

Risk Identifier	CR-10
Risk Title	Local Plan


Risk Description
 As a result of having a small number of experienced staff, coupled with the complex and contentious nature of local plan preparation, there is a risk that progress is delayed or that that the council fails to adopt a new local plan altogether. This would prevent the council being able to exercise control over new development, make it difficult to apply for related grant funding and risk government removing its planning powers.

Risk Owner
 Dean Hermitage

Directorate Responsible
 Planning

Original Risk		
Likelihood	Impact	Score
3	4	12

Residual Risk		
Likelihood	Impact	Score
1	4	4

Risk direction
 Decreasing 

Cabinet Member
 Councillor Evans

Key Dates	
Date Registered	20th May 2024
Last update	20th May 2024

Background
 The current 2005 Local Plan (LP) is considered out of date in legislative terms. The council has been working on a new LP since 2020. The programme has slipped on two occasions and was briefly paused for a period. The district is subject to speculative development whilst it is without an up to date local plan. Central government has instructed the council to progress a plan or risk intervention.

Service Area Affected
 Planning policy, development management, conservation & design, planning enforcement

Triggers
 Insufficient evidence base and weak spatial strategy results in elected Members rejecting the plan
 Loss of experienced staff
 Government intervenes at an early stage

Risk Type
 Threat

Risk Response Category
 Reduce

Risk Response	Risk Response Actionee	RAG Status	Progress Update	Next Scheduled Update
Project plan in place for the production and interpretation of evidence. Regular internal reporting. Material reviewed by external specialists and legal counsel.	Andrew Maxted	Green	All evidence base documents in track and strategy being worked up with regular Member / LPP briefings	
Staff recruitment and retention improvements made. Relationship with Public Practice, ECC, and leading consultancies to provide experienced staff when needed.	Dean Hermitage	Green	Loss of project officer and recruitment underway.	
Regular meetings with MHCLG officials. Agreed PAS review of project and fed back to MHCLG.	Dean Hermitage	Amber	Positive meeting with DLUHC on 18 April 2024.	

Key for RAG status of risk response

R	Control is not in place or working or progress has slipped
A	Control is not working efficiently and some challenges remain
G	Control is working or predominantly in hand or completed