

Committee: Local Plan Panel

Date: 15 July 2024

Title: Local Plan Progress Update

Report Author: Dean Hermitage – Strategic Director of Planning

Summary

1. This report provides a general update on Local Plan progress since the last meeting of the Local Plan Panel (LPP) in June. Response to the June meeting's speaker comments is attached as **Appendix 1**.

Recommendations

2. That the LPP notes the update.

Financial Implications

3. Within existing local plan budget.

Background Papers

4. None

Communication / Consultation	The final draft (Regulation 19) Plan is to be published for consultation August-Oct 2024 for eight weeks.
Community safety	None
Equalities	None
Health & Safety	None
Human Rights / Legal	None
Sustainability	The Local Plan will have positive impacts on sustainability across the district.
Ward-specific Impacts	All wards
Workforce / Workplace	None

Situation

5. The Regulation 19 Plan document has been published for LPP review (see following agenda item). This is a 'word document' version as further minor changes may still be made between now and formal publish. An illustration of how the final document will look is attached as **Appendix 2** (note - the text within that document is for illustrative purposes only).
6. During May and June LPP saw and responded to drafts of all substantive local plan chapters for review and comments have been incorporated into the final draft. These have also been reviewed by legal Counsel.
7. In May, the LPP was provided with officer responses to comments received in response to the Regulation 18 consultation.
8. From late June onwards the LPP was provided with key evidence base documents for early review. These included the Local Housing Need Assessment (LHNA), Water Cycle and Chalk Stream studies, Heritage Assessment, Settlement Facilities Study, Employment Land Review, Retail Report, Infrastructure Delivery Plan, Green Belt Study, CPZ Report, Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, and Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG) Report.
9. Post-Regulation 18 the LPP has had workshops on site selection methodology (21 March), Climate change and larger village strategy (10 April), emerging site allocations and masterplans for housing and employment (8 May), and evidence base work on local housing needs, water cycle study and chalk streams (20 June). These workshops supplement the LPP public meetings of 8 February, 21 March, 10 April, 8 May and 20 June 2024 during which key policy topics were discussed, including Affordable Housing, Site Selection, Strategy for 'Larger Villages', CPZ, Housing Needs, and Water Supply and Treatment.
10. Officer consideration of the comments raised by public speakers at the 20 June meeting of the LPP are included at **Appendix 1** to this report.
11. Key dates going forward are listed below:
 - Tuesday 16 June – All-Member Local Plan Briefing [non-public]
 - Thursday 18 July – Cabinet (Local Plan)
 - Monday 22 July – Scrutiny (Local Plan)
 - Tuesday 30 July – Extraordinary Council Meeting (Local Plan)
12. Sessions for Parish Councils will be arranged for August / September as part of the communications plan, subject to the decision of full Council.

Risk Analysis

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
Failure to successfully steer the local plan to submission may result in government intervention and continued speculative development in the meantime.	2 – LDS, project plan and LPP in place.	4 - Lack of an adopted (or advanced local plan) leading to potentially unacceptable development.	Various mitigations in place.

1 = Little or no risk or impact

2 = Some risk or impact – action may be necessary.

3 = Significant risk or impact – action required

4 = Near certainty of risk occurring, catastrophic effect or failure of project.

Appendix 1: Officer response to speakers' comments from 20 June

Appendix 2: Example of final Regulation 19 document layout