# Wealden Consultation Statement

# Appendices

**Appendix A - Duty to Cooperate partners and prescribed bodies**

**Neighbouring Local Authority Duty to Cooperate Partners**

- Eastbourne Borough Council
- Rother District Council
- Tunbridge Wells Borough Council
- Tandridge District Council
- Mid-Sussex District Council
- Sevenoaks District Council
- Lewes District Council
- South Downs National Park Authority
- East Sussex County Council
- West Sussex County Council
- Kent County Council
- Surrey County Council

**Other prescribed bodies**

- The Environment Agency
- Historic England
- Natural England
- The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA)
- Homes England
- Each integrated Care Board established under Chapter A3 of Part 2 of the National Health Service Act 2006
- NHS England

- The Office of Rail and Road
- The Local Highway Authority
- National Highways

**Appendix B – Specific and General Consultation Bodies**

**Specific Consultation Bodies**

- Adjoining Local Planning Authorities and County Councils as set out in Appendix A
- Parish and Town Councils (within and adjoining the plan area)
- The Police and Crime Commissioner
- The Coal Authority
- The Environment Agency
- Historic England
- Marine Management Organisation
- Natural England
- Network Rail Infrastructure Limited
- National Highways
- East Sussex County Council (ESCC) as the Local Highway Authority
- Relevant telecommunications companies
- Relevant Integrated Care System
- NHS England
- Relevant electricity and gas companies/operators
- Relevant water and sewerage companies; and
- Homes England

**General Consultation Bodies and other interested groups**

- Nature Conservation / countryside bodies
- Environmental groups
- Infrastructure and service providers

- Interest and amenity groups
- Residents Associations
- Property, trade and business associations
- Neighbourhood Plan Steering Groups
- Learning agencies
- Recreation bodies
- Disabled groups
- Ethnic minorities/gender/age/sexual orientation/disability and those with caring responsibilities groups
- Residents
- Local businesses
- Landowners
- Religious groups and churches
- Voluntary bodies; and
- Other miscellaneous bodies

**Appendix C – Direction of Travel Consultation Arrangements**

## Regulation 18 – Direction of Travel Consultation

The Council adopted a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) in 2020, which set out how the Council will consult on Local Plan documents. The Direction of Travel consultation was undertaken in accordance with the SCI.

## Public Advertisement

The Council widely advertised the Direction of Travel, inviting the local community to make their views on the issues and proposed options identified in the document. As well as a media release on the Council's website, we also advertised the consultation using social media (Facebook and Twitter) and contacted 17,600 individuals using the Councils 'Wealden Weekly' system.

Given the restrictions in place at the time of the consultation, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it wasn't possible to display the documents at the Council Offices or other deposit point locations, as would normally be the case. Exhibitions couldn't go ahead for the same reason.

The Council sent correspondence to those currently registered on the Planning Policy consultation database inviting them to make representations, (4704 individuals and organisations) by either email or letter. This included each of the other prescribed consultation bodies and each of the specific consultation bodies set out in Regulation 18(1). The letter and email and a full list of registered parties that were contacted are provided below.

Correspondence was sent to members of the District Council and to Town and Parish Councils within Wealden District. The Council also sent correspondence to other Local Authorities, who are our Duty To Co-operate Partners notifying them of the consultation and inviting them to make representations.

## Consultation Process

All information regarding the consultation was available to view on the Council's website, as well as the consultation portal. Given the restrictions in place at the time of the consultation, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it wasn't possible to display the documents at the Council Offices or other deposit point locations, as would normally be the case.

Members of the public and stakeholders were invited to answer questions raised in the main Direction of Travel consultation document. Those wishing to make a representation were encouraged to do so through the Council's consultation portal,

where supporting documents were available to view.  Comments made in writing and by email were also accepted

## Supporting Documents

- Letter to Local Plan Mailing List



Draft Letter To Database.docx

- Email to Local Plan Mailing List



Draft Email To Database.docx

- List of Questions – Direction of Travel



Appendix 4 List of Questions.docx

**Appendix D – Draft Local Plan (Regulation 18) Consultation Arrangements (2024)**

## Draft Local Plan Deposit Points

| | Address | Opening Hours |
|---|---|---|
| **Wealden District Council** | Council Offices, Vicarage Lane, Hailsham, East Sussex. BN27 1AX | Monday – Friday<br>09.00am – 17.00pm |
| **East Sussex County Council** | County Hall, St Annes' Crescent, Lewes, East Sussex BN7 1UE | Monday – Thursday<br>08.00am – 17.00pm<br>Friday 08.00am – 16.30pm |
| **Crowborough Library** | Pine Grove, Crowborough, East Sussex TN6 1DH | Monday 12.30am – 17.00pm<br>Tuesday 10.00am – 17.00pm<br>Wednesday 10.00am – 14.00pm<br>Thursday – 11.00am – 18.00pm<br>Friday 10.00am – 17.00pm<br>Saturday 10.00am – 17.00pm |
| **Forest Row Library** | The Community Centre, Hartfield Road, Forest Road, East Sussex RH18 5DZ | Monday 14.00pm – 17.00pm<br>Tuesday Closed<br>Wednesday 10.00am – 13.00pm<br>Thursday – 14.00pm – 17.00pm<br>Friday 13.00pm – 16.00pm<br>Saturday 10.00am – 13.00pm |
| **Heathfield Library** | 21 High Street, Heathfield, East Sussex TN21 8LU | Monday 10.00am – 13.00pm<br>Tuesday 10.00am – 17.00pm<br>Wednesday Closed<br>Thursday – 14.00pm – 18.00pm<br>Friday 10.00am – 16.00pm<br>Saturday 10.00am – 13.00pm |
| **Uckfield Library** | Library Way, High Street, Uckfield, East Sussex TN22 1AR | Monday 10.00am – 13.00pm<br>Tuesday 10.00am – 16.30pm<br>Wednesday 14.00am – 16.30pm<br>Thursday – 10.00am – 18.00pm<br>Friday 10.00am – 16.30pm<br>Saturday 10.00am – 16.30pm |
| **Wadhurst Library** | High Street, Wadhurst, East Sussex TN5 6AP | Monday 14.00am – 16.30pm<br>Tuesday Closed<br>Wednesday 10.00am – 13.00pm<br>Thursday Closed<br>Friday 14.00am – 16.30pm<br>Saturday 10.00am – 13.00pm |

| | Address | Opening Hours |
|---|---|---|
| **Willingdon Library** | Coppice Avenue, Lower Willingdon, East Sussex BN20 9PN | Tuesday 14.00pm -16.00pm<br>Wednesday 10.00am – 12.00 noon<br>Thursday 14.00pm – 16.00pm<br>Saturday 10.00am – 12.00 noon |
| **Crowborough Town Council** | Council Offices, Pine Grove, Crowborough, East Sussex TN6 1DH | Monday – Thursday<br>09.00am – 17.00pm<br>Friday<br>09.00am – 16.30pm |
| **Forest Row Parish Council** | The Community Centre, Hartfield Road, Forest Row, East Sussex RH18 5DZ | Monday – Friday<br>09.00am – 16.00pm |
| **Hailsham Town Council** | Inglenook, Market Street, Hailsham, East Sussex BN27 2AE | Monday – Friday<br>10.00am – 14.00pm |
| **Heathfield and Waldron Parish Council** | 73 High Street, Heathfield, East Sussex TN21 8HU | Monday – Friday<br>09.30am – 13.30pm |
| **Horam Parish Council** | The Horam Centre, 3 Bank Buildings, Horam, East Sussex TN21 0EH | Tuesday – Thursday<br>09.30am – 12.30pm<br>Friday 10.00am – 13.00pm |
| **Maresfield Parish Council** | Parish Office, Social Club Building, Churchfields, High Street, Nutley, East Sussex TN22 3NA | Monday – Friday<br>09.00am – 14.30pm |
| **Mayfield and Five Ashes Parish Council** | The Old Manor House, High Street, Mayfield, East Sussex TN20 6AL | Monday and Friday<br>09.00am – 13.00pm<br>Wednesday 09.00am – 16.30pm |
| **Polegate Town Council** | 49 High Street, Polegate, East Sussex BN26 6AL | Monday – Friday<br>09.00am – 13.00pm |
| **Uckfield Town Council** | Civic Centre, Uckfield, East Sussex TN22 1AE | Monday – Thursday<br>09.00am – 17.00pm<br>Friday 09.00am – 16.00pm |
| **Willingdon and Jevington Parish Council** | Council Office, The Triangle, Willingdon, East Sussex BN20 9PJ | Monday – Friday<br>09.00am – 13.00pm |

## Exhibitions

| Face to Face Exhibitions | Date | Time |
|---|---|---|
| **Hailsham Civic Community Hall** | 23/03/2024 | 10.00am – 16.00pm |
| **Maresfield Village Hall** | 25/03/2024 | 14.00pm – 20.00pm |
| **Polegate Community Centre** | 26/03/2024 | 14.00pm – 20.00pm |
| **Uckfield Civic Centre** | 13/04/2024 | 10.00am – 16.00pm |
| **Heathfield Community Centre** | 17/04/2024 | 14.00pm – 20.00pm |
| **Crowborough Community Centre** | 20/04/2024 | 10.00am – 16.00pm |
| **East Hoathly Village Hall** | 22/04/2024 | 14.00pm – 20.00pm |
| **Frant Memorial Hall** | 23/04/2024 | 14.00pm – 20.00pm |
| **Horam Village Hall** | 04/05/2024 | 10.00am – 16.00pm |

## Social Media Engagement

- **Marketing and Social Media Engagement** – My Alerts / Facebook / twitter / Next Door (target key audiences) social media releases /communication
- **Traditional Engagement** - newspaper advertising, press releases. A newsletter (traditional or virtual) with Local Plan and consultation updates.
- **Local Plan Introductory Video** - a promotional video on how to take part in the consultation**.**

## Council Website Promotion

Wealden
Draft Local Plan

Draft Local Plan

Webpage Text

### Wealden Draft Local Plan

Wealden District Council is preparing a new Local Plan. The new Local Plan will be the key planning document for Wealden District, excluding the area covered by the South

Downs National Park Authority. The South Downs National Park has planning powers for its own area.

The Wealden Local Plan looks ahead to 2040; it will provide a vision for the district, a long-term spatial strategy for growth, including the locations where development will take place. It will provide a range of both strategic and non-strategic policies that will guide development across the district contributing to social, environmental and economic (sustainability) goals. Once adopted, the Local Plan will form part of the Development Plan for the district, replacing all existing local plan policies and will be used to assess and make decisions on planning applications, as well as to inform investment and the provision of infrastructure. The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires that "for the purpose of making any determination under the planning Acts, the determination must be made in accordance with the plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise".

Overall, this Plan will help meet the district's needs and priorities, whilst protecting our natural and physical environments. It will ensure that future growth is delivered alongside required infrastructure and improvements, as well as deliver on climate change objectives. It will also help to ensure that our communities are supported with the services and facilities that they need to support daily life.

This current stage of the local plan (known as Regulation 18) sets out the Council's draft policies and growth strategy and is an important stage in the plan-making process. It provides an opportunity at an early stage for all our communities, businesses, landowners, developers, partners and stakeholders to 'have a say' and comment on the draft Local Plan before it is considered further and then finalised.

## How to have your say

The Consultation on the Draft Local Plan will run from 15th March 2024 to 10th May 2024. Whether you have comments on the overall spatial strategy, the vision and objectives, individual site allocations and / or any of the Plan's draft policies, we really would like to hear from you. This is your opportunity to feed into this process ahead of us developing and testing the plan further before its third and final stage in preparation (Regulation 19).

To comment on the draft Local Plan, please go to our Local Plan Consultation portal at (ATTACH LINK). Comments can be made directly online, using the consultation portal. Full instructions on how to comment are provided.

Alternatively, you can complete a comments form or collect a paper comments form from the locations below where the plan can be inspected.

By email to planningpolicy@wealden.gov.uk

By post to Planning Policy, Wealden District Council, Vicarage Lane, Hailsham, East Sussex BN27 2AX

Please telephone the Planning Policy team on 01892 602008, if you want any further information, help or assistance.

## Where to find more information

All of the relevant documentation can be found here and on the Local Plan Consultation portal.

- Draft Local Plan
- Policies Maps
- Monitoring Framework
- Sustainability Appraisal
- Habitat Regulation Assessment
- Infrastructure Delivery Plan
- Sustainable Settlement Strategy

You can view our virtual exhibition at any time please visit (ATTACH LINK)

## Hard copies of the above information are held for viewing at a number of deposit points within the district.

Paper copies of the above documents are available for inspection at our Council Offices and at the following locations.

**[INSERT DEPOSIT POINT LOCATIONS)**

## Drop in sessions have also been arranged at a number of venues.

We will be holding a number of 'in person' exhibitions to provide an opportunity for you to ask any questions about the draft Local Plan and to speak to Council Officers. These events will take place as follows:

**[INSERT EXHIBITION LOCATIONS]**

## **Supporting Documents**

Letter to consultees 

**Appendix E – Focused Local Plan (Regulation 18) Consultation Arrangements (2026)**

## Focused Local Plan Deposit Points

| | Address | Opening Hours |
|---|---|---|
| **Wealden District Council** | Council Offices, Vicarage Lane, Hailsham, East Sussex. BN27 1AX | Monday – Friday<br>09.00am – 17.00pm |
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| **Crowborough Library** | Pine Grove, Crowborough, East Sussex TN6 1DH | Monday 12.30am – 17.00pm<br>Tuesday 10.00am – 17.00pm<br>Wednesday 10.00am – 14.00pm<br>Thursday – 11.00am – 18.00pm<br>Friday 10.00am – 17.00pm<br>Saturday 10.00am – 17.00pm |
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| **Heathfield Library** | 21 High Street, Heathfield, East Sussex TN21 8LU | Monday 10.00am – 13.00pm<br>Tuesday 10.00am – 17.00pm<br>Wednesday Closed<br>Thursday – 14.00pm – 18.00pm<br>Friday 10.00am – 16.00pm<br>Saturday 10.00am – 13.00pm |
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## Exhibitions

| Face to Face Exhibitions | Date | Time |
|---|---|---|
| **Ethel Wood Community Centre, Pevensey Bay** | 12/02/2026 | 13.30pm – 19.30pm |
| **Uckfield Civic Centre** | 14/02/2026 | 10.00am – 16.00pm |
| **Horam Village Hall** | 18/02/2026 | 14.00pm – 20.00pm |
| **Polegate Community Centre** | 19/02/2026 | 14.00pm – 20.00pm |
| **East Hoathly Village Hall** | 21/02/2026 | 10.00am – 16.00pm |
| **Maresfield Village Hall** | 24/02/2026 | 14.00pm – 20.00pm |
| **Heathfield Community Centre** | 26/02/2026 | 14.00pm – 20.00pm |
| **Hailsham Civic Community Hall** | 28/02/2026 | 10.00am – 16.00pm |
| **Crowborough Town Council Offices** | 02/03/2026 | 14.00pm – 20.00pm |
| **Frant - The Stables** | 12/03/2026 | 14.00pm – 20.00pm |

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## Council Website Promotion

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Draft Local Plan

Draft Local Plan

Webpage Text

Wealden District Council is preparing a new Local Plan. The Local Plan will be the key planning document for Wealden District, excluding the area covered by the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA). The SDNPA has planning powers for its own area. Once adopted, the Local Plan will form part of the Development Plan for the

District, replacing all existing local plan policies and will be used to assess and make decisions on planning applications.

In March 2024, Wealden District Council published a draft local plan (known as Regulation 18) that set out the Council's draft policies and growth strategy for the plan period. A summary of the main issues to the draft Wealden Local Plan (March 2024) were presented to our Local Plan Sub Committee on 5 March 2025. However, in December 2024, the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was updated as well as the calculation on housing need, known as the 'standard method' which results in increased housing need within Wealden District compared to that in our March 2024 draft local plan. Subsequently, the Council considered at that Local Plan Sub Committee on 5 March 2025 that a further consultation stage is needed to address those national planning changes and to consider whether further changes to the spatial strategy are required.

This 'Focused' Draft Local Plan consultation looks ahead to 2042. The Draft Local Plan focuses on a long-term spatial strategy for growth, including proposed locations for development and it provides a range of draft strategic policies for housing, the economy, town centres and Gypsy and Traveller provision. The Draft Local Plan also provides updates to our affordable housing policy, Sustainable Urban Drainage (SuDS) policy and a new policy on Coastal Change Management Areas (CCMAs). It does not present a full Local Plan draft at this stage. We need focus, through this consultation, on areas updated through the recent national policy changes which give rise to the need for further consideration in that wider context.

The consultation on the 'Focused' Draft Local Plan will run from **5pm on Friday 6 February 2026 to 5pm on Friday 20 March 2026**. Any responses received after this cannot be accepted.

Whether you have comments on the overall spatial strategy, the individual site allocations and / or any of the Plan's draft policies, we really would like to hear from you. You can comment on the documents online using our online consultation portal https://consult.wealden.gov.uk/kse/. Full instructions and a video on how to comment are provided. This is your opportunity to feed into this process ahead of us developing and testing the plan further and publishing the Proposed Submission Local Plan for Consultation (Regulation 19) later this year.

All of the documents relating to the consultation can be found below:

- All Local Plan Consultation Information
- Local Plan Evidence Base
- New Sustainability Appraisal
- Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment

Alternatively, hard copies of the 'Focused' Draft Local Plan and other key consultation documents such as the Sustainability Appraisal can be viewed at a number of locations

including the Council offices, libraries and several Town/Parish Council offices. Please see the list here.

You can also view our online virtual exhibition at any time, or you can visit one of our 'in person' exhibitions during the consultation to speak to Officers about the Local Plan. Our virtual exhibition is available on our website, are details on the dates, times and locations of the 'in person' exhibitions that are listed here.

Local Development Scheme

The Council recently adopted its Local Development Scheme (LDS) (2026) that identifies and sets out the timetable for the planning documents that we will prepare to plan for development in our administrative area. The document provides information for our local communities and stakeholders to find out about the planning policy documents being prepared and covers the period 2026-2028.

The LDS was approved at a Full Council Meeting on Thursday 29th January 2026.

- Wealden District Council Local Development Scheme January 2026

Following on from the decision to adopt the LDS, the Council has and will continue to progress with an update to the emerging Wealden Local Plan through developing its evidence base and revising its development strategy following the changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) in December 2024. The next stage in the Local Plan known as 'Regulation 19' is due to be published later in 2026 as outlined in the LDS, before being submitted formally to the Planning Inspectorate at the end of the calendar year.

Previous Consultations

The emerging Local Plan has previously been through the following public consultation stages:

- Regulation 18 Draft Local Plan Consultation (2024)
- Direction of Travel Consultation (2021)

## Supporting Documents

Letter to consultees 