Statement of Representations Procedure

Regulation 18 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012

Title of document: Wealden Draft Local Plan Regulation 18 (February 2026)

The subject matter and area covered: Wealden District Council has published a 'Focused' Regulation 18 Draft Local Plan for consultation following a previous consultation in March 2024. The plan will be the key planning document for Wealden District, excluding the area covered by the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA). The South Downs National Park (SDNP) has planning powers for its own area.

In December 2024, the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was updated, subsequently, the Council considers 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. Therefore, this 'Focused' Regulation 18 draft local plan concentrates primarily on the spatial strategy and associated policies, site allocation policies, as well as updates to our affordable housing policy, Sustainable Urban Drainage (SuDS) policy and a new policy on Coastal Change Management Areas. It does not present a full Local Plan draft at this stage.

A full draft local plan containing all necessary policy areas will be presented at the Regulation 19 stage (later in 2026) for consultation before being submitted for Examination in Public (EiP) before the end of 2026.

Period for submitting representations: The consultation on the 'Focused' Regulation 18 Draft Local Plan runs from Friday 6 February to 5pm on Friday 27 March 2026.

During the period for making representations, the Plan will be available for viewing:

On the Council's website through the Local Plan webpage at https://www.wealden.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-policy/new-local-plan/

At Wealden District Council offices (Hailsham), East Sussex County Council offices (Lewes), Crowborough Town Council offices, Forest Row Parish Council offices, Hailsham Town Council offices, Heathfield and Waldron Parish Council offices, Horam Parish Council offices, Maresfield Parish Council offices, Mayfield and Five Ashes Parish Council offices, Polegate Town Council offices, Uckfield Town Council office and Willingdon and Jevington Parish Council offices, all available during their normal opening hours.

In all libraries in Wealden District during their normal opening hour with the exception of Hailsham Library which is currently closed for refurbishment.

Public Exhibitions: There will be staffed exhibitions on the following dates where there will be the opportunity to speak directly to the Council officers involved in the preparation of the Plan:

Date	Venue	Opening Times
12 Feb	Ethel Wood Community Centre, Pevensey Bay	1pm to 7pm
14 Feb	Uckfield Civic Centre	10am to 4pm
18 Feb	Horam Village Hall	2pm to 8pm
19 Feb	Polegate Community Centre	2pm to 8pm
21 Feb	East Hoathly Village Hall	10am to 4pm
24 Feb	Maresfield Village Hall	2pm to 8pm
26 Feb	Heathfield Community Centre	2pm to 8pm
28 Feb	Hailsham Civic Community Hall	10am to 4pm
2 Mar	Crowborough Town Council Offices	2pm to 8pm
12 Mar	Stables Hall, Frant	2pm to 8pm

Making and submitting representations: Wealden District Council strongly encourages **r**epresentations to be submitted online by submitting through the **consultation portal**. The portal can be accessed through the Council's Local Plan webpage. Alternatively, comments will also be accepted on the prescribed Comment Form via email.

The Comment Form is available:

From the Council's website as set out above, or

By emailing planningpolicy@wealden.gov.uk or by telephoning 01892 602008

Comments will also be accepted by post to the following address: Planning Policy Team, Wealden District Council Offices, Vicarage Lane, Hailsham, BN27 2AX

All comments received within the consultation period will be assessed and taken into account when producing the next version of the Plan.

Where there are groups of people who share a common view, it would be helpful if the group submitted a single representation, appending the names, addresses and email addresses of those represented. Where requested, all the named representatives will be notified of future stages.

Request to be notified: you can request to be kept informed of future policy consultations within the district by contacting the Planning Policy Team using the methods above.