

Why has the Local Plan been postponed?

As a result of a High Court case, it has become clear that work on the Dover Waterfront Area Action Plan and the associated public realm works cannot be prepared as a Supplementary Planning Document or as a residual Local Development Document. In light of this, legal advice has recommended that the proposals are prepared as a Development Plan Document and examined by an independent Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State.

The preparation of this document will have resource implications regarding staff time and additional expenditure for the Regeneration Delivery team. Therefore, in order for the team to be able to undertake the additional work required for the preparation of the Dover Waterfront Area Action Plan, the District Council has taken the decision to extend the programme for preparing the new District Local Plan.

What is the process for engaging with Parish Councils?

A formal consultation process will be undertaken as the preparation of the new District Local Plan advances. Statutory consultees, as well as town and parish councils will be invited to comment on the key issues for the new District Local Plan to address, options for development and the content of the draft District Local Plan that will be submitted for examination.

The minimum requirements for engagement are set out in the District Council's [Statement for Community Involvement](#). In particular, as the preparation of the new District Local Plan advances, engagement with town and parish councils will be arranged to discuss specific issues facing their areas. Additionally, workshops will be held during the evidence gathering stage regarding the development of key evidence base documents.

Furthermore, the District Council will hold regular meetings with the Planning Advisory Group to discuss progress and key issues of the new District Local Plan. The Kent Association of Local Councils will represent town and parish councils at these meetings however there will be opportunities to extend the invitation to individual councils, where necessary.

Progress on the new District Local Plan will be publicised in the DDC Newsletter at appropriate stages in the process. The Regeneration Delivery team will be more than happy to meet with parish councils to discuss local plan matters, if requested.

Note: Statement for Community Involvement explains that the following will be the minimum consultation required for Local Plans.

Participation – active involvement in identifying needs and priorities, such as workshops.

Consultation – consulting you on your views, such as through on-line consultation processes and surveys.

Information – providing data, such as advertisements in newspapers and publishing reports.

TIMETABLE FOR THE LOCAL PLAN – OCTOBER 2017

<i>Consultation</i>	<i>Process</i>	<i>Date</i>
Evidence Gathering	The Council is currently updating its evidence base to support the Local Plan. The evidence base will cover a variety of topics ranging from housing to viability. Workshops will be held as the preparation of these documents advances.	Present – Autumn 2018
Regulation 18 consultation – vision, objectives, issues to be addressed by the Local Plan 8 week consultation	The Council will notify stakeholders as to the subject of the Local Plan and will invite them to make representations regarding the scope of the Local Plan (e.g. matters to be addressed). This consultation will set out the structure of the Local Plan and overarching themes to be covered. Consultees will be asked to comment on the issues set out in the consultation document and whether there are any further matters that should be identified. Following this consultation, the representations submitted will be used to inform the preparation of the Local Plan and further engagement will be undertaken, where necessary or required.	October/November 2018 Autumn 2018 – Autumn 2019
Regulation 19 consultation – the document to be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for examination 8 week consultation	Prior to submission of the Local Plan to the Secretary of State for examination, the Council is required to publish the draft Local Plan for submission. The purpose of this consultation is to establish whether respondents support or object to the Plan and associated justifications. This consultation will also establish whether the local	September/ October 2019

	community and statutory organisations consider that the Council has met the legal requirements for the preparation of the Plan, as well as the tests of soundness as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework.	
Submission	The submission of the Local Plan to the Secretary of State triggers the Examination in Public.	January 2020
Examination in Public	The Local Plan will be examined by an independent Inspector who will assess the plan.	April/May 2020
Adoption		Summer 2020