

Risk Identifier	CR-09
Risk Title	Local Plan

Risk Description	Risk Owner	Directorate Responsible
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 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.	Dean Hermitage	Planning

Previous Risk	Current Risk	Risk direction	Cabinet Member	Key Dates
Likelihood Impact Score	Likelihood Impact Score	decreasing	Councillor Evans	Date Registered 20th May 2024
1 4 4	1 4 4			Last update 24th April 2025

Background	Service Area Affected
The current 2005 Local Plan (LP) is considered out of date in legislative terms.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 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.	Planning policy, development management, conservation & design, planning enforcement

Triggers	Risk Type	Risk Response Category
Insufficient evidence base and weak spatial strategy results in elected Members rejecting the plan Loss of experienced staff Government intervenes at an early stage	Threat	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 and legal counsel. Positive PAS review of project and fed back to MHCLG.	Dean Hermitage	Amber	Awaiting Planning Inspectors matters and questions ahead of an examination.	
Questions received from Inspectors. Officers preparing their responses ahead of the Examination hearings.	Dean Hermitage	Green	Preparation for hearings is programmed and underway. refresher training for officers on EIP set up for end April.	

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