

**3 MARCH 2026**

**KEY DECISION? YES**

**REPORT NO. PG2602**

**LOCAL PLAN TIMETABLE AND NOTICE TO COMMENCE PLAN-MAKING**

**SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The Local Development Scheme (LDS) containing the local plan timetable published in February 2025 is now out-of-date. This report therefore presents an updated timetable for the new local plan for Rushmoor. It also sets out a notice to commence plan-making which is required to be published four months before the Council intends to commence the 30-month plan preparation period for the new local plan.

Recommendation(s) requiring decision.

1. It is recommended that the Cabinet approves the publication of the Local Plan Timetable and delegates authority to amend or add any information to the timetable to ensure compliance with guidance and/or regulations to the Executive Head of Property and Growth in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Planning.
2. It is recommended that the Cabinet approves the publication of the Notice to Commence Plan-Making in May 2026 and delegates any changes to the wording of the notice to ensure compliance with guidance and/or regulations to the Executive Head of Property and Growth in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Planning.

**1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to present an updated timetable for the new Rushmoor local plan to replace the one contained in the Local Development Scheme adopted in February 2025. It also presents a notice to commence plan-making which must be published four months before the Council intends to begin the formal plan preparation process. The report seeks approval from the Cabinet to publish the timetable immediately and to publish the notice to commence plan-making in May 2026.
- 1.2. This is a key decision because it will be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards within the Borough, as the new Local Plan will be a Borough-wide document.

## **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1. The Rushmoor Local Plan was adopted on 21 February 2019 and it was therefore required to make an assessment on whether the Local Plan needed updating before 21 February 2024. In November 2023, the Cabinet agreed with the conclusions of this review and decided that an update of the Local Plan policies is required and that, as this is expected to affect one or more strategic policies, a full review of the plan would be necessary. The consequence of this decision is that a new Local Plan will need to be prepared for Rushmoor.
- 2.2. The Levelling Up and Regeneration Act (LURA) 2023 paves the way for reforms to the plan-making process and the form and content of local plans. The Government has therefore set a deadline by which local plans prepared under the current (also now referred to as “legacy”) local plan system must be submitted for examination, which is 31<sup>st</sup> December 2026. The previous Rushmoor Local Plan took around 5 years to prepare, and the average time taken to prepare Local Plans is understood to be around 7 years. It was therefore not considered achievable to prepare a new local plan for Rushmoor under the current/legacy local plan system.
- 2.3. In February 2025 a Local Development Scheme (LDS) was approved by the Cabinet containing a timetable to prepare a new local plan under the new local plan system. At this time the Government was intending to introduce the new local plan system from Autumn 2025 and so the timetable in the adopted LDS aligns with this timing. The new system was not introduced in Autumn 2025, and the adopted LDS is therefore out of date.
- 2.4. In November 2025 the Government published a guidance document setting out what the regulations on the new local plan system would contain alongside a suite of draft guidance setting out more detail on certain parts of the process. This allows the Council to now progress with the new local plan with certainty.

## **3. DETAILS OF THE PROPOSAL**

### **General**

- 3.1. The new local plan system replaces the requirement to prepare and publish a Local Development Scheme (LDS) with a requirement to prepare and publish a local plan timetable. It also introduces a requirement to publish a notice setting out the Council’s intention to commence plan-making at least four months before formally commencing plan-making. Plan-making is formally commenced when the Gateway 1 self-assessment is published on the Council’s website.

### Local Plan Timetable

- 3.2. Under the new local plan system, planning authorities will be expected to prepare a local plan within 30 months. Some parts of the plan preparation process have set timescales, such as a four-month notice period before the 30 months begins, six months for examination and one month for adoption. It is for the

planning authority to set out the timetable for the remaining 23 months of the 30-month process, but there are set activities which must take place within this time and in a set order. These are:

- A six-week consultation on the proposed content of the local plan and evidence
- A Gateway 2 assessment
- An eight-week consultation on the proposed plan
- A Gateway 3 assessment
- Submission of the proposed plan to the Planning Inspectorate

3.3. The proposed timetable for the new local plan for Rushmoor is set out in Appendix 1.

3.4. It should be noted that the 30-month timetable extends beyond the proposed vesting day for the new unitary authorities covering Hampshire and the Solent. This means that Rushmoor Borough Council will be able to approve the proposed local plan ahead of the eight-week consultation period, but submission for Gateway 3 and for examination and the adoption of the final local plan will need to be undertaken by the unitary council which covers Rushmoor. The timetable has also been set out so that consultation can be undertaken outside of pre-election periods.

#### Local Plan Notice to Commence

3.5. The draft guidance sets out how and where to publish the notice and what it should include. The notice must be published in HTML (text on a webpage) on the Council's website and must be easy to find and published alongside other information about the local plan. The notice must include:

- The name of the planning authority
- The title that will be used to refer to the plan throughout plan-making
- Specify if all or part of a minerals and waste plan will be incorporated into the local plan
- Details of the area the plan will cover – communicated as both a written description and a map showing the boundary
- The date the notice is published
- Where the local plan timetable is published and the date the 30-month plan preparation process will start

3.6. During the four-month period between publishing the notice to commence and publishing the Gateway 1 self-assessment, the Council must undertake a scoping consultation. Between 25<sup>th</sup> March and 6<sup>th</sup> April, the Council will be in a pre-election period ahead of the elections to be held on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2026. It is not advisable to undertake such consultation during the pre-election period. Therefore, it is proposed that the Council publishes the notice to commence in May so that the consultation can take place outside of the pre-election period.

## **Alternative Options**

- 3.7. The Council could delay publishing an up-to-date Local Plan Timetable and delay publishing the Notice to Commence. However, it is a priority in the Council Delivery Plan that the preparation of a new local plan for Rushmoor is progressed and delaying the publication of an up-to-date timetable and/or Notice to Commence would delay progress on the new local plan.
- 3.8. An alternative timetable could be proposed. However, the timetable set out in Appendix 1 represents the earliest achievable commencement of plan preparation to reflect the Council's priority to progress a new local plan. It also reflects the requirements of the new plan-making system to prepare a local plan within 30 months.
- 3.9. The risks associated with these alternative options are set out below in section 4 of this report.

## **Consultation**

- 3.10. The proposed timetable for the local plan has been shared with the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Planning and at a meeting of the Strategic Housing and Local Plan Working Group on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2026.

## **4. IMPLICATIONS (of proposed course of action)**

### **Risks**

- 4.1. The risk associated with the implementation of the report recommendations is that the final regulations and guidance for the new plan-making system are not yet available. However, the current transitional arrangements for the new plan-making system require certain local planning authorities (LPAs) to publish their notice to commence plan-making by June 2026 and pass through Gateway 1 by October 2026 (although not Rushmoor). We therefore anticipate that the regulations and guidance will be in place in the near future to allow these LPAs to meet these deadlines. In the interim the Government has published a document setting out what the regulations will contain and a series of draft guidance documents so that LPAs can continue to make progress on local plans.
- 4.2. There are also risks associated with the preparation of a local plan itself and a project-level risk register will be prepared and maintained throughout the preparation of the local plan. This will include any delays to the adopted timetable.
- 4.3. There are several risks associated with not implementing the report recommendations and/or implementing the alternative options. The first is that the Council is required by law to review its local plan every five years and determine whether it needs to be updated. In November 2023, the Cabinet agreed with the conclusions of the review and decided that an update of the local plan policies is required. There is therefore an expectation that the Council

prepares a new local plan. Furthermore, there is clear emphasis from the Government on LPAs continuing plan-making despite the challenges of change brought about by the new plan-making system and local government reorganisation. The Government has set out that LPAs are encouraged to start to prepare a plan as soon as possible in the new system to get an ambitious and up-to-date plan in place.

- 4.4. Secondly, as a result of changes to the standard methodology in the revised NPPF, the Council's 'Local Housing Need' has increased from 265 dwellings per year to 599 dwellings per year, which has impacted on the Council's five-year housing land supply position and increases the risk of being subject to the presumption in favour of sustainable development. The Council will need to prepare a new local plan without delay to identify additional sites for housing delivery.
- 4.5. Finally, the Council's recently adopted Delivery Plan for 2026-28 sets out the Council's aim to develop and consult on a new Local Plan setting out location, scale and type of future development. If the timetable and notice to commence plan-making are not approved and published as set out in this report, the risk is that the Council will not be able to progress far enough with a new local plan to develop and consult on the plan before the Council is replaced by a new unitary council in April 2028. The unitary council would therefore have the final decision on the content of a new local plan.

### **Legal Implications**

- 4.6. The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires the Local Planning Authority to produce a Local Plan and keep that plan under regular review. The Plan must consider matters which may be expected to affect development in the Authority's administrative area.
- 4.7. A Local Plan which is not reviewed regularly, and updated when required, may result in uncertainty relating to conflicts between local and national planning policies. This ambiguity can lead to increased levels of challenge to planning decisions resulting in significant cost implications and reputational damage for the Local Planning Authority. The delay in progressing the delivery of a new Local Plan may increase the risks in this instance.
- 4.8. However, advancing and adopting a new Local Plan before the regulations arising from the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 are confirmed could expose the Local Planning Authority to significant and costly legal challenges, both to the Local Plan itself and to planning decisions made under its policies.
- 4.9. Balancing these risks, it is essential for the Local Planning Authority to publish a new local plan timetable. This will enable continued progress on the Local Plan while ensuring alignment with the forthcoming regulations.

### **Financial Implications**

- 4.10. There are no direct financial implications from this report. Delivery of the local plan project will span multiple years, for which £200k has been provided within the 2026/27 budget to be approved by Council on 26 February 2026.

### **Resource Implications**

- 4.11. Two additional posts have been created in the Planning Policy Team to support the preparation of the local plan – an additional Principal Planning Policy Officer and a Planning Policy Technical Officer. Recruitment to these posts is in progress to ensure that there are sufficient staff resources to support the local plan preparation.

### **Equalities Impact Implications**

- 4.12. An Equalities Impact Assessment Screening has been undertaken and concludes a neutral impact as the timetable and notice do not contain policy. A full Equalities Impact Assessment will be undertaken for the new local plan.

### **Other**

- 4.13. There are not considered to be any other implications.

## **5. CONCLUSIONS**

- 5.1 The Local Development Scheme (LDS) containing the local plan timetable published in February 2025 is now out-of-date. Before formally starting on a new local plan, the Council must first publish an up-to-date Local Plan Timetable and then publish a Notice to Commence Plan-Making. This report therefore presents an updated timetable for the new local plan for Rushmoor and a draft Notice to Commence Plan-Making for Cabinet's approval. The proposed timetable and publication of the notice are supported by the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Planning, Cllr Keith Dibble.
- 5.2 The recommendations will enable the Council to move towards the development of a new local plan that maximises delivery of new homes, which is a priority under the Homes for All section of the recently adopted Delivery Plan for 2026-2028.

### **LIST OF APPENDICES/ANNEXES:**

Appendix 1 – Rushmoor Local Plan 2025-2045 Timetable

Appendix 2 – Draft Notice of Intention to Commence Rushmoor Local Plan 2025-2045

Appendix 3 – Equalities Impact Assessment Screening

### **BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:**

There are no background documents.

**CONTACT DETAILS:**

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**Appendix 1 - Rushmoor Local Plan 2025-2045 Timetable**

<b>Preparation stage</b>	<b>When we expect to reach it</b>
Publication of notice to commence plan-making	May 2026
Early engagement/scoping consultation	June-July 2026
Gateway 1 (start of 30-month process)	September 2026
Consultation on proposed content and evidence (6 weeks)	February – March 2027
Gateway 2	August – September 2027
Consultation on proposed plan (8 weeks)	January – March 2028
Gateway 3	June – July 2028
Examination	August 2028 – January 2029
Adoption	February 2029



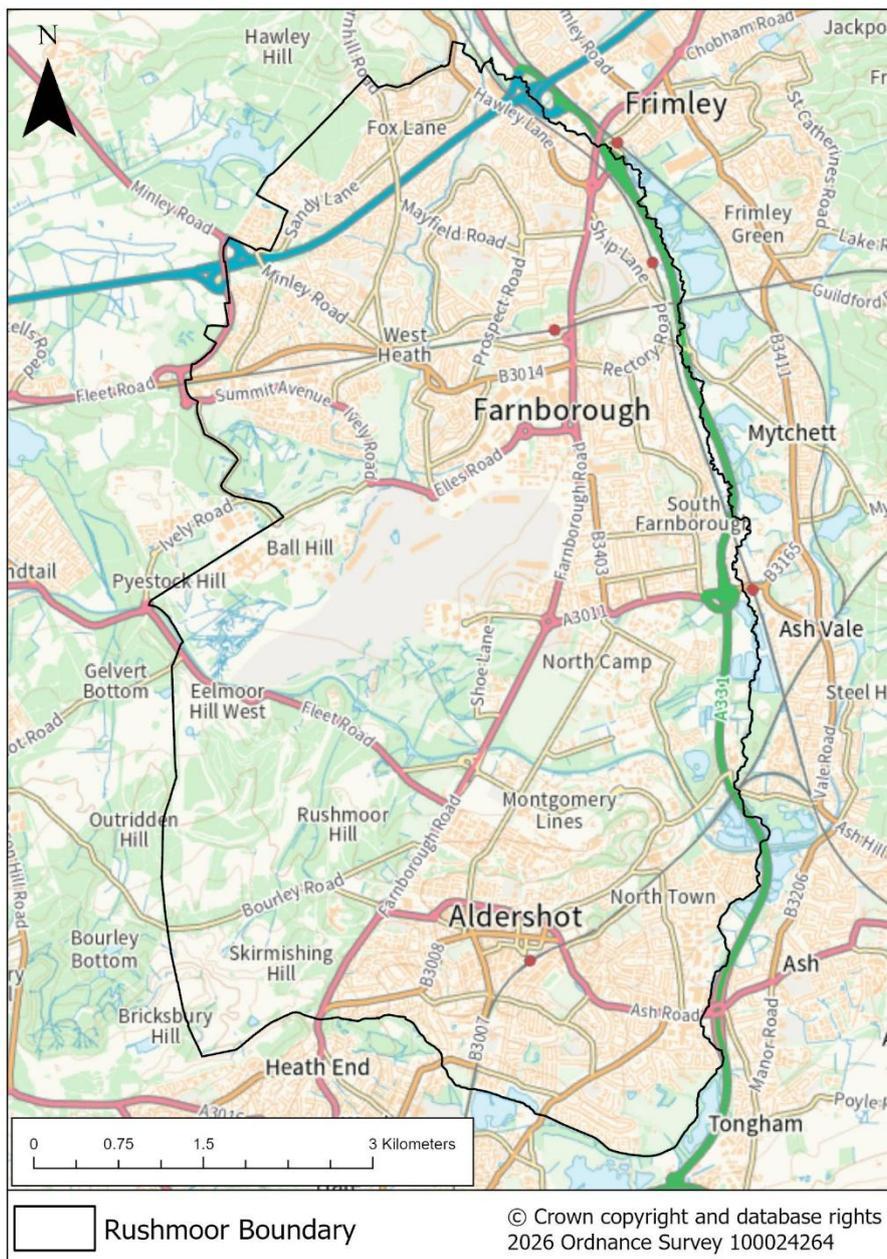
## Appendix 2 - Draft Notice to Commence Rushmoor Borough (Aldershot & Farnborough) Local Plan 2025-2045

Rushmoor Borough Council is giving notice of its intention to prepare the Rushmoor Borough (Aldershot & Farnborough) Local Plan 2025-2045.

This notice was published on XX May 2026.

The local plan timetable sets out when we expect to meet each stage of the plan preparation process. We expect to pass through Gateway 1 and begin the 30-month plan preparation process in September 2026.

The Rushmoor Local Plan 2025-2045 will cover the administrative area of Rushmoor Borough. The boundary is shown on the map below.





**Appendix 3 – Equalities Impact Assessment Screening**

# Equality Impact Assessment: Screening Tool

The **Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) Screening Tool** should be completed for any new proposal, plan or project. It helps staff check if their proposal will positively, neutrally, or negatively affect residents, staff, or service users. If the impact is positive or neutral, a full EIA isn't needed.

A **full EIA** is required if the screening shows a negative impact on specific groups. We also advise that a full EIA should be completed when a [key decision](#) is being made. Key decisions are executive actions likely to:

- Significantly affect Council tax, budget balances, or contingencies.
- Have a major impact on communities across two or more Borough wards.
- Expenditure or savings over £100,000 qualify as significant, with a £250,000 threshold for property transactions.

Furthermore, for staff, we generally consider the impact on more than 25 people as significant, which would require a full EIA. If you're unsure, you can seek guidance from the Policy Team.

**\*After screening, if you identify the need for a full Equality Impact Assessment, you can use your existing answers as a foundation for the full assessment.**

Name of Project	Local Plan Timetable and Notice to Commence Plan-Making
Reference number (if applicable)	PG2602
Service Area	Planning Policy (Property & Growth)
Date screening completed	26 <sup>th</sup> January 2026
Screening author name	Alice Barella
Policy Team sign off	Martin Iyawe/Louise Ansell
Authorising Director/Head of Service name	Tim Mills

## 1. Please provide a summary of the proposal

In order to formally commence work on a new local plan for Rushmoor, the Council is required to first publish an up-to-date timetable and then publish a notice of the Council's intention to begin plan-making. These are procedural processes to ensure that the public is aware of the preparation of the local plan.

2. Who will the proposal impact? Please indicate Yes or No

Group of people	Impacted?
Residents	Yes
Businesses	Yes
Visitors to Rushmoor	Yes
Voluntary or community groups	Yes
Council staff	No
Trade unions	No
Other public sector Organisations	Yes
Others	Please specify: anyone who lives, works in or visits Rushmoor

3. What impact will this change have on staff? Please complete where relevant:

There will be no impact on staff.

4. What consultation or engagement will you be leading (with residents, staff, or other stakeholders) as part of this project?

Consultation will be undertaken as part of the preparation of the local plan. A Communications & Engagement Strategy will be prepared and will set out what consultation and engagement will be undertaken during the formal plan preparation period.

## 5. What impact will this change have on people with protected characteristics and/or from disadvantaged groups?

### Direct and indirect impacts

When completing this table, please consider both **direct and indirect impacts**, see helpful guidance.

Direct discrimination occurs when someone is treated less favourably than another person because of a **protected characteristic**. This includes:

- **Actual possession** of a protected characteristic.
- **Perceived possession** of a protected characteristic (discrimination by perception).
- **Association** with someone who has a protected characteristic (discrimination by association).

A valid comparison must show that someone without the protected characteristic would have been treated better in similar circumstances. It can still be direct discrimination even if the person treating you unfairly shares the same characteristic.

*Note: Age discrimination may be lawful if it can be objectively justified. For other protected characteristics, direct discrimination is unlawful regardless of intent or justification.*

Indirect discrimination happens when a **policy, rule, or practice** applies to everyone but puts people with a protected characteristic at a **particular disadvantage**. It occurs when:

- A policy is applied equally to all.
- It disadvantages a group sharing a protected characteristic.
- You are personally disadvantaged by it.
- The organisation cannot justify the policy as a proportionate means of achieving a legitimate aim.

If the policy can be objectively justified, it is not considered indirect discrimination.

*For example: Closing public toilets may be an example of indirect discrimination, as it affects everyone but disproportionately disadvantages women, due to toilet frequency, alternative options and safety/hygiene factors.*

### Likely impact

For the groups identified earlier, tick the likely impact (both direct and indirect) on people with protected characteristics (e.g., age, disability, race, etc.):

- **Neutral:** No impact.
- **Positive:** Benefits people with protected characteristics.
- **Negative:** Harms people with protected characteristics.
- **Not Sure:** It's unclear how this affects people with protected characteristics, or more information is needed.

Rate the negative impact as **low, medium, or high**. Also, consider whether the proposal may be seen as controversial or negative by some groups. See the guidance for help.

## Protected characteristic - Age

(for example, young people under 25, older people over 65)

Positive impact	Neutral impact	Negative impact	Not Sure	Description of the impact (if applicable) <i>Consider both direct and indirect impacts when completing this table</i>
No	Yes	N/A	No	<p>The Local Plan Timetable and Notice to Commence do not set out planning policy. The new local plan will progress through project-specific evidence preparation, consultation and approval processes, including an Equalities Impact Assessment.</p> <p>On this basis, groups with specific, protected characteristics are not considered to be affected by the recommendation to approve and publish the Local Plan Timetable and Notice to Commence.</p>

## Protected characteristic – Disability

(include people with physical disabilities, people with learning disabilities, blind and partially sighted people, Deaf or hard of hearing people, neurodiverse people. This also includes carers.)

Positive impact	Neutral impact	Negative impact	Not Sure	Description of the impact (if applicable) <i>Consider both direct and indirect impacts when completing this table</i>
No	Yes	N/A	No	<p>The Local Plan Timetable and Notice to Commence do not set out planning policy. The new local plan will progress through project-specific evidence preparation, consultation and approval processes, including an Equalities Impact Assessment.</p> <p>On this basis, groups with specific, protected characteristics are not considered to be affected by the recommendation to approve and publish the Local Plan Timetable and Notice to Commence.</p>

## Protected characteristic - Gender reassignment and identity

(Include people who identify across the trans\* umbrella, not only those who have undergone gender reassignment surgery. This is inclusive of girls and or/women, men and/or boys, non-binary and genderfluid people and people who are transitioning) \*Trans is an umbrella term to describe people whose gender is not the same as, or does not sit comfortably with, the sex they were assigned at birth.

Positive impact	Neutral impact	Negative impact	Not Sure	Description of the impact (if applicable) <i>Consider both direct and indirect impacts when completing this table</i>
No	Yes	N/A	No	<p>The Local Plan Timetable and Notice to Commence do not set out planning policy. The new local plan will progress through project-specific evidence preparation, consultation and approval processes, including an Equalities Impact Assessment.</p> <p>On this basis, groups with specific, protected characteristics are not considered to be affected by</p>

Positive impact	Neutral impact	Negative impact	Not Sure	Description of the impact (if applicable) <i>Consider both direct and indirect impacts when completing this table</i>
				the recommendation to approve and publish the Local Plan Timetable and Notice to Commence.

### Protected characteristic - Marriage and Civil Partnership

Positive impact	Neutral impact	Negative impact	Not Sure	Description of the impact (if applicable) <i>Consider both direct and indirect impacts when completing this table</i>
No	Yes	N/A	No	<p>The Local Plan Timetable and Notice to Commence do not set out planning policy. The new local plan will progress through project-specific evidence preparation, consultation and approval processes, including an Equalities Impact Assessment.</p> <p>On this basis, groups with specific, protected characteristics are not considered to be affected by the recommendation to approve and publish the Local Plan Timetable and Notice to Commence.</p>

### Protected characteristic – Pregnancy and Maternity

(Include people who are pregnant in or returning to the workplace after pregnancy. Could also include working parents.)

Positive impact	Neutral impact	Negative impact	Not Sure	Description of the impact (if applicable) <i>Consider both direct and indirect impacts when completing this table</i>
No	Yes	N/A	No	<p>The Local Plan Timetable and Notice to Commence do not set out planning policy. The new local plan will progress through project-specific evidence preparation, consultation and approval processes, including an Equalities Impact Assessment.</p> <p>On this basis, groups with specific, protected characteristics are not considered to be affected by the recommendation to approve and publish the Local Plan Timetable and Notice to Commence.</p>

### Protected characteristic – Race or ethnicity

(include on the basis of colour, nationality, citizenship, ethnic or national origins)

Positive impact	Neutral impact	Negative impact	Not Sure	Description of the impact (if applicable) <i>Consider both direct and indirect impacts when completing this table</i>
No	Yes	N/A	No	The Local Plan Timetable and Notice to Commence do not set out planning policy. The new local plan will progress through project-specific evidence

Positive impact	Neutral impact	Negative impact	Not Sure	Description of the impact (if applicable) <i>Consider both direct and indirect impacts when completing this table</i>
				preparation, consultation and approval processes, including an Equalities Impact Assessment.  On this basis, groups with specific, protected characteristics are not considered to be affected by the recommendation to approve and publish the Local Plan Timetable and Notice to Commence.

### Protected characteristic – Religion or belief

(include no faith)

Positive impact	Neutral impact	Negative impact	Not Sure	Description of the impact (if applicable) <i>Consider both direct and indirect impacts when completing this table</i>
No	Yes	N/A	No	The Local Plan Timetable and Notice to Commence do not set out planning policy. The new local plan will progress through project-specific evidence preparation, consultation and approval processes, including an Equalities Impact Assessment.  On this basis, groups with specific, protected characteristics are not considered to be affected by the recommendation to approve and publish the Local Plan Timetable and Notice to Commence.

### Protected characteristic - Sex

(Under the Equality Act 2010 and following the 2025 Supreme Court ruling on 15 April 2025, a person’s legal sex is defined as their biological sex as recorded at birth. Trans individuals are still protected from discrimination under the characteristic of gender reassignment.)

Positive impact	Neutral impact	Negative impact	Not Sure	Description of the impact (if applicable) <i>Consider both direct and indirect impacts when completing this table</i>
No	Yes	N/A	No	The Local Plan Timetable and Notice to Commence do not set out planning policy. The new local plan will progress through project-specific evidence preparation, consultation and approval processes, including an Equalities Impact Assessment.  On this basis, groups with specific, protected characteristics are not considered to be affected by the recommendation to approve and publish the Local Plan Timetable and Notice to Commence.

### Protected characteristic - Sexual Orientation

(Include people from across the LGBTQ+ umbrella, for example, people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, pansexual or asexual.)

Positive impact	Neutral impact	Negative impact	Not Sure	Description of the impact (if applicable) <i>Consider both direct and indirect impacts when completing this table</i>
No	Yes	N/A	No	<p>The Local Plan Timetable and Notice to Commence do not set out planning policy. The new local plan will progress through project-specific evidence preparation, consultation and approval processes, including an Equalities Impact Assessment.</p> <p>On this basis, groups with specific, protected characteristics are not considered to be affected by the recommendation to approve and publish the Local Plan Timetable and Notice to Commence.</p>

### Protected characteristic - Other

(e.g. people on low incomes, people living in poverty, looked after children, people with care experience, people who are homeless, people with mental health problems, people who are prison leavers, people affected by menopause, people affected by menstruation and/or period poverty)

Positive impact	Neutral impact	Negative impact	Not Sure	Description of the impact (if applicable) <i>Consider both direct and indirect impacts when completing this table</i>
No	Yes	N/A	No	<p>The Local Plan Timetable and Notice to Commence do not set out planning policy. The new local plan will progress through project-specific evidence preparation, consultation and approval processes, including an Equalities Impact Assessment.</p> <p>On this basis, groups with specific, protected characteristics are not considered to be affected by the recommendation to approve and publish the Local Plan Timetable and Notice to Commence.</p>

### 6. Screening Decision

Outcome	Yes or No
Neutral or Positive – no full EIA needed*.	Yes
Negative – Low Impact – full EIA at the service director’s discretion*.	No
Negative – Medium or High Impact – must complete a full EIA.	No
Is a full EIA required? Service decision:	No
Is a full EIA required? [Policy Team] sign off recommendation:	Yes
Flag for DPIA (will include engagement that collects personal data). [Policy Team]:	No
Flag for ethics (high risk / will involve engagement with vulnerable residents):	No

Once you've completed the screening tool and determined that the proposal is likely to have a positive or neutral impact on people with protected characteristics, the following can be included in the 'Equality Impact Assessment' part of the report. ***'An equality impact check found that this proposal would have a positive or neutral impact on people with protected characteristics. Therefore, a full assessment is not required.'***

Please send this completed EIA Screening Tool to [Policy@rushmoor.gov.uk](mailto:Policy@rushmoor.gov.uk) for quality checking by the policy team.

**If required, please continue to the full assessment below.**