Wealden District Council Response to the Examiner of the Hailsham Neighbourhood Plan Review.

I note that the Local Development Scheme was updated last month. Is the Council continuing to work to the timetable for the emerging Local Plan as set out in that document?

Yes, as it stands, we are working towards the timetable in the adopted Local Development Scheme (LDS)[1]. The Regulation 19 process for the Local Plan[2] is currently underway and closed at 5pm on 2 November 2026 with the submission of the Local Plan anticipated by the end of 2026, subject to Full Council approval that is currently scheduled for the 17 December 2026. However, it should be noted that the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) has published a letter on the 23 October 2026[3], which confirms that any local planning development plan document being prepared in the legacy system which has concluded its final Regulation 19 consultation period by 31 December 2026, will be given a 3-month extension to submit (i.e. the 31 March 2027). As the Council has yet to finalise the number or extent of the representations made, a change may become necessary, and the examiner will be informed if this is the case.

Further timescales within the adopted LDS are dependent on the timeframe of the Examination that will be set out by the Planning Inspector.

[1] Local Development Scheme (September 2026)
[2] The Regulation 19 process runs from 21 September 2026 to 2 November 2026.
[3] Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, Legacy system local plan extension, 23 October 2026.