

DATE OF UPDATE: 06/09/21
LOCAL PLAN WORKSTREAM STATUS
PERIOD: QUARTER 2
01.07.21 - 30.09.21

RAG Status		AMBER
Reasons	Actions	Date
Procurement arrangements underway with ECC. Competative market given plenty of consultancy work.	Lead officers working with ECC procurement and actively working on consultants appointments.	07.04.21 - 30.09.21
There is a risk consultants do not deliver evidence base on time and/or within specification.	Project manager has established a monthly coordination meeting with consultants.	06.09.21 - 31.12.21
Detailed Reg 18 governance timetable being reviewed to allow more time for consideration of draft plan.	Project Manager to update timetable following Scrutiny Committee 16.09.21. Potential upto 8 week extension to Reg 18 preparation period.	06.09.21 – 30.09.21
Transport modelling requirements being reviewed in light of Preliminary Outline Strategy and 299 sites identified.	Officers completing review	06.09.21 – 31.10.21
Required Decisions		
Description	Expected by	Due Date
Agree revised governance arrangements for Reg 18 plan	Scrutiny	16.09.21
Receive consultants studies to support the Local Plan evidence base	LPLG	31.12.21

Executive Summary

LP Officers are in active engagement with up to 17 consultants on the Evidence Base work. A paper on methodology and programme was agreed by LPLG in April and the Group and Cabinet agreed the Local Plan objectives during May. LPLG and Cabinet considered housing numbers in June. The Preliminary Outline Strategy for the Local Plan was supported by Cabinet on 02.09.21.

The Call for Sites period has now ended and officers have published the data. 299 sites have been put forward and Officers and Consultants have started to review the sites. Officers have identified 17 larger sites (or clusters of sites) and work has commenced on assessing these proposals. Cabinet on 2 September '21 considered a paper on partnership arrangements and a draft MOU for these larger sites.

A successful recruitment process has resulted in the appointment of an experienced senior planner and the Local Plans team is now at full strength.

There are two issues which may lead to a revision to the Local Plan timetable, the first relates to more time to allow members to review the Reg 18 material which could add up to 8 weeks to the Reg 18 plan preparation. The second issue is the need for additional transport modelling and further advice is being sought on the timing of this work. Wherever possible officers will seek to contain these changes within the overall programme which seeks to submit the draft plan for examination in September 2023.

Work has been undertaken to coordinate the activities of all the consultants who are working on the evidence base and monthly meetings with officers are taking place with a shared issues log to identify cross cutting topics. A SharePoint document library has been set up to enable all consultants and officers to collaborate fully.