

Title of meeting:	Cabinet Member for Planning Policy and City Development Decision Meeting
Date of meeting:	24 January 2023
Subject:	Portsmouth Local Plan
Report by:	Ian Maguire, Assistant Director of Planning & Economic Development
Author:	Lucy Howard, Head of Planning Policy
Wards affected:	All
Key decision:	No
Full Council decision:	No

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to set out the next steps for the emerging Portsmouth Local Plan and to seek your opinion on how you and other Councillors would like to be engaged in its formulation. The report also sets out changes to legislation and national planning policies that affect the Local Plan and the main risks to the project.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 To approve the upcoming schedule of Member workshops on the Local Plan and decide who will attend them.
- 2.2 To note emerging changes to legislation and national planning policies that affect the Local Plan and the main risks to the project.

3. Background

- 3.1 This report follows on from an email sent to members on 07 December 2021, asking their opinion on the next steps for the Local Plan. No responses were received.

4. Reasons for recommendations

- 4.1 We consulted on the draft Local Plan in Autumn last year and we presented a [progression update](#) to Cabinet in March this year along with a [consultation summary report](#). The report sets out the number of responses to each question in the Local Plan, a brief summary of the main points made and the City Council's response. Each policy was then given a RAG rating of Red, Amber or Green. We are in a good position with the Local Plan going forward with most of our policies rated green and so only requiring minor updates. It is the policies with an amber



status that we think need a strategic steer from Members. Table 1 is the summary RAG table.

Table 1: Summary RAG table on draft Local Plan policies

Draft Portsmouth Local Plan Chapter/ Policy		Status (Post consultation)
Portsmouth's Strategic Development Strategy		
	Vision and objectives	Green
	Key themes	Green
	Spatial Development Strategy	Green
Housing		
H1	Housing Need and Supply	Amber
H2	Housing Types, Mix and Affordability	Amber
H3	Houses in Multiple Occupation	Green
H4	Travellers and Travelling Showpeople	Green
H5	Housing Density	Amber
H6	Residential Space Standards	Green
Economic Development and Regeneration		
E1	Economic Development and Regeneration	Green
E2	Employment Land Provision	Amber
E3	Culture and Tourism	Green
E4	Supporting Portsmouth's Town Centres	Amber
E5	Town Centre Strategies	Green
Community and Infrastructure		
C1	Community and Leisure	Green
C2	Open Spaces and Outdoor Recreational	Amber
C3	Sustainable Transport	Green
C4	Infrastructure and Community Benefits	Green
Portsmouth's Environment		
G1	Biodiversity	Green
G2	Green Infrastructure	Amber
G3	Water Quality (Nutrient Neutrality)	Amber
G5	Contaminated Land	Green
G6	Flood Risk and Drainage	Amber
Sustainable Design & Heritage		
D1	Design	Green
D2	Sustainable Design and Construction	Green
D3	Pollution, Health & Amenity	Green
D4	Lower Carbon and Carbon Neutral Development	Amber
D5	Heritage and Archaeology	Green
D6	Heritage Enhancement	Green
Strategic Development Sites		
S1	City Centre and City Centre North	Amber
S2	Tipner	Red
S3	Fratton Park and the Pompey Centre	Amber

S4	Cosham	Amber
S5	St James and Langstone Campus	Amber
S6	Lakeside Business Park	Green
Area Allocations		
S7	PCC Estate Renewal	Green
S8	The Seafront	Green
S9	Portsdown Hill	Green
S10	Coastal Zone	Green

- 4.2** Our suggestion is that we run a number of Member workshops that focus on the amber policies. The purpose of the workshops is to get a strategic steer from Members on these policies, which officers will then action. It is necessary to decide which Members should attend the workshops to ensure cross party engagement. We suggest that ward Members are invited to the site-specific discussions and that relevant portfolio holders and their opposition spokespeople are invited to specific workshops on their subject areas. Furthermore, it is necessary to decide whether we would want to invite external groups to any of these discussions, for example, we could invite the Portsmouth Landlords Association to our discussion on HMOs and site promoters to our site specific discussions. Table 2 sets out the proposed schedule of workshops along with named Councillors and external groups to attend. In order to progress the Local Plan in a timely fashion, the workshops will start at the beginning of February.

Table 2: Schedule of Local Plan workshops

Subject	Members attending	Other and External organisations attending
General introductions & reasons for workshops; priorities for the Local Plan; Spatial Strategy and stepping stones to our allocations & City-wide policies; national updates;	Cllr Hunt Opposition Spokespeople	
Housing density, housing types, housing mix and affordable housing	Cllr Hunt Cllr Sanders Opposition Spokespeople	
Houses in Multiple Occupancy	Cllr Hunt Cllr Sanders Opposition Spokespeople	Portsmouth Landlords Association
Greening the City: Green infrastructure & biodiversity net gain	Cllr Hunt Cllr Barrett Opposition Spokespeople	
Climate change & sustainable construction	Cllr Hunt Cllr Barrett	

	Opposition Spokespeople	
Portsmouth City Centre strategic site	Cllr Hunt Cllr Vernon-Jackson Opposition Spokespeople	City Centre Developers
Fratton Park & Pompey Centre strategic site	Cllr Hunt Opposition Spokespeople	Portsmouth Football Club, Pompey Centre owner (M7re) and Network Rail
Cosham strategic site	Cllr Hunt Cllr Vernon-Jackson Opposition Spokespeople	TBC
St James' & Langstone Campus strategic site	Cllr Hunt Opposition Spokespeople	NHS, UoP, HE and PJ Livesey
Employment land provision	Cllr Hunt Cllr Steve Pitt Opposition Spokespeople	
Wrap up & implications for Spatial Strategy	Cllr Hunt Opposition Spokespeople	

- 4.3 The Local Development Scheme (LDS) sets out the timetable for the preparation of the Portsmouth Local Plan and other development plan documents. The latest version of the LDS was approved at Planning Committee on 27 July 2022. The timetable was delayed due to the large number of responses received during the Regulation 18 consultation held in 2021 particularly in regard to the strategic site of Tipner and the desire of the Council to revisit that site and the associated implications for the wider spatial strategy of the City. There have also been further delays due to staff changes. Now that the new Head of Planning Policy is in post, work is underway on a comprehensive new project plan for the Local Plan. An updated LDS will be presented to Members in early 2023. The broad intention is to proceed to the pre-submission consultation by the end of 2023. Before we reach pre-submission we will need to update some of our evidence based studies and refine the draft policies to address matters raised in the earlier consultations.
- 4.4 The main risk to the Local Plan is changes in national legislation and planning policies. The Levelling Up & Regeneration Bill was published in May 2021 and is progressing through parliament. There continues to be heated debate on housing numbers. Draft changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) were published for consultation just before Christmas 2022 and included the Government's initial thinking on National Development Management Policies. Under the consultation on the revised NPPF it states that the proposed reformed plan-making system is intended to be introduced in late 2024. It is proposed that LPAs

have until 30 June 2025 to submit a local plan for independent examination under the current legislation. All independent examination of local plans under the current legislation must be concluded with plans adopted by 31 December 2026. Under the proposed reforms LPAs will be required to start work on new plans five years after adoption of the previous plan and to adopt the new plan within 30 months. It is clear therefore that the main risk to plan making for the City Council is to delay the preparation of the new Local Plan and thus have to produce the Local Plan under the new system.

- 4.6 It is of interest to note the following sentence of the consultation: 'the Bill retains considerable scope for local planning authorities to produce their own local plan policies on distinctly local issues.' It then cites the example of where a local plan policy could be developed as 'a university city in which student housing has had a significant impact on the wider housing market,' which is clearly a matter applicable to Portsmouth.
- 4.6 The other main risk is difficulties in recruiting to vacant posts and retaining officers in the Planning Policy team. We are working closely with the HR team on successful recruitment campaign in the New Year for both Policy and DM.

5. Equality impact assessment

- 5.1 An equality impact assessment is not required as the recommendations do not have a disproportionate negative impact on any of the specific protected characteristics as described in the Equality Act 2010.

6. Legal implications

- 6.1 Estimated timeline for transitioning to the reformed plan-making system:
- 11 May 2022, Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill was introduced.
 - Spring 2023, Subject to Parliamentary approval, Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill receives Royal Assent.
 - November 2024, Expected earliest date when LPAs with a plan which is more than 5 years old must begin new plan-making process.
 - 30 June 2025, Cut-off date for old-style plans to be submitted for examination.
 - October 2026, Earliest date that the first new-style examinations commence.
 - 31 December 2026, Latest date for any old-style local and minerals and waste plans to be adopted (or in the case of Strategic Development Strategies, published).
 - April 2027, First new-style plans are adopted.
 - 31 December 2031, Latest date when LPAs must begin the new style plan-making process (if their previous plan was adopted on 31 December 2026).

7. Director of Finance's comments

- 7.1 There are no direct financial implications as result of approving the recommendations within this report.

7.2 The final production of the Local Plan will be met from the existing cash limited budget.

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Signed by: Ian Maguire, Assistant Director of Planning & Economic Growth

Appendices:

Background list of documents:

- [Portsmouth Local Plan 2038 'Regulation 18' Consultation Document Draft for consultation September 2021](#)
- [Cabinet Report on New Portsmouth Local Plan progression update 08 March 2022](#)
- [Consultation summary response report](#)

The recommendation(s) set out above were approved/ approved as amended/ deferred/ rejected by on

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Signed by: