

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council

# Local Development Scheme

---

October 2021



1.0	Introduction and Overview .....	3
2.0	The Development Plan and related documents .....	5
	Context .....	5
	Development Plan Documents.....	6
	Core Strategy .....	6
	Site Allocations Local Plan.....	6
	Saved Local Plan policies .....	7
	New Local Plan .....	7
	Royal Tunbridge Wells Town Centre Area Plan.....	7
	Neighbourhood Plans .....	8
	Supplementary Planning Documents and Conservation Area Appraisals.....	9
	Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule.....	11
	Statement of Community Involvement .....	11
	Evidence Base .....	12
3.0	Document Profiles.....	14
	Development Plan Documents.....	14
	Supplementary Planning Documents .....	20
	Conservation Area Appraisals with Supplementary Planning Document status ....	23
	Conservation Area Appraisals with Supplementary Planning Guidance status ....	24
	Supplementary Planning Documents in preparation .....	25
	Community Infrastructure Levy .....	35
4.0	Supporting Statement: Resources and Risks.....	38
	Resources.....	38
	Review .....	39
	Risks .....	39
5.0	Further Information .....	40
	Register on our consultation database.....	40
	Appendix 1: Local Plan and SPD Programme .....	42
	Appendix 2: Risk Assessment .....	45
	Appendix 3: Glossary .....	49

# 1.0 Introduction and Overview

- 1.1 This document is Tunbridge Wells Borough Council's Local Development Scheme (LDS). It sets out details of the planning policy documents that the Council has adopted, is presently preparing and those that it intends to prepare.
- 1.2 The LDS is intended to provide information to local residents and other interested parties to help them participate in the plan-making process. It gives details about:
  - the documents the Council will be preparing;
  - the subject matter and geographical area to which these documents relate; and
  - the timetable for their preparation and adoption.
- 1.3 This LDS, which comes into effect in October 2021, updates and replaces the previous LDS dated February 2021 (itself an update of previous iterations of the LDS). Due to the progression of the Local Plan, including consideration of representations to the recent Regulation 19 Pre-Submission Local Plan consultation and the need to produce the Summaries of Main Issues for the Inspector who will examine the Plan, progress on Duty to Cooperate matters, including Statements of Common Ground and evidence base work, an updated LDS is necessary.
- 1.4 Consideration has also been given to the continued impacts of the Covid-19 outbreak on the Local Plan programme, which will continue to be kept under review.
- 1.5 Importantly, consideration has also been given to the Government's proposed changes to the planning system, both under the [Changes to the Current Planning \(CttCPS\) System](#) and [Planning for the Future: White Paper](#). Future Government announcements about changes, and the timetables for these, will be kept under review. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was updated in July 2021, and this updated LDS takes account of the revised NPPF.
- 1.6 Overall, the Borough Council's focus is to complete preparation of, submit, and then duly adopt, a new Local Plan to replace the now dated Local Plans currently in place, and to simultaneously start preparatory work on the Royal Tunbridge Wells Town Centre (RTW TC) Area Plan and SPDs. There has been substantial progress in the preparation of the new Local Plan, with three public consultations undertaken to date, firstly on 'Issues and Options', secondly, on a Regulation 18 'Draft Local Plan', and more recently a third consultation on a Regulation 19 'Pre-Submission version Local Plan' which took place for ten weeks between the 26th of March and 4th June 2021.
- 1.7 The Council is now preparing a 'Submission' version of the Local Plan, which is proposed to be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate, alongside all duly-made representations, for independent examination.

- 1.8 This LDS sets out the timescales for the remaining stages for the production and adoption of the new Local Plan, as well as of other planning documents that the Council expects to prepare over the next three years.

# 2.0 The Development Plan and related documents

## Context

- 2.1 National planning guidance set out in the National Planning Policy Framework 2021 (NPPF) explains at paragraph 15 that: "the planning system should be genuinely planned".
- 2.2 The glossary to the NPPF defines a Local Plan as:  
*"a plan for the future development of a local area, drawn up by the local planning authority in consultation with the community. In law this is described as the development plan documents adopted under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. A local plan can consist of either strategic or non-strategic policies, or a combination of the two".*
- 2.3 Paragraph 15 of the NPPF also sets out that *"succinct and up-to-date plans should provide a positive vision for the future of each area; a framework for addressing housing needs and other economic, social and environmental priorities; and a platform for local people to shape their surroundings".*
- 2.4 Paragraph 33 of the NPPF details that "policies in local plans and spatial development strategies should be reviewed to assess whether they need updating at least once every five years and should then be updated as necessary. Reviews should be completed no later than five years from the adoption date of a plan and should take into account changing circumstances affecting the area, or any relevant changes in national policy".
- 2.5 Local Planning Authorities can also prepare SPDs which add further detail to the policies in the development plan. They can be used to provide further guidance for development on specific sites, or on particular issues, such as design. The glossary to the NPPF is clear that SPDs "are capable of being a material consideration in planning decisions but are not part of the development plan".
- 2.6 A number of parish and town councils in the borough are preparing, or have prepared, neighbourhood plans (described in law as a neighbourhood development plan). Further information on neighbourhood plans is provided in paragraphs 2.24-2.31 below.
- 2.7 In addition, the Council also prepares the following documents:
- Local Development Scheme (LDS), which sets out the programme for preparing planning documents (this document);
  - Statement of Community Involvement (SCI), which sets out how the Council will involve the local community in planning decisions;

- Authority Monitoring Report (AMR): this is updated regularly and provides details of recent developments within the borough, covering housing, employment, retail and other uses

## Development Plan Documents

2.8 The development plan for Tunbridge Wells borough currently comprises the following documents:

- the Core Strategy Development Plan Document, adopted June 2010;
- the Site Allocations Local Plan, adopted July 2016;
- saved policies in the Tunbridge Wells Borough Local Plan, adopted March 2006. These 'saved' policies have had their life extended and will continue to be used for deciding planning applications until replaced by policies in the new Local Plan. Remaining 2006 Local Plan saved policies are listed in Appendix 1 of the Site Allocations Local Plan document ([view the Site Allocations Local Plan](#));
- [Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2013-30](#) as amended by Early Partial Review (2020), produced by Kent County Council as the minerals and waste Local Planning Authority;
- the [Hawkhurst Neighbourhood Plan](#) (2018, updated in 2020);
- the [Lamberhurst Neighbourhood Plan](#) (2021).

2.9 In addition, and as set out above, the Council is currently preparing a new Borough Local Plan which, when adopted, will replace the 2006 Local Plan, Core Strategy and Site Allocations Local Plan.

2.10 More information on these documents is set out below.

## Core Strategy

2.11 The Council adopted the Core Strategy in June 2010. This sets out the broad strategy for future planning and decision making and defines the general locations and levels of development in the borough to 2026 but does not identify individual sites.

## Site Allocations Local Plan

2.12 The Council adopted the Site Allocations Local Plan in July 2016. The Plan identifies sites to provide for the level of development set out in the Core Strategy. The Site Allocations Local Plan sets out detailed site-specific policies and looks to 2026, the same period as the Core Strategy.

## Saved Local Plan policies

- 2.13 The Council adopted the borough-wide Local Plan in 2006. It originally provided a comprehensive suite of policies which allocate sites and provides the planning policy against which planning applications are assessed. However, since its adoption, some changes have been made to the Local Plan as a result of the 'saving' of policies in March 2009, the adoption of the Core Strategy in June 2010 and the adoption of the Site Allocations Local Plan in July 2016.
- 2.14 As a result, some policies have been removed from the Local Plan as they are no longer valid. These changes are reflected in the Local Plan chapters which are published online. Policies which are no longer valid have been struck through. Double strike through indicates the 2009 and 2010 changes and single strike through indicates the more recent 2016 changes.

## New Local Plan

- 2.15 The Council has commenced work on preparing the new Borough Local Plan which will replace the 'saved' policies in the 2006 Local Plan, the Core Strategy and the Site Allocations Local Plan. The new Local Plan sets out a new growth strategy for the borough over a 15-year period, allocates sites for development, and provides general 'development management' policies to guide development.
- 2.16 As set out at Paragraph 1.6 above, the new Local Plan has been subject to three public consultations. The first was on an 'Issues and Options' document in 2017, the second on a full Draft Regulation 18 Local Plan (from 20 September 2019 to 15 November 2019), and the third was on a Pre-Submission Local Plan (from 26 March to 4 June 2021).
- 2.17 These documents and supporting evidence base material for all stages of the Local Plan are published on the Council's website ([see the Local Plan web page](#)).

## Royal Tunbridge Wells Town Centre Area Plan

- 2.18 The Site Allocations Local Plan (2016) has requirements for the provision of an Urban Design Framework (UDF) SPD, (Policy AL/RTW1), and masterplans for the: Civic Complex/Crescent Road Area of Change (Policy AL/RTW2A) and the Former Cinema Site Area of Change (AL/RTW2B). The UDF seeks to promote local distinctiveness and incorporates guidance on matters such as accessibility, connections and linkages and improved quality of the public realm and townscape. It was prepared but never fully adopted as SPD. Masterplans have not been produced for the two areas of change, and planning permission has since been granted for key sites within these.
- 2.19 The TC is the primary retail, leisure, cultural and employment destination in the borough, is a vibrant and viable town centre providing a range of services, facilities

and events to serve the surrounding areas. However, the retail economy has changed significantly over recent years (including since the adoption of the Site Allocations Local Plan in 2016) and the trends which were emerging have accelerated exponentially as a result of the Covid 19 pandemic. It is also expected that the increased movement towards home working and different times of working, hastened as a result of the Covid 19 'lockdown' periods, will structurally change the need and use of office space (including shared and flexible accommodation) and parking demand, and through this the operation of those town centre uses which previously were linked to footfall associated with office employment.

- 2.20 It is therefore intended that a TC Area Plan will be prepared alongside inclusive public and stakeholder engagement and evidence gathering on changes to the economic and societal context to determine a vision, strategy and masterplan for the town to ensure its long-term prosperity and success. Evidence has already started to be gathered through work undertaken to inform the preparation of the new Local Plan (including the Retail, Leisure and Town Centre Uses Study Update (2020) (RLTCU 2020) which has updated the 2017 Retail and Leisure Study).
- 2.21 The Area Plan will build on the current successes of the TC but setting out a flexible and adaptable approach to future uses and sites and ensuring the comprehensive and sustained development of the centre. It will include a mix of town centre uses to provide commercial, employment, cultural and residential development to sustain the town's future vitality and viability, together with the creation and enhancement of new public realm and improved connectivity and legibility between the core areas of the TC and the wider town alongside parking and active travel infrastructure. As part of this, it will set out detailed allocations for key sites, including the Royal Victoria Place shopping centre, Mount Pleasant Avenue Car Park and the Great Hall Car park and surrounds and Torrington and Vale Avenue.
- 2.22 The Area Plan will be a land use planning document – a Local Plan specific for that area - but will be related to other strategies of the Council, including those related to economic development, transport, parking and culture. The Council brings forward the Area Plan as part of a wider framework for the town centre, with an alignment of various corporate strategies to this.
- 2.23 As the Area Plan will be linked to policies in the new Local Plan, and the need for increased certainty over how the economic, retail, leisure, office, cultural and commuting environment and context will change in the medium-long term, the timetable for the production of the Area Plan is considered to be key. This is set out below.

## Neighbourhood Plans

- 2.24 Neighbourhood plans can be prepared by town and parish councils and, where parish councils do not exist, organisations designated as neighbourhood forums.
- 2.25 Following the successful conclusion of a statutory preparation process (including public consultation, examination, and local referendum), the Borough Council must



adopt a neighbourhood plan alongside its own Local Plans as part of the statutory development plan for the borough.

- 2.26 As explained at paragraphs 29 and 30 of the NPPF, neighbourhood planning gives communities the power to develop a shared vision for their area, but that neighbourhood plans must not promote less development than set out in strategic policies for the area, or undermine those strategic policies.
- 2.27 The NPPF also clarifies that once a neighbourhood plan has been brought into force, the policies it contains take precedence over existing non-strategic policies in a local plan covering the neighbourhood area, where they are in conflict; unless they are superseded by strategic or non-strategic policies that are adopted subsequently.
- 2.28 At present, there are two 'made' (approved following referendum) neighbourhood plans; these are the Hawkhurst Neighbourhood Development Plan, adopted March 2018, which was subject to a minor, non-material modification, approved in April 2020, and the Lamberhurst Neighbourhood Development Plan, adopted October 2021.
- 2.29 At the time of writing, ten other parishes (Benenden, Brenchley & Matfield, Capel, Cranbrook & Sissinghurst, Goudhurst, Horsmonden, Lamberhurst, Paddock Wood, Pembury and Sandhurst) have approval for Neighbourhood Areas, which is the initial stage in the preparation of a neighbourhood plan. Plan preparation in each case is at a different stage, with the most advanced being the Benenden and the Goudhurst neighbourhood plans, which have recently been successful at examination and will, if agreed by the Council's Cabinet, proceed to referendum in February 2022. Sandhurst Parish Council had previously indicated that a neighbourhood plan is not being progressed, although it is understood that this position may change.
- 2.30 For an up-to-date picture of the progress of neighbourhood plans see (view information on neighbourhood plans on the Council's website).
- 2.31 The Council has been liaising closely with, and providing appropriate assistance where possible to, the groups preparing neighbourhood plans, and will continue to do so throughout their preparation.

## **Supplementary Planning Documents and Conservation Area Appraisals**

- 2.32 As explained briefly above, Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) do not set policy but provide further guidance about how to implement the requirements of the NPPF and the policies in the Local Plan.
- 2.33 As work has progressed on the new Local Plan, it has been identified that a number of SPDs are required to supplement emerging policies in the new Local Plan. These are detailed below but include a number of SPDs related to the transformational expansion of Paddock Wood, including land in east Capel, and an SPD for the development of Tudeley Village. Both are proposed as strategic settlements in the new Local Plan. The timetable for their production takes account of both the significant

amount of work undertaken by David Lock Associates and its sub-consultant team (including Stantec and JBA) to inform the strategic policies in the Local Plan, and the timetable for the examination and adoption of the Local Plan itself.

- 2.34 The Council commissioned PJA to undertake a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure and Low Traffic Neighbourhoods Plan as part of the evidence base for the new Local Plan. It identifies cycling and walking improvements required at the local level, including inter-settlement routes, together with Low Traffic Neighbourhoods which are schemes where motor vehicle traffic in residential streets is greatly reduced by minimising the amount of traffic that comes from vehicles using the streets to get to another destination. This work will be taken forward to produce a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure and Low Traffic Neighbourhood SPD.
- 2.35 A Biodiversity Net Gain SPD will also be produced. Policy EN9 Biodiversity Net Gain in the new Local Plan relates to the objective for all development to contribute towards delivering net gains for nature so that biodiversity across the borough as a whole is improved by the end of the plan period, and the existing network of sites and habitats is protected and strengthened with the retention and creation of robust, well managed green infrastructure. The SPD will provide further guidance on this policy, including in terms of conservation objectives, long term management and monitoring and funding arrangements and costs for any local or strategic offsetting schemes.
- 2.36 A Historic Environment Review has been produced as part of the evidence base for the new Local Plan. This examines the historic environment of the borough to form the basis for heritage local planning, providing an accessible summary of the historic landscape character and heritage assets in the borough. As set out in the supporting text to Policy EN4: Historic Environment in the new Local Plan, a Historic Environment SPD based on the Review will be produced.
- 2.37 An Open Space SPD will also be produced as part of the evidence base for the new Local Plan. The SPD will provide further detail to support the implementation of policy, including the technical detail on how quantity and accessibility standards will be applied. It will also include the methodology for calculating the amount of open space required on each development, where on-site open space should be provided on larger sites, and the amount of develop contributions that will be required in lieu of on-site provision. It will also outline the priorities for provision, or improvement to existing provision, taking in to account the qualitative assessment.
- 2.38 It should be noted that the majority of SPDs listed above will build on work already undertaken as part of the evidence base for the emerging Local Plan, or work prepared by external consultants. The timing of the consultation on these SPDs takes account of both the expected timetable for the Inspector's report on the Local Plan and its adoption: it is envisaged that consultation will take place on all the SPDs at the same time, which is considered beneficial in terms of allowing those who are interested to comment on any interrelationships between the SPDs and is efficient in terms of the logistics of this.
- 2.39 Conservation Area Appraisals (CAAs) are a special type of SPD. They set out the key characteristics of defined Conservation Areas and provide design guidance for

development proposals within them ([view Conservation Area Appraisals on the Council's website](#)).

- 2.40 The most recently adopted SPD is a Madeira Park and Warwick Park Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan.
- 2.41 The Council will also review a number of CAAs. Work on Conservation Area Management Plans and Heritage Assets will also be progressed, working with town and parish councils and other voluntary groups, and interested parties.

## Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule

- 2.42 The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) allows local authorities to raise funds from developers undertaking new building projects according to the gross internal floor area of the development. Detail of the Levy is set out in a document called the CIL Charging Schedule. The money raised from CIL can be used to fund a wide range of infrastructure, including road schemes, flood defences, schools, health, social care and leisure facilities, and park and green space improvements.
- 2.43 While a CIL Charging Schedule does not have the status of the development plan, it does need to be examined by an independent Inspector. Previous LDS's have included reference to the potential for a future CIL to be considered and this remains. However, no firm decision can be made at this time pending a better understanding of the Government's potential future proposals to introduce a national Infrastructure Levy (IL) as set out in the Planning White Paper in August 2020. Until such time as the future Government direction is known, this decision is held in abeyance. In the meantime, infrastructure will continue to be funded through Section 106 Agreements.
- 2.44 Infrastructure requirements in the Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP), which forms part of the evidence base for the new Local Plan, are also regularly updated so that the infrastructure needs, and current funding can be established to inform any CIL charge or level of development contributions required.

## Statement of Community Involvement

- 2.45 The Council also maintains a SCI which, although not a local development document, is important in that it sets out how community engagement will be carried out in both plan-making and in the exercise of the Development Management function for the determination of planning applications.
- 2.46 To view the current Statement of Community Involvement, [see the 2020 Statement of Community Involvement on the Council's website](#).

## Evidence Base

- 2.47 National policy requires that the preparation and review of all policies should be underpinned by relevant and up to date evidence. This should be adequate and proportionate, focused tightly on supporting and justifying the policies concerned, and taking into account relevant market signals (NPPF, paragraph 31).
- 2.48 The Council's planning policy work is underpinned by a significant amount of evidence. A list of key evidence documents for the new Local Plan can be viewed on the Supporting Documents page of the Local Plan website ([see Supporting Documents](#)). Further studies will be carried out to maintain adequate, up to date and relevant evidence.
- 2.49 Two key evidence documents, which are subject to certain consultations in their own right are the Sustainability Appraisal and the Habitats Regulations Assessments, as outlined below.

## Sustainability Appraisal

- 2.50 Sustainability is at the heart of the planning process. Under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004) it is a requirement that Local Plans are subject to a process of sustainability appraisal that also meets the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive. Sustainability appraisals look at how development affects social, economic and environmental considerations. Sustainability appraisal needs to identify how mitigation measures may be used to remove or reduce any adverse impacts that may result from new development.
- 2.51 A Sustainability Appraisal (SA) scoping report was prepared to inform preparation of the new Local Plan. An Initial Sustainability Appraisal was prepared and consulted upon alongside the Issues and Options consultation, while a further Sustainability Appraisal of the Regulation 18 Draft Local Plan was also prepared and consulted upon alongside the Draft Local Plan. Comments made on the latter Sustainability Appraisal were used to inform a further SA for the Pre-Submission version of the Local Plan. A final Submission SA will be prepared for submission alongside the Submission Local Plan to assist the Inspector in their consideration of the local plan.

## Appropriate Assessment and Habitats Regulations

- 2.52 Under European legislation, there is a requirement to consider whether development proposals would be likely to have an adverse impact on any internationally designated sites (either individually or in combination with any other plans or projects) and, where necessary, to devise appropriate mitigation.
- 2.53 The Council has previously appointed consultants to undertake Appropriate Assessment, working in cooperation with other bodies and neighbouring authorities, to consider the potential impact of proposals on the Ashdown Forest Special Area of

Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Area (SPA). This work will be ongoing as part of the new Local Plan.

2.54 This Assessment was updated for the new Local Plan.

## 3.0 Document Profiles

- 3.1 This section provides details about the preparation and content of the Council's new Local Plan, Supplementary Planning Documents, and potential Community Infrastructure Levy.
- 3.2 As set out in the previous section, the Council has a number of adopted Development Plan documents and work is underway on preparing the Local Plan. A number of SPDs have also been adopted in the past, and additional ones are also currently being completed.
- 3.3 The tables below set out details of these planning documents, their purpose, coverage, and an indicative timetable for their preparation.
- 3.4 The indicative timetables reflect the current programme and priorities, which will be kept under review. These are shown in the programme in **Appendix 1**.

### Development Plan Documents

Core Strategy	
Adoption status	Adopted June 2010
Purpose	Provides the vision, strategic objectives and overarching planning strategy to deliver development in the borough to 2026, including broadly how much development will happen and where it will take place.
Geographical coverage	Whole borough

<b>Site Allocations Local Plan</b>	
Adoption status	Adopted July 2016
Purpose	<p>Purposes of the Site Allocations Local Plan include to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• allocate specific sites for a range of uses across the borough to accommodate the amount of development set out in the Core Strategy. Existing site allocations have been reviewed as part of this process;</li> <li>• define a boundary for the town centres of Royal Tunbridge Wells, Southborough, Paddock Wood and Cranbrook; and for the centre in the settlement of Hawkhurst identify regeneration opportunities for Royal Tunbridge Wells town centre (identified in the document as Areas of Change); allocate sites and provide other appropriate town centre policies in the smaller town centres of Southborough, Paddock Wood and Cranbrook and the centre of Hawkhurst village;</li> <li>• provide site-specific policies against which planning applications can be assessed for sites where appropriate.</li> </ul>
Geographical coverage	Whole borough

<b>Local Plan 2006</b>	
Adoption status	Adopted March 2006
Purpose	A comprehensive suite of policies: many have been replaced by policies in the Core Strategy or Site Allocations Local Plan: those which are saved as set out in the Local Plan.
Geographical coverage	Whole borough

New Local Plan	
Adoption status	An Issues and Options consultation (Regulation 18) was completed in summer 2017, while a Draft Local Plan document was published and consulted upon, under Regulation 18, in Autumn 2019. The Pre-Submission Local Plan was then subject to a final consultation, under Regulation 19, which took place between 26 <sup>th</sup> March and 4 <sup>th</sup> June 2021. Representations will be passed, along with the Local Plan documents, to the Planning Inspectorate at the submission stage, for Independent examination.
Purpose	<p>Purposes of the new Local Plan include to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• identify appropriate levels of growth across the borough and sustainable locations for development;</li> <li>• work in cooperation with neighbouring authorities regarding strategic planning issues;</li> <li>• allocate specific sites for a range of uses to accommodate the amount of development set out in the evidence base/national policy for growth. Existing site allocations that have not commenced or received planning permission will be reviewed as part of this process;</li> <li>• consider the needs for, and provision of, sites to accommodate the gypsy and traveller community;</li> <li>• conduct a Green Belt study to test the purpose and function of designated land against the criteria of NPPF policy, and the remaining reserve of safeguarded land (Rural Fringe) at Royal Tunbridge Wells and Southborough, to assess whether additional safeguarded land will be required in the future;</li> <li>• reconsider existing definitions and update the Limits to Built Development for settlements as necessary;</li> <li>• define boundaries for town centres, primary shopping areas and frontages, areas protected from development, and other areas within which specific policies will prevail;</li> <li>• provide detailed policies for development management purposes against which planning applications can be assessed.</li> </ul>
Geographical coverage	Whole borough
Evidence requirements	The evidence required is set out in the Supporting Documents page of the Local Plan website ( <a href="#">see Supporting Documents</a> ).



New Local Plan	
Production	<u>Lead officer</u> Planning Policy Manager
Internal resource	Planning Policy Team
External resource	Consultancy used to provide key support in the production of the Local Plan and for parts of evidence base with consultation and input from other services and Kent County Council and other stakeholders as necessary.
Indicative timetable	<u>Evidence gathering</u> 2016-2019 <u>Issues and Options consultation</u> May-June 2017 <u>Draft Local Plan consultation</u> September-November 2019 <u>Pre-Submission Local Plan consultation</u> 26 March-4 June 2021 <u>Submission to Secretary of State</u> October/November 2021 <u>Examination</u> March-April 2022 <u>Inspector's Report</u> October 2022 <u>Adoption</u> January 2023

New Royal Tunbridge Wells Town Centre Area Plan	
Adoption status	The timetable for the production of the RTW TC Area Plan is set out below. This takes account of both the timetable for the new Local Plan, and the anticipated timescales for greater certainty regarding changes to the economic, retail, leisure, office, cultural and commuting environment and context
Purpose	<p>Purposes of the new RTW TC Area Plan include to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• set a vision and strategy for the TC for the period 2022 - 2038;</li> <li>• provide a masterplan for the TC to include a mix of town centre uses to provide commercial, employment, cultural and residential development, together with the creation and enhancement of new public realm and improved connectivity and legibility between the core areas of the TC and the wider town alongside parking and active travel infrastructure;</li> <li>• detailed allocations for key sites, including the Royal Victoria Place shopping centre, Mount Pleasant Avenue Car Park and the Great Hall Car park and surrounds and Torrington and Vale Avenue;</li> <li>• This will incorporate (including relevant updates) elements of the Urban Design Framework.</li> </ul>
Geographical coverage	Royal Tunbridge Wells Town Centre boundary, which will be defined in the new Local Plan.
Evidence requirements	<p>The following evidence is likely to be required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Retail, Leisure and Town Centre Uses Study (2020) (RLTCU 2020), and possible update;</li> <li>• Evidence to facilitate masterplanning, to include engagement strategy and results, options and scenario appraisals, viability and deliverability testing and transport modelling;</li> <li>• Sustainability Appraisal</li> <li>• Potentially Habitats Regulation Assessment</li> </ul>
Production	<p><u>Lead officer</u></p> <p>Planning Policy Manager</p>
Internal resource	Planning Policy department, with strong input from Economic Development teams, together with other services.

New Royal Tunbridge Wells Town Centre Area Plan	
External resource	Consultancy used to undertake evidence gathering and masterplanning, with input from external stakeholders, other Council services and Kent County Council as necessary.
Indicative timetable	<p><u>First meetings of the Town Centre Working Group</u></p> <p>November 2021</p> <p><u>Commissioning of masterplanning consultants</u></p> <p>June 2022</p> <p><u>Evidence gathering</u></p> <p>October 2022 – March 2023</p> <p><u>Issues and Detailed Options consultation</u></p> <p>June – August 2023 (following adoption of Local Plan in January 2023)</p> <p><u>Pre-Submission consultation</u></p> <p>May – July 2024</p> <p><u>Submission to Secretary of State</u></p> <p>December 2024</p> <p><u>Examination</u></p> <p>May 2025</p> <p><u>Inspector's Report</u></p> <p>September 2025</p> <p><u>Adoption</u></p> <p>November 2025</p>

# Supplementary Planning Documents

Kent Design Guide	
Adoption status	Adopted as SPD, April 2006
Purpose	The Kent Design provides approaches to the design of places that reinforce Kent's distinctive character.
Alterations and Extensions	
Adoption status	Adopted as SPD, July 2006
Purpose	Provides advice about how to address issues of amenity, design and sustainability when making alterations to residential properties and promotes good standards of development.  Supplements Local Plan saved Policy EN1.
Recreation Open Space	
Adoption status	Adopted as SPD, July 2006
Purpose	Provides guidance on the expected amount and cost of providing children's play space and youth/adult recreation open space in new housing developments. Supplements 2006 Local Plan saved Policies R2 to R4.
Renewable Energy	
Adoption status	Adopted as SPD, April 2007
Purpose	Provides guidance on the renewable energy technologies available and how developers and householders can integrate them into new developments and conversions. Supplements Core Policy 5 of the adopted Core Strategy.
Affordable Housing	
Adoption status	Adopted as SPD, September 2007
Purpose	Provides guidance on the requirements for affordable housing provision on general market housing sites across the borough and on proposals for rural exceptions schemes in the rural areas. Supplements 2006 Local Plan saved Policies H3 and H8; and is relevant to Core Policy 6 of the adopted Core Strategy.

<b>Borough Landscape Character Area Assessment</b>	
Adoption status	Adopted as SPD, December 2017
Purpose	Describes the character of the landscape types to be found across the borough. The aim is that, by reference to this document, the character of the valued landscape of the borough will be retained and enhanced. Supplements Core Policy 4 of the adopted Core Strategy.
<b>Local Heritage Assets</b>	
Adoption status	Adopted as SPD, June 2012
Purpose	Sets out a process for identifying heritage assets that are not statutorily listed, but are of great value to a local area, for possible inclusion on a 'local list'. Supplements Core Policy 4 of the adopted Core Strategy.
<b>Green Infrastructure Plan</b>	
Adoption status	Adopted as SPD, May 2014
Purpose	Sets out a clear vision and framework for existing and future green infrastructure: setting out the current provision of green infrastructure assets; identifying areas where there are gaps in provision or linkages; and identifying potential opportunities for enhancing and filling these gaps.
<b>Noise and Vibration</b>	
Adoption status	Adopted as SPD, October 2014
Purpose	Provides detailed guidance on the implementation of national and local policy relating to the potential impact of noise and vibration arising from, or affecting, new development.
<b>Farmsteads Assessment Guidance for Tunbridge Wells Borough</b>	
Adoption status	Adopted as SPD, February 2016
Purpose	Provides guidance to help conserve farmstead character through assessing the character of the farmstead, its significance, and its sensitivity to change.
<b>Contaminated Land</b>	

Adoption status	Adopted as SPD, September 2016
Purpose	Provides guidance to developers on assessing and mitigating the potential effects of contamination where this may exist and sets out the way the Borough Council considers contaminated land issues as part of development management proposals.
<b>Civic Development Planning Framework</b>	
Adoption status	Adopted as SPD, February 2018
Purpose	Supplements the policy and guidance provided by current development plan documents with regard to specific areas and sites within the Tunbridge Wells Town Centre, namely Crescent Road/Church Road, Mount Pleasant Car Park and Great Hall Car Park.

# Conservation Area Appraisals with Supplementary Planning Document status

<b>Wilsley Green</b>	
Adoption status	Adopted with SPD status, October 2012
Purpose	Sets out the key characteristics of the Wilsley Green Conservation Area. Supplements 2006 Local Plan saved Policy EN5 and Core Policy 4 of the adopted Core Strategy.
<b>Sissinghurst</b>	
Adoption status	Adopted with SPD status, October 2012
Purpose	Sets out the key characteristics of the Sissinghurst Conservation Area. Supplements 2006 Local Plan saved Policy EN5 and Core Policy 4 of the adopted Core Strategy.
<b>Cranbrook</b>	
Adoption status	Adopted with SPD status, June 2010
Purpose	Sets out the key characteristics of the Cranbrook Conservation Area. Supplements 2006 Local Plan saved Policy EN5 and Core Policy 4 of the adopted Core Strategy.
<b>Goudhurst and Kildown</b>	
Adoption status	Adopted with SPD status, June 2006
Purpose	Sets out the key characteristics of the Goudhurst and Kildown Conservation Areas. Supplements 2006 Local Plan saved Policy EN5 and Core Policy 4 of the adopted Core Strategy.
<b>Groombridge</b>	
Adoption status	Adopted with SPD status, June 2006
Purpose	Sets out the key characteristics of the Groombridge Conservation Area. Supplements 2006 Local Plan saved Policy EN5 and Core Policy 4 of the adopted Core Strategy.
<b>Langton Green</b>	
Adoption status	Adopted with SPD status, June 2006
Purpose	Sets out the key characteristics of the Langton Green Conservation Area. Supplements 2006 Local Plan saved Policy EN5 and Core Policy 4 of the adopted Core Strategy.

<b>Speldhurst</b>	
Adoption status	Adopted with SPD status, June 2006
Purpose	Sets out the key characteristics of the Speldhurst Conservation Area. Supplements 2006 Local Plan saved Policy EN5 and Core Policy 4 of the adopted Core Strategy.
<b>Madeira Park and Warwick Park Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan</b>	
Adoption status	Adopted with SPD status, June 2019
Purpose	Set out the key historic and architectural characteristics of, and the distinct boundary of the Madeira Park and Warwick Park area. This has also amended part of the boundary of the Royal Tunbridge Wells and Rusthall Conservation Area.

## Conservation Area Appraisals with Supplementary Planning Guidance status

These CAAs were not prepared according to the statutory process now required for adoption as SPD. As such, their status remains as saved Supplementary Planning Guidance.

<b>Benenden and Iden Green</b>	
Adoption status	Adopted with SPG status, April 2005
Purpose	Sets out the key characteristics of the Benenden and Iden Green Conservation Areas.
<b>Southborough</b>	
Adoption status	Adopted with SPG status, August 2003
Purpose	Sets out the key characteristics of the Southborough Conservation Area.
<b>Lamberhurst and The Down</b>	
Adoption status	Adopted with SPG status, July 2002
Purpose	Sets out the key characteristics of the Lamberhurst and The Down Conservation Areas.



<b>Royal Tunbridge Wells and Rusthall</b>	
Adoption status	Adopted with SPG status, November 2000
Purpose	Sets out the key characteristics of the Royal Tunbridge Wells and Rusthall Conservation Areas.
<b>Hawkhurst: The Moor, Highgate &amp; All Saints Church, Iddenden Green (Sawyers Green)</b>	
Adoption status	Adopted with SPG status, September 1999
Purpose	Sets out the key characteristics of the Hawkhurst Conservation Areas.
<b>Pembury</b>	
Adoption status	Adopted with SPG status, April 1998
Purpose	Sets out the key characteristics of the Pembury Conservation Area.

## Supplementary Planning Documents in preparation

<b>Paddock Wood, including land in east Capel, Structure Plan SPD</b>	
Adoption status	The timetable for the production of the Structure Plan is set out below. This takes account of the timetable for the new Local Plan.
Purpose	<p>To provide guidance on the overall transformational development of Paddock Wood, including land in east Capel. This will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• guidance on how the overall structure of the settlement will meet the principles of garden communities;</li> <li>• indicating the main areas for residential, employment, leisure and other uses, and areas of open space and green and blue infrastructure. This will include details of the amount of each use</li> </ul>

Paddock Wood, including land in east Capel, Structure Plan SPD	
	<p>in each location;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>identifying the main transport and active travel routes within areas of new development, and how these will relate and tie in with the existing routes;</li> <li>the location of neighbourhood centres and the infrastructure required at the strategic site, and a framework for how and when this would be delivered.</li> </ul> <p>Beneath this Structure Plan SPD will sit several Framework Masterplan SPDs for particular areas of Paddock Wood, including land in east Capel. These are detailed below.</p> <p>It is anticipated that the Paddock Wood Neighbourhood Plan will provide further detail – for example on design, layout, height – which in turn will sit beneath the Framework Masterplan SPDs.</p>
Geographical coverage	Land indicated as part of the strategic site Paddock Wood, including land in east Capel, in the Pre-Submission version of the Local Plan
Production	<p><u>Lead officer</u></p> <p>Strategic Sites and Delivery Team Leader</p> <p><u>External resource</u></p> <p>David Lock Associates and sub-consultant team.</p>
Indicative timetable	<p><u>Draft prepared</u></p> <p>Autumn 2022, with time to be adjusted if necessary following receipt of the Inspector's report on the Local Plan examination (October 2022).</p> <p><u>Consultation</u></p> <p>February – March 2023</p> <p><u>Adoption</u></p> <p>July 2023</p>

<p><b>Paddock Wood, including land in east Capel, Framework Masterplan(s)* SPD(s):</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Town Centre</b></li> <li><b>2. North western parcel</b></li> <li><b>3. Northern parcel</b></li> <li><b>4. South eastern parcel</b></li> </ol> <p><b>* These may be produced as a series of individual SPDs, two SPDS (one for the Town Centre and for the remaining parcels), or as a single SPD. This will be confirmed in due course.</b></p>
<p><b>Adoption status</b></p>	<p>The timetable for the production of the Framework Masterplan(s) SPDs are set out below. The timetables will be the same whether they take the form of one, two or several SPDs.</p>
<p><b>Purpose</b></p>	<p>For the Town Centre, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• define the extent of the Town Centre;</li> <li>• provide a masterplan for the Town Centre to identify key development sites to deliver a mix of town centre uses to provide commercial, employment, cultural and residential development, together with the creation and enhancement of new public realm;</li> <li>• establish key principles and objectives for development within the town centre;</li> <li>• provide key pedestrian and cycle friendly environments, including linkages to the residential and employment areas beyond the town centre boundary and linkages across the railway line for vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists;</li> <li>• rationalise car parking, including the provision of new (potentially multi-storey) car parks, to replace the potential loss of existing surface car parking</li> </ul> <p>For the other Framework Masterplans:</p> <p>to provide detailed guidance on how the requirements of the policy STR/SS1 The Strategy for Paddock Wood and east Capel in the new Local Plan will be met, together with other policies in the new Local Plan;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• these will include guidance on design, phasing, site access and active travel routes to ensure comprehensive development and strong</li> </ul>

<p><b>Paddock Wood, including land in east Capel, Framework Masterplan(s)* SPD(s):</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Town Centre</b></li> <li><b>2. North western parcel</b></li> <li><b>3. Northern parcel</b></li> <li><b>4. South eastern parcel</b></li> </ol> <p><b>* These may be produced as a series of individual SPDs, two SPDS (one for the Town Centre and for the remaining parcels), or as a single SPD. This will be confirmed in due course.</b></p>
	<p>assimilation with the existing settlement at Paddock Wood;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to set out how engagement with the public and stakeholders has been taken into account in the development of the Framework Masterplans;</li> <li>• to set out how the development of the different parcels will contribute to the garden settlement principles, and how the SPDs will relate to finer grain design and layout codes in the Paddock Wood Neighbourhood Plan, where relevant.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Geographical coverage</b></p>	<p>Land indicated as part of the strategic site Paddock Wood, including land in east Capel, in the new Local Plan.</p>
<p><b>Production</b></p>	<p><u>Lead officer</u></p> <p>Strategic Sites and Delivery Team Leader</p> <p><u>External resource</u></p> <p>David Lock Associates and sub-consultant team.</p>
<p><b>Indicative timetable</b></p>	<p><u>Engagement with public and stakeholders</u></p> <p>Autumn 2021 – Autumn 2022 including at times engagement undertaken by developers, or undertaken by developers and the Council simultaneously</p> <p><u>Draft prepared</u></p> <p>Autumn 2022, with time to be adjusted if necessary following receipt of the Inspector's report on Local Plan examination (October 2022)</p> <p><u>Consultation</u></p> <p>February - March 2023.</p> <p><u>Adoption</u></p>

<p><b>Paddock Wood, including land in east Capel, Framework Masterplan(s)* SPD(s):</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Town Centre</b></li> <li><b>2. North western parcel</b></li> <li><b>3. Northern parcel</b></li> <li><b>4. South eastern parcel</b></li> </ol> <p><b>* These may be produced as a series of individual SPDs, two SPDS (one for the Town Centre and for the remaining parcels), or as a single SPD. This will be confirmed in due course.</b></p>
	<p>July 2023</p>

<b>Tudeley Village Structure Plan SPD</b>	
<p>Adoption status</p>	<p>The timetable for the production of the Structure Plan is set out below. This takes account of the timetable for the new Local Plan.</p>
<p>Purpose</p>	<p>To provide guidance on the development of Tudeley Village. This will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• guidance on how the overall structure of the settlement will meet the principles of garden communities;</li> <li>• indicating the main areas for residential, employment, leisure and other uses, and areas of open space and green and blue infrastructure. This will include details of the amount of each use in each location;</li> <li>• identifying the main transport and active travel routes within areas of new development, and how these will relate and tie in with the existing routes;</li> <li>• the location of neighbourhood centres and the infrastructure required at the strategic site, and a framework for how and when this would be delivered;</li> <li>• guidance on design and phasing and how the settlement will be developed on garden settlement principles;</li> </ul>

Tudeley Village Structure Plan SPD	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to set out how engagement with the public and stakeholders has been taken into account in the development of the masterplan for the site;</li> </ul>
Geographical coverage	Land indicated as the strategic site Tudeley Village, in the new Local Plan
Production	<u>Lead officer</u>  Strategic Sites and Delivery Team Leader  <u>External resource</u>  David Lock Associates and sub-consultant team.
Indicative timetable	<u>Engagement with public and stakeholders</u>  Autumn 2021 – Autumn 2022, including at times engagement undertaken by developers, or undertaken by developers and the Council simultaneously  <u>Draft prepared</u>  Autumn 2022, with time to be adjusted if necessary following receipt of the Inspector's report on Local Plan examination (October 2022)

Tudeley Village Structure Plan SPD	
	<u>Consultation</u> February – March 2023 <u>Adoption</u> July 2023

Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure, and Low Traffic Neighbourhoods SPD	
Adoption status	The timetable for the production of the Local Cycling and Walking, and Low Traffic Neighbourhoods SPD is set out below. This takes account of the timetable for the new Local Plan.
Purpose	To provide guidance on infrastructure for cycling and walking and Low Traffic Neighbourhoods within the Main Urban Area and adjacent settlements and Paddock Wood, and the provision of inter-settlement cycle routes between Tonbridge, Southborough/Royal Tunbridge Wells, Paddock Wood and Tudeley.
Geographical coverage	Royal Tunbridge Wells, Southborough, Rusthall, Langton Green, Bidborough and Paddock Wood
Production	<u>Lead Officer</u> Economic Development Manager <u>External resource</u> PJA (Phil Jones Associates)
Indicative timetable	<u>Early engagement with Key Stakeholders</u> May – October 2022 <u>Draft prepared</u> November 2022 <u>Consultation</u> April – May 2023

Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure, and Low Traffic Neighbourhoods SPD	
	<u>Adoption</u> August 2023

Biodiversity Net Gain SPD	
Adoption status	The timetable for the production of the Biodiversity Net Gain SPD is set out below. This takes account of the timetable for the new Local Plan.
Purpose	<p>To provide guidance on the requirements for Biodiversity Net Gain in the Borough. This will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• application of the Biodiversity Metric</li> <li>• details required in Biodiversity Net gain Plans to support planning applications</li> <li>• the assessment of Biodiversity Net Gain Plans</li> <li>• the provision for long term monitoring</li> <li>• the requirements for offsite biodiversity net gain</li> <li>• details of any assessment or monitoring fees.</li> </ul>
Geographical coverage	Whole Borough
Production	<u>Lead Officer</u> Landscape and Biodiversity Officer <u>External resource</u> The SPD will require input and collaboration with Kent Nature Partnership with specific elements prepared by external consultants.



Biodiversity Net Gain SPD	
Indicative timetable	<u>Early engagement with Key Stakeholders</u> July – August 2022 <u>Draft prepared</u> January - February 2023 <u>Consultation</u> April – May 2023 <u>Adoption</u> August 2023

Historic Environment SPD	
Adoption status	The timetable for the production of the Heritage Review SPD is set out below. This takes account of the timetable for the new Local Plan.
Purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To provide guidance based on the Historic Environment Review 2018 on the prevalent themes of the historic environment of the Borough and identify vulnerabilities of and opportunities with heritage assets of various typologies within the Borough. This will assist with development management and forward planning.</li> </ul>
Geographical coverage	Whole Borough
Production	<u>Lead Officer</u> Principal Conservation Officer <u>External resource</u> The SPD may require input and collaboration with Kent County Council Heritage Team.

Historic Environment SPD	
Indicative timetable	<p><u>Early engagement with Key Stakeholders</u></p> <p>January – August 2022</p> <p><u>Draft prepared</u></p> <p>July 2022 - February 2023</p> <p><u>Consultation</u></p> <p>April – May 2023</p> <p><u>Adoption</u></p> <p>August 2023</p>

Open Space SPD	
Adoption status	The timetable for the production of the Open Space SPD is set out below. This takes account of the timetable for the new Local Plan.
Purpose	To include the technical detail on how the standards will be applied, taking account of existing provision within the relevant area. The SPD will include the methodology for calculating the amount of open space required on each development, when on-site open space should be provided on larger sites, and the amount of developer contributions that will be required in lieu of on-site provision; and will outline the priorities for provision, or improvements to existing provision, in qualitative terms, taking into account the qualitative assessment.
Geographical coverage	Whole Borough
Production	<p><u>Lead Officer</u></p> <p>Landscape and Biodiversity Officer</p> <p><u>External resource</u></p> <p>The SPD may require input and collaboration with Kent County Council and possibly Sport England.</p>

Open Space SPD	
Indicative timetable	<p><u>Early engagement with Key Stakeholders</u></p> <p>January – August 2022</p> <p><u>Draft prepared</u></p> <p>July 2022 – February 2023</p> <p><u>Consultation</u></p> <p>April – May 2023</p> <p><u>Adoption</u></p> <p>August 2023</p>

## Community Infrastructure Levy

Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule	
Adoption status	<p>Not adopted - no firm decision can be made at this time pending a better understanding of the Government's potential future proposals to introduce a national Infrastructure Levy (IL) as set out in the Planning White Paper in August 2020. Until such time as the future Government direction is known, this decision is held in abeyance. In the meantime, infrastructure will continue to be funded through Section 106 Agreements.</p> <p>If a decision is made to move towards CIL, then a timetable for the relevant stages of this will be provided.</p>
Purpose	<p>If a decision is made to adopt, it would be to set a standard, up-front and non-negotiable charge to be paid by developers, levied on the basis of the additional area of development proposed.</p> <p>CIL would not replace S106 contributions entirely, but these would need to be related to the specific circumstances of the development site. The Council would be responsible for setting the charge, collecting the levy and distributing a proportion to other organisations that provide community infrastructure, such as Kent County Council and town and parish councils or other appropriate</p>

Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule	
	<p>bodies.</p> <p>If a decision is made not to adopt, and in the intervening period, funding for infrastructure will continue to be secured through the use of Section 106 Agreements.</p>
Geographical coverage	Whole borough. Consideration would be given to whether it is appropriate to apply a standard charge across the whole borough or set different rates for different areas.
Evidence requirements	<p>Infrastructure Delivery Plan to demonstrate that new development can be supported by necessary infrastructure; and to identify priority projects to benefit from CIL funding.</p> <p>CIL viability assessment to estimate what would be a robust CIL charge in this area.</p>
Production	<p><u>Lead officer</u></p> <p>Planning Policy Manager</p> <p><u>Internal resource</u></p> <p>Planning Policy Team</p> <p><u>External resource</u></p> <p>Specialist consultants, Kent County Council and other external infrastructure and service providers.</p>
Indicative timetable	<p><u>Evidence base</u></p> <p>2018-2020</p> <p><u>Draft prepared</u></p> <p>As set out above, a timetable will be provided if the Council decides to progress towards CIL.</p> <p><u>Consultation</u></p> <p>See above</p> <p><u>Examination</u></p> <p>See above</p> <p><u>Adoption</u></p> <p>See above</p>

Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule	

## 4.0 Supporting Statement: Resources and Risks

- 4.1 It is important that current work is completed in accordance with the programme set out in this LDS to deliver the development needed in the borough in a managed way and to facilitate public engagement in the process. In preparing this LDS, the Council has taken account of the resources available and has assessed the main risks. A summary is provided at Appendix 2.

### Resources

- 4.2 The preparation of the documents set out in the LDS is the primary, full time responsibility of the Planning Policy Team in Planning Services, which is presently resourced as follows:
- Planning Policy Manager: 1.0 Please note that prior to June 2021 this post was vacant, and a Local Plan Coordinator undertook a number of responsibilities of this post.
  - Planning Policy Consultant (0.4 fte) – temporary until March 2022;
  - Principal Planning Officers: 2.24 full time equivalent (fte). Please note that 0.78 fte is seconded from Development Management;
  - Senior Planning Officers: 1.49 fte;
  - Planning Officers: 1.0;
  - Planning Graduate (2 years fixed term): currently vacant;
  - Planning Policy Information Officer: 1.0;
  - Planning Policy GIS, Monitoring and Research Officer: 1.0.
- 4.3 Furthermore, work on policy documents is also undertaken by the Strategic Sites and Delivery (SS&D) Team. The SS&D Team is composed of the Team Leader (1.0 – this post has responsibilities which cut across both the Development Management and Planning Policy teams and functions, as well as work undertaken specifically by the Strategic Sites and Delivery team), 1.0 Principal Planning Officers and 2.0 Senior Planning Officers. The Principal and one of the Senior Planning Officers were formerly part of the Development Management team, and the other Senior Planning Officer was formerly part of the Planning Policy team.
- 4.4 This is the minimum staffing needed to deliver the timescales set.
- 4.5 In addition, the Head of Planning Services, Landscape and Biodiversity Officer, Planning Environmental Officer, Tree Officer, and Conservation Officers provide a substantial input to planning policy documents. Other Council services are also expected to provide support where necessary – including those in the Economic

Development team - and, in some cases, external consultants are commissioned to provide specialist evidence and advice.

- 4.6 In terms of financial resources, a long-term budget and reserve has been agreed. The budget will need to be regularly reviewed.

## Review

- 4.7 Progress will be monitored against timescales and, where necessary, the LDS will be updated to reflect any changes. This 2021 LDS is based on the current level of resources and existing priorities and any changes to these will require review of the timescales.

## Risks

- 4.8 Appendix 2 uses the principles set out in the Council's Risk Management Guidance to identify the main risks to achieving the programme set out in the LDS. It takes account of risks associated with staffing, finance and other matters.

## 5.0 Further Information

- 5.1 This LDS can be downloaded from the Council's website ([view the Local Development Scheme](#)).

### Register on our consultation database

- 5.2 The Council is committed to promoting the use of digital technology for consultation purposes. The best way to stay informed about progress with preparing planning policy documents is to be registered on the consultation database. This way, you will receive direct email notification of all upcoming consultation events.
- 5.3 You may already be registered (for example, as a result of an individual response to a previous planning policy consultation). If you are not sure whether you are already registered, you can check by telephoning 01892 554056 or by emailing [planning.policy@tunbridgewells.gov.uk](mailto:planning.policy@tunbridgewells.gov.uk).
- 5.4 If you are not already registered, you can do this by going to the Council's consultation portal at <https://consult.tunbridgewells.gov.uk/kse/> and clicking on the 'Login/Register' button at the top right of the screen. Alternatively, if you do not have access to the internet, or you have any difficulty in registering, you can contact us using the details above.



# Appendices

## Appendix 1: Local Plan and SPD Programme

[illegible]

	2021												2022												2023												2024												2025											
<b>Paddock Wood, including land in east Capel, Framework Masterplan(s)* SPD(s):</b> <b>1. Town Centre</b> <b>2. North western parcel</b> <b>3. Northern parcel</b> <b>4. South eastern parcel</b>	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D												
Informal engagement with public and stakeholders, including with developers																																																												
Draft prepared																																																												
Consultation																																																												
Adoption																																																												
	2021												2022												2023												2024												2025											
<b>Tudeley Village Structure Plan SPD</b>	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D												
Informal engagement with public and stakeholders, including with developers																																																												
Draft prepared																																																												
Consultation																																																												
Adoption																																																												
	2021												2022												2023												2024												2025											
<b>Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure and Low Traffic Neighbourhoods SPD</b>	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D												
Informal engagement with public and stakeholders, including with developers																																																												
Draft prepared																																																												
Consultation																																																												
Adoption																																																												
	2021												2022												2023												2024												2025											
<b>Biodiversity Net Gain SPD</b>	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D												
Informal engagement with public and stakeholders, including with developers																																																												
Draft prepared																																																												
Consultation																																																												
Adoption																																																												

[illegible]

# Appendix 2: Risk Assessment

Risk: type and description	To what?	Likelihood of occurrence	Impact of occurrence	Management
<b>Resource risk:</b> Reduction in staff resources; for example, if staff leave and are not replaced for budgetary reasons or due to lack of skilled applicants	Local Plan, Town Centre Area Plan and SPDs	High	Critical	Ensure that Councillors and Senior Officers are aware of the resource requirements to achieve the policy preparation programme set out in this LDS. Ensure any changes in staffing or workload are monitored and promptly addressed.
<b>Resource risk:</b> Agreed budget is insufficient to complete work identified	Local Plan, Town Centre Area Plan and SPDs	Low/Medium	Significant	Regular budget profiling and review. Raise any potential issues as early as possible.
<b>Political risk:</b> Public and political interest in the documents is very high, leading to a significantly greater number of representations than expected. A good response rate to consultation is undeniably positive but it takes time to assess representations.	Local Plan, Town Centre Area Plan, SPDs and potential CIL Charging Schedule (if decision is made to progress with CIL)	High	Significant	The Council can predict the likely level of interest in these documents reasonably clearly on the basis of recent experience. Explaining the issues affecting people living in different areas of the borough early in the consultation process has been helpful in focusing their responses. On- going public engagement for the new plan-making documents, building on the success of previous engagement exercises.
<b>Political risk:</b> Political concerns and/or matters raised in representations	Local Plan and Town Centre	Significant	Critical	Ensure that Councillors understand what the difficult decisions associated with preparing these



Risk: type and description	To what?	Likelihood of occurrence	Impact of occurrence	Management
about particular issues are disproportionately difficult to address, delaying progress with other aspects of the Plan	Area Plan			documents are likely to be and maintain regular dialogue throughout the process, including by reporting to the Cabinet Advisory Boards. Ensure that Councillors are committed, in principle, to making these decisions within the timescales set out in this LDS.
<b>Political risk:</b> Council procedures and corporate commitment	Local Plan, Town Centre Area Plan	Low	Significant	Need to ensure Planning Policy Working Group maintains a clear steer over the process of SPDs and the Local Plan production process. Continuing dialogue over any slippage due to unforeseen circumstances such as further legislative changes or legal challenges.
<b>Technical/resource risk:</b> Important evidence required to support policies and proposals is incomplete	Local Plan, Town Centre Area Plan , SPDs	Low	Significant	The Council has a reasonable degree of control over the preparation and commissioning of the evidence required and has been active in undertaking joint work with other authorities. However, there could also be some staff capacity problems in preparing evidence to support the Local Plan where some significant pieces of work will need to be redone and updated, affected by other demands on staff (e.g., Landscape and Biodiversity Officer and Planning Policy

Risk: type and description	To what?	Likelihood of occurrence	Impact of occurrence	Management
				Officers).
<b>Political risk:</b> Changes to evidence base requirements as a result of legislative changes	Local Plan, Town Centre Area Plan	Significant	Critical	Ensure that Councillors are fully briefed of any (anticipated) changes in legislation, the implications of this and the potential impact on timescales.
<b>Political risk:</b> Duty to cooperate with other authorities	Local Plan, Town Centre Area Plan	High	Critical	Early identification of the need to work in conjunction with other authorities and stakeholders. Ensure that Councillors understand that joint working will result in difficult decisions needing to be made and maintain regular dialogue throughout the process.
<b>Resource risk:</b> Other work, such as that associated with neighbourhood planning or planning appeals, requires a significant resource commitment in the short term	Local Plan, Town Centre Area Plan	Medium	Significant	Consideration at the corporate level should be given to how to manage all the aspects of neighbourhood planning if there is significant interest from communities. Some aspects, such as the organisation of referendums, are not directly planning related. Preparing the Local Plan to the programme will reduce the risk of 'planning by appeal' and the resource commitment associated with it.
<b>Political risk:</b> Legislation, regulations or guidance related	Local Plan, Town Centre	High	Significant	Legislative changes are continuing. Proposed changes to national planning system

Risk: type and description	To what?	Likelihood of occurrence	Impact of occurrence	Management
to policy making change, requiring a new or refined approach	Area Plan			(including the NPPF) and related statutory processes mean that it is important to keep abreast of proposed changes and implications. Regular briefings to Members.
<b>Operational risk:</b> Enduring impact of Covid-19 outbreak	Local Plan, Town Centre Area Plan	High	Significant	Continued restrictions associated with the pandemic could impact on the Town Centre Area Plan programmes in terms of the ability to visit sites and meet stakeholders. This will be continually monitored and, where necessary and appropriate, alternative arrangements developed in line with national Guidance



# Appendix 3: Glossary

For the purpose of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

Glossary and Abbreviations	
Adopted	There are a number of stages in the preparation of planning policy documents such as the Local Plan and Site Allocations Development Plan Document. 'Adoption' represents the final confirmation of the document's status by the local planning authority.
Appropriate Assessment	An assessment of the potential effect of development plans and proposals on sites within the Natura 2000 network of sites that are protected under the European Birds and Habitats Directives. Also known as 'Habitats Regulations Assessment'.
Authority Monitoring Report (AMR)	Local planning authorities are required to produce regular reports, assessing the effectiveness of planning policy documents such as the Local Plan. The AMR sets out where development has been granted planning permission, is under construction or has been completed over the monitoring period.
Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) CIL Charging Schedule	CIL is a levy on new development that can be set by local planning authorities to pay for new infrastructure such as schools and roads. CIL money will be collected to pay for infrastructure in a local authority area if there is an adopted CIL Charging Schedule setting out the level of required payments. CIL is currently optional and has not yet been introduced within the borough.
Conservation Area	An area designated by the local planning authority under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 as being of special architectural or historic interest, the character and interest of which it is desirable to preserve and enhance. Conservation Areas are a type of heritage asset.
Core Strategy	The Core Strategy is a long-term document, which sets the overarching strategy for planning and decision making in the borough by defining how much development of each main type will take place and broadly where it will go. The Council's Core Strategy was adopted in 2010, covering the period between 2006 and 2026.
Development Management	This is the process by which the planning authority manages the development and use of land by determining whether individual planning applications should be granted or refused.

<b>Glossary and Abbreviations</b>	
Development Plan Document (DPD)	A policy-setting document that forms part of the statutory development plan. Development Plan Documents for the borough include the Core Strategy and Site Allocations Development Plan Document (DPD).
Examination	A process of formal consideration of draft Local Plans and Development Plan Documents, chaired by an independent inspector appointed by the Secretary of State.
Green Belt	Green Belt is open, largely undeveloped land that has been specifically designated for long-term protection. The fundamental aim of Green Belt policy is to prevent urban sprawl by keeping land permanently open; the essential characteristics of Green Belts are their openness and permanence. National planning policy for the Green Belt is set out in the National Planning Policy Framework.
Green infrastructure	A network of multi-functional green spaces, in urban and rural areas, which is capable of delivering a wide range of benefits for the environment and quality of life for local communities. The Borough Council adopted a Green Infrastructure Plan Supplementary Planning Document in 2014.
Habitat Regulations Assessment	See 'Appropriate Assessment'.
Heritage asset	A building, monument, site, place, area or landscape identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions because of its heritage interest. Includes nationally designated assets, as well as local assets identified by the local community and confirmed by the local planning authority. See also 'Conservation Area'.
Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP)	Outlines the need for, delivery and implementation of, infrastructure necessary to support the growth strategy in the Local Plan or Core Strategy and of specific locations within the plan period. This document is constantly reviewed as needs over time change.
Limits to Built Development (LBD)	A line around settlements defining the area which is considered to be within the limits of the built area and that which is outside to restrict the encroachment of built form into the surrounding countryside.
Local Plan	The plan for the future development of the local area, drawn up by the local planning authority in consultation with the community. In law this is described as the development plan documents adopted under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. Current Core Strategies or

Glossary and Abbreviations	
	other planning policies, which under the regulations would be considered to be development plan documents, form part of the Local Plan. The term includes old policies which have been saved under the 2004 Act.
Main Modifications	An Inspector can recommend 'main modifications' (changes that materially affect the policies) to make a submitted Local Plan sound and legally compliant if asked to do so by the local planning authority. The Council can also put forward 'additional modifications' of its own to deal with more minor matters.
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)	The document that sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied. The NPPF must be taken into account in the preparation of local and neighbourhood plans and is a material consideration in decisions on planning applications. Further guidance on particular topics, entitled Planning Practice Guidance, is provided on the Department of Communities and Local Government website. This is intended to supplement the NPPF and be updated as necessary.
Neighbourhood Plans and Neighbourhood Planning Areas	Neighbourhood Plans were introduced by the Localism Act 2011. Communities will be able to prepare neighbourhood planning documents, outlining how they envisage their area developing in the future.  The Neighbourhood Planning Area is the geographic area for undertaking a Neighbourhood Plan which has been approved by the local planning authority.
Primary Shopping Area	Defined area where retail development is concentrated (generally comprising the primary and secondary frontages which are adjoining and closely related to the primary shopping frontage).
Primary and secondary frontages	Primary frontages are likely to include a high proportion of retail uses which may include food, drinks, clothing and household goods. Secondary frontages provide greater opportunities for a diversity of uses such as restaurants, cinemas and businesses.
Safeguarded land / Rural Fringe	Land between built up areas of Royal Tunbridge Wells and Southborough and the Green Belt that has been reserved to meet longer-term development needs.  Areas of land designated as Rural Fringe by the Local Plan 2006 have been removed from the Green Belt to provide a long-term land reserve, safeguarded to meet future development needs.

<b>Glossary and Abbreviations</b>	
'Saved' policies	Certain planning policy documents or individual policies may be 'saved' pending their replacement by future documents or policies. A saved policy or document can still be used in making decisions on planning applications.
Special Area of Conservation (SAC)	These are strictly protected sites under the European Commission Habitats Directive and forms part of the European network of important high-quality conservation sites.
Special Protection Area (SPA)	These are strictly protected sites in accordance with Article 4 of the European Commission Birds Directive which came into force in 1979. They are classified for rare and vulnerable birds and for regularly occurring migratory species
Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)	The Statement of Community Involvement sets out how the local planning authority will engage local communities in decision making on planning proposals, including who they will engage and how.
Strategic Environmental Assessment	A procedure (set out in the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004) which requires the formal environmental assessment of certain plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment.
Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA)	A document showing land at risk from flooding across the borough, prepared as part of the evidence base for the Local Plan.
Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA)	The SHELAA identifies sites with potential for housing, employment and other land uses, assesses their potential and when they are likely to be developed. This is used as evidence to inform the Local Plan but does not allocate sites for development itself.
Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA)	The Strategic Housing Market Assessment studies the way in which the housing market works in an area. It looks into the type of households living in the area, where they work and what sort of housing they live in. It attempts to estimate future housing needs across the area, broken down by tenure and size of housing. The housing markets and therefore the SHMA does not necessarily follow an administrative boundary.
Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)	Documents which add further detail to planning policies. They can be used to provide further guidance for development on specific sites, or on particular issues, such as design. Supplementary planning documents can be a material consideration in planning decisions but are not part of the development plan.

<b>Glossary and Abbreviations</b>	
Surface Water Management Plan	A Surface Water Management Plan (SWMP) is a plan that enables local communities and different organisations to gain a better understanding of flood risk and outlines the preferred surface water management strategy at a given location. The Borough Council has produced a SWMP for Paddock Wood prepared by consultants JBA in 2011.
Sustainability Appraisal	An appraisal of the economic, environmental and social effects of a plan from the outset of the preparation process, to allow decisions to be made that accord with sustainable development.
Sustainable development	<p>International and national bodies have set out broad principles of sustainable development. Resolution 24/187 of the United Nations General Assembly defined sustainable development as meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.</p> <p>The UK Sustainable Development Strategy 'Securing the Future' sets out five 'guiding principles' of sustainable development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Living within the planet's environmental limits</li> <li>• Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society</li> <li>• Achieving a sustainable economy</li> <li>• Living within the planet's environmental limits</li> <li>• Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society</li> <li>• Achieving a sustainable economy</li> <li>• Promoting good governance</li> <li>• Using sound science responsibly</li> <li>• The NPPF describes the purpose of the planning system as to contribute to sustainable development</li> </ul>
Town centre	<p>An area defined on the Proposals Map, including the primary shopping area and areas predominantly occupied by main town centre uses within or adjacent to the primary shopping area.</p> <p>References to town centres exclude small parades of neighbourhood shops.</p>
Viability assessment (high level)	A test of site viability at a level based on generic assumptions rather than site specific matters. Assumptions are based on a mixture of market norms, local knowledge and previous research. Where site-specific issues such as individual infrastructure requirements are known,

Glossary and Abbreviations	
	assumptions are adjusted. The high-level viability testing is intended to draw out any clearly unviable scenarios and is not intended for valuation or for comparison purposes.

**If you require this document in another format,  
please contact:**

**Planning Policy**

**Planning Services**

**Tunbridge Wells Borough Council**

**Town Hall**

**Royal Tunbridge Wells**

**Kent TN1 1RS**

**Telephone: 01892 555056**