East Hampshire Local Plan

Timetable for the new East Hampshire Local Plan

November 2026

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1. Introduction

1.1 This document sets out the timetable for the preparation of the new East Hampshire Local Plan. It has been prepared in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026 which prescribe the statutory process for preparing a 'new-style' Local Plan as established by Part 2 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (PCPA) as amended by Schedule 7 of the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act (LURA) 2023.

2. Background

2.1 The Council's current adopted Local Plan consists of:

- Joint Core Strategy (2014);
- Housing and Employment Allocations (2016); and
- Local Plan Second Review (2006).

2.2 They were prepared under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (PCPA) 2004, with the latter two being supported by detailed procedures set out in the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.

2.3 Since then, the Council carried out four Regulation 18 consultations, as part of the process of preparing a new Local Plan under the now called 'legacy' planning system. The details of those consultations are available to view on the Council's website.

2.4 Following the introduction of a new planning system, the Council decided to move away from preparing a Local Plan under the legacy planning system and would instead engage with the new planning system for plan-making. The new East Hampshire Local Plan will need to be prepared in line with detailed procedures set out in the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026 and the PCPA as amended by the LURA.

2.5 Once adopted the new East Hampshire Local Plan will replace the adopted Local Plan (as referenced in Section paragraph 2.1).

3. The Local Plan timetable

3.1 The Local Plan timetable needs to contain specific information as required by the relevant legislation and regulations. Section 15B of the PCPA as amended by the

LURA sets out certain matters that the Local Plan timetable needs to specify. These details are set out in Annex 1.

3.2 Regulation 4 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026 provides further detail regarding the form and content of the Local Plan timetable. In particular it requires that the timetable specifies the date upon which all the necessary steps that are required by law in producing a new Local Plan are envisaged to be undertaken. These dates are included in Annex 2.

3.3 In order to comply with Regulation 8, this timetable is published, with an accompanying statement that it is to have effect on the same date as the notice of intention to commence local plan preparation. The date that these were made available is 20 November 2026. The timetable and statement that it is to have effect is available to view on the Council's website at: www.easthants.gov.uk/newlocalplan.

3.4 The notice of intention to commence local plan preparation is available to view on the Council's website at: www.easthants.gov.uk/newlocalplan.

3.5 The dates specified for the stages after Gateway 1 reflect Government's preferred 30- month timescale (including 6-months for examination and 1-month for adoption).

3.6 The PCPA as amended by the LURA and associated regulations also require that the Local Plan timetable indicates whether the Council intends to prepare a Supplementary Plan and whether either the Local Plan or any Supplementary Plan(s) are intended to be prepared jointly with another local planning authority.

3.7 It is the Council's intention to prepare a Supplementary Plan for Delivering Well-Designed Places. Neither the Local Plan or the Supplementary Plan are to be prepared jointly with another local planning authority.

4. Revisions to Local Plan timetable

4.1 In accordance with Regulation 6, the Council is required to ensure that the Local Plan timetable is kept up to date and must be reviewed, and if necessary updated, on at least a monthly basis. The dates specified in the timetable will be kept under review and updated accordingly including when either a relevant plan preparation

stage or a relevant event occurs, or a decision is made to carry out an additional consultation stage.

4.2 The Council's latest Local Plan timetable is available to view online at: www.easthants.gov.uk/newlocalplan.

Annex 1 – Local Plan scope and content

Matters which the local plan for their area is to deal with	The East Hampshire Local Plan will: • Define the strategic spatial strategy for the area, including how housing, employment and other needs will be met and supported by the appropriate level of infrastructure. • Allocate sites for development, including sites for housing, employment, traveller accommodation and other uses. • Set locally specific development management policies where these are not already sufficiently addressed by any national decision making policies that exist at the time. • Identify area-based growth strategies or policies for particular settlements, growth areas, and/or regeneration locations. • Include a policies map showing all policy designations.
The geographical area to which the authority's local plan is to relate	East Hampshire District Council administrative boundary excluding the South Downs National Park (map included in the notice of intention to commence local plan preparation)
Any supplementary plans which the authority are to prepare	Supplementary Plan for Delivering Well-Designed Places
The subject matter and geographical area, site or sites to which each of those supplementary plans is to relate	The Supplementary Plan for Delivering Well-Designed Places will provide design requirements to regulate the design and layout of new development proposals, having particular regard to the implications for local built character; resilience to climate change and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions; the protection and enhancement of the natural environment; and the use of sustainable modes of transport. The Supplementary Plan will cover all parts of East Hampshire District that are outside of the South Downs National Park.
How the authority propose to comply with the requirement in section 15F(1)	Supplementary Plan for Delivering Well-Designed Places.

(requirement in relation to design code)	
Whether the authority are to prepare a joint local plan or supplementary plan, and whether to form a joint committee for that purpose	No formal commencement of joint plan or joint supplementary plan.

Annex 2 – Local Plan timetable

Regulation	Stage of plan making	Dates	What does this mean?
8	Publish Local Plan Timetable	20 November 2026	
19(1)	Publish Notice of Intention to commence Local Plan preparation	20 November 2026	This commences the minimum 4-month notice period so that stakeholders are aware plan-making is beginning.
20(1)(b)	Scoping Consultation starts	7 December 2026	We will seek feedback from stakeholders for a 6-week period on how to engage with them and what the Local Plan should contain.
20(4)	Scoping Consultation ends	22 January 2027	
21(3)	Publish Gateway 1 (self-assessment of readiness)	30 April 2027	Publication of a document setting out details of how we have got ready for plan-making. This marks formal commencement of plan-making for the purposes of Government's 30-month timeframe.
22(3)	Publish summary of scoping consultation	30 June 2027	
23(1)(a)	Consultation on proposed plan contents and evidence of new Local Plan starts	1 November 2027	We will seek feedback from stakeholders on proposed local plan content and evidence, including a draft vision for a 6-week period. It will also include the proposed

			spatial strategy and any initial draft policies.
23(4)	Consultation on proposed plan contents and evidence of new Local Plan ends	13 December 2027	
24(3)	Publish summary of responses from proposed plan contents and evidence consultation (Reg.24)	30 January 2028	
26	Gateway 2 advice sought	April 2028	We will seek observations and advice from the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) to help identify and resolve potential soundness issues at an early stage, and to ensure the Local Plan is progressing towards meeting the statutory and policy requirements set out in legislation and national planning policy.
	Gateway 2 advice published	May 2028	
27(1)(a)	Consultation on new proposed Local Plan starts	September 2028	
27(4)	Consultation on new proposed Local Plan ends	October 2028	
30(3)	Publish summary of consultation and finalise Local Plan	November 2028	
31	Gateway 3 advice sought (Prescribed	January 2029	We will seek observations and advice from PINS to

	requirements assessment)		test if the proposed Local Plan meets the statutory and policy requirements set out in legislation and national planning policy, that all submission documents have been prepared and that the Local Plan is ready to proceed to examination.
	Gateway 3 advice published	February 2029	
34	Submit Local Plan for examination	March 2029	
35	Examination recommendations published	30 September 2029	Examination of the Local Plan by an independent Planning Inspector to test whether the plan meets all legal and soundness requirements.
39	Adoption of Local Plan	31 October 2029	Publication of the Local Plan and adoption statement.

Annex 3 – Supplementary Plan for delivering well-designed places timetable

Stage of plan making	**Date**
Publish notice of intention to commence supplementary plan preparation	20 November 2027
Scoping consultation	7 December 2026 – 22 January 2027
The consultation on the proposed supplementary plan will start and end	May – June 2027
Submit the supplementary plan for examination	October 2027
Adopt the supplementary plan	April 2028