11 FEBRUARY 2025

#### **KEY DECISION? YES**

#### **REPORT NO. PG2507**

#### RUSHMOOR LOCAL PLAN LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME FEBRUARY 2025

#### SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Government have requested that all local authorities publish and submit an up-to-date timetable for preparing a Local Plan, in the form of a Local Development Scheme (LDS). This report presents an updated LDS, which sets out an indicative timetable for the preparation of a new Local Plan for the Borough.

It is recommended that the Cabinet approves the publication and submission of an updated Local Development Scheme for the new Local Plan to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG).

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to present an updated Local Development Scheme (LDS), which sets out an indicative timetable for the preparation of a new Local Plan for the Borough. It seeks the Cabinet's approval to publish and submit the updated LDS to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), as requested by the Deputy Prime Minister in December 2024.
- 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. Regulation 10A of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended) (the Local Planning Regulations) sets out that a local planning authority must review a local plan every five years, starting from the date of adoption of the local plan, in accordance with section 23 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (the PCPA).
- 2.2. 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.

- 2.3. 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. In 2023, the previous Government consulted on some of the detail of these reforms. It is expected that many of these proposals will be carried forward by the new government, but the full implications of the reforms will not be known until more information (including secondary legislation) is published. The Government has indicated that there will be a consultation on future policy changes in Spring 2025 and a new plan-making system will be implemented later in 2025. The Council is progressing preparatory work on the Local Plan, where clarity exists, and aims to formally start the process of preparing a new Local Plan once the above information is available.
- 2.4. As a result, the Council is awaiting further clarity on this system prior to confirming the timetable for the preparation of the new Local Plan. However, on 12th December 2024, the new Government published a revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). In light of this, the Deputy Prime Minister has requested that all local planning authorities produce an updated Local Development Scheme (LDS) within 12 weeks of the publication of the NPPF (i.e. by 6 March 2025).
- 2.5. On 16th December 2024, the Government published the English Devolution White Paper. This announced the facilitation of a programme of local government reorganisation. This may have implications for how the new Local Plan is prepared.
- 2.6. The updated LDS should include clear, realistic, and specific dates for consultation and submission of the local plan. However, it is important to note that, as further details on the planned reforms to plan-making are published by the Government and the potential outcomes of changes resulting from the English Devolution White Paper are known, this LDS will need be reviewed.

#### 3. DETAILS OF THE PROPOSAL

#### General

- 3.1. This LDS updates the existing LDS published in 2024. An LDS must specify the Development Plan Documents (DPDs) (such as its Local Plan) which, when prepared, will comprise part of the development plan for the area. The LURA 2023 requires that we prepare a single Local Plan.
- 3.2. The Council intends to prepare a new Local Plan under the new plan-making system. The transitional arrangements for preparing a Plan under the current system have been published in the revised NPPF and this would require the submission of a Local Plan by 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. Therefore, it is not considered achievable to produce a Plan under the current system in under 2 years.

- 3.3. The LURA 2023 does not prescribe timescales or a specific process for plan making, and these are expected to be brought forward in regulations later this year. However, in July 2023, the previous government consulted on the likely stages we will need to follow to prepare a new Local Plan and indicates that we will be required to prepare and adopt a plan within 30 months. Figure 1 on page 9 of the draft Local Development Scheme, summarise the stages that were proposed as part of this consultation.
- 3.4. When preparing the new Local Plan, the Council will be required to carry out certain activities, including:
  - Preparing a suite of evidence to support the New Local Plan
  - Formal stages of public consultation as we prepare the draft Plan.
  - Engagement with a wide range of public bodies and infrastructure providers
  - Demonstrating that the new Local Plan is sustainable and protected species and habitats, including the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area (TBHSPA).
  - Demonstrating we have complied with our public sector equality duty under the Equality Act 2010 and the Human Rights Act 1998
- 3.5. The requirements for the above activities have been changed through the LURA 2023 or are expected to change as part of the wider planning reforms, for example:
  - The streamlining of the evidence requirements for new Local Plans
  - The LURA 2023 removes the current Duty to Cooperate requirement and replaces it with a new 'alignment policy'.
  - The LURA 2023 secures powers to replace the existing system of environment assessment (including sustainability appraisals) with a new form of environment assessment known as Environment Outcome Reports (EOR).
  - Two formal mandatory public consultations at particular stages of the Local Plan process.
  - The introduction of mandatory gateway assessments ('gateways') throughout the plan preparation process. The first two gateways would be advisory, and the final gateway would be binding and determine whether a plan can be submitted for examination.
- 3.6. It is expected that many of these proposals will be carried forward by the new government, but the full implications of the reforms will not be known until more information (including secondary legislation) is published, which is proposed for later in 2025. Therefore, this LDS will need to be kept under review.
- 3.7. Table 2 (page 11 of the draft LDS) provides an indicative timetable for the new Local Plan. This represents a best-case scenario and is subject to the required information being published. On this basis, we are expecting to prepare a new Local Plan under the following broad timescales:

Stage	Timescale
Scoping and Early Participation	September 2025 – December 2025
Plan Visioning and Strategy	Jan 2026 – June 2026
Development	
Evidence Gathering and Drafting the	July 2026 - June 2027
Plan	
Engagement, proposing changes	June 2027 – December 2027
and submission	
Examination	January 2028 – June 2028
Adoption	July 2028

- 3.8. The LURA 2023 also sets a requirement for us to prepare a Borough-wide Design Code. The Council intends to prepare this alongside the Local Plan. The new Government's consultation on changes to the planning system published in July 2024, proposed shifting the focus onto the preparation of localised design codes, masterplans and guides for areas of most change and most potential (e.g. regeneration sites, areas of intensification, urban extension and the development of large new communities).
- 3.9. The Government's response to this consultation has stated that they will keep under review the provisions contained in the LURA 2023 on authority wide design codes and national policy and guidance on design in relation to how design codes can be embedded as part of the plan-making process. Therefore, a decision on the scope of the Design Code and the extent to which it is incorporated within the new Local Plan will be made once further detail on planning reforms is available.
- 3.10. Once further clarity and detail on the reforms to the plan-making system is published by the Government and the potential outcomes of changes resulting from the English Devolution White Paper are known, a revised timetable (if required) and report on the new Local Plan and design code will be brought to Cabinet.

#### Alternative Options

3.11. The Council could delay preparing an updated Local Development Scheme until further clarity is provided by the Government on the reforms to the planmaking system. However, this would not meet the request made by the Deputy Prime Minister in December 2024 to publish and submit an updated LDS.

#### Consultation

- 3.12. The proposed changes to the Local Development Scheme have been shared with the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Planning and at a meeting of the Strategic Housing and Local Plan Working Group on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2025.
- 4. **IMPLICATIONS** (of proposed course of action)

#### Risks

- 4.1. The Council is required by law to review its Local Plan no later than five years after adoption to decide whether an update to the policies is necessary. The conclusion of this review is that a new Local Plan is required. In the meantime, the adopted Rushmoor Local Plan (2019) provides a development plan for the purpose of decision-making whilst an updated Local Plan is brought forward.
- 4.2. As a result of changes to the standard methodology in the revised NPPF, the Council's 'Local Housing Need' has increased from 265 dwelling per year to 586 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 expects to continue to be able to demonstrate a five-year housing land supply however there will be a need to ensure we maintain this as the new Local Plan is being prepared.
- 4.3. It is not achievable to prepare this under a current system before the government set deadline for submission by December 2026. However, to reduce the above risk, the Council will undertake preparatory work on the new Local Plan in advance of further clarity on the new plan-making system, where we can, to identify a sufficient supply of housing land and to enable the adoption of a new Local Plan as soon as possible.

#### Legal Implications

4.4. There are not considered to be any legal implications arising from the recommendation, as the Rushmoor Local Plan will remain the development plan for Rushmoor until such time that a new Local Plan is prepared and adopted. Further details of the proposals for a new Local Plan and any legal implications of this will be brought to the Cabinet at a future date.

#### **Financial Implications**

4.5. Prior to further clarity and detail being provided on the new requirements for plan-making, including the requirements for evidence to support the new Plan, it is difficult to accurately estimate the financial implications. Therefore, further details of the proposals for a new Local Plan and the financial and resource implications of this will be brought to the Cabinet at a future date. An earmarked reserve is being proposed as part of the February Budget and MTFS reports to cover future costs of the local plan.

#### **Resource Implications**

4.6. Prior to further clarity and detail being provided on the new requirements for plan-making, including the requirements for evidence to support the new Plan, it is difficult to accurately estimate the resource implications. Therefore, further details of the proposals for a new Local Plan and the resource implications of this will be brought to the Cabinet at a future date.

#### Equalities Impact Implications

4.7. There are no equalities impact implications arising from the recommendation to publish an updated Local Development Scheme. As part of the preparation of the new Local Plan, the Council will be required to demonstrate that we have complied with our public sector equality duty under the Equality Act 2010 and the Human Rights Act 1998.

Other

4.8. There are not considered to be any other implications.

#### 4 CONCLUSIONS

- 4.9. The Government have requested that all local authorities publish and submit an up-to-date timetable for preparing a Local Plan, in the form of a Local Development Scheme (LDS). This report presents an updated LDS, which sets out an indicative timetable for the preparation of a new Local Plan for the Borough. It seeks the Cabinet's approval to publish and submit the updated LDS to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG).
- 4.10. 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 indicated that there will be a consultation on future policy changes in Spring 2025 and a new plan-making system will be implemented later in 2025. The Council is progressing preparatory work on the Local Plan, where clarity exists, and aims to formally start the process of preparing a new Local Plan once the above information is available.
- 4.11. The LDS presented alongside this report provides indicative timescales for preparing a Local Plan under the new system, based on the information and proposed reforms that is currently available. Once further clarity and detail on the reforms to the plan-making system is published by the Government and the potential outcomes of changes resulting from the English Devolution White Paper are known, a revised timetable (if required) and report on the new Local Plan and design code will be brought to Cabinet.

#### LIST OF APPENDICES/ANNEXES:

• Appendix 1 – Draft Local Development Scheme February 2025

#### **BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:**

There are no background documents.

#### CONTACT DETAILS:

**Report Author** – Anna Lucas (Service Manager – Planning Policy), <u>anna.lucas@rushmoor.gov.uk</u>, 01252 398722

Head of Service - Tim Mills (Executive Head of Property and Growth),

tim.mills@rushmoor.gov.uk, 01252 398542



# **Timetable for a New Local Plan**

# Local Development Scheme February 2025



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## 1. Introduction

- 1.1. The Rushmoor Local Plan was adopted in February 2019. The plan provides the overarching spatial strategy for Rushmoor, guiding the location, scale and type of future development to 2032, as well as providing detailed development management policies. By law, Rushmoor Borough Council must keep under review matters that affect the development of the borough and the planning of its development.<sup>1</sup> It is also obliged to review any Local Plan that it has adopted within five years from the date of its adoption, that is, by 21<sup>st</sup> February 2024.<sup>2</sup>
- 1.2. The Council undertook a review of the adopted Local Plan in 2023 and decided that an update of the Local Plan policies is required and that this is expected to affect one or more strategic policy, which would require a full review of the Plan.<sup>3</sup> The consequence of this decision is that a new Local Plan will need to be prepared for Rushmoor.
- 1.3. The new Local Plan will shape the development of the Borough. It will provide a positive vision for the future of the area and a framework for addressing local needs, priorities and opportunities. The delivery of a new Local Plan has been identified by the Council as part of its Delivery Plan Priorities<sup>4</sup> and this will support the government's ambition of achieving universal plan coverage and boosting housing supply.
- 1.4. The Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023<sup>5</sup> paves the way for reforms to the plan-making process and the form and content of local plans. In 2023, the previous Government consulted on some of the detail of these reforms. It is expected that many of these proposals will be carried forward by the new government, but the full implications of the reforms will not be known until more information (including secondary legislation) is published. The Government has indicated that there will be a consultation on future policy changes in Spring 2025 and a new plan-making system will be implemented later in 2025. The Council is progressing preparatory work on the Local Plan, where clarity exists, and aims to formally start the process of preparing a new Local Plan once the above information is available.
- 1.5. As a result, the Council is awaiting further clarity on this system prior to confirming the timetable for the preparation of the new Local Plan. However, on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2024, the new Government published a revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). In light of this, the Deputy Prime Minister has requested that all local planning authorities produce an updated Local Development Scheme (LDS) within 12 weeks of the publication of the NPPF (i.e. by 6 March 2025).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> s13 Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Regulation 10A of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> https://democracy.rushmoor.gov.uk/documents/s13477/Review%20of%20the%20Rushmoor%20Local%20Plan%202014-2032%20-%20Report%20No.%20PG2334.pdf

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> https://www.rushmoor.gov.uk/media/jkdhx4hl/delivery-plan-accessible.pdf

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2023/55/enacted.

- 1.6. On 16<sup>th</sup> December 2024, the Government published the English Devolution White Paper<sup>6</sup>. This announced the facilitation of a programme of local government reorganisation. This may result in Rushmoor Borough Council becoming part of a combined authority and may have implications for how the new Local Plan is prepared.
- 1.7. The updated LDS should include clear, realistic, and specific dates for consultation and submission of the local plan. However, it is important to note that, as further details on the planned reforms to plan-making are published by the Government and the potential outcomes of changes resulting from the English Devolution White Paper are known, this LDS will need be reviewed.

#### What is the Local Development Scheme and what must it include?

- 1.8. An LDS must specify<sup>7</sup> the Development Plan Documents (DPDs) (such as the Local Plan) which, when prepared, will comprise part of the development plan for the area. The LURA 2023 requires that the Council prepares a single Local Plan.
- 1.9. An LDS must also set out a council's timetable for producing DPDs, including key production and public consultation stages. This enables the community, businesses, landowners/developers, service and infrastructure providers and other interested organisations to know which DPDs are to be prepared for the area and when they will be able to participate.
- 1.10. However, as noted above, the Council intends to prepare a new Local Plan under the new plan-making system. The LURA 2023 does not prescribe timescales for plan making and these are expected to be brought forward in regulations later this year. However, in July 2023,<sup>8</sup> the previous Government consulted on the likely stages that we will need to follow to prepare a new Local Plan and indicated that we will be required to prepare and adopt a plan within 30 months. We have based this Local Development Scheme on these proposals, but this will need to be reviewed once details are set out in policy, guidance and regulations expected during 2025.
- 1.11. Councils are encouraged to include details of other documents which form (or will form) part of the development plan for the area, such as Neighbourhood Plans. The LDS must be made available publicly and kept up to date so that that local communities and interested parties can keep track of progress. The Council must publish its LDS on its website.
- 1.12. The LURA 2023 also sets a requirement for us to prepare a Borough-wide Design Code. However, the new Government's consultation on changes to the planning system published in July 2024, proposed shifting the focus onto the preparation of localised design codes, masterplans and guides for areas of most change and most potential (e.g. regeneration sites,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/english-devolution-white-paper-power-and-partnership-foundations-for-growth/english-devolution-white-paper

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> s15 Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/plan-making-reforms-consultation-on-implementation

areas of intensification, urban extension and the development of large new communities). The Government's response to this consultation has stated that they will keep under review the provisions contained in the LURA 2023 on authority wide design codes and national policy and guidance on design in relation to how the use of localised design codes and other design tools, including masterplans and design guides, can be embedded as part of the plan-making process.

1.13. A decision on the scope of the Design Code and the extent to which it is incorporated within the new Local Plan will be made once further detail on planning reforms is available.

#### What period does this LDS cover?

1.14. This LDS covers the period from 2025 to 2028. It updates the previous LDS published in 2024.

#### What is the existing development plan for Rushmoor?

- 1.15. The Rushmoor Local Plan 2014 to 2032 (the Local Plan)<sup>9</sup> is the adopted DPD for Rushmoor Borough.
- 1.16. The Borough is also covered by the Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan 2013 (HMWP)<sup>10</sup> which Hampshire County Council has produced. This also forms part of the development plan for Rushmoor. Hampshire County Council is currently preparing a Partial Update of the HMWP. The Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan: Partial Update was submitted for independent examination on 29th July 2024<sup>11</sup>.
- 1.17. There are currently no Neighbourhood Plans in Rushmoor. The former South East Plan (2009) Policy NRM6 specifically covers development in the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area and is also part of the development plan for Rushmoor.

#### What other documents has the council produced to support decision-making?

1.18. Rushmoor Borough Council has prepared a number of Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) which explain how the Council will apply Local Plan policies. At the time of drafting this LDS (January 2025), the following SPDs have been adopted. These are all available online at <a href="http://www.rushmoor.gov.uk/spds">www.rushmoor.gov.uk/spds</a>.

#### Table 1 – Adopted Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs)

Title of SPD	Date adopted
Affordable Housing	2019

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> https://www.rushmoor.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-policies/the-rushmoor-local-plan/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> https://documents.hants.gov.uk/mineralsandwaste/HampshireMineralsWastePlanADOPTED

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/strategic-planning/hampshire-minerals-waste-plan/minerals-waste-plan-partial-update-consultation/hmwp-reg22

Aldershot Town Centre Prospectus	2016
Locally Listed Heritage Assets	2020
Car and Cycle Parking Standards	2024
Development Affecting Public Houses	2015
Farnborough Civic Quarter Masterplan	2015
Farnborough Town Centre	2007
Home Improvements and Extensions	2020
Shop Front Design Guide	2015
Transport Contributions	2008
Biodiversity	2024

- 1.19. In addition, the Council has adopted the following documents:
  - First Homes Interim Policy Statement (2022)<sup>12</sup>
  - Financial Contributions for Open Space Interim Advice Note<sup>13</sup>
  - <u>Rushmoor Green Infrastructure Strategy (2022)</u><sup>14</sup>
- 1.20. The Council periodically reviews and updates these documents in response to changes in legislation and national policy.
- 1.21. The LURA 2023 introduced a new style of plan, named Supplementary Plans, which will effectively replace SPDs and have the same weight in decision-making as Local Plans. However, the new Supplementary Plans will be of limited scope and not intended to be used routinely (i.e., to create area-wide design codes and/or to set out site-specific policies on affordable housing or infrastructure).
- 1.22. Our existing SPDs can remain in place until we have adopted a Local Plan under the new planmaking system. Therefore, during the preparation of the Local Plan and Design Code, we will review the content of our existing SPDs and consider whether they will be incorporated within the new Local Plan or the Design Code.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> https://www.rushmoor.gov.uk/media/1tznhuy0/adopted\_first\_homes\_interim\_policy\_statement\_-\_january\_2022.pdf

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> https://www.rushmoor.gov.uk/media/lunhmbze/financial-contributions-for-open-space-interim-advice-note-accessible.pdf

 $<sup>^{14}\</sup> https://www.rushmoor.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-policies/green-infrastructure-strategy/$ 

# 2. The New Local Plan for Rushmoor

- 2.1. In accordance with the requirements set out in the LURA 2023, the Council will produce a single Local Plan for Rushmoor. This new Local Plan will cover the whole of the Borough. The LURA 2023 introduces the legislative basis for the Government to produce National Development Management Policies (NDMP) which will contain nationally set and general policies on issues that apply in most areas (such as general heritage policies). Local Plans will not be able to repeat or conflict with the NDMPs. The Government intend to consult on future policy changes, including a set of national policies for decision making in Spring 2025.
- 2.2. On this basis, the scope of local plans will be limited to 'locally specific' matters. The LURA 2023 sets out the following requirements for local plans. Local Plans must:
  - Be designed to secure that the use and development of land in the LPA's area contributes to the mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change;
  - Take account of any local nature recovery strategy;
  - Take account of an assessment of the amount, and type, of housing that is needed in the LPA's area, including affordable housing.
- 2.3. The Government may prescribe further matters for Local Plans through regulations. Therefore, until further detail on the proposed reforms is published, the Council is unable to confirm the scope and contents of the new Local Plan.
- 2.4. When preparing the new Local Plan, the Council will be required to carry out certain activities, including:
  - Preparing a suite of research and evidence to support the new Local Plan.
  - Formal stages of public consultation as we prepare the draft Plan.
  - Engagement with a wide range of public bodies and infrastructure providers.
  - Demonstrating that the new Local Plan is sustainable and protected species and habitats, including the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area (TBHSPA).
  - Demonstrating that we have complied with our public sector equality duty under the Equality Act 2010 and the Human Rights Act 1998.
- 2.5. The requirements for the above activities have been changed through the LURA 2023 or are expected to change as part of the wider planning reforms, for example:
  - The streamlining of the evidence requirements for new Local Plans
  - The LURA removes the current Duty to Cooperate requirement<sup>15</sup> and replaces it with a new 'alignment policy'

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> Where plans are being prepared under the old system (i.e. within neighbouring local authorities), the duty to cooperate will still apply.

- The LURA secures powers to replace the existing system of environment assessment (including sustainability appraisals) with a new form of environment assessment known as Environment Outcome Reports (EOR).
- Two formal mandatory public consultations at particular stages of the Local Plan process (see more information below).
- The introduction of mandatory gateway assessments ('gateways') throughout the plan-preparation process. The first two gateways would be advisory, and the final gateway would be binding ('Stop/Go') and determine whether a plan can be submitted for examination.
- 2.6. The expected procedure for developing and adopting the new Local Plan is set out below. This is based on the stages of Local Plan preparation set out in the previous Government's consultation in July 2023.<sup>16</sup>
- 2.7. The following flow diagram (taken from the government consultation) summarises the key stages being proposed as part of the new 30-month plan timeframe.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/plan-making-reforms-consultation-on-implementation

# Figure 1 – The proposed 30-month plan preparation timeframe (Source: Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill: consultation on implementation of plan-making reforms (July 2023)<sup>17</sup>



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/plan-making-reforms-consultation-on-implementation/levelling-upand-regeneration-bill-consultation-on-implementation-of-plan-making-reforms#chapter2

### 3. Timetable for the Preparation of the New Local Plan for Rushmoor

3.1. We have set out an indicative timetable in order to meet the requirement to publish an upto-date Local Plan timetable as requested by the Government in December 2024. This is based on the stages of Local Plan preparation set out in the Government's consultation in July 2023 (see Figure 1 above). However, as noted in the introduction to this LDS, we require further clarity on the new plan-making system prior to confirming this timetable. This timetable reflects our ambition to prepare a new Local Plan under the new plan-making system as soon as we can. However, for reasons beyond our control (e.g., delays to the regulations or changes as a result of devolution), this may not be possible, and this LDS will need to be revised. As soon it becomes clear that the LDS needs to be revised, the Council will publish an amended timetable on its website at www.rushmoor.gov.uk/lds.

	202	2025 2026												2027												2028									
Stage	s	ο	N	D	J	F	м	Α	м	J	J	Α	S	0	N	D	J	F	м	Α	м	J	J	Α	s	ο	N	D	J	F	м	Α	м	J	J
Scoping and Early Participation																																			
Plan Visioning and Strategy Development																																			
Evidence Gathering and Drafting the Plan																																			
Engagement, Proposing Changes and Submission																																			
Examination																																			
Finalisation and Adoption of Plan																																			
Maximum Timescale <sup>18</sup>	4 months <sup>19</sup> 23 months														6 months																				
Expected Gateways <sup>20</sup>												3																							
Consultations (Mandatory)						8 - eeks	is 6- weeks																												

#### Table 2 – Indicative Timetable for preparing a new Local Plan for Rushmoor

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> See Figure 1 above.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> The Council will be required to give 4 months' notice before starting the formal 30-month plan preparation timetable.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> Gateways 1 and 2 are expected to be advisory. Gateway 3 is expected to be a binding ('Stop/Go') and determine whether a plan can be submitted for examination.

## 4. Finding Out More

4.1. You can find out more about the documents we produce online at <u>www.rushmoor.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-policies.</u> If you have any questions or would like further information, you can contact the Council's Planning Policy team in the following ways:



4.2. You will be able to get copies of any documents that we publish from our website at <u>www.rushmoor.gov.uk</u>, or they will be available on deposit at our offices in Farnborough. During consultation periods, you will be able to view documents at the libraries in Aldershot and Farnborough.