assessment, the Equalities Impact Assessment were prepared that assessed the Main Modifications. The following comments were received in response to the recent public consultation:

- 222 comments on the Main Modifications;
- 1 comment on the Additional Modifications; and
- 4 comments on the Changes to the Policies Map.

11.44 All of these comments were forwarded to the Local Plan Inspector along with an Officer response [Local Plan Examination - Winchester District Local Plan](#) (ED47a, ED47b, ED47c and ED47d) prior to the Inspector issuing her report on the Local Plan examination.

Local Plan Evidence Base

11.45 The Local Plan is supported by a robust and extensive evidence Base which is available on the Local Plan website [Winchester District Local Plan](#)

Energy Efficiency Standards to reduce carbon emissions

11.46 Policy CN3 in the Local Plan introduces local energy efficiency standards that go beyond current or planned building regulations. In addition, it expresses those using the Energy Use Intensity metric. The Local Plan's rationale for doing this includes meeting the Council's 2030 carbon neutral target and to reduce energy bills for its residents. The City Council's analysis indicates that proposals under Part L 2021 and Future Homes Standard consultation do not currently go far enough to meet the reduction in emissions required to achieve Net Zero emissions by 2030. Reducing carbon emissions and supporting the transition to net zero forms a central part of national policy as expressed in the 2023 NPPF in line with the objectives and provisions of the current Climate Change Act 2008.

11.47 The Planning and Energy Act 2008 currently allows local planning authorities to set energy efficiency standards in their development plans that exceed the energy efficiency requirements of the building regulations. However, such policies must not be inconsistent with relevant national policies and should use standards that are nationally endorsed. The Local Plan Inspector accepted the City Council's justification and subject to the Main Modifications, Policy CN3 has been included in the Local Plan.

11.48 As a result of a positive outcome at the Local Plan examination, the work that the City Council undertook with the assistance of specialised Consultants on the LETI energy efficiency standards in the Local Plan, this has been included

as a case study in the [Royal Town Planning Institute / Town and County Planning Association document 'Planning for the Climate Crisis: A guide for local authorities'](#) which was published in December 2025 which is extremely positive.

Duty to Cooperate

- 11.49 Local Planning Authorities have a legal duty under the current regulations to cooperate with a range of national organisations, such as National Highways, and their neighbouring planning authorities. The purpose of the duty is to discuss and address strategic cross-boundary issues.
- 11.50 In order to be able to demonstrate how the Duty to Co-operate requirements have been met a [Duty to co-operate Statement of Compliance](#) was prepared and submitted to the Local Plan examination which was supported by a series of Statements of Common Ground with organisations such as Natural England, the Environment Agency and a number of neighbouring authorities. The Duty to co-operate was a key issue that was discussed at length on Day 1 of the Local Plan examination hearing sessions. The Local Plan Inspector's Report has concluded that the requirements of the Duty to-cooperate have been met.
- 11.51 It is important to note that the Government has announced its intention to abolish the Duty to-cooperate. However, this announcement does not have any implications for the Local plan 2040. It is also not clear if they will come into force. Both the [Written Ministerial Statement of 27 November 2025](#) (WMS) and the [letter to the Planning Inspectorate](#) on 27 November 2025 emphasise that Local Planning Authorities should continue to collaborate across their boundaries including on unmet needs, and that "*Inspectors should continue to examine plans in line with the policies in the NPPF on 'maintaining effective co-operation'*". Therefore, it is not considered that this change in circumstances would raise significant new issues to the conclusions in the Inspector's Report. For instance, the position regarding unmet housing need in south Hampshire is unchanged. For its part, the Council confirmed in document [ED44](#) that if the legal Duty to Cooperate is withdrawn it acknowledges that the provision of 495 additional homes in the current Plan towards unmet needs in Havant and Portsmouth would remain appropriate, given the requirements in the current NPPF (2024) in para. 11b and 24-27 seeking effective cooperation.
- 11.52 The Local Plan Inspector undertook an Inspector led public consultation until the 9th January 2026 on the implications of the WMS and the letter from the Planning Inspectorate. Responses to this Inspector led public consultation is available on the Local Plan examination website ([ED46](#)).
- 11.53 As a result of the above, even if the Regulations come into force before the adoption of the Local Plan, and the legal duty to cooperate is removed, the Council considers that it will not change the position that was taken at the Local Plan examination for this Local Plan.

Supplementary Planning Documents/Supplementary Plans

- 11.54 The city council currently has a number of Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD's). For example, the High Quality Places SPD and Village Design Statements etc that are currently adopted against policies in the adopted Local Plan.
- 11.55 The Government has made it very clear that the last date that a Local Planning Authority can adopt an SPD is 30th June 2026. Whilst SPD's that have been adopted against the current adopted Local Plan will still be a material planning consideration, the amount of weight that can be given them in a planning decision will reduce over time.
- 11.56 The Government has introduced the ability for Local Planning Authorities to prepare Supplementary Plans. However, it is important to note that Supplementary Plans are entirely different to SPDs as they are intended to deal with matters such as unexpected sites that come forward for development that are outside of the Local Plan-making progress. Once a Supplementary Plan has gone through all of the stages, including an independent examination, it will carry the same formal weight as a Local Plan.

Inspector's Report

- 11.57 The Inspector's Report was received on the 27th February 2026 for fact checking and this has concluded that the Duty to Co-operate has been met and that with the recommended Main Modifications set out in the Appendix Winchester District Local Plan Proposed Submission Local Plan (Regulation 19) 2020-2040 satisfies the requirements referred to in Section 20(5)(a) of the 2004 Act **is sound**.
- 11.58 The fact check provided an opportunity for Officers to identify any factual errors and to seek clarification on any conclusions that are unclear. However, it does not provide any scope to question conclusions. Since the fact check report may be amended as a result of comments to the Inspector, it is not available to the public.
- 11.59 Following the fact check process, the City Council submitted a number of factual corrections to the Inspector on 2 March 2026. These comments relate only to factual matters and do not alter the Inspector's conclusions on the soundness of the Plan. The final Inspector's Report is awaited and will be published on the City Council's website as soon as it is received.

Next Steps

- 11.60 The final version of the Local Plan 2040 is recommended to be adopted. This brings together into one document the Proposed Submission Local Plan (Regulation 19) with the Main Modifications recommended by the Local Plan Inspector, and the Additional Modifications.

- 11.61 It is recommended that authority be delegated to the Corporate Head of Planning and Regulatory Services to make further additional minor modifications that relate exclusively to factual updates and grammatical and formatting corrections, prior to making the documents available for inspection.
- 11.62 If the Council chooses to adopt the Local Plan, it is required to produce a Local Plan Adoption Statement and Sustainability Appraisal Report in accordance with Regulation 26 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. The Integrated Impact Assessment / Habitats Regulations Assessment Adoption Statement relating to Strategic Environmental Assessment (in accordance with Regulation 16 (4) of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004) also needs to be published on the website (please see Appendix 6).
- 11.63 As soon as practicable after adoption, copies of the adoption documents will be available for inspection, for example on the council's website, main offices and in local libraries. Details of where the documents are available for inspection will be set out on the Local Plan Adoption Statement. As well as hard copies being available at the deposit points (local libraries and the main reception area at the City Council Offices), the City Council's websites will be updated to reflect the changes to the Development Plan.
- 11.64 It is acknowledged that there may be sectors of the community who may be disappointed with the Inspectors' findings following objections that had been made, particularly with respect to the allocation of land and/or housing numbers for individual settlements.
- 11.65 Following adoption of the Local Plan there will be a statutory six-week period during which the Plan may be subject to legal challenge by way of Judicial Review. This six-week period begins from the date of adoption, which will be the date of the Full Council meeting at which the resolution to adopt the Plan is made. Any such challenge must relate to a point of law and cannot re-open the planning merits or substance of the Local Plan. The preparation and examination of the Plan has been supported by legal advice, including from leading Counsel, to ensure the process has been robust. There are significant advantages to the City Council of having a newly adopted Local Plan. The City Council will have a new set of up to date and robust policies that align with the climate emergency and nature emergency which will be the basis for assessing and determining planning applications. When the Local Plan is adopted it will have five year housing land supply which is important for the purposes of Development Management in terms of not being vulnerable to speculative planning applications. It must, however, be acknowledged that the Government requires the five year housing land supply calculation to be updated at least once a year.

12 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

- 12.1 The Inspector has recommended adoption of the Local Plan, subject to Main Modifications. The authority therefore has the following two options:

- 12.2 **Option 1** – Adopt the Winchester District Local Plan 2020 to 2040 (with Main Modifications and the Additional Modifications) and for this Local Plan to supersede the current Local Plan (Local Plan Part 1 – Joint Core Strategy, Local Plan Part 2 – Development Management and Site Allocations and the Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Development Plan Document).
- 12.3 **Option 2** – Withdraw the Winchester District Local Plan 2020 to 2040.
- 12.4 By virtue of s. 23(2) to (4) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 , the local planning authority may adopt a Local Plan only if the Local Plan Inspector has recommended that outcome, whether in relation to the plan as submitted for examination or with any Main Modifications to make that plan sound and/or satisfy the relevant legal requirements.
- 12.5 If the City Council wishes to adopt the Local Plan, it can only do so in accordance with the terms of the recommendations made by the Inspector, along with any other modifications that do not "materially affect" the policies in the plan (i.e. only Additional Modifications). It is important to make the point that at this stage of the Plan-making process, the City Council cannot propose any further Main Modifications, such as changes to policy wording or the site allocations.
- 12.6 Government guidance states that while the local planning authority is not legally required to adopt its Local Plan following examination, it will have been through a significant process locally to engage communities and other interests in discussions about the future of the area, and it is to be expected that the local planning authority will proceed quickly with adopting a Local Plan once it has been found 'sound'. If Full Council disagree with the Inspector's Report, the only option available would be to withdraw the Local Plan entirely and start the Local Plan making process again.
- 12.7 Full Council did agree the Proposed Submission Local Plan (Regulation 19) on 28th August 2024 and at that time Full Council agreed that the Local Plan was legally compliant and sound. The Main Modifications that have been recommended by the Inspector are not considered to fundamentally alter the Plan's strategy or original policy intentions that have been previously agreed by the Full Council.
- 12.8 The preparation of the Plan has taken significant time and resource (both officer and financial), and not adopting it at this stage would result in a significant waste of those resources.
- 12.9 If the Plan is not adopted, the Local Plan Part 1 – Joint Core Strategy, Local Plan Part 2 – Development Management and Site Allocations and the Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Development Plan Document would remain as the Development Plan. These documents are already out-of-date particularly in relation to policies that relate to the delivery of housing and the climate emergency and they are no longer able to guide decision-making in the way that they were originally intended to. The adoption of the Local Plan will

provide the City Council with an up-to-date policy framework to guide decisions on planning applications.

- 12.10 The Local Plan has been subject to a comprehensive and lengthy public consultation and engagement process, which has involved significant public and stakeholder consultation (there has been 5 separate opportunities for people to submit their views) over the last 8 years.
- 12.11 Option 2 would also put the City Council more at risk of losing appeals and most importantly, it would not provide stability for decision making and would not give developers confidence in the district from either an investment or regeneration perspective.
- 12.12 For all of these reasons it is recommended that Local Plan is adopted as set out in Option 1.

13 Part 2: Winchester's Next Local Plan: 2044 Local Plan

- 13.1 While Part 1 of this report seeks approval to adopt the Winchester District Local Plan 2020–2040, it is important that the Council also continues to plan for the next stage of plan-making. Government has been clear that Local Plans should be kept up to date and reviewed on a regular basis, and authorities are expected to maintain an up-to-date programme for plan preparation.
- 13.2 On 13 December 2024 the Chief Planning Officer wrote to all Local Planning Authorities requesting that each authority prepare an updated Local Development Scheme (LDS), setting out the timetable for plan preparation. In response, Cabinet on 12 February 2025 agreed to initiate a review of the Council's Local Plan programme through the preparation of an interim LDS.
- 13.3 The interim LDS set out the proposed timetable for progressing the Winchester District Local Plan 2020–2040 through to adoption. It also included an initial indicative programme for preparing the subsequent Local Plan covering the period to 2044.
- 13.4 The Cabinet report made clear that the proposed timetable for the Local Plan 2044 was indicative and subject to change. This reflected the Government's intention to reform the local plan-making system and the fact that key elements of the secondary legislation required to implement the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 had not yet been published.
- 13.5 Since that time, further clarity has begun to emerge regarding the Government's proposed reforms to the plan-making system. As a result, it is now appropriate to update Members on the implications of those reforms and the Council's approach to progressing the next Local Plan.
- 13.6 On 27 November 2025, the Government released new guidance on how councils should prepare a new style 30 month Local Plan. This included a [Ministerial Statement](#), supporting information on the [Create or update a local plan](#). Together, these documents outline the requirements of the new style 30 month

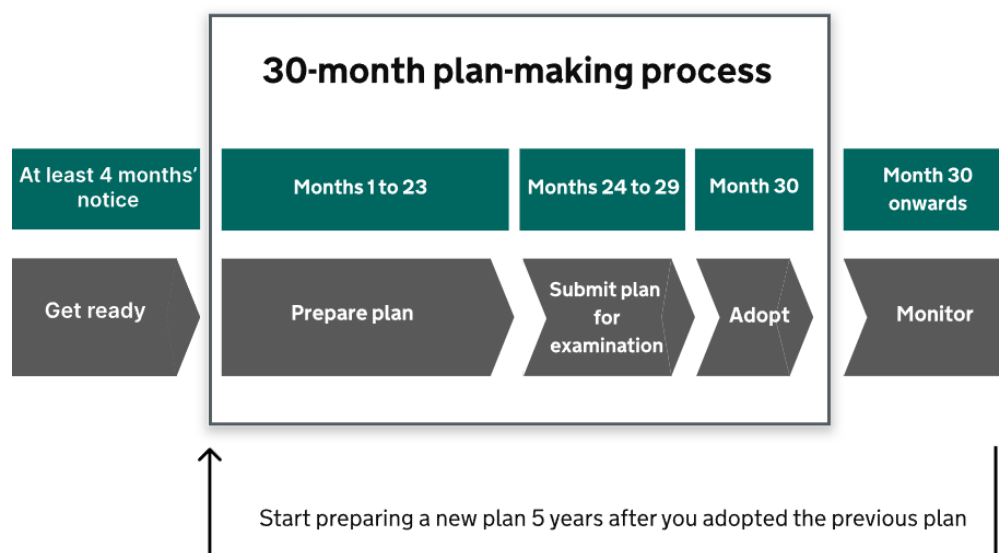
plan-making system. In order to support the new style 30 month Local Plans, on the 4th March 2026 the Government has issued the [Town and Country Planning \(Local Planning\) \(England\) Regulations 2026](#)

- 13.7 Winchester City Council's Local Plan 2040 was submitted for examination in November 2024 under the transitional arrangements in the National Planning Policy Framework. As the Local Plan 2040 was submitted for examination before the 12 March 2025 and the housing requirement meets less than 80 per cent of local housing need (using the standard method published in 2024), the City Council has a Regulatory requirement to meet two key deadlines this year which are set out in the new guidance:
- A Notice of Intention to Start Plan-making by 30 June 2026; and
 - Reach Gateway 1 by 31 October 2026.
- 13.8 Based on our best understanding at this moment in time (Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026), the preliminary timetable for the Local Plan 2044 is as follows:
- **Regulation 19** - Formal Notice of the Intention to commence Plan-making – by 30 June 2026.
 - **Regulation 20** – Publication of scoping consultation – targeted for June/July 2026.
 - **Regulation 21** - Gateway 1 (self assessment) – Decision to progress to Gateway 1 – by 31st October 2026.
 - **Regulation 23** - Consultation on the proposed Local Plan content and evidence – April / May 2027.
 - **Regulation 26** - Gateway 2 – Decision to progress to Gateway 2 – December 2027.
 - **Regulation 27** – Public consultation on the proposed draft Local Plan – February / March 2028.
 - **Regulation 31** - Gateway 3 – Decision to progress to Gateway 3 – August 2028.
 - **Regulation 35** – Independent Examination – September 2028 – February 2029.
 - **Regulation 39** - Adoption of the Local Plan – expected by the end of March 2029.
- 13.9 As Local Government Re-organisation (LGR) will happen in April 2028, the preliminary timetable for the Local Plan 2044 will be at a significantly advanced stage which should enable the new Combined Authority to agree to continue

with the preparation and the adoption of the Local Plan 2044. The Government advice is very clear; Local Planning Authorities should not delay the development of Local Plans whilst LGR is happening.

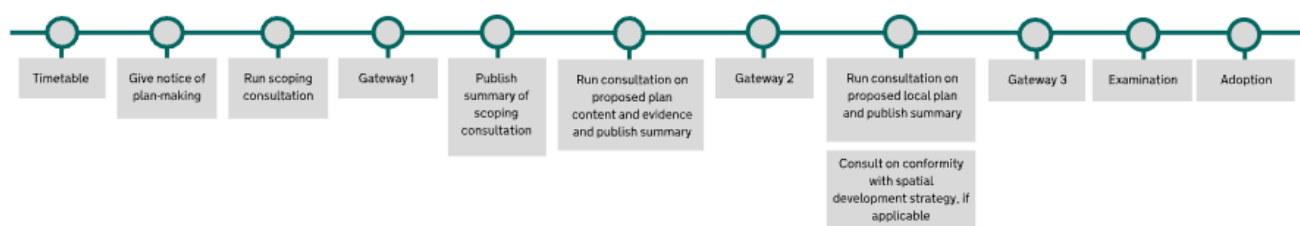
BACKGROUND

- 13.10 The following diagram provides an overview of the stages within the new plan-making system.



- 13.11 The statutory timetable allows 30 months for the preparation and examination of a Local Plan. It is important to note that 5 months have been set aside in the 30 month programme for the Local Plan examination. Prior to this, there is a mandatory 'Get Ready Period' of at least four months before Gateway 1.
- 13.12 There are also certain tasks within the new system, that must be undertaken in a prescribed sequence, as required by law. These are set out below with further detail contained in relevant sections in the report.

Tasks in local plan-making where the sequence is required by law



Tasks before the 30-month process

- 13.13 The 'get ready period' is required to be at least 4 months before Gateway 1. During this period, a number of procedural steps must be completed which are outlined in the diagram below.



Local Plan Timetable

- 13.14 This must be made available on the same day as the Notice of the Intention to Commence.

Notice of Intention to Commence (Regulation 19).

- 13.15 A formal Notice of Intention to Commence must be published on the City Council's website to signal the intention to begin plan-making before the 30th June 2026. The purpose of this notice is to provide sufficient time for stakeholders to be made aware that the Local Plan review process is starting, thereby ensuring transparency and enabling early engagement.
- 13.16 The formal Notice of Intention to Commence must include the:
- Name of the Local Planning Authority who have prepared the notice;
 - Geographical area to which the Local Plan will relate;
 - Title, if any, which the Local Planning Authority will refer to the Local Plan;
 - Details of where the Local Authority's timetable is published; and
 - The date on which the notice is made available.

- 13.17 The Government has indicated that they will be producing a standardised template that all LPA's will need to complete.

Scoping consultation: Local Plan (Regulation 20)

- 13.18 This is a completely new stage. An LPA must run a scoping consultation to engage with the public, statutory bodies and other stakeholders. This invites feedback on matters including how to engage with them throughout the plan-making process and what the Local Plan should contain.

Gateway 1: Self assessment of readiness for Local Plan preparation (Regulation 21)

- 13.19 This is a completely new stage. Gateway 1 is a mandatory self-assessment stage. The purpose of Gateway 1 is to confirm that authorities are ready to prepare and adopt a Local Plan within the 30-month timetable. A Planning Inspector will be appointed to be a gateway assessor. There is [standardised template for Gateway 1](#) that needs to be completed by the LPA.
- 13.20 The self-assessment summary must include:
- (a) The local planning authority's local plan timetable, including whether the authority has published a timetable which complies with the requirements in section 15B of the Act and Part 2 of these Regulations,
 - (b) the local planning authority's project management and governance arrangements for the preparation of their local plan,
 - (c) the local planning authority's proposed approach to consultation and engagement in preparing their local plan,
 - (d) the anticipated content of the local planning authority's local plan, and (e) any obligation arising under [Part 2](#) and [Part 3](#) of the [Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004](#).
- 13.21 Once Gateway 1 has been passed, the official 30-month timeframe begins. At this stage, the Local Plan can be prepared in detail. The LPA must publish the outcomes from the scoping consultation (Regulation 22).

Consultation on the proposed Local Plan content and evidence (Regulation 23)

- 13.22 This is a completely new stage. At the Regulation 23 stage, the LPA must invite comments and representations about the Local Plan content and evidence. The "proposed local plan content and evidence" means a document setting out:
- (a) a proposed vision for the future of the local planning authority's area and proposed measurable outcomes,

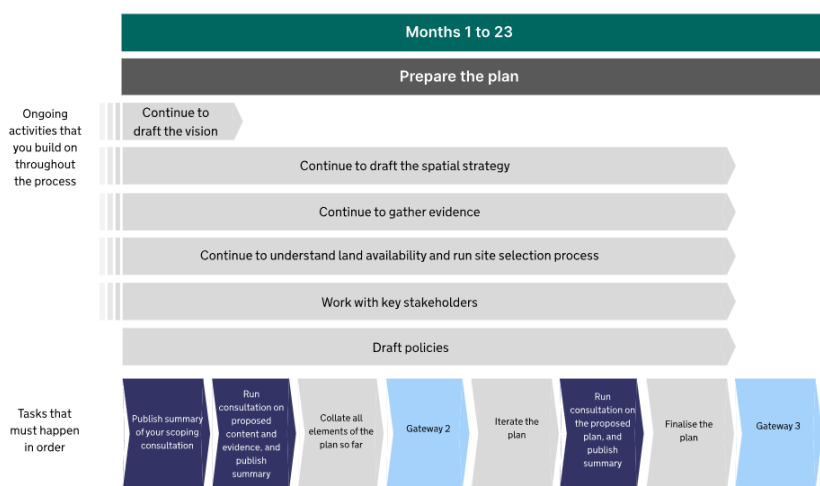
(b) any proposed aims and objectives of the local planning authority for the period of the local plan, including the approach that the authority propose to take to achieve the proposed vision for the future of the authority's area,

(c) a summary of the local planning authority's proposed approach in relation to policies of the kind mentioned in section 15C(3) and (4)(a) of the Act, in particular policies relating to the location of development in the authority's area,

(d) where the local planning authority's notice of intention to commence local plan preparation specified under [regulation 19\(4\)](#) that their local plan is to incorporate all or part of their minerals and waste plan, a summary of the authority's proposed approach in relation to policies of the kind mentioned in section 15CB(2) and (3)(a) of the Act, in particular policies relating to the location of minerals and waste development(1) in the authority's relevant area,

(e) details of the evidence that the local planning authority has gathered to support the local plan, if any, and a summary of the further evidence that the authority intends to gather in this respect, and

(f) such supporting information relating to the proposed local plan as the local planning authority consider appropriate.



- 13.23 After this stage has been completed the LPA is required to complete a summary of consultation on the proposed Local Plan content and evidence (Regulation 24).

Gateway 2: Progress check with the Planning Inspectorate (Regulation 26)

- 13.24 This is a completely new stage. Gateway 2 provides a formal progress check on progress, lasting between four and six weeks. The Planning Inspectorate will appoint a gateway assessor to review the proposed plan and associated documentation, providing observations and advice in the form of a workshop

led by the assessor but informed by topics that have been identified by the LPA.

13.25 The purpose of Gateway 2 is to:

- Support early resolution of potential soundness issues;
- Assess progress towards meeting the prescribed requirements necessary for Gateway 3.
- Gateway 2 must take place after publication of the consultation summary on proposed plan content and evidence, and before consultation on the proposed Local Plan. Timing is at the discretion of the authority, but sufficient information must be available for meaningful advice.

Consultation on the proposed Local Plan (Regulation 27)

13.26 This stage is equivalent to the current Regulation 19 stage in the existing Plan-making system except: a) it is called a consultation (Regulation 19 is not); and b) it is followed by Gateway 3. The new Regulations refer to actions potentially arising from the Gateway check, which could potentially involve re-running the public consultation (or running a focused consultation) before then submitting the Local Plan for an independent examination.

13.27 Consultation on the proposed Local Plan must run for a minimum of eight weeks. It should cover:

- The proposed Local Plan;
- The map of proposed Local Plan policies;
- Site allocations and designations;
- The evidence base; and
- The SEA environmental report.

13.28 This consultation must also include engagement with the strategic authority preparing any Spatial Development Strategy (if prepared), to ensure general conformity.

13.29 Following consultation, the authority must make appropriate changes to finalise the Local Plan based on the consultation; prepare submission material for Gateway 3; and publish a summary of the consultation on the draft Plan, including how issues have been addressed (Regulation 30).

Gateway 3 – Ready for Examination (Regulation 32)

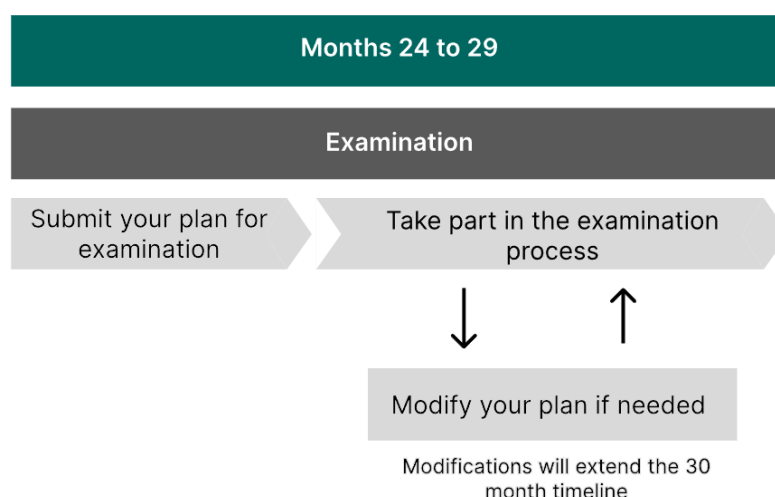
13.30 This is a completely new stage. Gateway 3 is a formal check, lasting four to six weeks, to ensure the Plan is ready for examination. The Planning Inspectorate

will appoint a gateway assessor to provide observations and advice, and to determine whether the Plan meets the prescribed requirements.

13.31 At this stage of the process the LPA must have a proposed Local Plan that includes:

- Policies;
- The amount, type and location of development;
- A vision for the future of the area and how the areas is intended to change over the period of the Local Plan;
- Contains no more than ten measurable outcomes, designed to monitor progress towards meeting the vision of the future of the local planning authority's area; and
- Identifies which policies are superseded by policies in the new Local Plan.

13.32 If Gateway 3 is not successfully passed, the Plan cannot proceed to the independent examination. The authority must make the necessary changes and re-submit through the gateway process.



Independent Examination (Regulation 35)

13.33 Those who have made representations on the plan during its preparation will still have the right to present their views to the Inspector. The examination will assess whether the plan is sound – using the current Tests of Soundness.

- Positively Prepared – the plan provides a strategy which seeks to meet objectively assessed development and infrastructure requirements.
- Justified – the plan is founded on robust evidence and represents the most appropriate strategy when considered against reasonable alternatives.

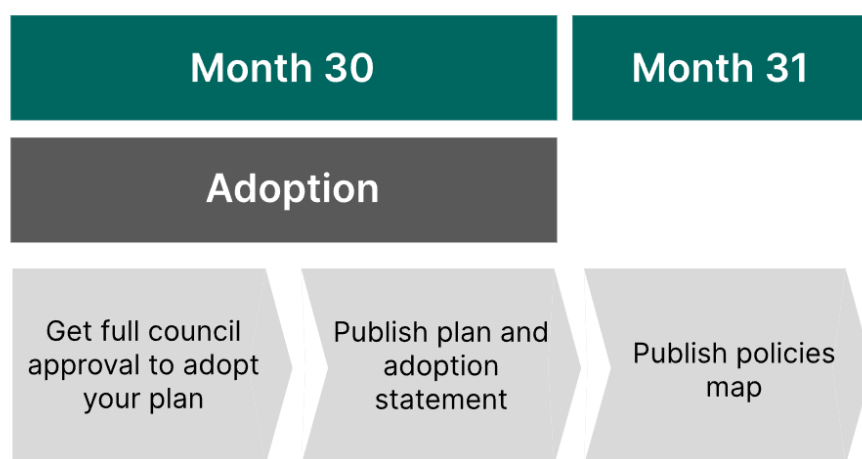
- Effective – the plan is deliverable over its period and based on effective joint working on cross-boundary strategic matters.

- Consistent with National Policy – the plan enables the delivery of sustainable development in accordance with national planning policy.

13.34 Where the Inspector determines that further work is required, the examination may be paused for a period of up to six months to allow the necessary work to be undertaken (Regulation 36).

13.35 The Inspector may also recommend that the Local Plan is modified for it to be found sound. If this is the case, interested parties will need to be consulted on the proposed modifications. This process is likely to extend the examination period beyond the initial five-month timeframe.

Month 30 to 31: adopt plan and publish policies map

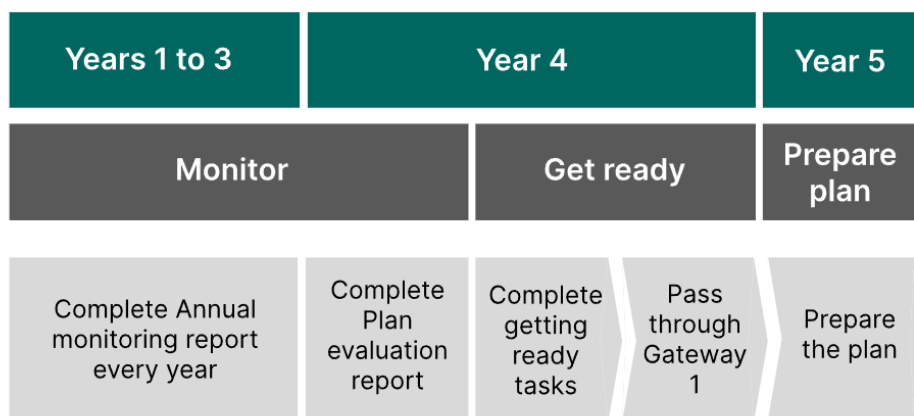


Adoption (Regulation 39)

13.36 The Inspector's report should be published as soon as practicable following receipt. Unlike the existing system, the adoption of the Local Plan must take place within one month of receiving the Inspector's report. This requires formal approval by Full Council. Information about SEA process as set out in [regulation 16 of the SEA regulations](#) must also be published.

13.37 Upon adoption, authorities are required to publish an Adoption Statement and publish within 1 month of adoption the Policies Map, which consolidates Local Plan policies with all other policies forming part of the wider development plan such as the Minerals and Waste Local Plan and all 'made' Neighbourhood Plans. The Policies Map must be kept up to date and revised in accordance with the timescales which will be set out in Regulations.

13.38 **Month 31 onwards: monitor the Local Plan.**



13.39 Once the Local Plan is adopted, it will need to be monitored over time. The purpose of monitoring is to review progress against the Local Plan's policy vision and objectives, as well as other key planning matters.

13.40 There are 2 types of monitoring that we will be required to undertake under the new Local Plan-making system:

Annual monitoring:

- happens on the same date every year for all LPAs (currently in the form of an Authorities Monitoring Report).
- monitors your plan against a list of nationally prescribed metrics to assess how key policies are being implemented.
- monitors the implementation of the plan against measurable objectives in the local plan vision.

The Plan Evaluation Report:

- must be carried out in year 4 from when you adopted the plan.
- informs the next version of the plan and considers which policies and sites you can take forward into the next version.

13.41 As part of the SEA process, we must also monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the Local Plan.

13.42 BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:-

13.43 Previous Committee Reports:-

- CAB3278 - Cabinet Report on the Strategic Issues & Priorities consultation document.

CAB3226 – Cabinet Report on the Revised Local Development Scheme 2020.

- CAB3419 (LP) – Cabinet on the revised Local Development Scheme 2023.

CAB3357 – Cabinet Report on the Local Plan Regulation 18 public consultation.

CAB3462– Cabinet and Full Council Report Winchester District Proposed Submission Local Plan (Regulation 19) which includes delegated authority to the Strategic Planning Manager to submit the Local Plan to the Planning Inspectorate for examination

- CAB3499 – Interim Local Development Scheme 2025

Other Background Documents:-

The Local Plan is supported by a range of evidence base that is available on the Local Plan website [Winchester District Local Plan](#)

[Minutes of the Scrutiny Committee 29 July 2024](#)

APPENDICES:

For Scrutiny/Cabinet meeting there are 3 appendices to this Report:

Appendix 2 – Schedule of Main Modifications

Appendix 5 – Integrated Impact Assessment (including the Equality Impact Assessment) and Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Main Modifications.

Appendix 6 – Integrated Impact Assessment/Habitats Regulation Assessment Adoption Statement

For the Full Council meeting there will be 6 appendices to this Report:

Appendix 1 – Inspector's Report on the Examination of the Winchester District Local Plan 2020 - 2040 – not yet received - will be published with Full Council Papers.

Appendix 2 – Schedule of Main Modifications

Appendix 3 – Winchester District Local Plan 2020 – 2040 (incorporating the Main Modifications and the Additional Modifications) – in preparation - will be published with Full Council Papers.

Appendix 4 – Updated Policies Map – in preparation - will be published with Full Council Papers.

Appendix 5 – Integrated Impact Assessment (including the Equality Impact Assessment) and Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Main Modifications.

Appendix 6 – Integrated Impact Assessment/Habitats Regulation Assessment Adoption Statement