

LPA name:	Folkestone & Hythe District Council
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Lead officer	Adrian Tofts, Strategy & Policy Manager

Area	Activity	We have made the recommended progress	We have started but have a bit more work to do to make the recommended progress	We may not have started or have significant work to do to make the recommended progress	Notes
Legal requirements you must have met before proceeding	Preparing and publishing a timetable in line with the data standard, publishing a notice of intention to commence and undertaking the scoping consultation	☒ We have complied with these legal requirements.	☐	☐ We have not met some or all of these legal requirements.	We have prepared and published a local plan timetable in line with the government's data standard. We have published the notice of intention to commence local plan preparation. We undertook a Scoping Consultation from 7 September to 16 October 2026.
Preparing and publishing a local plan timetable	Considering the expected time it will take to adopt the plan	☒ The timetable shows how we will prepare and adopt a plan within 30 months.	☐ The timetable shows how we will prepare and adopt a plan within 30 months but there are significant risks to this.	☐ The timetable shows that preparing and adopting a plan will take substantially longer than 30 months.	The timetable shows how we will prepare the new local plan within the 30-month period. Progress will be monitored continually and risks will be managed through the council's risk management framework.
Establishing project management and governance arrangements	Establishing appropriate project management, governance and resourcing to support the timetable	☒ We have a robust approach to manage, govern, resource and finance the preparation of the plan that supports the delivery of the local plan timetable.	☐ We have considered our approach to manage, govern, resource and finance the preparation of the plan, but there are some gaps or an approach is not yet signed off.	☐ We have key unresolved questions for how we will manage, govern, resource or finance the preparation of the plan.	We have set up a project management framework for the new local plan, and have prepared a Project Initiation Document (PID) and risk register to manage the process. The council's Corporate Leadership Team and Corporate Governance Board will be used to make sure that Directors and Heads of Service across the council are engaged with work on the local plan. We are establishing a Local Plan Programme Board to monitor progress on the local plan and ensure that the risk register remains up-to-date, any new risks are identified and the budget is monitored.
	Testing and agreeing project management and governance internally	☒ All relevant teams and decision makers have been involved in designing, and signing-off the approach.	☐ Relevant teams and decisions makers have been involved in designing and testing our approach, but it is not yet signed off.	☐ We still need to involve other relevant teams and decision makers.	We agreed a decision-making framework with the council's Leader so that decisions to approve key stages are delegated to the Chief Planner. We have established a new cross-party Planning Policy Steering Group to help guide the new local plan. Key consultation stages will still go to the council's Cabinet to ensure full oversight of the process.
	Establishing risk monitoring, management and mitigation	☒ We have identified potential risks and have effective processes in place to monitor, manage and mitigate them.	☐ We have identified potential risks and are working to establish processes to monitor, manage and mitigate them.	☐ We're still identifying risks or are yet to consider how we will monitor, manage and mitigate them.	We have prepared a risk register to ensure that existing and emerging risks are identified and managed. We are establishing a Local Plan Programme Board to monitor progress on the local plan and ensure that the risk register remains up-to-date and any new risks are identified and, if necessary, mitigation is put in place.
Consulting and engaging on the plan	Preparing an engagement strategy	☒ We have a positive strategy for engaging the community and other key stakeholders in the preparation of the plan, which has been prepared with regard to government guidance.	☐ We have made some progress in preparing an engagement strategy.	☐ We need to start preparing an engagement strategy.	We have prepared an engagement strategy. Draft ideas were consulted on with the local plan Scoping Consultation from 7 September to 16 October 2026. The engagement strategy was considered by the council's Planning Policy Steering Group on 20 October 2026. The strategy will be amended throughout the local plan process as consultations are held and the council learns from the responses it receives.
	Establishing processes for consultation and engagement	☒ We have clear processes in place to maximise diversity in participation, utilising both digital-first and traditional methods.	☐ We have scoped out digital-first and traditional methods for engaging with different audiences, but our processes are not yet fully formed.	☐ We haven't explored what engagement methods we could use.	The engagement strategy identifies several under-represented groups and puts forward ways in which they could be engaged. The council has set up a new local plan website linking with the new PlaceMaker system with the intention of increasing digital engagement. The engagement strategy identifies other ways in which digital engagement could be increased and these will be explored through the next stages of the process.
	Agreeing the engagement strategy internally	☒ We have sought feedback on and agreed the engagement strategy with key decision makers.	We have sought feedback on the engagement strategy with key decision makers, but it's not yet signed off.	☐ We still need to seek feedback on our engagement approach with key decision makers.	We have prepared an engagement strategy which has been agreed by the Chief Planner. The engagement strategy was considered by the council's Planning Policy Steering Group on 20 October 2026. The strategy will be amended throughout the local plan process as consultations are held and the council learns from the responses it receives.
Scoping the anticipated content of the plan	Defining the scope of the plan	☒ We understand the proposed scope of the local plan. We know the main areas or locally specific subject matters it will address. This is based on data from the existing local plan, as well as information gathering, baselining and early engagement to date. Scoping work aligns with the work we have carried out on our SEA (if SEA is required).	☐ Scoping work is underway. We have reviewed monitoring information for the previous local plan, but still have work to do on information gathering, baselining and early engagement. The scoping work aligns or partially aligns with the work we have carried out on our SEA (if SEA is required).	☐ We're only in the early stages of scoping and haven't considered how this relates to the SEA.	We have undertaken the Scoping Consultation on the local plan, which ran from 7 September to 16 October 2026. For our baseline work, we have made use of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Scoping Report and other resources, including the council's Annual Equality and Diversity Report and the results of consultation on the Corporate Plan in 2024. We have assessed new decision-making policies in the NPPF against the policies in the existing local plan to understand what scope there will be to develop local policies.
	Drafting a vision for the plan	☒ We have used early baselining and engagement activities to begin drafting a vision.	☐ Using our baselining work and analysis of feedback from the scoping consultation we have started to develop some ideas about what the vision might focus on.	☐ We need to start drafting a vision.	We have drafted a vision for the new local plan, based on the vision of the adopted Core Strategy Review (2022) and the baseline information we have collected. The draft vision was considered by the council's Planning Policy Steering Group on 20 October 2026. The vision will need to be developed further before it is consulted on as part of the next stage of local plan consultation in 2027.
	Considering how we will monitor progress towards the vision	☒ We have started to identify measurable outcomes to monitor our progress towards the vision.	☐ We have considered how we might monitor progress towards our vision, but haven't identified specific measurable outcomes yet.	☐ We haven't considered how we will monitor progress towards our vision.	We have drafted a set of measurable outcomes that are intended to monitor progress towards the vision. The measurable outcomes were considered by the council's Planning Policy Steering Group on 20 October 2026, alongside the vision. The outcomes will need to be developed further as the vision evolves. The measurable outcomes will be consulted on as part of the next stage of local plan consultation in 2027.
	Gathering evidence to inform the new plan	☒ We have mostly identified and scoped our evidence needs and have a plan for how we will deliver this.	☐ We have identified some of our evidence needs but still have work to do to scope the work and identify how we will deliver this.	☐ We need to start identifying our evidence needs and how we will deliver this.	We have largely scoped out our evidence needs and likely costs. We are seeking to identify funding for the evidence needs through the council's 2027/28 budget setting process. The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) has been commissioned and the SEA Scoping Report has been completed. We are starting to prepare briefs and commission early evidence work, including the Housing and Economic Needs Assessment, Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment and further stages of the SEA process. We are holding meetings with key stakeholders, such as National Highways, the Environment Agency, Kent County Council and others to identify any specific evidence needs.
	Calculating a housing requirement	☒ We have calculated a housing requirement for the plan area using the Government's recommended standard method and started to identify the needs for homes of different sizes, types and tenures, including affordable homes.	☐ We have calculated a housing requirement for the plan area using the Government's standard method. We haven't started to identify the need for homes of different sizes, types and tenures and affordable homes yet.	☐ We haven't calculated a housing requirement using the Government's standard method.	We have calculated the housing requirement for the plan area using the Government's methodology and have published this on our website. We are starting to identify the needs for different types of accommodation through commissioning evidence, including for the Housing and Economic Needs Assessment and Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment.
	Exploring our high-level options and policies	☒ We have started to consider high-level and conceptual spatial options to deliver the identified development need, and begun to identify the potential scope of locally specific policies.	☐ We have identified the high-level capacity and constraints for development but have not started to develop spatial options to deliver the development need or scoped out locally specific policies	☐ We haven't done any work on high-level spatial options or locally specific policies.	We are starting to identify high level options and constraints to deliver the identified need. We have undertaken two 'calls for sites' through the Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment and are assessing the sites through analysis, including with key stakeholders. We have a comprehensive study of growth options that was undertaken for the Core Strategy Review, which we will update for the new local plan. We have assessed the new national decision-making policies in the NPPF against the policies in the existing local plan to understand what scope there will be to develop local policies.
Progressing the Strategic Environmental Assessment	Identifying other plans/programmes that have a relationship with the local plan	☒ We have identified other relevant plans and programmes and their relationship to the local plan to establish how the plan or programme is affected by those plans or programmes.	☐ We have identified other relevant plans and programmes but have not yet analysed how the local plan is affected by those plans or programmes.	☐ We have not yet identified other relevant plans or programmes that affect the local plan.	We finalised the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Scoping Report in August 2026. The report identifies other relevant plans and programmes in Chapter 2.
	Collecting baseline information for the SEA	☒ We have identified baseline information showing the existing environmental characteristics of the area and their likely evolution without implementation of a new plan, as well as data on historic and likely future trends. It provides the basis against which we can assess the likely effects of our different options.	☐ We have identified baseline information on the existing environmental characteristics of the area. We have not used this information to establish trends or used it to test the environmental effects of our options.	☐ We are in the early stages of (or haven't yet started) assembling baseline information to inform our strategic environmental assessment.	We finalised the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Scoping Report in August 2026. The report collects baseline information on the district in Chapter 3, covering biodiversity, population, human health, soils, water, air, climate change adaptation and mitigation, material assets, cultural heritage and landscape.
	Identify environmental protection objectives to inform plan preparation	☒ We have identified the relevant environmental protection objectives, established at international, community or national level, and environmental considerations that will be taken into account during the preparation of the plan and recorded in the environmental report.	☐ We are in the process of identifying relevant environmental protection objectives that will be taken into account when preparing the plan.	☐ We have not identified any environmental protection objectives.	We finalised the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Scoping Report in August 2026. The report identifies relevant sustainability issues in Chapter 4, including: areas of high biodiversity value; housing completions falling below target; health and wellbeing issues; deficiencies in access to green space; high deprivation within some areas of the district; the presence of high quality agricultural land; drought and water stress; extensive areas of high flood risk; groundwater bodies classified as having 'poor' overall status; carbon emissions from transport; the impacts of climate change; weaker than national average economic performance; extensive heritage interest; and areas of high landscape sensitivity.
	Developing the scope of the SEA	☒ We have begun to identify the scope and level of detail of the information we intend to include in the environmental report. We have started to set out this information in a suitable document, such as a draft, emerging environmental report or scoping document. We are on track to consult on the scope of the SEA at the consultation on proposed plan content and evidence.	☐ We're still working out what the scope and/or level of detail to include in the environmental report. We're making progress on setting out this information in an appropriate document, but we're not ready to consult on the scope of the SEA.	☐ We have not decided on the scope of the SEA or the level of detail we should include in the environmental report.	We finalised the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Scoping Report in August 2026. The report sets out the scope of the SEA and this report was consulted on alongside the local plan Scoping Consultation for a six-week period from 7 September to 16 October 2026.
	Developing SEA objectives	☒ We have started to develop SEA objectives which will help assess the environmental performance of the local plan.	☐ We have begun to identify the key themes likely to be important when developing SEA objectives to use to assess the environmental performance of the local plan.	☐ We have not yet begun on developing SEA objectives to assess the environmental performance of the plan against.	We finalised the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Scoping Report in August 2026. The report identifies 11 SEA objectives in Chapter 5, covering: biodiversity and geodiversity; meeting housing requirements; improving health; conserving and enhancing soil and mineral resources; reducing flood risk and conserving and enhancing water quality and resources; nutrient pollution; maintaining and where possible improving air quality; adapting to the effects of climate change while minimising greenhouse gas emissions; achieving sustainable prosperity and growth; conserving and enhancing assets of historic and archaeological importance; and conserving and enhancing the quality of landscapes and townscapes.