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# West Berkshire Local Plan timetable and commencement

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<b>Committee considering report:</b>	Executive
<b>Date of Committee:</b>	11 June 2026
<b>Portfolio Member:</b>	Councillor Denise Gaines
<b>Date Portfolio Member agreed report:</b>	20 May 2026
<b>Report Author:</b>	Paula Amorelli

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## 1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This report seeks authorisation from the Executive to commence preparation of a new West Berkshire Local Plan (WBLP) and publish the Notice of Intention to Commence by 30 June 2026. Also, to approve a proposed timetable for preparing the Plan, and to provide delegated authority for the Service Director for Development and Housing in consultation with the Executive Portfolio Holder for Planning and Housing, to approve and publish updates to the timetable as may be necessary. The report also asks the Executive to support the establishment of an advisory cross-party member Local Plan Working Group to support preparation of the Plan.

## 2 Recommendations

1. To endorse the establishment of an advisory cross-party member Local Plan Working Group which will be utilised to inform the preparation and approach to the Local Plan with full terms of reference to be established and agreed by the Working Group.
2. That approval is given to publish the West Berkshire Local Plan timetable in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026.
3. That approval is given to publish the Council's formal Notice of Intention to Commence the West Berkshire Local Plan on or before 30 June 2026 in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026.
4. That authority is delegated to the Service Director for Development and Housing, in consultation with the Executive Portfolio Holder for Planning and Housing to:
  - I. Approve and publish updates to the timetable as may be necessary.
  - II. Prepare and undertake a scoping consultation in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026.

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- III. Approve, publish and submit the required documents and statements for statutory Gateway 1.
- IV. Approve evidence documents, reports and supporting data and analysis for publication.
- V. After having regard to the advice of the Local Plan Working Group, to prepare and consult on the proposed Local Plan content and evidence prior to Gateway 2.
- VI. Approve, publish and submit the required documents and statements for statutory Gateway 2.

### 3 Implications and Impact Assessment

Implication	Commentary
<b>Financial:</b>	<p>The preparation of a new Local Plan will have ongoing revenue implications over the plan preparation period, including staff resources, technical evidence, specialist consultancy and examination costs. These costs will be managed through existing budgets and future budget setting processes. While some work can be undertaken in-house, a significant proportion will require specialist external advice and software. It is anticipated that most of the evidence base costs will fall in 2026/27 and 2027/28, alongside work associated with Gateway 2, with further costs arising in 2028/29 in relation to Gateway 3 and the Examination in Public.</p> <p>In conjunction with the Council's Project Support Team, robust project governance arrangements are being developed to ensure that the programme is properly managed and that the necessary resources can be secured.</p> <p>In March 2026, the Council was awarded approximately £108,000 under the government's Local Plan Implementation Funding which will support initial costs. Funding was conditional on the Authority publishing a Notice of Intention to Commence Local Plan preparation by 30 June 2026; and publishing its Gateway 1 self-assessment by 31 October 2026.</p> <p>Failure to progress plan-making in accordance with statutory requirements may result in financial risk through government intervention.</p> <p>It is estimated that the cost of preparing a Local Plan through to adoption is now in the region of £2million (not including officer time). By comparison, the approximate cost of the Local Plan Review (LPR) was £1.5million. The financial implications of not having an up to date adopted Local Plan in place could</p>

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	<p>exceed this if the Council is required to defend planning appeals which can cost in the region of £250-£300k per major appeal.</p>
<p><b>Human Resource:</b></p>	<p>The work will be led by the Planning Policy Team, comprising approximately 4.2 FTE professional officers, alongside associated management support.</p> <p>Given the Government’s timetable to prepare the Plan within a shorter timeframe than previously, and other necessary workstreams, additional resources may be required within the team.</p> <p>Resources will also be required from across the Council as part of its preparation including ICT, Environment Delivery, Emergency Planning, Highways, Education, Legal, Infrastructure, Ecology, Public Health, Housing, Countryside, Development Management, Communications, Consultation and Engagement. Preparation of the evidence base and representation at the Examination Hearings will require support from specialist consultants as well as legal representation including Counsel.</p>
<p><b>Legal:</b></p>	<p>Local Plan preparation is a statutory function. This report addresses the Council’s legal duty to commence plan-making within the timescales set out in national policy and the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026.</p> <p>The recommendations in this report relate primarily to procedural steps required to commence and progress plan-making in accordance with the 2026 Regulations. They do not determine the substantive content of the WBLP, which will remain subject to future consultation and the Council’s formal decision-making processes.</p> <p>While the Council’s constitution already provides the broad framework for decision-making and delegation, this report clarifies how those existing arrangements will apply to the timely preparation of the WBLP, including the exercise of delegation by the Service Director for Development and Housing in consultation with the Executive Portfolio Holder for Planning and Housing at key stages.</p>
<p><b>Risk Management:</b></p>	<p>The principal risk is failure to comply with government-mandated plan-making timescales, which could</p>

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	<p>result in intervention by the Secretary of State. This would result in increased costs for the Council and a loss of local democratic accountability. The proposed delegated arrangements provide flexibility and timeliness to mitigate this risk, in accordance with recommendations in government guidance.</p> <p>Local Plan risks will be assessed and monitored as part of the Project Initiation Document (PID) and other project management structures being put in place in consultation with the Capital Transformation Team.</p>
<b>Property:</b>	There are no direct property implications arising from this report.
<b>Policy:</b>	<p>The report relates directly to the Council's statutory planning function to prepare a Local Plan. It also relates to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026.</p> <p>According to the NPPF, "the planning system should be genuinely plan-led. Succinct and up-to-date plans should provide a positive vision for the future of each area; a framework for meeting housing needs and addressing other economic, social and environmental priorities; and a platform for local people to shape their surroundings."</p> <p>Keeping the Local Plan is up-to-date is crucial to ensuring it carries full statutory weight in planning decisions, and to maximising local influence in how development needs are delivered.</p>

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	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Commentary
<b>Equalities Impact:</b>				
<b>A</b> Are there any aspects of the proposed decision, including how it is delivered or accessed, that could impact on inequality?		X		<p>The proposed decision relates solely to the commencement of the statutory Local Plan process and the delegation of authority to undertake procedural and preparatory actions.</p> <p>The decision does not determine planning policy content, site allocations or development proposals, and does not change how services are accessed or delivered.</p> <p>No adverse impact on individuals or groups with protected characteristics has been identified at this stage.</p> <p>An Equalities Impact Assessment will be undertaken where required as part of subsequent plan preparation and consultation stages.</p> <p>An Equalities Impact Assessment is therefore not required at this stage.</p>

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<p><b>B</b> Will the proposed decision have an impact upon the lives of people with protected characteristics, including employees and service users?</p>		X	<p>The proposed decision relates solely to the commencement of the statutory Local Plan process and the delegation of authority to undertake procedural and preparatory actions.</p> <p>The decision does not determine planning policy content, site allocations or development proposals, and does not change how services are accessed or delivered.</p> <p>No adverse impact on individuals or groups with protected characteristics has been identified at this stage.</p> <p>An Equalities Impact Assessment will be undertaken where required as part of subsequent plan preparation and consultation stages.</p> <p>An Equalities Impact Assessment is therefore not required at this stage.</p>
<p><b>Environmental Impact:</b></p>		X	<p>The proposal relates to procedural steps to commence plan-making. Environmental impacts will be assessed in detail through the Local Plan process, including Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment where required.</p>
<p><b>Health Impact:</b></p>		X	<p>There are no direct health impacts arising from the proposed decision. Health considerations will be addressed through policy development and evidence gathering during plan-making.</p>
<p><b>ICT Impact:</b></p>		X	<p>The Local Plan process will continue to be supported through digital engagement and consultation platforms, consistent with current Council practice.</p>
<p><b>Digital Services Impact:</b></p>		X	<p>The Local Plan process will continue to be supported through digital engagement and</p>

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				consultation platforms, consistent with current Council practice.
<b>Council Strategy Priorities:</b>	X			<p>The proposal supports the Council’s core statutory planning function and enables long-term strategic planning to support sustainable growth, housing delivery and infrastructure provision</p> <p>It contributes to the delivery of a number of the Council’s strategic priorities including Priority 2, A Fairer West Berkshire with opportunities for all, through enabling delivery of affordable housing, Priority 3 Tackling the Climate and Ecological Emergency, through the relevant policies applicable to new development and Priority 4 - a prosperous and resilient West Berkshire through enabling growth in terms of both housing and the economy and specifically 4.D – Ensure that new housing development comes with suitable infrastructure and enhanced amenities.</p>
<b>Core Business:</b>	X			The proposal supports the Council’s core statutory planning function and enables long-term strategic planning to support sustainable growth, housing delivery and infrastructure provision.
<b>Data Impact:</b>		X		<p>No significant data protection issues arise from the proposed decision. A Data Protection Impact Assessment will be undertaken where required for any consultation or data-processing activities during plan preparation.</p> <p>A Data Protection Impact Assessment is therefore not required at this stage.</p>

<b>Consultation and Engagement:</b>	<p>Bob Dray, Interim Service Lead – Planning</p> <p>Laura Callan, Interim Service Director – Development and Housing</p> <p>Sharon Armour, Legal Services Manager</p>
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## 4 Executive Summary

- 4.1 This report seeks authority to formally commence preparation of the new West Berkshire Local Plan (WBLP) in accordance with recently introduced national plan-making regulations. This requires the Council to publish the Notice of Intention to Commence by 30 June 2026 and to approve the proposed timetable for its preparation. Delegated authority is requested for the Service Director for Development and Housing, in consultation with the Executive Portfolio Holder for Planning and Housing to authorise and publish key procedural requirements to enable the Plan to progress in a timely manner. The Executive is asked to endorse the establishment of an advisory cross-party member Local Plan Working Group to support the preparation of the Plan.
- 4.2 Although the [West Berkshire Local Plan Review 2023-2041](#) (LPR) was adopted in June 2025, changes to national policy and regulation require the Council to formally begin preparation of its next Local Plan by 31 October 2026.
- 4.3 The proposals in this report:
- Establish a timetable for Local Plan preparation.
  - Authorise publication of a Notice of Intention to Commence plan-making.
  - Enable early scoping consultation and evidence preparation.
  - Support compliance with mandatory gateway assessments and statutory requirements.
- 4.4 Approval of the recommendations will ensure the Council meets its legal duties in a timely manner, avoids the risk of government intervention and maintains a plan-led approach to the management of future development in the District.

## 5 Supporting Information

### Introduction

- 5.2 This report sets out the statutory and policy context requiring West Berkshire Council to commence preparation of a new Local Plan and seeks delegated authority to enable the necessary preparatory actions to be undertaken efficiently and within mandated timescales.
- 5.3 In doing so, the report also acknowledges the wider context for plan-making, including recent changes to national legislation, ongoing discussions regarding local government reorganisation, and an increased emphasis within national policy on strategic planning across wider geographies. These matters provide important context but do not remove or diminish the Council's current statutory responsibilities as local planning authority.
- 5.4 The Local Plan is a key tool for the Council in delivering its priorities. An effective Local Plan provides consistency and confidence to landowners about development potential in the area, which in turn can support a prosperous and resilient West Berkshire. A

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strong policy framework is also essential to ensure that new housing developments come with suitable infrastructure and enhanced amenities.

### Background

- 5.5 Under the [Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 \(as amended\)](#), the Council is required to produce a local plan for its area. England operates a plan-led system in which national and local planning policy is set out in statutory development plans (which can include local plans and neighbourhood plans). Development plans are expected to be consistent with government policy set out in the [National Planning Policy Framework \(NPPF\)](#). Planning applications must be determined in accordance with the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise.
- 5.6 The new plan-making system is more prescriptive, and the content of new plans will differ from the [West Berkshire Local Plan Review 2023-2041](#) (LPR). There will be a stronger focus on vision and outcomes, with policies primarily area-specific and focused on site allocations, rather than thematic development management policies (e.g. conservation). Such thematic policies are now expected to be set at a national level through the NPPF.
- 5.7 The Council adopted the LPR in June 2025, the culmination of 7 years work at a cost of around £1.5 million. It has traditionally been common for there to be a gap of over ten years between the adoption of local plans. However, the [Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023](#) (LURA), introduced the statutory framework for a number of reforms to the planning system, including the introduction of a new, streamlined and accelerated, plan making system.
- 5.8 On 26 March 2026, the government published [The Town and Country Planning \(Local Planning\) \(England\) Regulations 2026](#), which set out how the new plan-making system should be implemented. The Regulations require plans to be prepared within a 30-month period, with progress assessed at three gateway checkpoints. The process is illustrated in the diagram at Appendix A. This timetable is widely recognised as challenging for local planning authorities, particularly given the limited detail currently available on some aspects of implementation, the need for strong project management and robust governance arrangements, and the capacity constraints affecting external consultants required to prepare elements of the evidence base within the necessary timescales. Under transitional arrangements set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (December 2024), local planning authorities whose adopted plans do not meet at least 80% of their identified housing need are required to commence preparation of a new Local Plan within defined timescales. This includes West Berkshire, because the housing requirement in the LPR (an average of 515 dwellings per year) is less than 80% of the current local housing need (1,057 dwellings per year) which has been increased in line with the new standard method set out in national guidance.
- 5.9 Despite having a recently adopted Local Plan, the Council must formally start preparation of its next Local Plan immediately. This will mean:
  - Publication of a Notice of Intention to Commence plan-making by 30 June 2026;  
and

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- Formal commencement of the 30-month plan-making period by 31 October 2026.

5.10 The government has also indicated its intention to use intervention powers where local authorities fail to comply with these requirements. This would result in increased costs for the Council and a loss of local democratic accountability.

## **Wider Planning Context – Spatial Development Strategies and Local Government Reorganisation**

5.11 Alongside these regulatory changes, national policy is increasingly focused on strategic planning and collaboration across wider functional geographies. In this context, there is ongoing discussion at national level regarding future local government reorganisation (LGR) and the potential requirement for strategic-level plans such as Spatial Development Strategies (SDS) to be prepared either by combined authorities or by groups of local planning authorities working together. A report is due to be presented to Executive in July setting out the position in relation to West Berkshire.

5.12 West Berkshire forms part of the proposed wider Ridgeway area, where strategic cross-boundary matters may need to be addressed over time. While the detail, geography and governance arrangements for any future strategic planning or reorganisation are not yet confirmed, these considerations form part of the broader planning context within which the Council must continue to discharge its existing statutory functions.

5.13 The government has been clear that local government reorganisation should not delay the preparation of local plans. During the early stages of the process, the Council expects to have clarity on the government's proposals for LGR in the area and will adapt as required. The new Local Plan process requires regular updates to the timetable to enable adjustments to be made when needed.

5.14 Commencing Local Plan preparation now will ensure that the Council has an up-to-date evidence base, a clear policy framework and the flexibility to respond to future changes, including LGR and any requirement to engage in the preparation of a SDS, while continuing to comply with existing statutory plan-making duties.

## **Proposals**

5.15 Under the new plan-making system, authorities are expected to spend time 'getting ready' before starting formal plan preparation. The Council will need to demonstrate the preparatory work it has completed before commencing the 30-month plan-making period. 'Getting ready' involves making progress in five areas:

- Preparing and publishing a Local Plan timetable;
- Establishing project management and governance arrangements;
- Establishing a strategy for consultation and engagement on the Plan;
- Scoping the anticipated content of the Plan; and
- Starting the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).

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5.16 Before starting the 30-month plan preparation period, the Council must:

- Prepare and publish the first version of its Local Plan timetable in line with data standards;
- Publish its [Notice of Intention to Commence](#) by 30 June 2026, at least four months before it intends to pass through Gateway 1; and
- Invite early engagement from stakeholders by running a scoping consultation, whereby feedback is invited on the matters the plan should contain and how future engagement should be carried out.

### Local Plan timetable

5.17 To meet the requirements of the new plan-making system, the Council must prepare, publish and keep up to date a Local Plan timetable in line with regulations and data standards. The first version of the timetable must be published before, or together with, the Notice of Intention to Commence and should show how the Council will prepare and adopt the Plan within a 30-month timeframe.

5.18 Approval is sought to publish the timetable as set out below. The timetable is ambitious, particularly with regard to the capacity within the Planning Policy Team. The timetable will make clear that the WBLP will set out the spatial vision and strategic objectives for the future development of the District of West Berkshire over the Plan period. It will contain policies and site allocations designed/formulated to achieve the vision and a framework for monitoring and implementation. When adopted, it will replace the policies contained in the West Berkshire Local Plan Review 2023-2041. It will also clarify that the Council does not intend to prepare any supplementary plans at this time.

5.19 As the timetable must be updated monthly from the date it is first published where there are changes to dates, and also at other specified points in the process, this report also seeks delegated authority for the Service Director for Development and Housing, in consultation with the Executive Portfolio Holder for Planning and Housing, to approve updates to the timetable as required.

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<b>West Berkshire Local Plan Timetable</b>	
<b>Activity</b>	<b>Date</b>
Notice of intention to commence Local Plan preparation	25 June 2026
Scoping consultation starts	24 July 2026
Scoping consultation ends	04 September 2026
Gateway 1 self-assessment summary made available	30 October 2026
Consultation on proposed Local Plan content and evidence starts	28 May 2027
Consultation on proposed Local Plan content and evidence ends	09 July 2027
Gateway 2	29 October 2027
Consultation on the proposed Local Plan starts	05 June 2028
Consultation on the proposed Local Plan ends	31 July 2028
Gateway 3	15 September 2028
Submission of Plan for examination	27 October 2028
Adoption of the Plan	30 April 2029

### **Notice of Intention to Commence**

5.20 In order to comply with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026 and the conditions attached to its recent allocation of Local Plan Implementation Funding, the Council has to issue a formal 'Notice of Intention to Commence' the West Berkshire Local Plan on or before 30 June 2026. The report seeks approval for this notice to be published.

### **Governance arrangements**

5.21 The 30-month timetable for preparation of the new Local Plan is particularly challenging, and West Berkshire Council will be among the first tranche of local planning authorities to follow the new plan-making process. The government recognises that this may require local authorities to review their governance arrangements and put robust approaches in place to manage plan preparation and deliver the programme. A number

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of matters are mandated at Gateways 1, 2 and 3, and failure to meet these requirements will prevent the Plan from progressing. It is therefore essential that appropriate governance structures are agreed before commencing the formal 30-month process. This will enable timely decision-making and provide clarity for stakeholders about who will make key decisions.

- 5.22 The Constitution's Scheme of Delegation authorises the Service Director for Development and Housing to exercise the functions, duties and powers of the Council as set out in the relevant legislation, including the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, subject to the reservations and exceptions set out therein. Previous Local Plans have been progressed on this basis, with close coordination with members through the Portfolio Holder for Planning, the previous Planning Advisory Group, and with all key decisions being made through the executive cycle. The proposals set out in this report do not seek to deviate from that approach, but explicit clarity is required to achieve the ambitious timetable.
- 5.23 It is important to stress that the recommendations in this report relate primarily to procedural steps required to commence and progress plan-making in accordance with the 2026 Regulations. They do not determine the substantive content of the next Local Plan, which will remain subject to future consultation and the Council's formal decision-making processes. Clarifying and, where appropriate, refining how existing processes and delegations will operate in practice for the preparation of the WBLP will support efficient decision-making. While the Council's constitution already provides a broad framework of delegations, this report does not propose a substantial change in approach; rather, it identifies and specifies the delegations needed to support the timely preparation of the WBLP. It is therefore recommended that delegated authority is exercised by the Service Director for Development and Housing, in consultation with the Executive Portfolio Holder for Planning and Housing, at key stages. This is intended to ensure statutory compliance, provide flexibility and responsiveness in progressing plan-making, support early engagement with stakeholders and the Planning Inspectorate, and reduce the risk of delay and intervention.
- 5.24 The recommendations include delegated authority to approve, publish and submit the required documents and statements for statutory Gateway 1 (Recommendation 2.4.III) which comprises of a self-assessment and the publishing of information that demonstrates the Council is ready to move onto the next stage.
- 5.25 The recommended delegation at 2.4.V is to delegate approval to commence consultation on the content and evidence of the WBLP prior to Gateway 2, having regard to the advice of the proposed Local Plan Working Group. This is necessary because, to comply with the 30-month timetable, the scope of that consultation will need to be agreed in April to commence in May 2027. This is similar to the process followed for the 'preferred options' stage of the LPR. Consultation at this stage is expected to cover the proposed vision for the District, and the outcomes the Plan is intended to deliver. Also, the proposed aims and objectives and how these will be achieved, the Council's proposed approach to planning policies, including potential site allocations and a summary of the evidence base and other supporting material. This would be broadly comparable to the 'preferred options' stage undertaken as part of the LPR.
- 5.26 The recommended delegation at 2.5.VI is necessary to enable the submission of documents to the Planning Inspectorate in a timely way. Gateway 2 is where the

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Council must seek observations and advice from the Planning Inspectorate on aspects of the proposed Plan to support early resolution of potential soundness issues. Following Gateway 2, necessary changes are then made prior to the next round of public consultation. It is not until after Gateway 3 that the Plan is submitted for examination.

### **Member involvement**

- 5.27 Strong member involvement, and effective political oversight throughout the plan-making process is essential. It is common for councils to set up a local plan steering group during plan preparation to facilitate this in alignment with the requirements of the process. During preparation of the LPR, cross-party working was achieved through the Planning Advisory Group, which is no longer in existence. It is therefore proposed that a new focused cross-party Local Plan Working Group (LPWG) is established. Its principal role would be to enable member engagement in the formulation and development of policies and proposals for the West Berkshire Local Plan, to provide a forum for cross-party discussion, and to assist and advise the Executive Portfolio Holder for Planning and Housing as the Plan progresses. The LPWG would be advisory in nature and would not have any substantive decision-making powers with its make-up, meeting frequency and powers set out in agreed terms of reference.
- 5.28 Given the importance of the Local Plan and the demands of the plan-making process, it is considered essential that this specific LPWG is established, focused on the single objective of preparing a high-quality Local Plan. Past experience has shown that cross-party membership also serves this objective, as it encourages rigorous challenge throughout the process. It is anticipated that the LPWG would need to convene on a more flexible basis than has previously been necessary, in order to align with the plan-making process.
- 5.29 In addition to the formal governance arrangements, Members will have an important role in shaping and informing the Local Plan as it develops. There could be various touchpoints in the Local Plan process that enable participation from a wider group of Members, with the LPWG helping to identify suitable opportunities. These might include:
- Participation in workshops, for example, to help draft the vision and objectives for the Local Plan, or to discuss potential sites for the HELAA.
  - Updates through Member briefings at key milestones, particularly ahead of launching public consultation.
  - Participation in public consultation events.
- 5.30 In-between Gateway 2 and Gateway 3, the proposed submission Local Plan will be presented to full Council for approval to undertake public consultation before it is submitted to the Secretary of State for examination after passing through Gateway 3. This mirrors the process followed for the LPR at the Regulation 19 stage.

### **Wider stakeholder engagement**

- 5.31 Effective engagement will be essential to the preparation of the new WBLP. Early and ongoing engagement will help to ensure that the Plan is informed by local knowledge,

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reflects the issues and opportunities facing different parts of the District, and is prepared in a transparent and inclusive way. Engagement will also support the Council in understanding the views of residents, businesses, infrastructure providers, landowners, developers, town and parish councils, neighbouring authorities and other stakeholders at key stages of the process.

5.32 The Council will prepare a proportionate strategy for consultation and engagement to support plan-making from the outset. This is likely to include a combination of digital consultation, targeted stakeholder discussions, workshops, meetings and other public engagement activity as and when appropriate. The initial scoping consultation will provide an early opportunity for people to comment on the matters the Plan should address and how future engagement should be undertaken. As the Plan progresses, engagement will be aligned with the formal statutory stages of plan preparation and will be supported by Member briefings and other opportunities for Members to help shape the process.

## 6 Other options considered

6.1 An alternative option would be to take no action at this time and delay preparation of the Local Plan. This is not recommended, as failure to commence plan-making within the required timescales would place the Council in breach of national policy and the conditions of the Local Plan Implementation Funding. It would also expose the Council to intervention by the Secretary of State, increased risks of planning appeals, and long-term failure to meet the development needs of the District.

## 7 Conclusion

7.1 The recommendations are proposed to ensure that West Berkshire Council complies with new statutory plan-making requirements, maintains control over its planning policy framework, and mitigates the risk of government intervention. Delegated authority will enable timely and effective progression of the Local Plan process.

## 8 Appendices

8.1 Appendix A – Local Plan process overview

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### Background Papers:

None

### Subject to Call-In:

Yes:  No:

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The item is due to be referred to Council for final approval

Delays in implementation could have serious financial implications for the Council

Delays in implementation could compromise the Council's position:

Considered or reviewed by Scrutiny Commission or associated Committees, Task Groups within preceding six months

Item is Urgent Key Decision

Report is to note only

**Wards affected:** All

**Officer details:**

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Local Plan process overview

