

Committee: Local Plan Panel

Date: 8 February
2024

Title: Local Plan Timetable (Regulation 19 to Plan Submission)

Report Author: Dean Hermitage – Director of Planning
Andrew Maxted – Interim Planning Policy Manager

Summary

1. This report provides an overview of the local plan timetable that will take the Local Plan Panel (LPP) through Regulation 19 (final draft) to submission to the Secretary of State / Planning Inspectorate.

Recommendations

2. That the LPP notes the timetable and provides its views.

Financial Implications

3. Within existing local plan budget.

Background Papers

4. The council's Local Development Scheme (LDS) is published online [Microsoft Word - 20240124 Local Development Scheme REVIEWED.docx \(uttlesford.gov.uk\)](#).

Impact

Communication / Consultation	The final draft (Regulation 19) Plan is to be published for consultation in summer 2024 for eight weeks. Consultation is to be extended from the statutory 6 weeks to 8 to account for summer holidays.
Community safety	None
Equalities	None
Health & Safety	None
Human Rights / Legal	None
Sustainability	The Local Plan will have positive impacts on sustainability across the district.
Ward-specific Impacts	All wards

Workforce / Workplace	None

Situation

Local Development Scheme

5. The overarching timetable is set out in the council's LDS. This anticipates publication of the Regulation 19 Plan in the summer, consultation July to September, and submission to the Secretary of State end of December 2024. This overarching timetable has essentially remained the same since March 2023 and was formally agreed by Cabinet on 16 October 2023.
6. The timetable was reviewed by officers in January 2024 and published for full council on 17 January 2024. A copy was then sent to the Secretary of State in response to his letter to the council of 19 December 2023. A copy of the council's response to the Secretary of State can be found at [Local Plan timetable - Uttlesford District Council](#).
7. A copy of the high-level officer project plan is attached at Appendix 1. All the work required to be carried out has been carefully programmed. There is little room for slippage and various mitigations in place to best ensure there is no slippage. The LPP is reminded that if the council has not submitted a plan by June 2025 it must then begin to progress a plan through the government's new system under the Levelling up and Regeneration Act 2023.
8. Based on the content of the Secretary of State's letter of 19 December, and speeches by DLUHC ministers, it may be that the Secretary of State will use his powers of intervention ahead of June 2025 should the council not progress the plan to timetable. The risk in this scenario is that central government would lead on the production of the plan, with no Member involvement. The council would remain responsible for the costs of plan preparation.

LPP Programme

9. The LPP is proposed to meet in public once a month in the lead up to Regulation 19. It is likely that informal workshops and discussions will also be required between formal meetings.
10. Proposed subject matter includes:
 - 8 February (this agenda): Timetable and workplan; Early themes from consultation; Key policy discussion: affordable housing.
 - March: Consultation response report; Key policy discussion: CPZ / Alternative sites (tbc).
 - April: Review highways evidence; Key policy discussion: climate change / any others arising from consultation (tbc).

- May: Review necessary evidence; review updated elements of plan (tbc).
- June: Review Reg19 version of plan and consider recommendations to Cabinet.

11. Specific agenda items will need to be confirmed nearer the time as will be guided by consultation outcomes and due to the iterative nature of the process. The above meetings are expected to be held in public.

Risk Analysis

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
Failure to successfully steer the local plan to submission will likely result in government intervention and continued speculative development in the meantime.	2 – LDS, project plan and LPP in place.	4 - Lack of an adopted (or advanced local plan) leading to potentially unacceptable development.	Various mitigations in place.

1 = Little or no risk or impact

2 = Some risk or impact – action may be necessary.

3 = Significant risk or impact – action required

4 = Near certainty of risk occurring, catastrophic effect or failure of project.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Officer Project Plan