Rother District Council
Town Hall
London Rd.
Bexhill-on-
Sea
East Sussex
TN39 3JX

Rother Local Plan

Local Development Scheme 2026

September 2026

Rother
District Council

Contents

1. Introduction 5

Context 5

Purpose 5

Scope 6

2. Overview 7

Current documents, including 'development plan' documents 7

Development Plan documents 7

Supplementary Planning Documents 8

Other documents 8

Statement of Community Involvement 8

Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule 9

Infrastructure Funding Statement 9

Brownfield Land Register 9

Monitoring Reports 9

Documents to be prepared over the next three years 10

Rother District Local Plan – –2025 - 2042 10

Review of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Charging Schedule 10

Supplementary Planning Documents 10

Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) 11

Annual update on the Brownfield Land Register 12

Monitoring Reports 12

Infrastructure Funding Statement 13

Neighbourhood Plans 13

Made (Adopted) Neighbourhood Plans 14

Plans at Referendum Stage 15

Plans at Submission (Regulation 16) Stage 15

Plans in preparation 15

3. Programme 16

Programme for preparing planning policy documents September 2026 – February 2029 16

Figure 1: Council programme for preparing planning policy documents September 2026 – February 2029 19

Appendix 2: Schedule of Saved and superseded Policies 21

Appendix 3: Planning policy documents: Profiles 22

Local Plan 2025-2042 22

Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule 24

Statement of Community Involvement 24

Policies Map 26

Appendix 4: Programme management and Risk Assessment 27

Management Responsibilities and Reporting Arrangements 27

Evidence Base 28

Strategic Environmental Assessment/Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulation Assessment 28

Resources 28

Timeframe and contingencies 29

Risk Assessment 30

1. Introduction

Context

1.1. Rother has a population of 93,111 (ESiF, data from Census 2021) and covers some 200 square miles. The main settlements are Bexhill and the historic towns of Battle and Rye. Outside of these settlements, the district is mainly rural in character with dispersed villages and hamlets. Some 83% of the district lies within the High Weald National Landscape (a designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty).

1.2. Rother District Council is the Local Planning Authority responsible for preparing a Local Plan for the area to guide development in the district in accordance with relevant Regulations[1] and in line with the National Planning Policy Framework[2] (NPPF) and Planning Practice Guidance[3] on local plan preparation.

Purpose

1.3. This Local Development Scheme (LDS) sets out the Council's programme for preparing its Local Plan (2025-2042) and related documents, explaining their scope, area and timetable. It relates to the period September 2026 – February 2029 and replaces the previous LDS, published in March 2025.

1.4. The primary purpose of this LDS is to provide a publicly accessible, up-to-date timetable for the production of the Local Plan. For ease of reference this LDS also includes information about the main supporting and procedural documents that do or will accompany the Council's new Local Plan. It enables our communities and stakeholders to find out about the planning policy documents being prepared within a rolling three-year period.

1.5. Local Planning Authorities are required by legislation to prepare and maintain a Local Development Scheme (LDS) to provide a timetable for the preparation of a Local Plan and any other Local Development Documents.

[1] The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012
[2] https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/6077/2116950.pdf
[3] http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/

1.6. Legislation[4] states that a Local Development Scheme must specify:

- The Local Development Documents which are to be Development Plan Documents;
- The subject matter and geographical area to which each development plan document relates;
- Which Development Plan Documents, if any, are to be prepared jointly with one or more other local planning authorities;
- Any matter or area in respect of which the authority has agreed (or proposes to agree) to the constitution of a joint committee (with other Local Planning Authorities); and
- The timetable for the preparation and revision of the Development Plan Documents;
- The timetable for the preparation of the Authorities' monitoring reports.

1.7. The timetable to deliver the Local Plan and the accompanying documents is based on best knowledge at the time of its production and could be subject to change.

Scope

1.8. The LDS focuses on the preparation of the Council's Local Plan, as this forms part of the statutory 'development plan' for the area and legislation states[5] that applications for planning permission should be determined in accordance with the 'development plan' unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

1.9. For completeness, this LDS also includes details of other relevant planning documents which will also be programmed for production over the next three year period, including commencing a review of the Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule for example.

[4] S15 of the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, as amended
[5] S38(6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and S70(2) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990

2. Overview

Current documents, including 'development plan' documents

Development Plan documents

2.1. At present, the 'development plan' for Rother comprises the:

- 'Saved' policies of the Rother District Local Plan (July 2006)
- Rother Local Plan Core Strategy (October 2014)
- Rother Development and Site Allocations (DaSA) Local Plan (December 2019)
- East Sussex, South Downs and Brighton & Hove Waste and Minerals Local Plan (February 2013)
- East Sussex, South Downs and Brighton & Hove Waste and Minerals Sites Local Plan (February 2017)
- East Sussex, South Downs and Brighton & Hove Waste and Minerals Local Plan Review Revised Policies (October 2024)
- Sedlescombe Neighbourhood Plan (April 2018)
- Salehurst and Robertsbridge Neighbourhood Plan (July 2018)
- Crowhurst Neighbourhood Plan (May 2025)
- Rye Neighbourhood Plan (July 2019)
- Ticehurst Neighbourhood Plan (July 2019)
- Battle Neighbourhood Plan (Nov 2021)
- Burwash Neighbourhood Plan (July 2022)
- Peasmarsh Neighbourhood Plan (April 2024)
- Hurst Green Neighbourhood Plan (December 2025)

2.2. The remaining saved Local Plan 2006 policies are set out at Appendix 2. These policies carry 'due weight', having regard to their degree of compliance with the NPPF. The Council has assessed[6] that these polices are compliant with the NPPF.

[6] http://www.rother.gov.uk/media/pdf/0/9/Saved_Local_Plan_Policies_Compliance_with_NPPF_-_Cabinet_Report__(July_2012).pdf

These saved policies relate to areas which are not covered by the scope of the adopted DaSA Local Plan.

2.3. The remaining saved policies relate to areas which are subject to made / emerging Neighbourhood Plans. In those areas, allocations will remain in place until they are replaced by relevant policies contained in the respective 'made' (approved) Neighbourhood Plans.

Supplementary Planning Documents

2.4. The following Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) also form part of the planning policy framework for Rother District:

- Camber Village SPD (2014)
- North East Bexhill SPD (2009)
- Affordable Housing SPD (2006)[7]

Other documents

Statement of Community Involvement

2.5. The Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) provides information on how the community can become involved with the preparation of planning policy documents and the determination of planning applications. It also sets out how and when the Council will support local communities in preparing Neighbourhood Plans. The SCI was adopted by the Council in January 2022.

2.6. The Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) explains the arrangements for public involvement in Rother District Council's planning processes. It covers both the preparation of planning policy documents and the determination of planning applications.

[7] NB This has been substantially superseded by the Core Strategy and national changes but has not been formally revoked.

Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule

2.7. The Council has adopted a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) to raise contributions for the provision of new infrastructure to support sustainable growth. The CIL Charging Schedule sets out the levy that applies to specified types of development, subject to exemptions set out in regulations. Rother's CIL charging schedule came into effect on 4 April 2016.

Infrastructure Funding Statement

2.8. The Infrastructure Funding Statement (IFS) is produced annually for the previous financial year. It provides information on the monetary (and non-monetary) contributions sought and received from developers for the provision of infrastructure to support development in the Rother District, and the subsequent use of those contributions by Rother District Council.

Brownfield Land Register

2.9. The Council first published the Brownfield Land Register in December 2017 in line with a new duty, through the Housing and Planning Act (2016), which requires local planning authorities to prepare, maintain and publish a register of brownfield land (also known as previously developed land) which the Council has assessed as being potentially suitable for residential development. The Register is used to monitor the Government's commitment to the delivery of brownfield sites.

Monitoring Reports

2.10. 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) is published at the end of December every year. The latest AMR is published on the Monitoring page of the Council's website.

Documents to be prepared over the next three years

Rother District Local Plan – 2025 - 2042

2.11. The preparation of the new Local Plan for Rother District will allow the Council to develop an up-to-date Plan to deliver on Council objectives and community priorities set out in the latest Council Plan. The new Local Plan will set the spatial strategy for growth within the district and new development along with specific requirements for strategic sites (typically larger sites and/or critical sites for infrastructure delivery). It will include policies by which to determine planning applications and will allocate sites to meet housing and employment needs. It will also include detailed development management policies and any measures required to mitigate the impact of development. The draft Local Plan has been published for two rounds of "Regulation 18" public consultation in April-July 2024 and January-March 2026, and officers continue to work to develop the submission version of the new Local Plan.

Review of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Charging Schedule

2.12. The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) allows local authorities in England and Wales to raise funds from developers undertaking new building projects in their area to fund a wide range of infrastructure that is needed to support new development. 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.

2.13. The review of the existing CIL charging schedule will take place after the adoption of the new Local Plan and will commence in 2028.

Supplementary Planning Documents

2.14. The Council is not currently proposing to produce any Supplementary Planning Documents over the next three years in order to focus on the new Local Plan.

Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)

2.15. The SCI provides information on how the community can become involved with the preparation of planning policy documents and the determination of planning applications.

2.16. It also sets out how we will notify and consult all interested groups and ensure equality, including engaging with "hard to reach" groups. It details which particular plans require public involvement and how and at what stage there are opportunities to be involved.

2.17. The current SCI was adopted by the Council in January 2022 and can be found on the website[8].

2.18. There is a requirement to review and update an SCI every five years, from the date of adoption. The Council intends to commence an update of the SCI in Autumn 2026 to meet this deadline, in line with the timetable set out in Figure 1.

[8] Rother District Council Statement of Community Involvement (windows.net)

Annual update on the Brownfield Land Register

2.19. The Council produces an annual update to the Brownfield Land Register by the end of each year which sets out the sites that the Council has assessed as being potentially suitable for residential development. The Register is used to monitor the Government's commitment to the delivery of brownfield sites.

2.20. The Register provides a standard set of information, prescribed by the Government, to help provide certainty for developers and communities and encourage investment in local areas.

2.21. The programme for all the above documents is summarised in section 3 below and elaborated upon in Appendix 3.

Monitoring Reports

2.22. The Authority Monitoring Report (AMR) is produced on an annual basis and published on the Council's website. The purpose of the AMR is established in legislation and should provide annual updates on the following:

- the timetable for local plan document preparation as set out in the Local Development Scheme;
- details of any policies in the current local plan which are not being implemented and the reason for this;
- details of any neighbourhood plans;
- information regarding Community Infrastructure Levy;
- information collected for monitoring purposes.

2.23. The Employment Land Supply Position Statement is produced on an annual basis. It provides information on recent completions and commitments of employment related developments. It also considers the contribution that business commitments are expected to make towards the supply of business floorspace, relative to the targets in the Core Strategy.

2.24. The Housing Land Supply Position Statement is produced on an annual basis and comprises of an assessment of Housing Land Supply and a Housing Trajectory. The document identifies the supply of dwellings at sites with planning permission and Local Plan allocations and shows the extent to which existing plans fulfil the requirement to maintain a rolling five-year supply of deliverable land in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

2.25. A Self-build and Custom Housebuilding Headline Data Report is also produced on an annual basis. This includes headline, anonymised data (i.e. location, type and/or demand) from the Self-build and Custom Housebuilding Register.

Infrastructure Funding Statement

2.26. The Infrastructure Funding Statement (IFS) is produced annually for the previous financial year. It provides information on the monetary (and non-monetary) contributions sought and received from developers for the provision of infrastructure to support development in the Rother District, and the subsequent use of those contributions by Rother District Council.

Neighbourhood Plans

2.27. In addition to the above plans and documents, Neighbourhood Plans (NPs) prepared by Town and Parish Councils also constitute 'development plan' documents.

2.28. While the timetables for their preparation are the responsibility of the respective local Councils, an up-to-date overview of the progress of Neighbourhood Plans is maintained on the Neighbourhood Planning page of the District Council's website here[9]. The current (September 2026) position for each designated Neighbourhood Area is summarised below.

[9] http://www.rother.gov.uk/neighbourhoodplans

Made (Adopted) Neighbourhood Plans

2.29. Sedlescombe Neighbourhood Plan (SNP) - The Sedlescombe Neighbourhood Plan was 'made' by Full Council on 23 April 2018 and now forms part of the Development Plan for Sedlescombe Parish.

2.30. Salehurst & Robertsbridge Neighbourhood Plan (SRNP) - The Salehurst and Robertsbridge Neighbourhood Plan was 'made' by Full Council on 7 July 2018 and now forms part of the Development Plan for Salehurst and Robertsbridge Parish.

2.31. Ticehurst Neighbourhood Plan (TNP) - The Ticehurst Neighbourhood Plan was 'made' by Full Council on 8 July 2019 and now forms part of the Development Plan for Ticehurst Parish.

2.32. Rye Neighbourhood Plan (RNP) - The Rye Neighbourhood Plan was 'made' by Full Council on 8 July 2019 and now forms part of the Development Plan for Rye Parish. The Rye Neighbourhood Plan is currently being reviewed, although the original Examination was ended before conclusion in May 2025 due to a legal technicality. The Review process is continuing, with the latest round of public consultation concluding in July 2026.

2.33. Crowhurst Neighbourhood Plan (CNP) - The Crowhurst Neighbourhood Plan was originally 'made' by Full Council on 8 July 2019 and became part of the Development Plan for Crowhurst Parish. It has subsequently been Reviewed and been subject to full consultation and examination. The Crowhurst Neighbourhood Plan Review Plan was 'made' by Full Council on 19 May 2025 and now forms part of the Development Plan for Crowhurst Parish.

2.34. Battle Civil Parish Neighbourhood Plan (BtNP) - The Battle Civil Parish Neighbourhood Plan was 'made' by Full Council on 3 November 2021 and now forms part of the Development Plan for Battle Parish.

2.35. Burwash Neighbourhood Plan (BuNP) - The Burwash Neighbourhood Plan was 'made' by Full Council on 4 July 2022 and now forms part of the Development Plan for Burwash Parish.

2.36. Peasmarsh Neighbourhood Plan (PNP) – The Peasmarsh Neighbourhood Plan was 'made' by Full Council on 22 April 2024 and now forms part of the Development Plan for Peasmarsh Parish.

2.37. Hurst Green Neighbourhood Plan (HGNP) - The Hurst Green Neighbourhood Plan was 'made' by Full Council on 15 December 2025 and now forms part of the Development Plan for Hurst Green Parish.

Plans at Referendum Stage

2.38. None.

Plans at Examination (Regulation 17) Stage

2.39. None.

Plans at Submission (Regulation 16) Stage

2.40. None.

Plans at consultation (Regulation 14) stage

2.41. The Rye Neighbourhood Plan (RNP) Review Regulation 14 consultation concluded in July 2024. The RNP has since been submitted to RDC for public consultation, however, it has been agreed to pause this process temporarily, pending the completion of additional evidence on flooding and habitats.

Plans in preparation

2.42. Etchingham Neighbourhood Plan (ENP)

3. Programme

3.1. The table below summarises the broad nature and programme of each planning policy document to be prepared over the next three years. This is elaborated upon by the 'profiles' for individual documents in Appendix 3 and the Chart at Figure 1.

Programme for preparing planning policy documents September 2026 – February 2029

Document	Role and scope	Area coverage	Public engagement periods[10]	Target Adoption date
Local Plan 2025-2042 and Policies Map	The new Local Plan will set out the vision, objectives and spatial development strategy for Rother District, to include the scale, type and distribution of development and will cover the period 2025-2042.	District-wide	Draft Plan consultation – Quarter 1 2024/25 (complete) Focused consultation on sites – Quarter 4 2025/26 (complete) Pre-Submission Plan – Quarter 2/3 2026/27	Quarter 3 2027/28
Review of CIL	CIL enables the Council to levy a charge on certain types of new development to help fund improvements to infrastructure necessary to support new development and ensure the creation of sustainable communities.	District-wide	Quarter 2 2028/29	Likely 2029/30

[10] The term quarter refers to financial years rather than calendar years i.e., quarter 1 2025/26 refers to April – June 2025.

Document	Role and scope	Area coverage	Public engagement periods[10]	Target Adoption date
Statement of Community Involvement	The SCI provides information on how the community can become involved with the preparation of planning policy documents and the determination of planning applications. It also set out how and when the Council will support local communities in preparing Neighbourhood Plans.	District-wide	Quarter 3 2026/27	Quarter 4 2026/27
Brownfield Land Register	This Register provides up-to-date, publicly available information on brownfield land that is suitable for housing.	District-wide	As required under the Regulations	Reviewed at least once a year by end of December each year.
Monitoring Reports	To ensure its policies are up-to-date and effective, the Council undertakes ongoing assessments and monitoring of them, with particular focus on housing supply.	District-Wide	N/A	Publication annually as required by the relevant regulations
Infrastructure Funding Statement	Provides information on the monetary (and non-monetary) contributions sought and received from developers for the provision of infrastructure to support development in the District, and the subsequent use of those contributions.	District-Wide	N/A	Publication by end of December each year

This page is blank for printing purposes.

Figure 1: Council programme for preparing planning policy documents

		2025/26				2026/27				2027/28			
Document Title	**Stage/Milestone**	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Local Plan – 2025-2042 (including policies map)	Evidence Gathering, Stakeholder Engagement, Considering Representations												
	Focused consultation on site allocations												
	Pre-Submission Publication Consultation												
	Submission												
	Examination												
	Adoption												
Statement of Community Involvement	Pre-production												
	Consultation on Draft SCI												
	Adoption												
Brownfield Land Register	Revision												
Monitoring Reports	Authority Monitoring Report												
	Employment Land Supply Position Statement												
	Housing Land Supply Position Statement												
Infrastructure Funding Statement	Annual Revision												

NB: i) **The review of the CIL Charging Schedule, starting with evidence gathering, will commence in Q2 2028/29 with dates for formal consultation, submission, examination and adoption to be scheduled nearer the time.**

ii) The term quarter refers to financial years rather than calendar years i.e., quarter 3 2026/27 refers to October – December 2026.

This page is blank for printing purposes.

Appendix 2: Schedule of Saved and superseded Policies

All Rother District Local Plan 2006 policies were saved under a Direction by the Secretary of State in 2009. Subsequent to that a substantial number of policies have been superseded upon adoption of the Core Strategy, the Development and Site Allocations (DaSA) Local Plan and where relevant, a 'made' Neighbourhood Plan. All the policies identified below will continue to be saved until such time as a relevant Neighbourhood Plan containing germane policies to replace these allocations is 'made', at which point they will also be superseded. It does not necessarily follow that every policy will be directly replaced, as the need for as well as the nature of policies required to properly manage development will be reassessed as part of the relevant plan-making process.

- Chapter 13 – Villages: Policy VL1 - Land South-west of Strand Meadow, Burwash
- The spatial extent of Rother District Local Plan 2006 development boundary as set out in the proposals (policies) map for Etchingham remains saved until such time as it is replaced through a Neighbourhood Plan.

Appendix 3: Planning policy documents: Profiles

Local Plan 2025-2042

Local Plan 2020-2040[11]	
Document Details	
Role & Subject	The new Local Plan will set out the vision, objectives and spatial development strategy for Rother District, to include the scale, type and distribution of development and will cover the period 2025-2042. The local plan will be a single document and will include both strategic and non-strategic topic based 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.
Geographical Coverage	District-wide
Status	Development Plan Document
Conformity	Government Policy
Timeframe	Up to 2042
Key Milestones	
Consulting statutory bodies on scope of the Sustainability Appraisal	Completed
Draft Plan consultation (Regulation 18)	Completed (Quarter 1-2, 2024/25)
Focused consultation on proposed site allocations (Regulation 18)	Completed (Quarter 4 2025/26)
Public consultation on Pre-Submission Plan (Regulation 19)	Quarter 2-3 2026/27
Submission	Quarter 3 2026/27
Examination (RDC does not control how long the examination process runs for)	Quarter 4 2026/27 – Quarter 2 2027/28
Adoption	Quarter 3 2027/28
Production arrangements	

[11] The term quarter refers to financial years rather than calendar years i.e., quarter 1 2024/25 refers to April – June 2024.

Management	See appendix 4
Information requirements	In line with NPPF, PPG and legislation.
Risk Assessment	See appendix 4 The main risks are: Significant changes to national policy Staffing High response levels Developing new evidence base, including consultancy timescales Ability to accommodate housing need locally

Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule

CIL Charging Schedule[12]	
Document Details	
Role & Subject	The CIL Charging Schedule sets out the rates applicable to certain types of development that are liable to pay the levy. A review of the CIL Charging Schedule will take place following adoption of the Local Plan.
Geographical Coverage	District-wide
Status	CIL Charging Schedule
Conformity	Government Policy
Timeframe	Up to 2040
Key Milestones	
Evidence gathering	Commencing Q2 2028/29
Public consultation	Dates TBC nearer the time
Submission	
Examination	
Adoption	
Production arrangements	
Management	See appendix 4
Information requirements	In line with NPPF, CIL Regulations, PPG & Local Plan 2025-2042
Risk Assessment	See appendix 4 The main risks specific to this Review: Significant changes to national policy Staffing High response levels

Statement of Community Involvement

Statement of Community Involvement	
Document Details	
Role & Subject	Provides information on how the community can become involved with the preparation of planning policy documents and the determination of planning

[12] The term quarter refers to financial years rather than calendar years i.e., quarter 1 2024/25 refers to April – June 2024.

	applications. It also sets out how and when the Council will support local communities in preparing Neighbourhood Plans.
Geographical Coverage	District-wide
Status	Statement of Community Involvement
Conformity	Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended)
Timeframe	At least once every five years
Key Milestones	
First Published	July 2006
Most recent publication	January 2022
SCI Review	At least once every five years
Production arrangements	
Management	See Appendix 4
Information requirements	Regulations, Planning Practice Guidance (PPG)
Risk Assessment	See Appendix 4 The main risks are: Changes in Government policy High volume of representations - Staff resources

Policies Map

Policies Map*	
Document Details	
Role & Subject	The graphical presentation of policies, proposals on an OS base
Geographical Coverage	District wide with larger-scale insets covering specific areas
Status	Development Plan Document
Conformity	Local Plan 2025-2042
Timeframe	In parallel with Local Plan 2025-2042
Timetable	
Timetable	See Figure 1
Production arrangements	
Management	See Appendix 4
Information requirements	Latest OS data Constraints information from statutory agencies

Pending adoption of the Local Plan 2025-2042, the 'Policies Map' comprises the Proposals Map of the Development and Site Allocations Local Plan, allocations set out in 'made' Neighbourhood Plans, the allocations and safeguarding areas set out in the adopted East Sussex, South Downs and Brighton & Hove Waste and Minerals Local Plan, and Rother District Local Plan 2006 development boundaries and site-specific policies (where applicable) for those Neighbourhood Plan areas without a made NP or with a made NP without site allocations.

Appendix 4: Programme management and Risk Assessment

Management Responsibilities and Reporting Arrangements

The Council's Cabinet oversees the preparation of planning policy documents. It is authorised to approve documents for public consultation. However, in accordance with the Council's Constitution, statutory development plan documents that are to be published or adopted as Council policy are determined by Full Council.

The Portfolio Holder for Planning oversees the preparation of planning policy documents and is involved throughout, from the early stages of the process.

Management is overseen by the Head of Planning. Day-to-day management of the production of the planning policy documents is undertaken by the Planning Policy Manager. The table below identifies the main Member and officer groups involved.

Group	Roles and Expertise
Planning Policy team	Prime responsibility for preparing and progressing all elements of the Local Plan
Development Management team	Contribution to development of policies. Information exchange re application and success (or otherwise) of policies and identification of policy gaps Assistance with SCI production (in respect of applications)
Other Council services	Contribution to development of policies. To ensure compliance with Corporate and Service objectives at early and key stages in plan preparation To provide a 'non-planning' audit To promote awareness of the role and scope of planning policy documents and share best practice
Cabinet Portfolio Holder	To oversee and guide the strategy direction of the Local Plan and related policy documents
Cabinet	To steer the preparation and content of policy documents at key stages, including authorising of consultation on draft development plan documents
Overview & Scrutiny Committee	To monitor, as necessary, the decisions taken in respect of policy documents by the Cabinet
Full Council	To consider and agree the content of the Local Plan when being submitted or adopted as Council policy

The involvement of other stakeholders, notably East Sussex County Council who are the upper tier local authority for the Rother district area, statutory and non-statutory consultees, local communities and businesses, in plan preparation will be in accordance with legislative provisions and the Council's 'Statement of Community Involvement'. Close liaison will also be maintained with Town and Parish Councils and Neighbourhood Plan groups.

Evidence Base

Planning policy documents require a robust evidence base to support them. Many studies are being undertaken to support the new Local Plan and are being published once completed and as required. The programme takes account of the time needed to compile the evidence base at the appropriate stage of each document.

Strategic Environmental Assessment/Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulation Assessment

The Local Plan will be subject to Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and, where required, Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). Assessment of the sustainability implications of the policies will be prepared and published at the key stages in preparation in line with the SEA Regulations. As a competent authority, the Council must carry out an assessment under the Habitats Regulations, known as a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA), to test if the proposed plan could significantly harm the designated features of a European site. It will do this initially through a screening process, and then, if necessary, an Appropriate Assessment.

Resources

As discussed above, the main responsibility for the Local Plan preparation lies with the Planning Policy Section. Beyond the expertise in the team, the support of other officers will be provided at key stages in the preparation process.

External expertise is required to assist with the preparation of specialist studies and assessments. Specifically, specialists are likely to be required in relation to landscape, ecology, transport and viability.

The resource requirements will be regularly monitored in line with the Council's existing budgetary processes.

Timeframe and contingencies

A Risk Assessment is presented below, with potential responses.

Risk Assessment

Risk Factor	Likelihood	Scale of Impact	Contingency Actions	Possible Response to Risk occurring	Implications
Further changes to Planning Policy and Guidance, including those set out in the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023.	High	High	Monitor emerging guidance, consultations etc.	Reassess priorities through review of LDS	Delay
Local Government Reorganisation	High	Low	Monitor the process in liaison with other District and Borough Councils in East Sussex although it is not expected the process will affect Local Plan making.	Reassess priorities through review of LDS	Delay
Work demands that are not programmed, notably Neighbourhood Plans	High	High	Manage inputs to neighbourhood plans and strictly prioritise inputs to re-work demands. Short-term extra resources Work with NP groups to understand plan production timetables.	Review programmes for priority policy documents	Delay Possible financial cost

Risk Factor	Likelihood	Scale of Impact	Contingency Actions	Possible Response to Risk occurring	Implications
Staff shortages e.g. unable to recruit, long term sick leave etc.	Medium	High	Consideration with HR of recruitment and retention issues	Subject to timing of absence, purchase expertise on short term basis via consultancy	Delay Financial cost
Requisite expertise or capacity not available in-house	Medium	Mediu m	Staff training/CPD, Identify evidence needs with other LPAs	Train staff, Purchase expertise on short term basis Sharing expertise with other LPAs	Financial cost
Budgetary limitations	Medium	High	Council budgetary management processes, Monitor grant potential, Advanced appraisal of future costs	Reassess Section priorities through review of both the LDS and the Section's work programme	Delay Non-achievemen t of other Section priorities
Longer process times, especially due to high level of responses	Medium	Mediu m	Encourage online representations Early engagement	Secure administrative assistance Review programme and priorities	Delay
Loss of IT systems (virus etc.)	Low	High	Ensure system of regular backup of all data	Retrieve data from storage	Delay