

Revised Local Development Scheme

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What is the purpose of the LDS?

- ▶ The Local Development Scheme (LDS) is a really important document as it sets out the timetable to produce the Local Plan.
- ▶ The LDS is also a useful tool for establishing and taking forward the Council's priorities in the form of the Local Plan.
- ▶ It is good practice to review the timetable in the LDS at certain key stages such as after the Regulation 18 consultation or if circumstances changes at a national or local level that are out of our control.
- ▶ It must be made publicly available on the Council's website.

Our LDS - July 2021

2022
AUGUST - SEPTEMBER
Consult on the draft reg
18 Local Plan



2023

2023
AUGUST - SEPTEMBER
Publish the draft Local
Plan for consultation
(Reg 19)

2024
FEBRUARY - MARCH
Local Plan Examination

2024
MAY
Consultation on the
proposed main
modifications

2024
JULY
Inspectors
Report

2024

2024
AUGUST
Adoption

Creating a sound Local Plan: Local Plan timetable:

- ▶ The Regulation 19 Local Plan is the version of the Plan that the Council wants to be examined by a Planning Inspector. It is essential the evidence base is thorough and robust.
- ▶ If the Council does not have an up-to-date LDS, this is an issue that can be raised at the Local Plan Examination.
- ▶ The current Local Plan covers the period 2019 to 2039.
- ▶ The current LDS identifies that the Local Plan would be adopted in August 2024.
- ▶ The end date of the Local Plan is important as it a requirement by government that Local Plans cover a minimum of 15 years from the date of adoption.

Creating a sound Local Plan: Government consultations

Preparing a Local Plan is not undertaken in isolation - there have been many Government consultations this year that we have responded to:

- ▶ Planning for the future;
- ▶ Changes to the Community Infrastructure Levy;
- ▶ Environmental Outcomes Report;
- ▶ Proposed changes to the NPPF;
- ▶ Implementing the Planning reforms [Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill: consultation on implementation of plan-making reforms - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/levelling-up-and-regeneration-bill-consultation-on-implementation-of-plan-making-reforms) – consultation open until 18th October 2023
- ▶ Permitted development rights [Permitted development rights - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/permitted-development-rights) – consultation open until 25th September 2023
- ▶ Operational reforms to NSIPs [Operational reforms to the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project consenting process - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/operational-reforms-to-the-nationally-significant-infrastructure-project-consenting-process) – consultation open until 19th September 2023

Regulation 18 Local Plan Consultation

- ▶ Consultation on the Regulation 18 Local Plan took place in November/December 2022.
- ▶ Our approach towards public consultation and engagement that we undertook for the Strategic Issues & Priorities document, which was repeated in the Regulation 18 Local Plan consultation, was recognised by the RTPI as 'going above and beyond what was expected'.
- ▶ The high-level results of the Regulation 18 Local Plan public consultation were reported at a meeting of the Local Plan Advisory Group on 8 March 2023.
- ▶ Response rate was excellent, showing high levels of engagement. The Council received 3,438 written representations on the Local Plan policies and site allocations from 967 individuals, business, organisations, and charities across the district but there were significantly more individual comments than this.
- ▶ We have received a significant number of in-depth technical responses that have needed detailed consideration and input from different teams across the Council.

Current Local Plan activity - Regulation 18 Local Plan Consultation

- ▶ Officers from the Strategic Planning Team are now:
 - Undertaking, recording and finalising analysis of all comments and preparing a series of recommendations. These will be reported back to Full Council as part of the Regulation 19 Local Plan.
 - identifying and commissioning any new areas of evidence base as a result of the representations;
 - Continuing a number of initial meetings with the statutory agencies (e.g. Natural England, Environment Agency and Historic England) in order to help to clarify their representations;
 - In the process of preparing a list of matters that can be included in Statement of Common Grounds with neighbouring councils/statutory agencies;
 - Not just processing representations but the team is also working on other further technical work streams that are outlined on the next slide.

Work being undertaken during 2023



What are the factors that have resulted in the need to a change in LDS timetable?

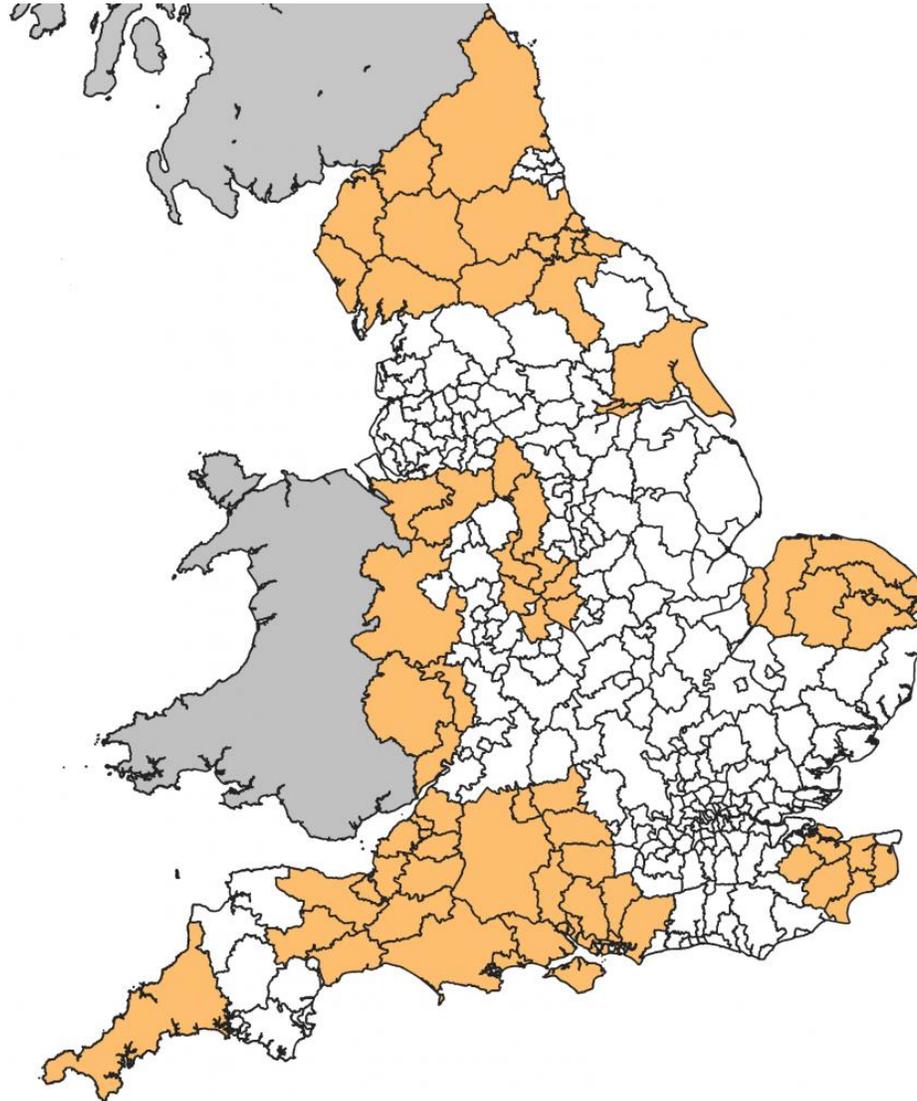
Nutrient Neutrality

Local Authorities affected by nitrates and/or phosphorous

[74 local authorities](#) in England from Cornwall to Northumberland are now affected by the catchment areas Natural England has drawn around these protected areas

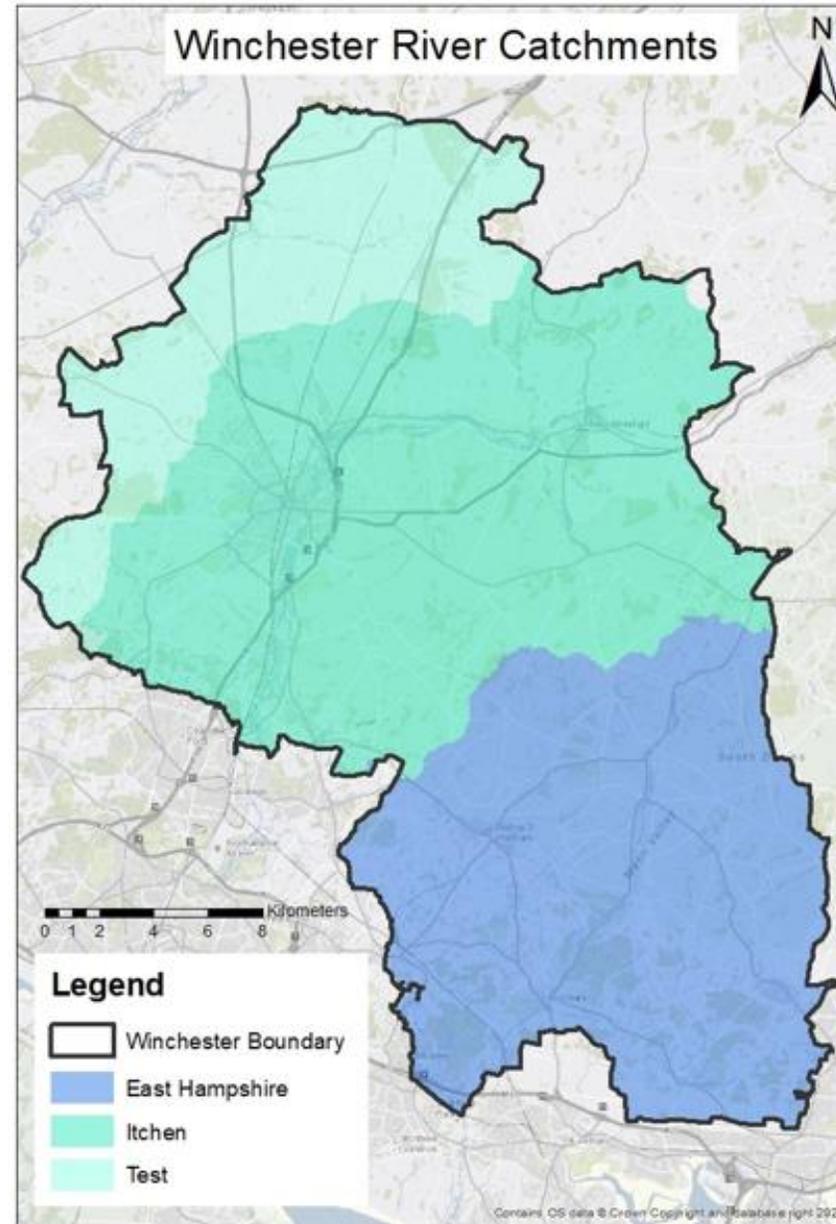
Source: www.planoraks.com – [Link](#)

[26 local authorities](#) have both nitrates and phosphorous problem.



Winchester River Catchments

The Winchester district falls within three riverine catchments in relation to nutrient neutrality. This includes the East Hampshire catchment and the Test and the Itchen catchment.



Nutrient Neutrality

- ▶ The Winchester district has the added challenge that it falls within three riverine catchments in relation to nutrient neutrality.
- ▶ Developers and site promoters have been asked as part of the 'Site Deliverability Statements' to demonstrate how they intend to address nutrients for the allocated sites in the Regulation 18 Local Plan.
- ▶ The Partnership for South Hampshire is the lead agency acting on behalf of affected local authorities and is leading on negotiations and solutions for the council.
- ▶ Funding bids to upgrade the Winchester Waste Water Treatment facilities have been agreed by PfSH and submitted to the Government - but Government funding has not been released.
- ▶ Despite the effort and time that officers working with PfSH have put into this extremely challenging issue, this remains a key area of work that still needs a **wider joint solution** – many organisations are involved and will be needed for a solution.

Town Centre and Employment Study

- ▶ We want to do the best to support our high street and the local economy - need to ensure that these studies are based on the most up-to-date information.
- ▶ Retail and Employment studies had to be updated and refreshed and as they were both completed at the outbreak of the COVID 19.
- ▶ The impact on the high streets and the economic ramifications, were far more far reaching than were first imagined and needed time to settle for a fair assessment.
- ▶ Assistance was sought via the Planning Advisory Service (PAS) to provide support preparation of this technical study brief in Autumn 2022.
- ▶ Many other LPA's are undertaking similar work now which means that consultants doing this specialist area of work are in high demand and results are due be shared at a stakeholder event in October 2023.

Strategic Transportation Assessment

- ▶ The Strategic Transport Model is provided by the County Council but recalibration of the model was required to take account of new travel trends post pandemic. This has taken longer than the county council expected.
- ▶ The trading arm of Hampshire County Council (HCC) has been appointed to prepare a Strategic Transport Assessment, however the timetable supplied by HCC was much longer than was originally indicated, and costs are higher.
- ▶ The work will involve undertaking transportation modelling and subsequent report - it will cover sites with existing planning permission and sites that are being built out and includes:
 - ▶ A baseline transport model run (no site allocations, the baseline position);
 - ▶ A do-minimum transport run (with site allocations but with no mitigation);
 - ▶ A do-something transport run (with site allocations and associated mitigation);

Strategic Transportation Assessment

- ▶ The Assessment by HCC is an extremely important piece of the evidence base as highway implications are often raised by local people as one of the key areas of concerns.
- ▶ Importantly, it not only covers roads but will put a clear focus on sustainable transport options over the needs of the car.
- ▶ From a nature conservation perspective, the traffic data that is gathered from the above transport model will quantify the likely impacts and confirm which roads within 200m of a European site that could experience significant increases in traffic.
- ▶ Extremely important that the cumulative impact of the Local Plan site allocations is fully assessed, and mitigation measures are identified and costed into the Local Plan Viability Assessment.

Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)

- ▶ The public engagement on public engagement of the Local Plan was recognised by the RTPi as 'going above and beyond what was expected' the SCI needs to be updated to recognise this.
- ▶ To ensure a plan is found sound, the opportunity for the public and partners to comment is essential.
- ▶ The Council must legally comply with its own statutory SCI which the Council adopted in December 2018. The Government requires SCI's to be updated every 5 years, and it is especially important to ensure engagement is effective in post pandemic.
- ▶ The SCI is being updated to achieve the widest possible engagement on the Local Plan process and will be used during the Regulation 19 consultation.
- ▶ Following consultation, a revised SCI will be considered by Cabinet in December 2023.

What external meetings have happened to validate our approach?

Department of Levelling, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) - update meetings

Two meetings have taken place with the Department of Levelling, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) in July 2022 and April 2023 to keep them up-to-date with progress on the Local Plan:

- 1) Key challenges (such as nutrients) that the Council is facing with bringing the new Local Plan forward; and
- 2) What assistance DLUHC could provide to the Council to assist with bringing forward the Local Plan.

Local Plan Planning Inspectorate (PINS) Advisory meeting

The Advisory meeting can be used to discuss a range of factors and is good practice and helps to ensure that we produce a 'sound' Local Plan. This addressed:

- ▶ Approach towards Duty to Cooperate
- ▶ Plan Period
- ▶ Standard method and affordable housing
- ▶ Unmet needs
- ▶ Phasing
- ▶ Housing supply
- ▶ Plan strategy and site selection
- ▶ Habitats Regulation Assessment
- ▶ Gypsies and Travellers provision
- ▶ Neighbourhood plans
- ▶ Approach towards nutrients
- ▶ Carbon neutrality and low carbon infrastructure

Local Plan Planning Inspectorate (PINS) Advisory meeting

- ▶ It was extremely helpful and beneficial to seek constructive feedback from an Inspector in terms of what they would be looking for to secure a sound Local Plan.
- ▶ The feedback was positive overall and identified the benefit of more Topic Papers to help explain the rationale and the approach that the Council has taken towards tackling some of the key issues that the Local Plan is dealing with.
- ▶ The production of more detailed Topic Papers will take officer time, but this would be time well spent as it will greatly assist the Inspector in identifying what the key issues are, and it will also help to cut down on the examination time.

Producing a sound Local Plan - Planning Advisory Service (PAS)

- ▶ Officers contacted PAS as they provide free consultancy and peer support to help local authorities prepare Local Plans. Again, this is good practice.
- ▶ DAC Planning were subsequently appointed by PAS to conduct an independent review of a draft Local Plan timetable.

We asked DAC Planning whether the Local Plan could be brought forward any quicker and whether enough time had been allowed in the process to complete all of the necessary steps to prepare a sound Local Plan?

Producing a sound Local Plan - Planning Advisory Service (PAS)

DAC Planning commented that:

- The council needed to be mindful of the resources that were needed in the Strategic Planning team to enable them to produce a sound Local Plan;
- The review of the LDS was supported in order to allow sufficient time to complete all of the necessary Evidence Base;
- Given the complexity the work streams and their inter-dependency, additional focus on existing project management of the Local Plan; and
- Ensure that the Strategic Planning Team is able to concentrate on the Local Plan and the extent that they are involved in non-Local Plan matters.

Regulation 19 Local Plan

The Regulation 19 Local Plan will need to be agreed by Full Council as this is the version of the Local Plan that the Council would like examined. It's important its robust and 'sound.'

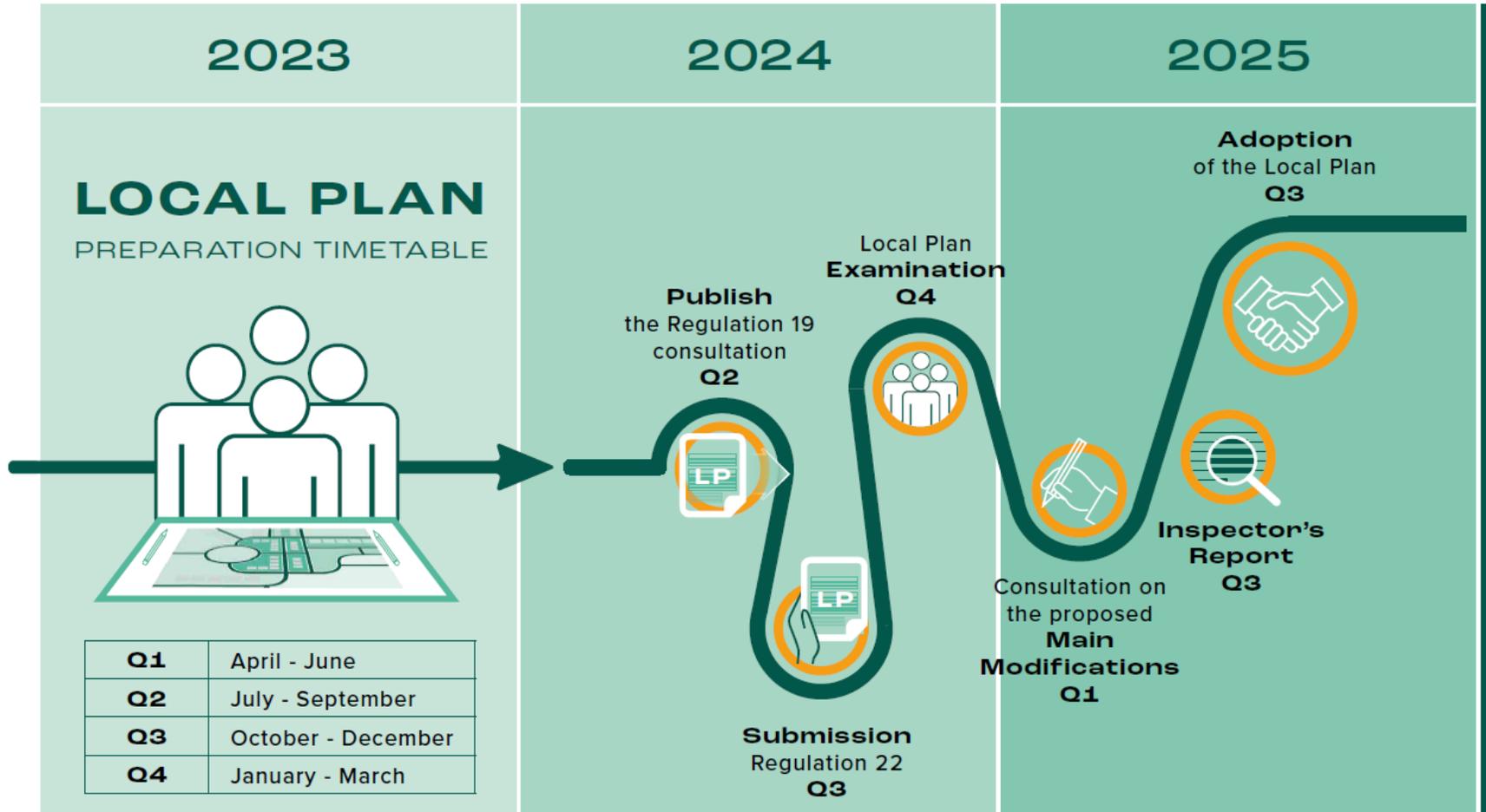
In summary, The LDS has been revised to allow additional time for the factors described in this presentation, the speed of which are outside of our control;

- Nutrient neutrality remaining a challenging issue for the district despite efforts by officers and members to solve it, plus the added complexity of the district having **both** nitrates and phosphorus issues.
- The longer than expected timescale of the Strategic Transport Assessment.
- Consultation on the Regulation 18 Local Plan successfully engaged with a wide range of people and highly technical responses have resulted in the need for in depth advice.
- New areas of work identified through the public consultation at Regulation 18 stage needs appropriate time and consideration before we can safely move to the Regulation 19 stage.
- It also allows time to develop in depth topic papers as described as beneficial by PINS.

Work being undertaken during 2023



Revised timetable



► The quarters are based on municipal years.

Revised Local Plan timetable

There is work that needs to be undertaken in order to secure a sound Local Plan, and the LDS has to be adjusted. Therefore, we will:

- ▶ Extend the timetable for preparing the Local Plan which would mean that the Local Plan period would be changed to from 2019 – 2039 to 2020 – 2040.
- ▶ Move the public consultation on the Regulation 19 Local Plan to August/September 2024.
- ▶ Hold the Local Plan Examination at the end of 2024.
- ▶ Ensure that the Local Plan is adopted at the end of 2025.

- ▶ the risk of extending the timetable is minimal as we have a 5 year housing land supply.

- ▶ Our Plan will be supported by the most up to date transport analysis, retail and employment data, the outcome of the public consultation and ensuring that we have listened and acted upon the feedback that we have received to ensure that we can produce a sound Local Plan.

Comments and questions: