

Appendix B of the Local Development Scheme Cabinet Report

Stages of Local Plan Production as detailed in the Local Development Scheme (June 2024)

Stage 1: Evidence gathering – ongoing throughout the review

Stage 2: Call for Sites – October 2020 – September 2022

As part of the Housing and Employment Land Availability Assessment, the Council issued a call for sites. Developers, landowners, agents, and the public were invited to submit sites to the Council for assessment to see if they are suitable for inclusion within the Local Plan.

Stage 3: Public Consultation – Key issues and Options for the Local Plan Review (Regulation 18) October – November 2020

This stage provided an opportunity for local residents and other key stakeholders to engage with the Council on the key issues regarding the scope of the Local Plan. The consultation asked a series of questions to help the council determine the scope and content of the Local Plan Review. The Issues and Options consultation was published for a six-week period in October/November 2020.

Stage 4: Public Consultation on a Draft Consultative Local Plan (Regulation 18) Winter 2023/24

Consultation on the draft Local Plan is not a regulatory requirement as regulation 18 consultation has already been undertaken at the Issues & Options stage (October 2020). However, producing a draft plan gives the community, stakeholders and interested parties the opportunity to contribute to and shape the Local Plan as it evolves. The Draft Consultative Local Plan was published for an eight-week consultation period in April/May 2024.

Stage 5: Public consultation on the Pre-submission Local Plan (Regulation 19) Winter 2024/25

Prior to submission of the Local Plan for examination, the Council must consult the public on a draft Local Plan, this will also include the development management policies and sites allocated for future housing, employment and retail development. The document will be made available for a minimum of a six-week period of consultation with local residents and other key stakeholders, and all valid representation made will be passed onto the independent Inspector appointed to examine the draft Local Plan.

Stage 6: Submit Local Plan to Secretary of State for Examination (Regulation 22) Summer (June) 2025

Following the Regulation 19 Public Consultation on the Draft Local Plan, the draft Local Plan and associated documents will be submitted to the Secretary of State. This stage triggers the independent examination of the document.

It is important to note that the Local Plan is timetabled to be submitted to the Secretary of State before the government-imposed deadline of 30 June 2024, to ensure that the Local Plan is considered under the existing legal framework.

Stage 7: Examination of Local Plan by Planning Inspectorate (Regulation 24) – Summer 2025 – Spring 2026

The Secretary of State will appoint an independent Inspector (from the Planning Inspectorate). Following the examination, the Inspector will produce a report in order to determine whether or not the plan can be considered to be 'sound'. This report may include changes to the draft Local Plan where the Inspector feels that these are necessary to ensure that the plan is sound.

Stage 8: Adoption of Local Plan (Regulation 26) Summer 2026

The final stage in the plan making process is the formal adoption of a Plan. In accordance with the Council's constitution, the adoption of the Local Plan must take place at a meeting of Full Council. Following adoption, the Local Plan will become the main document against which decisions on planning applications will be made.