Wealden District Council

Local Development Scheme

January 2024

Wealden
District Council

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Local Development Scheme 2024 – 2027

1. Introduction

1.1 Local planning authorities are required to prepare a Local Development Scheme (LDS) under section 15 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011). The purpose of this document is to enable communities and stakeholders to find out about planning policies for the area; the timetable for the production of planning documents; and to also inform communities and stakeholders when they will be able to take part in the plan making process, at its various consultation stages.

1.2 This Local Development Scheme (LDS) identifies and sets out the timetable for the planning documents that the Council will prepare to plan for development in its area. It will enable our local communities and stakeholders to find out about the planning policy documents being prepared within a rolling three-year period. This LDS covers the period from 2024 – 2027. It updates the previous LDS published in July 2020 and provides information and the timetable in relation to preparing the Local Plan and other relevant documents. It also sets out the geographical area to which the documents relate.

2. The Planning System

2.1. Planning Acts and Regulations and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and associated guidance provides the legislative and national policy requirements for plan making. Local plans are to set out a positive vision and framework for the future of the area addressing needs, priorities and opportunities in relation to housing, the economy, infrastructure and community facilities, the natural and historic environment, climate change and design.

2.2. The NPPF at paragraphs 17 – 19 details that a development plan must contain both strategic and non-strategic policies (which deal with matters that are more detailed). Strategic policies can be produced in different ways, depending on the issues that need to be considered and the opportunities that may exist. Strategic policies can be contained in a single or a joint local plan, where authorities work together or independently. Non-strategic policies can be included in local plans that contain strategic and non-strategic policies or in a local or neighbourhood plan, which just contains non-strategic policies.

2.3. The NPPF requires policies to be underpinned by relevant and up to date (less than five years old) evidence, which is adequate and proportionate, focused on supporting and justifying policies and taking into account market signals. Engagement with partners, stakeholders, interested parties and communities is also an important and key element in local plan production.

2.4. Planning legislation[1] sets out certain statutory requirements for plan making. This includes a requirement to have regard to national policy and advice, to produce certain documents such as this Local Development Scheme and the Statement of Community Involvement. To carry out a Sustainability Appraisal and to ensure that policies are contained in the plan to contribute to the mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change. Legislation[2] also requires a policies map to be produced and to have regard to transport and waste plans and policies. It also requires local plans to be independently examined by a person appointed by the Secretary of State.

2.5. In addition, legislation[3] prescribes specific requirements for consultation. There are two key stages, a Regulation 18 stage, which is where a Draft Plan is consulted upon and a Regulation 19 stage, where the submission plan is published and under Regulation 20, representations are invited on whether the plan has been positively prepared, is justified, effective, and consistent with national policy. Consultation periods must be for a minimum of six weeks.

2.6. Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) can also be produced to build upon and provide advice that is more detailed or guidance on policies in an adopted local plan. They form a material consideration in decision-making. SPDs when produced are consulted upon; however, they are not subject to an independent examination.

2.7. The preparation of Neighbourhood Plans are not a compulsory requirement of the planning system. However, when 'made' (adopted) they are a statutory document which forms part of the Development Plan. Neighbourhood Plans can be produced by town or parish councils in consultation with their communities. Their purpose is to shape the development and growth of their local area to meet their community's needs. Wealden District Council has a legal duty to support the preparation of any neighbourhood development plan, which must conform to the NPPF and the 'strategic policies' contained in the Local Plan.

3. The Current Development Plan

3.1. The following documents currently comprise Wealden District Council's development plan:

- Wealden District Core Strategy Local Plan (February, 2013);
- Affordable Housing Delivery Local Plan (May, 2016);
- Saved policies contained in the Wealden District Local Plan (1998);
- Herstmonceux Neighbourhood Development Plan (July, 2019);
- Hailsham Neighbourhood Plan (July 2021)
- Hellingly Neighbourhood Plan (July 2021)

[1] Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended)
[2] Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012
[3] Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012

- East Sussex, South Downs and Brighton & Hove Waste and Minerals Local Plan (February 2013); and
- East Sussex, South Downs and Brighton & Hove Waste and Minerals Sites Plan (February 2017).

The Core Strategy Local Plan (February 2013)

3.2. The Wealden Core Strategy (Incorporating Part of the South Downs National Park) was adopted in February 2013. The Local Plan identifies future growth for housing, employment and retail within Wealden District until 2027 and supersedes affordable housing policies in the adopted Wealden Local Plan 1998.

3.3. The Core Strategy incorporated the area of Wealden that falls within the South Downs National Park. However, the South Downs National Park, as statutory planning authority for the National Park area, adopted the South Downs Local Plan in July 2019. The South Downs Local Plan supersedes the Core Strategy, the Affordable Housing Delivery Local Plan and any saved policies contained in the Wealden Local Plan (1998) for the area of Wealden District that falls within the South Downs National Park.

The Affordable Housing Delivery Local Plan (May, 2016)

3.4. The Affordable Housing Delivery Local Plan, which was adopted in May 2016, supersedes the affordable housing policy within the adopted Core Strategy Policy WCS8.

Wealden Local Plan (1998)

3.5. The adopted Wealden District Local Plan 1998 contains a number of 'saved policies' relevant to development within Wealden District. These policies were saved as of 27 September 2007 by approval of the Secretary of State under paragraph 1(3) of Schedule 8 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

3.6. The Proposals Map is a component part of the 1998 Wealden Local Plan and will be saved until it is replaced. Until then, the Proposals Map will need to be read in tandem with the list of 'saved policies'. A list of 'saved policies' has been produced and can be found on the Council's website[4].

3.7. The 1998 Proposals Map is partially superseded by Policy WCS6 of the Core Strategy Local Plan.

Herstmonceux Neighbourhood Development Plan

[4] 'Saved policies' of the Wealden Local Plan (1998)

3.8. The Herstmonceux Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) contains policies that seek to manage change and growth in Herstmonceux Parish. The Herstmonceux Neighbourhood Plan was 'made' on 24th July 2019 and can be accessed here.

Hailsham Neighbourhood Development Plan

3.9. The Hailsham Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) contains policies that seek to manage change and growth in Hailsham Parish. The Hailsham Neighbourhood Plan was 'made' on 21st July 2021 and can be accessed here.

Hellingly Neighbourhood Development Plan

3.10. The Hellingly Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) contains policies that seek to manage change and growth in Hellingly Parish. The Hellingly Neighbourhood Plan was 'made' on 21st July 2021 and can be accessed here.

East Sussex, South Downs and Brighton & Hove Waste and Minerals Local Plan (February 2013)

3.11. The East Sussex, South Downs, Brighton and Hove Minerals and Waste Local Plan was adopted 19 February 2013. East Sussex County Council, Brighton and Hove City Council and the South Downs National Park Authority jointly prepared this Local Plan. This Plan outlines strategic policies relating to minerals and waste proposals within East Sussex, such as the safeguarding of mineral resources, requirements for waste and recycling processing and mineral extraction. Wealden District Council therefore needs to take account of such policies in its decision taking. Subsequent Local Plans continue to be the responsibility of the Minerals and Waste planning authorities.

East Sussex, South Downs and Brighton & Hove Waste and Minerals Sites Plan (February 2017)

3.12. The Waste and Minerals Sites Plan (WMSP) provides the spatial details for the requirements contained within the Waste and Minerals Plan (WMP) and was adopted on 7 February 2017. The Waste and Minerals Sites Plan identifies potential locations for future waste facilities and safeguards existing waste and minerals resources. The Plan provides communities and the waste and minerals industry with greater certainty about where waste and minerals development can take place. The safeguarding of minerals and waste resources ensures that those that presently exist can be retained. WMP Policy Maps have been prepared and are produced separately from the WMSP.

4. Neighbourhood Development Plans

4.1. Not including the three Parishes with 'made' plans, there are 11 NDP Designated Areas in the District. This includes Crowborough, East Hoathly with Halland, Fletching, Frant, Hadlow Down, Hartfield, Horam, Maresfield, Ninfield, Uckfield and Wadhurst. These NDPs are in varying stages in the NDP process and information relating to their current stage in the progress can be found here.

5. Other Planning Documents

5.1. A brief description of the role and coverage of other relevant planning documents are outlined in the sections below:

Policies Map

5.2. The Policies Map, which previously was called a Proposals Map, forms part of a Development Plan. It illustrates geographically the policies in the plan. The current Policy / Proposals Map was adopted alongside the Wealden Local Plan (1998) and can be accessed via the Council's website:

5.3. The 1998 Proposals Map is partially superseded by Policy WCS6 of the Core Strategy Local Plan, which removes a number of development boundaries. The development boundaries that are removed are provided on page 73 of The Core Strategy, which can be accessed via the Council's website:

5.4. The Policies/Proposals Map is also superseded by the South Downs Local Plan as relevant to the area of Wealden District located within the South Downs National Park.

Statement of Community Involvement

5.5. The Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) sets out how stakeholders and communities will be consulted and involved in the planning process. The objective of an SCI is to ensure that effective engagement takes place with all sections of the community and that appropriate engagement techniques are used. The Council adopted its SCI on 22nd July 2020. There is a requirement to review and update an SCI every five years at a minimum and commitment is made through this LDS to review the SCI in 2024/25 to ensure we meet this requirement.

Supplementary Planning Documents

5.6. The following Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) are a material consideration in the determination of planning applications in Wealden District (not including the area of Wealden District located within the South Downs

National Park). They provide additional detail to relevant saved policies in the Wealden Local Plan (1998).

- Wealden Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), November 2008 (Policies EN1 and EN27);
- High Weald AONB Management Plan (Policies EN6 and EN7);
- Ashdown Business Park (Policy BS10); and
- Hellingly Hospital (Policy HH1).

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

5.7. Wealden's CIL charging schedule came into effect on 1 April 2016 and enables the Council to levy a charge on certain types of new development to help fund improvements to local infrastructure such as schools, transport, green spaces, and health and leisure facilities, all necessary to support new development and ensure the creation of sustainable communities. It was the Council's intention to review the Wealden CIL charging schedule and update it should this be required alongside the production of the Local Plan, since both a local plan and a charging schedule should inform and be generally consistent with each other[5].

5.8. The Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill proposes a number of planning reforms including the introduction of an Infrastructure Levy (IL). It is anticipated that the IL will be introduced as the new mandatory charge on development and will replace CIL. The IL will be similar to CIL, but it will be designed to capture more of the uplift in land value generated by development. The detailed design of the IL will be set out in Regulations. In a similar way to CIL, IL will require Charging schedules to be prepared, consulted on and examined, but there will likely be more requirements around what evidence can be used to inform them and how evidence can be used. Infrastructure evidence gathering will continue to progress alongside the production of the Local Plan to ensure that the IL can be considered, prepared and taken forward at the earliest opportunity.

6. Development Plan Documents – Timetable

Background - Wealden Local Plan review

6.1. Policy WCS1 of the Wealden District Core Strategy Local Plan (February, 2013) identifies that the strategy will be reviewed in 2015 or when a preferred solution to the capacity issues within Hailsham North and Hailsham South Waste Water Treatment Works has been identified, whichever is the earliest.

6.2. In October 2015, Wealden District Council formally began its Local Plan Review. Following its Regulation 18 and 19 consultation stages, which took

[5] National Planning Practice Guidance, Community Infrastructure Levy, paragraph 012

place in October 2015 and August 2018 respectively, Wealden District Council submitted its Draft Local Plan to the Secretary of State for independent examination on 18th January 2019.

6.3. Following an extensive examination process in the spring/summer of 2019, including public hearing sessions, the appointed Inspector provided the Council with a letter on 20 December 2019 setting out the conclusions from the hearing sessions relating to the examination process of the Wealden Local Plan. The letter concluded that the submitted plan could not proceed further in the examination process and should be withdrawn. On 19 February 2020, Wealden District Council agreed to formally withdraw its Local Plan. In accordance, with The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 has removed documents from its website that relate to the withdrawn plan.

6.4. Following the withdrawal of the local plan, Wealden District Council has started work on a new Local Plan. This plan will be prepared in accordance with the NPPF (December 2023) and any subsequent updates to the NPPF that are relevant and applicable to the production of the emerging Local Plan.

6.5. The following tables set out the planning documents that the Council will prepare over the next three years to 2027. A profile for each document is provided, which outlines the role of each document and a timetable for their production. The timings provided are indicative on the basis that it is difficult at the outset to be precise about the timetable. However, key milestones are provided, and the timetable will be kept under review through the Authority Monitoring Report (AMR) process that takes place each year. Where necessary the timetable will be updated. In addition, an overarching timetable covering all the planning policy documents can be found in Appendix 1 of this document.

WEALDEN LOCAL PLAN

Subject	Response
Role and subject	The Wealden Local Plan will set out the vision and spatial development strategy for Wealden District up to 2039. The local plan will be a single document and will include both strategic and non-strategic planning policies. The plan will also identify site allocations for different land uses such as housing, employment, retail and leisure, health, education, open spaces as well as seek to address climate change and protect the natural and built environment. It will provide the policy context for neighbourhood plans. A revised Policies Map will be submitted with the Wealden Local Plan, which will replace the adopted Policies Map associated with the 1998 Wealden Local Plan.
Status	Statutory Development Plan Document
Geographical Area	Wealden District except for the area located within the South Downs National Park area.
Prepared jointly with other Local Authorities	No. However, the Council will be working closely with neighbouring local authorities as part of its statutory duty to cooperate including joint evidence bases where relevant.
Chain of Conformity	National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and Planning Practice Guidance (PPG).

Indicative timetable

Key Milestones	Date
Approval of the revised Local Development Scheme	February 2024
Publication and consultation on the Wealden draft Local Plan (Regulation 18)	Quarter 4 2023/24 – Quarter 1 2024/25. Starting in March 2024.
Publication of the Proposed Submission Local Plan Document (Regulation 19)	Quarter 4 2024/25 – Quarter 1 2025/26.
Public representation period on the Proposed Submission Local Plan (Regulation 20)	Quarter 4 2024/25 – Quarter 1 2025/26.
Proposed Submission Local Plan submitted to the Secretary of State Draft (Regulation 22)	By 30th June 2025
Examination in Public (Regulation 24)	By or before end of Quarter 3 2025/2026
Publication of the recommendations of the appointed Independent Inspector (Regulation 25)	By or before Quarter 4 2025/2026
Adoption of the Local Plan (Regulation 26)	By or before end of Quarter 1 2026/27

Documents to be replaced

The Wealden Local Plan will supersede the saved policies contained in the Wealden District Local Plan (1998), the Wealden District Core Strategy Local Plan (February 2013) and the Affordable Housing Delivery Local Plan (May 2016) upon adoption.

Production Arrangements

Process	By Whom
Lead Department	Planning Policy Team
Management Arrangements	Portfolio Holder for Planning and Development / Planning Consultative Advisory Group / Local Plan Working Group.
Resources Required	Planning Policy team, specialist advisors (including those from Development Management, Housing, Economy and Well-being, Climate change, Environmental Health, Building Control and external consultants.
Community and Stakeholder Involvement	In accordance with the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI).
Monitoring and Review	The Council will monitor the LDS each year through the Council's Authority Monitoring Report (AMR). The AMR is published at the end of each calendar year.

Community Infrastructure Levy or Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule Review

Subject	Response
Role and Subject	The CIL Charging Schedule sets out the rates applicable to certain types of development that are liable to pay the levy. When deciding the levy rates, it is important that the viability of developments are not affected. The balance is to ensure that there is adequate investment to support development whilst not affecting the viability of developments. Subject to the introduction of central Governments Infrastructure Levy (IL), the review of the existing CIL / IL charging schedule will take place alongside the production of the Local Plan. This will ensure that infrastructure planning and the CIL/IL charging schedule are consistent with each other and will ensure that key infrastructure priorities are delivered to facilitate growth and the delivery of planned development.
Status	CIL / IL Charging Schedule
Geographical Area	Wealden District except for the area located within the South Downs National Park area.
Prepared jointly with other Local Authorities	No

Subject	Response
Chain of Conformity	With the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), CIL Regulations or IL Regulations[6], Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) and the emerging Wealden Local Plan.

Indicative timetable:

Key Milestones	Date
Evidence Gathering Stage (alongside Local Plan)	Up to end of Quarter 4 2024/25
Consultation on Draft Charging Schedule	Quarter 4 2024/25 – Quarter 1 2025/26
Submission of CIL/IL Charging Schedule (aligned with Local Plan submission) (Regulation 19)	By 30th June 2025
Examination (Regulation 21)	By or before end of Quarter 3 2025/2026
Receipt of Inspectors' Report and publication (Regulation 23)	By or before Quarter 4 2025/2026
Adoption and Publication (Regulation 25)	By or before end of Quarter 1 2026/27

Documents to be replaced

The CIL/IL Charging Schedule will supersede the Wealden District CIL Charging Schedule that was adopted in November 2015.

Production Arrangements

Process	By Whom
Lead Department	Planning Policy
Management Arrangements	Portfolio Holder for Planning and Development / Planning Consultative Advisory Group / Local Plan Working Group.
Resources Required	Planning Policy team, specialist advisors (including those from Development Management, Housing and East Sussex County Council) and external consultants.
Community and Stakeholder Involvement	In accordance with the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI).
Monitoring and Review	The Council will monitor the LDS each year through the Council's Authority Monitoring Report (AMR). The AMR is published at the end of each calendar year.

7. Other documents to be published

Brownfield Land Register

7.1. The Town and Country Planning (Brownfield Land Register) Regulations 2017 requires local planning authorities to prepare, maintain and publish a

[6] It is anticipated that CIL Regulations will be replaced by IL Regulations.

Brownfield Land Register for each calendar year. The brownfield register aims to provide publicly available information on all brownfield sites considered by the local authority as appropriate for residential development. The register is used to monitor the government's commitment to the delivery of brownfield sites. The Council's brownfield register can be accessed here.

Authority Monitoring Report

7.2. Local Planning Authorities are required to publish a report that monitors the implementation of the Local Development Scheme and whether adopted planning policies are delivering their objectives. The Authority Monitoring Report (AMR) should be published at the end of December every year. The latest AMR is published on the Council's website and can be accessed here.

Sustainability Appraisal incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment

7.3. As part of the plan making process, local authorities are required to undertake a Sustainability Appraisal (SA), incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment for Local Plans and where applicable for Supplementary Planning Documents. The purpose of a SA is to ensure that social, economic and environmental effects of policies are taken into account in the plan making process. An important part of the SA process is testing alternative options and their likely significant adverse effects.

7.4. The first stage of the SA is to produce a scoping report and consult with conservation bodies (Natural England, Historic England and the Environment Agency) on the SA scoping Report for a 5-week period. This scoping report was consulted upon and published in 2020/2021 alongside our Direction of Travel Consultation. However, given the time passed between that consultation and our second Regulation 18 consultation we have updated our SA Scoping Report to ensure it accounts for recent plans, policies and programmes, the most up-to-date baseline information, as well as considering sustainability issues and updating our SA Framework accordingly. We undertook a further consultation on the SA Scoping Report where we asked for Statutory Consultees, colleagues from neighbouring authorities and other relevant organisations, as well as our communities to take part in the consultation. This was held between 26th June and 7th August 2023.

7.5. The comments received to that consultation have been considered and the SA Scoping Report updated accordingly. This updated scoping report will be published alongside the Wealden Draft Local Plan Regulation 18 document.

7.6. In addition, it should be noted that the SA will be updated throughout the plan making process and a report will be published alongside each Local Plan Consultation stage.

Habitats Regulations Assessment

7.7. A Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) will be undertaken as part of the local plan process. The purpose of HRA is to assess whether the local plan policies and proposals will result in a significant effect on the integrity of European designated sites. The first stage is to undertake a screening or 'likely significant effect' assessment. The second stage is to undertake an appropriate assessment. The HRA will be updated throughout the plan making process, a report will be published alongside the Regulation 18, and 19 consultation stages and the submission stage (Regulation 22).

Evidence base

7.8. The Council will gather appropriate and proportionate evidence to inform the production of the Wealden Local Plan and the CIL/IL review. The evidence base will be published on the Council's website as studies are completed. The Council's evidence base can be accessed here.

Duty to Cooperate

7.9. The Council has a statutory duty to cooperate and engage with other local planning authorities and prescribed bodies. As part of the process, authorities are required to produce Statements of Common Ground, which is a written record of progress made in discussions relating to strategic matters. These Statements of Common Ground are expected to accompany Submission of the Local Plan to the Secretary of State in due course The Council will meet its requirements under the duty to cooperate through regular engagement with partners. Records of meetings and, where relevant and available, Statements of Common Ground will be published on the Council's website as they are completed at various stages in the plan making process.

8. Council procedures

8.1. The preparation of development plan documents will be informed and monitored through the following groups and Council Committees:

- Cabinet Advisory Group for Planning which includes all Council Members;
- Local Plan Officer Working Groups;
- Corporate Management Team (CMT);
- Local Plan Sub-Committee;
- Planning Committee's North and South; and
- Full Council.

8.2. Committees will consider the Regulation 18 and Regulation 19 versions of the Local Plan and a recommendation will be sought for the Council to consult on the documents at these stages.

9. Risk Assessment

9.1. Risks to the delivery of development plan documents are identified in the table below. It is important to identify risks and to monitor these effectively, so that where necessary risks can be mitigated. The Local Development Scheme will be monitored on an annual basis through the Authority Monitoring Report.

Risk No.	Risk description	Likelihood 1 – Unlikely 2 – Possible 3 – Probable 4 - Certain	Impact 1 – Minor 2 – Significant 3 – Serious 4 - Major	Planned Actions to Reduce Risk
1	Legislation or National Planning policy or guidance changes or updates	3	2	Review the process and plan priorities, manage, and update the local plan timetable to ensure the delivery of a robust evidence base and local plan.
2	Consultation - High response rate to the Regulation 18 and Regulation 19 consultation/representation stage, which would result in a longer period being required to consider and process responses.	3	2	This is a normal part of the local plan process. It is not possible to predict the number and nature of the responses received. Where necessary timetables for reporting can be adjusted. The plan can progress in a timely manner with appropriate forums in place to discuss responses and facilitate progression of the plan.
3	Consultation identifies constraints that require further work or the identification of further evidence base requirements.	3	3	This has been accounted for in the timetable to a degree. Where further time is required, plan priorities will be managed and where necessary work programmes and timetables will be adjusted.

Risk No.	Risk description	Likelihood 1 – Unlikely 2 – Possible 3 – Probable 4 - Certain	Impact 1 – Minor 2 – Significant 3 – Serious 4 - Major	Planned Actions to Reduce Risk
4	Delay in completing critical modelling work or completing the evidence base.	2	2	Provide partners and consultants clear timescales and make them aware of the consequence of not meeting timescales. Introduce project KPIs. Failing this, a delay would be likely to the timetable, depending on the criticality of the evidence base and the stage in plan preparation.
5	New information or updates to the NPPF/PPG changes the direction of the evidence base that requires a change to the strategy or a change to the plan.	2	2	Gathering evidence has been frontloaded in the timetable to ensure that the plan is evidence led. However, should there be a significant change in plan direction or in the evidence required to support this, a delay would be likely to the timetable.
6	Duty to Cooperate issues that require resolution prior to the plan progressing.	2	2	Continued engagement with Duty to Cooperate local authorities and bodies including working with PAS to resolve issues at an early stage. Failing this, a delay would be likely to the timetable.
7	Duty to Cooperate issues that cannot be resolved that results in it not being possible to progress the plan.	2	4	As per above. In addition, preparing statements of common ground to set out matters and how these have been or can be resolved. Discussions with other local authorities and partners and to seek advice from a peer review.

Risk No.	Risk description	Likelihood 1 – Unlikely 2 – Possible 3 – Probable 4 - Certain	Impact 1 – Minor 2 – Significant 3 – Serious 4 - Major	Planned Actions to Reduce Risk
8	Staffing resources and loss of key staff.	2	2	Meeting staffing capacity requirements and the loss of key staff to be addressed through a recruitment drive. Where staffing capacity cannot be met there is potential to use planning officers from Development Management or agency staff. Where planning officers are deployed, workloads to be considered to match skill sets. Staff sickness to be managed by reviewing priorities.
9	Staff resource diversion	2	3	Unavoidable delay to the timetable until staffing resources are in place.
10	Pandemic	1	3	Where possible, put in place ways to progress the plan that minimise / avoid social contact including consultation processes.
11	Lack of member agreement over the local plan strategy, policies or contents of the plan.	2	4	Early and continued engagement with members throughout the plan preparation and delivered in accordance with the SCI and local plan consultation and engagement plan.
12	Financial resources	2	2	Address the financial resource required to deliver the local plan and review the budget regularly. Make additional financial resources available should this be required to meet evidence base requirements.

Appendix 1: Council programme for preparing planning policy documents.

			2023/24	2024/25				2025/26				2026/27			
Document	Stage	Completed	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
New Local Plan	Stakeholder Engagement/Early Evidence Gathering														
	Draft Plan Consultation														
	Further Evidence Gathering														
	Proposed Submission Publication Consultation														
	Submission														
	Examination														
	Adoption														
Local Plan Policies Map															
CIL Review	Stakeholder Engagement/Easrly Evidence Gathering														
	Formal Consultation														
	Submission														
	Examination														
	Adoption														
Statement of Community Involvement	Pre-production														
	Consultation on Draft SCI														
	Adoption														
Brownfield Land Register	Annual update														
Monitoring Reports	Five Year Housing Land Supply Position Statement														
	Authority Monitoring Report														
Infrastructure Funding Statement	Annual update														

Note: The term quarter refers to financial years rather than calendar years i.e., quarter 3 2023/24 refers to January - March 2024.

CIL Review - it should be noted that the timetable for this may be subject to change, pending the outcome of the response from Government regarding their consultation on the future introduction on the Infrastructure Levy (IL).

The references located in the Wealden draft Local Plan Regulation 18 Document relating forthcoming Supplementary Planning Documents are pending further consideration as plan-making progresses and do not currently appear in the LDS at this time.
The Council will programme future SPDs during the next 3 years, as necessary to support the Local Plan as a whole in further updates of this LDS.
The references located in the Wealden draft Local Plan Regulation 18 Document relating forthcoming Supplementary Planning Documents are pending further consideration as plan-making progresses and do not currently appear in the LDS at this time.

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