

**Report title: Kirklees Local Plan Update: Commencement and Delivery Arrangements**

<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Cabinet</b>
<b>Date</b>	<b>24<sup>th</sup> March 2026</b>
<b>Cabinet Member</b> (if applicable)	<b>Cllr Graham Turner (Finance and Regeneration)</b>
<b>Key Decision Eligible for Call In</b>	<b>Yes, 23rd February 2026 Yes</b>

**Purpose of Report**

To set out the implications of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026 laid before Parliament on 4 March 2026 and which will come into force on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2026 (Statutory Instrument 2026 No. 186). The 2026 Regulations will bring into effect a new plan-making system and set out the regulatory procedures to produce Local Plans, Minerals and Waste Plans and Supplementary Plans (the replacement for Supplementary Planning Documents).

Kirklees Council will be required to progress the Local Plan update in compliance the 2026 regulations which include new statutory requirements to commence a plan process. The purpose of this report is to set out these requirements and the process for Cabinet to agree to commence a plan and undertake required statutory tasks in accordance with the 2026 regulations.

**Recommendations**

1. That Cabinet approves that a full update of the Kirklees Local Plan commences in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026.
2. Cabinet approves the submission of a notice of intention to commence the Kirklees Local Plan update to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) and its publication (as set out at paragraph 2.11 of this report) (Regulation 19).
3. Cabinet approves an updated Local Plan Timetable as set out at Table 1 of the report and authorises its submission to MHCLG and its publication (Regulation 4 and 5).
4. Cabinet delegates authority to the Executive Director of Place in consultation with the Finance and Regeneration Portfolio Holder to update and publish the Local Plan Timetable monthly or as required to ensure an up-to-date timetable is publicly available (Regulation 6).
5. Cabinet delegates authority to the Executive Director of Place in consultation with the Finance and Regeneration Portfolio Holder to agree commencement of the scoping consultation (Regulation 20).
6. Cabinet delegates authority to the Executive Director of Place in consultation with the Finance and Regeneration Portfolio Holder to approve, submit and publish documents for Gateway 1 self-assessment (Regulation 21), Gateway 2 (Regulation 26) and Gateway 3 (Regulation 31).
7. Cabinet delegates authority to the Executive Director of Place in consultation with the Finance and Regeneration Portfolio Holder to agree the content of and commencement of Consultation: Proposed Local Plan content and evidence, including draft vision (Regulation 23) and Consultation on the proposed local plan (Regulation 27) with feedback brought back to a future Cabinet meeting.

**Reasons for Recommendations**

- To comply with new plan-making regulations to commence the Local Plan.
- To agree decision-making processes to support the council's ability to meet the government prescribed plan-making period of 30-months.

**Resource Implication:** An existing budget for the Local Plan preparation has been agreed. There are no additional Local Plan costs associated with commencing plan-making under the new system.

An expression of interest (EOI) has been submitted for new plan making funding (approximately £120K to be decided). Eligibility for funding is dependent on committing to achieving the following milestones:

- Publication of a notice of intention to commence local plan preparation by 30 June 2026.
- Publication of Gateway 1 self-assessment by 31 October 2026.

The dates for funding eligibility are factored into a new Local Plan Timetable.

If the council is successful in its expression of interest for new plan-making funding this has the potential to be used to reduce the financial commitment associated with plan preparation but also provides capacity to support additional evidence gathering which may arise from revised national planning policy published December 2025, further reforms or digital enhancements to support plan making. The Local Plan will continue to be progressed by current team resources with cross-service support on the development of plan content.

**Date signed off by Executive Director & name**

David Shepherd - Executive Director for Place - 11<sup>th</sup> March 2026

**Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance?**

Yes - Kevin Mulvaney - 12<sup>th</sup> March 2026

**Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning (Monitoring Officer)?**

Yes - Samantha Lawton - 12<sup>th</sup> March 2026

**Electoral wards affected:** All

**Ward councillors consulted:** Finance and Regeneration Portfolio Holder 24<sup>th</sup> February 2026.

**Public or private:** Public

**Has GDPR been considered?** Yes, no personal data is recorded in this report.

## 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 New requirements for statutory plan-making have been formalised in regulations laid before Parliament on 4 March 2026 and which will come into force on 25<sup>th</sup> March: Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026 (Statutory Instrument 2026 No. 186).
- 1.2 Kirklees Council will be required to progress the Local Plan update in compliance the 2026 regulations which include new statutory requirements to commence a plan process. The purpose of this report is to set out these requirements and the process for Cabinet to agree to commence a plan and undertake required statutory tasks in accordance with the 2026 Regulations.

- 1.3 Cabinet previously considered the commencement of a full update of the Kirklees Local Plan on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2023. Decisions at this point were made in the context of progressing a Local Plan under [The Town and Country Planning \(Local Planning\) \(England\) Regulations 2012](#). These regulations have now been superseded by [The Town and Country Planning \(Local Planning\) \(England\) Regulations 2026](#) which has introduced new requirements to start a plan-making system.
- 1.4 MHCLG guidance/regulations state that Local Planning Authorities are required at the start of the process, to submit and publish a notice of intention to commence (Regulation 19), submit and publish a Local Plan Timetable (Regulation 4 and 5) (that will replace the council's adopted Local Development Scheme July 2025) and undertake scoping consultation (Regulation 20). These tasks must be completed prior to the submission of a Gateway 1 self-assessment to the Planning Inspectorate (new requirement). Subject to successful outcome of the Gateway 1, the council can then proceed to the prescribed 30-month plan-making process.
- 1.5 This report sets out the procedural requirements and proposed delegation for consideration by Cabinet to ensure the progression of the Local Plan preparation in accordance with statutory requirements and to agree decision-making processes to support the council's ability to meet the government prescribed plan-making period of 30-months. It does not cover proposed content which will be the subject of future reports.
- 1.6 Issues for consideration by Cabinet include:
  - Approval of a notice of intention to commence and its publication.
  - A revised Local Plan Timetable to reflect the new plan-making requirements and regulations.
  - Delegation to support an efficient and effective method of decision-making to progress the plan to meet the 30-month government prescribed plan-making period.

## **2. Information required to take a decision**

### **Background**

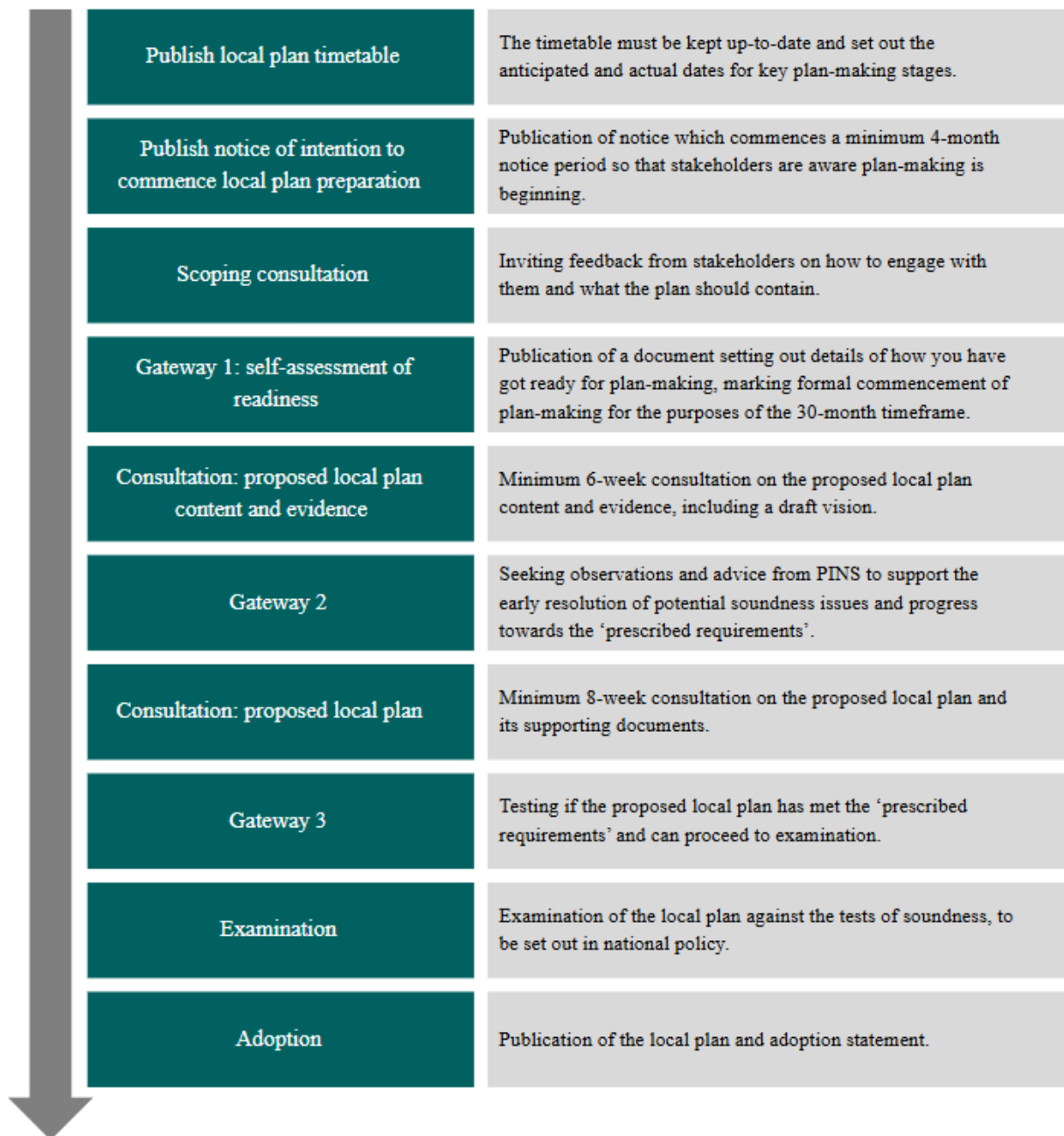
- 2.1 Cabinet previously considered the commencement of a full update of the Kirklees Local Plan on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2023. Decisions at this point were made in the context of progressing a Local Plan under [The Town and Country Planning \(Local Planning\) \(England\) Regulations 2012](#). These regulations have now been superseded by [The Town and Country Planning \(Local Planning\) \(England\) Regulations 2026](#) which has introduced new requirements to start a plan-making system.
- 2.2 This report requests Cabinet to approve that a full update of the Kirklees Local Plan commences in line with the 2026 regulations. This will provide a robust and transparent decision-making process clearly indicating the move to a new statutory plan-making process.
- 2.3 The Government's plan-making reforms over the last 12 months represent a significant restructuring of local plan preparation with a focus on up-to-date plans, and a more efficient, transparent planning system that supports a growth agenda. This report focuses on the technical/procedural requirements to commence under the new system. Details of proposed content will be the subject of further Cabinet reports.
- 2.4 In November 2025, the government published a suite of new plan-making guidance in advance of the publication of new plan making regulations to enable local planning authorities to progress local plans under the new system. Transitional arrangements

were also published for local plans that could be submitted for examination under the current system by 31 December 2026. Kirklees had already acknowledged to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) that it could not meet this deadline due in part to rescoping of evidence in the light of changes to national planning policy, ongoing dialogue with statutory consultees to agree the scope of evidence, internal and external consultee capacity and emerging new planning legislation. A revised timetable reflecting this, was outlined in the council's current Local Development Scheme 8<sup>th</sup> July 2025. As the council could not meet the timescales for the transitional plans it has no option but to proceed on the new plan-making process.

- 2.5 When the 2026 Regulations are brought into force on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2026, there are new statutory requirements which the council must adhere to, to ensure a plan process is compliant with legislation. This includes new requirements to start the Local Plan process, a new timeframe: 30 months plan preparation, this commences following a successful gateway 1 self- assessment and a revised process involving scoping consultation, two public plan consultations and three gateway assessments (two inspection led) to ensure that issues are addressed early in the process. The new plan-making guidance: [Rollout of the new local plan-making system - GOV.UK](#) states that all local plans under the new system must give notice of intention to commence by December 31<sup>st</sup> 2026 and publish Gateway 1 self-assessment by 30<sup>th</sup> April 2027.
- 2.6 The plan-making guidance is clear that Local Planning Authorities must follow the legal requirements of the system it is preparing a plan under from start to finish ([Rollout of the new local plan-making system - GOV.UK](#)). There is no ability to mix requirements of the 2012 regulations with those of the 2026 regulations and under the new system, local planning authorities must start by giving notice of intention to commence.
- 2.7 This does not mean that all the work carried out to date on the Local Plan is abortive. The extensive evidence gathering to inform the new plan can be carried forward subject to a review of compliance with the consultation draft of revised National Planning Policy Framework published for consultation in December 2025. We will continue to work with internal and external partners on site assessments gathered through our call for sites process. Additionally, we can build on the early engagement work already undertaken. However, the new statutory requirements for scoping consultation (Regulation 20) will require further engagement exercises and can only be undertaken once a notice of intention to commence and a Local Plan Timetable have been submitted to MHCLG and published.

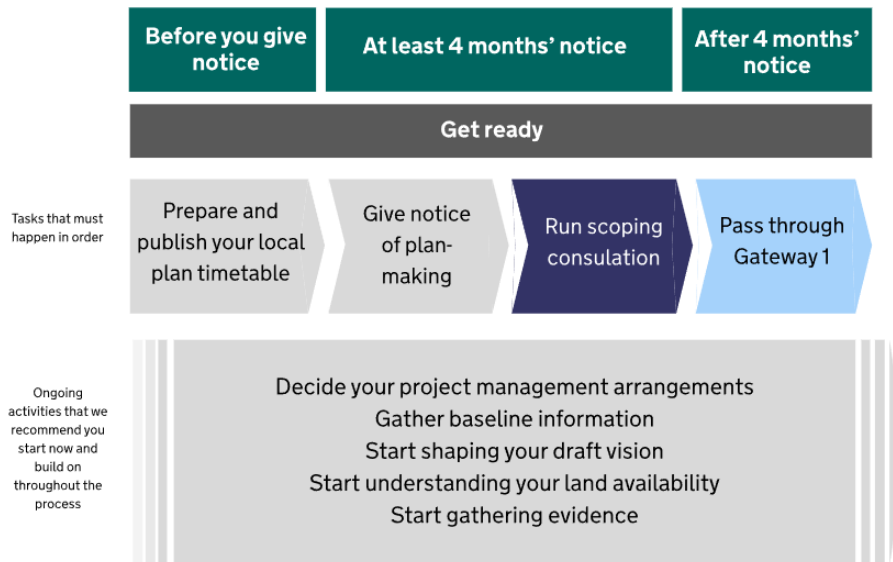
### **New Plan-making system**

- 2.8 The diagram illustrates the sequence of key local plan-making steps required as part of the new system.

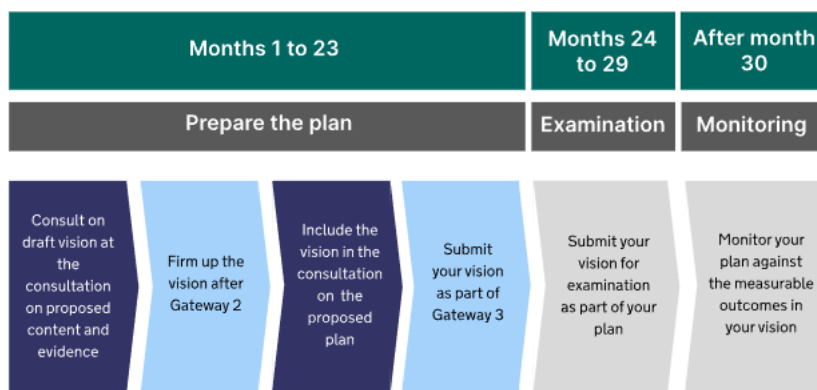


- 2.9 This programme can be split into distinct parts:
- Getting ready – before the 30-month process starts (minimum of four months)
  - Plan preparation, examination and monitoring

## Getting ready



## Plan preparation



### Key tasks and implications for the Local Plan preparation

2.10 Paragraphs 2.10 – 2.37 set out the key tasks to progress a Local Plan under the 2026 Regulations.

#### Notice of intention to commence

2.11 [Giving notice of your plan-making - GOV.UK](#)

LPAs must publish a notice of intention to commence local plan preparation at least four months before publishing their gateway 1 self-assessment summary, providing advance notice to stakeholders of plan making, where the timetable is published and how they can get involved. There will be a requirement to publish the Local Plan timetable on the same day as the notice, if not before. Details of what the notice of intention covers are as follows (Regulation 19 (2) and (4)):

- a) Name of local planning authority who have prepared the notice.  
**Kirklees Council**
- b) The geographical area to which the plan will relate.  
**The Kirklees Local Plan will cover the administrative area of Kirklees Council except for that part within the Peak District National Park.**
- c) The title you'll use to refer to the plan throughout plan-making.  
**Kirklees Local Plan**
- d) Details of where the local planning authority's local plan timetable is published.  
**Link to website**

e) Date on which the notice is made available.  
**This is subject to Cabinet approval on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2026. This will be the date the notice is published on our website and made available for inspection**

(4) Specify if all or part of a minerals and waste plan will be incorporated into the local plan.  
**The Kirklees Local Plan will encompass the requirements of a minerals and waste plan.**

2.12 Cabinet approval is sought to submit the above details to MHCLG and publish the notice of intention to commence.

**Publish the Local Plan Timetable**

2.13 A Local Plan Timetable (Regulation 4) incorporating a minerals and waste timetable (Regulation 5) will replace the existing requirement to adopt a Local Development Scheme and will be required to report defined, plan-making milestones including when plan-making steps are undertaken, when consultation periods begin and end and when outputs following Gateways (new requirement) will be published. The timetable must be made available before or alongside the publication of the notice of intention to commence (new requirement).

2.14 The timetable outlined below is based on the revised, key plan making stages and follows the Planning Advisory Service template contained in the Local Plan Project Initiation Document (PID) Template and Guidance: [Local Plan Project Initiation Document \(PID\) Template and Guidance | Local Government Association](#)

2.15 The timetable is ambitious particularly in the light of the publication/consultation of draft revised National Planning Policy Framework (expected to be finalised in Autumn 2026) and the potential for further reforms. Additionally, capacity within the Planning Service is limited particularly with work streams feeding into the Spatial Development Strategy, Mass Transit Spatial Development Framework, Neighbourhood Plans, supporting Development Management on planning consultations and on-going responses to MHCLG consultations.

2.16 The timetable, however, reflects work already undertaken on the Local Plan that can be used as part of the new system, required timelines to be eligible for the new plan-making funding and subject to a successful Gateway 1 self-assessment, the commencement of the 30-month plan-making period from this point. Continued work on the Local Plan will help build confidence with stakeholders and landowners/developers of the council’s commitment to plan-led development and having an up-to-date framework to inform planning decisions. The risks of not progressing with an updated timetable is that without this, the council cannot formally commence a plan update under the new system and there is the potential for intervention by the Secretary of State.

**Table 1: Proposed revised Local Plan Timetable (provisions for minerals and waste within the Local Plan) (Reg 4 and 5)**

Ref	Activity	Indicative Start: Month/Year	Indicative End: Month/Year
Get ready	Developing project management process and structure, governance risk register and ensuring resources are in	Nov 2023 V1. Nov 2024 V2. Sept 2025 v3	

<b>Ref</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Indicative Start: Month/Year</b>	<b>Indicative End: Month/Year</b>
	place to begin the project (including completion of this PID)	Feb 2026	March 2026
Get ready	Scoping, collating and procuring early evidence and scoping strategic environmental assessment	Nov 2023	To date
Get ready	(Statutory) Notice of intention to start plan making (Reg 4 (a))	March 2026 Cabinet to agree	1 <sup>st</sup> April
Get ready	Scoping and production of an engagement strategy/Councillor and key internal and external stakeholder briefings/ early engagement about forthcoming plan production (Reg 4 (b and c))	July 2026 Scoping consultation for 6 weeks  July 2026 Member briefings	Aug 2026  Sept 2026
	Call for sites and initial site assessment process	Feb 2020 Call for sites  Aug 2025 Site assessments	Aug 2025  July 2026
Get ready	Procuring Strategic Environmental Assessment	Aug 2024	Oct 2024
Get ready	Gateway 1 (Self-Assessment)/Commencement of plan-making (Reg 4 (d))	Oct 2026 To meet funding eligibility	Oct 2026  Latest date for submission to MHCLG is April 2027 (set out in guidance)
<b>Months 1 -23</b>			
Prepare the Plan	Prepare Vision and Strategy for consultation feeding in emerging evidence	Oct 2026	May 2027
Prepare the Plan	Strategic Environmental Assessment Scoping Consultation (note statutory minimums)	March 2025	April 2025
Prepare the Plan	Public consultation on Vision and Strategy (Reg 4 (e) and (f))	June 2027	July 2027
Prepare the Plan	Development of draft plan including responding to consultation and any further evidence gathering	July 2027	April 2028

Ref	Activity	Indicative Start: Month/Year	Indicative End: Month/Year
Prepare the Plan	Councillor and key internal and external stakeholder briefings/ early engagement about next stage of plan production	Sept 2027	March 2028
Prepare the Plan	Gateway 2 (PINS) (Reg 4 (g))	Nov 2027	Dec 2027
Prepare the Plan	Deadline for submission of plan and supporting documents for approval	March 2028	March 2028
Prepare the Plan	Public consultation (8 weeks) on Local Plan (Reg 4 (h) and (i))	April 2028	May 2028
Prepare the Plan	Gateway 3 (PINS) (Reg 4 (j))	Aug 2028	Sept 2028
Months 24-29			
Examination	Plan Submission (Reg 4 (k))	Sept 2028	Sept 2028
Examination	Independent Examination (Indicative)	Oct 2028	March 2029
Month 30			
Adoption	Plan adoption (Indicative) (Reg 4 (l))	April 2029	April 2029

2.17 Regulation 6 of the 2026 Regulations requires “a local planning authority to ensure that their local plan timetable is up to date by no later than the last day of that period”. The periods specified are: “the period of one month beginning with the date on which the local plan timetable is first published” and “each subsequent period of a month thereafter”. Regulation 6 (3) states that “by the end of the same day that a relevant plan preparation stage occurs, a local planning authority must revise their local plan timetable to set out the date on which that stage occurred”.

2.18 The current Local Development Scheme is a Cabinet function. To be able to produce potentially monthly updates of a Local Plan timetable to meet the requirements set out in 2.17 will require delegated authority. Cabinet is asked to approve the Local Plan Timetable as set out in Table 1 and for delegated authority to the Executive Director of Place in consultation with the Finance and Regeneration Portfolio Holder to agree future updates and its publication.

### Scoping consultation (Regulation 20)

2.19 Local Planning Authorities must invite representations on matters including what the plan should contain and how future engagement on the plan should be carried out. This must take place after or alongside publishing the notice of intention to commence. Representations must be invited from defined general and specific consultation bodies (defined at pages 2-7 of the 2026 Regulations) and can be made by any persons, including residents. As outlined at 2.6 of this report we can build on the early engagement work already undertaken, however, Regulation 20 states that scoping consultation must be undertaken within the new plan-making process. Consequently, this will require further engagement exercises and some repeated work.

### Visioning

2.20 Preparation of the vision should commence before the [30-month process](#) starts, and continue to be updated as the plan progresses. The draft vision, proposed plan content and evidence must be consulted on prior to firming up your vision, which should be used to support the development of your spatial strategy and policies.

- 2.21 The new sequencing of tasks and the requirement to complete scoping consultation after the notice of intention to start will necessitate further early engagement work to comply with regulations. We will rescope early engagement and visioning in the light of new requirements, to inform a new project plan, timetable and stakeholder engagement strategy including engagement with members. Cabinet is asked to approve delegated authority to the Executive Director of Place in consultation with the Finance and Regeneration Portfolio Holder to commence the scoping consultation and prescribed plan making consultation.

### **Gateway 1 – self-assessment of readiness for local plan preparation (Regulation 21)**

- 2.22 Gateway 1 is the first of 3 mandatory gateways to support adopting the plan within 30 months where the LPA will be required to prepare and publish a self-assessment summary of their readiness for local plan preparation. The purpose of the self-assessment is:
- To help ensure that the LPA is ready to prepare and adopt a plan within 30 months.
  - To increase transparency of plan preparation for external stakeholders and communities.
- 2.23 The Gateway self-assessment summary must be:
- No later than 5 years after adopting your existing plan.
  - **No sooner than 4 months after the LPA gave notice of plan-making**, or the day after scoping consultation ends (regulation 21 (3)).
- 2.24 There will be five areas set out in regulations to be covered by the Gateway 1 self-assessment:
- Publishing the timetable (Reg 21 (2a))
  - Project management and governance arrangements for the preparation of the plan (Reg 21 (2b)).
  - The local planning authority's proposed approach to consultation and engagement in preparing the local plan (Reg 21 (2c)).
  - The anticipated content of the local planning authority's local plan (Reg 21 (2d)).
  - Any obligations arising under Part 2 and Part 3 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.

### **Consultation proposed local plan content and evidence – first formal consultation (6 weeks) (Regulation 23)**

- 2.25 Between publication of the scoping consultation summary and beginning Gateway 2, the local planning authority must consult on their proposed local plan content and evidence.
- 2.26 The proposed local plan content and evidence relevant to this consultation will include:
- A proposed vision for the local planning authority's area and proposed measurable outcomes.
  - Any proposed aims and objectives of the local planning authority, including how they propose to achieve the vision.
  - A summary of the local planning authority's proposed approach in relation to planning policies (which could include proposed site allocation policies).
  - A summary of the evidence intended to support the local plan.
  - Any further supporting information the local planning authority considers appropriate.

### **Gateway 2 – Observations and advice from an appointed person (Regulation 26)**

- 2.27 The regulations require that, between the publication of the summary of consultation on proposed local plan content and evidence and the consultation on the proposed local plan, local planning authorities must seek observations and advice from the Gateway 2 assessor.
- 2.28 Observations and advice in relation to progress towards preparing a sound plan, in line with the tests of soundness set out in the National Planning Policy Framework; meeting some of the Gateway 3 prescribed requirements; and what further work could be carried out by the local planning authority must be sought.
- 2.29 The local planning authority must submit to the Gateway 2 assessor the documents and information that it considers necessary to seek this feedback. As soon as is reasonably practicable after receiving the observations and advice, the local planning authority must publish them; notify any person who requested to be notified; and send a copy of the observations and advice to anybody or person identified or referred to in them.

### **Consultation on the proposed plan – second formal consultation 8 weeks (Regulation 27)**

- 2.30 Between Gateways 2 and 3, local planning authorities must consult on their proposed local plan submission documents, including (but not limited to):
- The proposed local plan.
  - The map of proposed local plan policies.
  - Details of the evidence gathered to support the proposed local plan
  - Details relating to the scoping consultation and consultation on proposed local plan content and evidence, including a summary of the main issues raised by respondents and how those main issues have been addressed in the proposed local plan
  - Site allocations.

### **Gateway 3: Prescribed requirements assessment by an appointed person (Regulation 31)**

- 2.31 To pass Gateway 3, the proposed local plan must meet the prescribed requirements, set out in the regulations at Regulation 32. To help the assessor carry out the Gateway 3 assessment, the local planning authority must submit a statement of compliance. This statement will require the local planning authority to set out matters including how the proposed local plan complies with prescribed requirements.
- 2.32 A statement of soundness must also be submitted, detailing how the local planning authority considers that its evidence demonstrates that the plan is sound. Soundness will be tested at the examination. The local planning authority must also submit further documents, including:
- A statement setting out a summary of the consultation and engagement activities.
  - Their summary of consultation on the proposed local plan.
  - An environmental report, where one has been prepared.
  - A statement setting out their practical arrangements demonstrating readiness for examination.
- 2.33 The Gateway 3 assessor must provide their conclusion on whether each prescribed requirement is met in writing, together with an explanation for each conclusion.

- 2.34 Following confirmation from the Gateway 3 assessor that the prescribed requirements have been met, the local planning authority must make available both a statement confirming that Gateway 3 has been completed and the Gateway 3 submission documents as they were submitted to the Gateway 3 assessor.

#### **Submission (Regulation 34)**

- 2.25 The Local Plan will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for independent examination.

#### **Examination**

- 2.26 An independently appointed planning inspector will lead the examination of the Local Plan.

#### **Adoption (Regulation 39)**

- 2.37 The adoption of the Local Plan is a Full Council function.

### **3. Implications for the Council**

#### **3.1 Council Plan**

The preparation of the Local Plan will fully consider the vision and objectives of the Council Plan: For Kirklees to be a district which combines a strong, sustainable economy with a great quality of life – leading to thriving communities, growing businesses, high prosperity and low inequality where people enjoy better health throughout their lives.

#### **3.2 Financial Implications**

An existing budget for the Local Plan preparation has been agreed, the Total Annual Revenue Base Budget available is £335k, uplifted by £200k as part of the 2026-27 Annual Budget Setting process. There are no additional Local Plan costs associated with commencing plan-making under the new system. If the council is successful in its expression of interest for new plan-making funding this has the potential to be used to reduce the financial commitment associated with plan preparation but also provides capacity to support additional evidence gathering which may arise from the revised national planning policy, further reforms or digital enhancements to support plan making.

#### **3.3 Legal Implications**

The new plan-making system has introduced new legislative requirements which the Kirklees Local Plan will need to be progressed against, and the executive functions have been set out in paragraphs 1 and 2.

The following responsibilities of the plan making system are the sole responsibility of full Council:

- i) Responsibility for giving instructions to the Cabinet to reconsider the draft plan submitted by the Cabinet for the Council's consideration;
- ii) The amendment of the draft development plan document submitted by the Cabinet for the full Council's consideration;
- iii) The approval of the draft development plan for the purpose of submission to the Secretary of State for independent examination.
- iv) The adoption (with or without modification) of the development plan

#### **3.4 Climate Change and Air Quality**

This report addresses the procedural requirements to commence a new Local Plan and in themselves do not directly impact on the climate emergency, reducing emissions and

improving air quality.

The updated Local Plan will be prepared in compliance with National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The draft revised NPPF published for consultation (close date 10<sup>th</sup> March 2026) and expected to be finalised July 2025 provides a clear focus on mitigation and adapting to the impacts of climate change and to support the transition to net zero including proposing development patterns through their spatial strategy and allocations which reduce emissions and avoid increased vulnerability to the effects of climate change, water efficiency standards; and by identifying opportunities to safeguard and improve carbon storage, support nature recovery and resilience. The update of the Local Plan provides the opportunity to look at a revised policy framework that supports the national focus on climate change and mitigation and how planning can support the council's Climate Action Plan.

### **3.5 Risk, Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) or Human Resources**

#### **Risk**

Local Plan risks are assessed and monitored as part of the project Initiation document and potential risks discussed at the Local Plan Project Board and/or with the Executive Director of Place, Service Director for Skills and Regeneration, Head of Planning and the Finance and Regeneration Portfolio holder. Robust project management will form part of the Gateway 1 self-assessment.

#### **Equality Impact/Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA)**

Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 establishes the public sector equality duty (PSED), which requires public authorities to have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment, and victimisation.
- Advance equality of opportunity between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not.

An IIA has been produced for the Local Plan which can be viewed at: [Integrated Impact Assessments | Kirklees Council](#)

Additionally, there is a statutory requirement to produce a sustainability appraisal/strategic environmental assessment during the preparation of the Local Plan (this process may be replaced by an Environmental Outcomes Report). The primary purpose is to promote sustainable development by assessing the extent to which the emerging plan when judged against reasonable alternatives contributes to environmental, social and economic objectives as a means of identifying and mitigating any potential adverse effects.

#### **Human Resources**

The Local Plan timetable has been set out in the context of existing resources within Planning Policy Team but would also require commitment from a range of service areas to assist with this process. Consultancy support has been factored into the Local Plan budget to support on technical/specialist areas (such as Sustainability Appraisal, and viability).

#### **Armed Forces Covenant**

- No impacts.

## 4 Consultation

- 4.1 The government introduced the new plan-making regulations following consultation on planning reforms. The council must follow the regulations to ensure a plan that is legally compliant with statutory requirements.
- 4.2 The new plan-making system sets out new requirements for early engaging/plan scoping and consultation on the plan content and draft plan. These stages are outlined in the report. An engagement plan will be produced to ensure transparency of the processes and when and how stakeholders can become involved.

## 5 Engagement

- 5.1 See above.

## 6 Options

### 6.1 Options Considered

**Option 1 (recommended option)** To agree statutory requirements to progress the Local Plan (Recommendation 1) (including notice of intention to commence (Recommendation 2, agree the Local Plan Timetable as set out in Table 1 of the report (Recommendation 3). Agree Recommendations 4, 5, 6 and 7 in relation to delegated authority to progress the Local Plan to meet the government's prescribed time-period of 30-months.

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**Option 2:** To agree statutory requirements to progress the Local Plan (Recommendation 1 (including notice of intention to commence (Recommendation 2), agree the Local Plan Timetable as set out in Table 1 of the report (Recommendation 3). To not agree all or

some of proposed delegation (Recommendations 4, 5, 6 and 7).

The implications of this option are:

- Increased risk of not meeting the 30-month plan period and potential intervention by Secretary of State.
- Inability to provide monthly updates of the Local Plan Timetable as required by the 2026 Regulations.

## 6.2 Reasons for recommended Option (Option 1)

- To comply with new plan-making regulations.
- To ensure compliance that local plans under the new system must give notice of intention to commence by December 31<sup>st</sup> 2026, and publish Gateway 1 self-assessment by 30<sup>th</sup> April 2027.
- To agree decision-making processes to support the council's ability to meet the government prescribed plan-making period of 30-months.
- To proceed with the statutory requirement to produce an up-to-date Local Plan that will provide the framework for planning decisions in Kirklees.

## 7 Next steps and timelines

Cabinet are asked to agree the recommendations set out in the report. Further reports will be brought to Cabinet on the Local Plan.

## 8 Contact officer

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## 9 Background Papers and History of Decisions

- Cabinet 17<sup>th</sup> October 2023 Local Plan Review and Update: [2023-10-17 Local Plan Review-Update Cabinet Report and App1 finaldocx.pdf](#)
- Council 15<sup>th</sup> November 2023
- Previous Plan-making regulations: The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 as amended: [The Town and Country Planning \(Local Planning\) \(England\) Regulations 2012](#)
- New Plan-making Regulations: Town and Country (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026 with effect from 25<sup>th</sup> March 2026 [The Town and Country Planning \(Local Planning\) \(England\) Regulations 2026](#)
- [Create or update a local plan using the new system - GOV.UK](#)
- [Plan-making regulations explainer - GOV.UK](#) explanation of the what the new regulations are intended to cover.
- More about the new system: the [written ministerial statement from 27 November 2025](#).
- [30-month local plan process: an overview](#)
- [Rollout of the new local plan-making system](#)

### Starting a local plan

- [Getting ready to prepare a new plan](#)
- [Giving notice of your plan-making](#)
- [Gateway 1: what you need to do](#)
- [Gathering baselining information to inform a local plan](#)

### **Setting your vision and strategy**

- What you should consider and how to prepare the vision and strategy for your local plan.
- [Preparing a local plan vision](#)

### **Selecting sites for development**

- [Introduction to identifying, assessing and selecting sites](#)
- [Stage 1: Identifying sites](#)
- [Stage 2: Assessing sites](#)
- [Stage 3: Determining your draft allocations](#)
- [Stage 4: Confirming your draft allocations and recording your decisions](#)

### **Processing representations**

- [Using automation to save time processing consultation responses](#)

### **Local Plan funding - expression of interest guidance**

[Funding to support Local Plan implementation - GOV.UK](#)

## 10 **Appendices**

None

## 11 **Service Director responsible**

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