



Timetable for a New Local Plan

Local Development Scheme

March 2024

Contents

1. Introduction	3
What is the Local Development Scheme and what must it include?	3
What period does this LDS cover?	4
What is the existing development plan for Rushmoor?	4
What other documents has the council produced to support decision-making?	5
2. The New Local Plan for Rushmoor	6
3. Timetable for the Preparation of the New Local Plan for Rushmoor	9
4. Finding Out More	11

1. Introduction

- 1.1. By law, Rushmoor Borough Council must keep under review matters that affect the development of the borough and the planning of its development.¹ 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 21st February 2024.²
- 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.³ The consequence of this decision is that a new Local Plan will need to be prepared for Rushmoor.
- 1.3. The Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023⁴ paves the way for reforms to the plan-making process and the form and content of local plans. In 2023, the Government consulted on some of the detail of these reforms, but the full implications of the reforms will not be known until the secondary legislation is published, which is proposed for later in 2024.
- 1.4. 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, in December 2023, a Written Ministerial Statement⁵ by the Rt Hon Michael Gove MP (Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities) set an expectation that all authorities have a timetable for an up-to-date plan in place within 12 weeks (i.e., by 12th March 2024). The Planning Advisory Service, a branch of the Local Government Association (LGA), has advised that this should be in the form of an up-to-date Local Development Scheme (LDS).⁶
- 1.5. In his Written Ministerial Statement, Mr Gove also requested that local planning authorities provide updated timetables to the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) by 12th March 2024. However, it is important to note that, as further details on the planned reforms to plan-making are published by the Government, this LDS will need be reviewed.

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

- 1.6. An LDS must specify⁷ 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.
- 1.7. 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

¹ s13 Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

² Regulation 10A of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.

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

⁴ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2023/55/enacted>.

⁵ <https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-statements/detail/2023-12-19/hcws161>

⁶ s15 Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011).

⁷ s15 Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011).

organisations to know which DPDs are to be prepared for the area and when they will be able to participate.

- 1.8. 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 to be brought forward in regulations later this year. However, in July 2023,⁸ the Government consulted on the likely stages that 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.
- 1.9. We have based this Local Development Scheme on these proposals, but this will need to be reviewed once final details are set out in policy, guidance and regulations (expected in Autumn 2024).
- 1.10. 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.
- 1.11. 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, either by incorporating a 'code' within the Plan or by adopting the Code as a Supplementary Plan (see paragraph 1.19 below for more information on Supplementary Plans). A decision on where the Design Code will sit will be made once further detail on planning reforms is available.

What period does this LDS cover?

- 1.12. This LDS covers the period from 2024 to 2027. It updates the previous LDS published in 2016.

What is the existing development plan for Rushmoor?

- 1.13. The Rushmoor Local Plan 2014 to 2032 (the Local Plan)⁹ is the adopted DPD for Rushmoor Borough.
- 1.14. The Borough is also covered by the Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan 2013 (HMWP)¹⁰ 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. A Proposed Submission Plan was published for consultation in January 2024.¹¹
- 1.15. 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.

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

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

¹⁰ <https://documents.hants.gov.uk/mineralsandwaste/HampshireMineralsWastePlanADOPTED>

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

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

1.16. 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 (March 2024), the following SPDs have been adopted. These are all available online at www.rushmoor.gov.uk/spds.

Table 1 – Adopted Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs)

Title of SPD	Date adopted
Affordable Housing	2019
Aldershot Town Centre Prospectus	2016
Locally Listed Heritage Assets	2020
Car and Cycle Parking Standards (see note in paragraph 1.18 below)	2017
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

1.17. In addition, the Council has adopted the following documents:

- [First Homes Interim Policy Statement \(2022\)](#)¹²
- [Financial Contributions for Open Space Interim Advice Note](#)¹³
- [Rushmoor Green Infrastructure Strategy \(2022\)](#)¹⁴

1.18. The Council periodically reviews and updates these documents in response to changes in legislation and national policy. A review of the Car and Cycle Parking Standards SPD¹⁵ is underway, and we expect to have adopted the new SPD in March 2024.

1.19. The LURA 2023 introduces a new style of plan, named Supplementary Plans, which will effectively replace SPDs and have the same weight in decision-making as Local Plans.

¹² https://www.rushmoor.gov.uk/media/1tznhy0/adopted_first_homes_interim_policy_statement_-_january_2022.pdf

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

¹⁴ <https://www.rushmoor.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-policies/green-infrastructure-strategy/>

¹⁵ <https://www.rushmoor.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-policies/supplementary-planning-documents-and-advice-notes/car-and-cycle-parking-spd/>

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).

- 1.20. Our existing SPDs can remain in place until we have adopted a Local Plan under the new plan-making 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.

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.
- 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 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

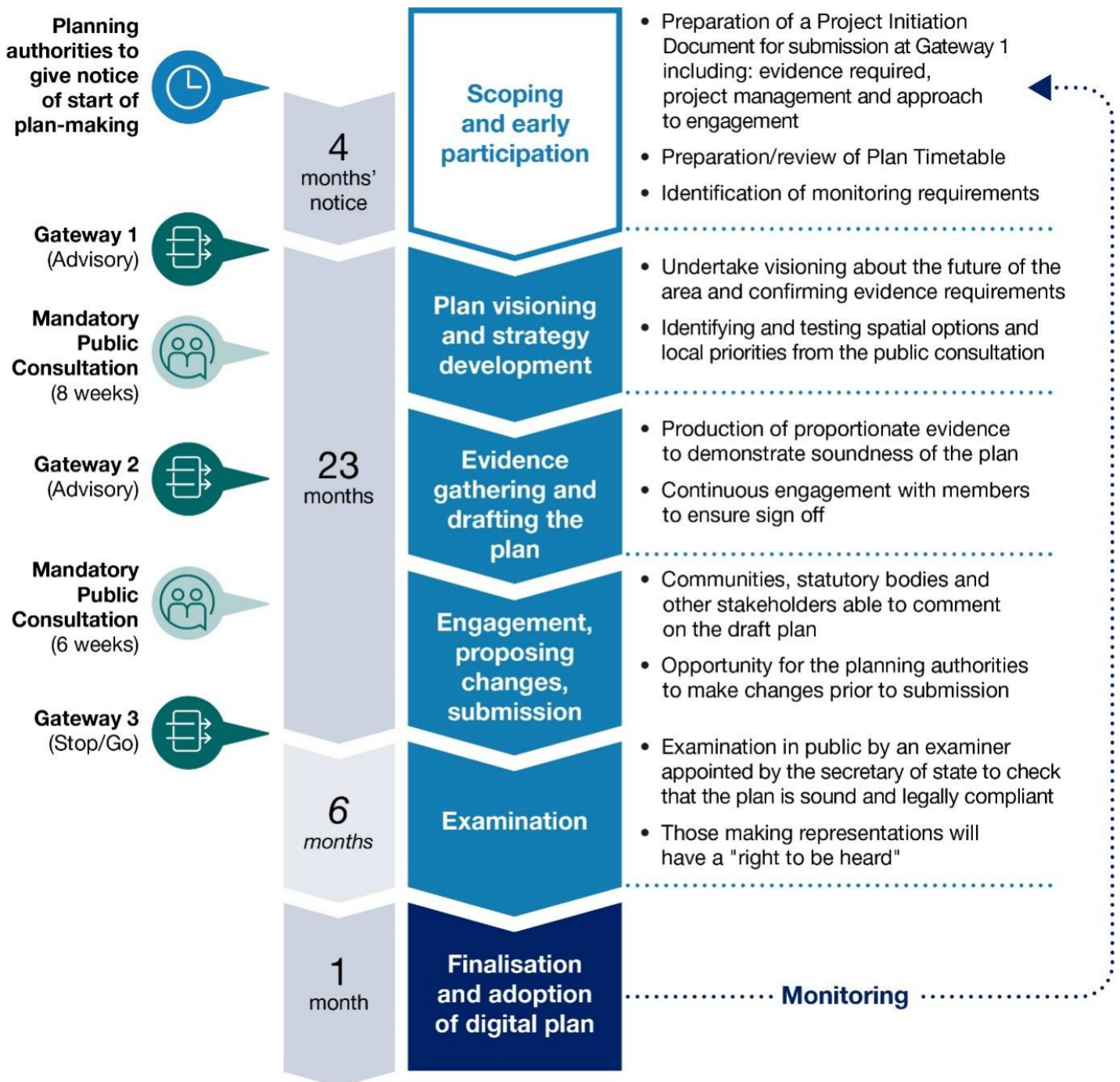
- The LURA removes the current Duty to Cooperate requirement¹⁶ and replaces it with a new ‘alignment policy’ (more detail is expected through amendments to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)).
- The LURA secures powers to replace the existing system of environment assessment (including sustainability appraisals) with a new form of environment assessment known as Environment Outcome Reports (EOR). More detail is expected through regulations and guidance later in 2024.
- 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 Government’s consultation in July 2023¹⁷ and is therefore subject to change. The following flow diagram (taken from the government consultation) summarises the key stages being proposed as part of the new 30-month plan timeframe.

¹⁶ Where plans are being prepared under the old system (i.e. within neighbouring local authorities), the duty to cooperate will still apply.

¹⁷ <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)¹⁸



¹⁸ <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/plan-making-reforms-consultation-on-implementation/levelling-up-and-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 up-to-date Local Plan timetable in the Written Ministerial Statement published in December 2023.¹⁹ 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), 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.

¹⁹ <https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-statements/detail/2023-12-19/hcws161>

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

	2024		2025				2026				2027			
Stage	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	
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 ²⁰	4 months ²¹		23 months									6 months		1 month
Expected Gateways			① Advisory			② Advisory				③ Stop/Go				
Consultations (Mandatory)			8-week consultation						6-week consultation					

²⁰ See Figure 1 above.

²¹ The Council will be required to give 4 months’ notice before starting the formal 30-month plan preparation timetable.

4. Finding Out More

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

Telephone: 01252 398789

Email: planningpolicy@rushmoor.gov.uk

Address:

Rushmoor Borough Council
Planning Policy
Council Offices
Farnborough Road
Farnborough
Hampshire
GU14 7JU

- 4.2. You will be able to get copies of any documents that we publish from our website at www.rushmoor.gov.uk, 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.