

NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL
LOCAL PLAN COMMITTEE – WEDNESDAY 18 MARCH 2026



Title of Report	NEW LOCAL PLAN – PROGRESS UPDATE	
Presented by	Tom James Interim Planning Policy Team Manager	
Background Papers	Report to Local Plan Committee 18 October 2023 Local Plan Proposed Policies for Consultation (Regulation 18) (January 2024) Draft Sustainability Appraisal of Policies (May 2025) National Planning Policy Framework Item 9 Report to Cabinet 16 December 2025	Public Report: Yes
Financial Implications	The cost of the studies is met from existing budgets	
	Signed off by the Section 151 Officer: Yes	
Legal Implications	Legal implications considered in the preparation of this report	
	Signed off by the Monitoring Officer: Yes	
Staffing and Corporate Implications	None identified	
	Signed off by the Head of Paid Service: Yes	
Purpose of Report	To provide an update for Members on key evidence base studies and expected timescales for undertaking a Regulation 19 consultation and submission of the new Local Plan.	
Recommendations	THAT THE LOCAL PLAN COMMITTEE NOTES: (I) THE PROGRESS WITH RESPECT TO KEY EVIDENCE BASE STUDIES; AND (II) THE ANTICIPATED TIMESCALES FOR REGULATION 19 CONSULTATION AND SUBMISSION OF THE NEW LOCAL PLAN.	

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 This report provides an update on the progress of key pieces of evidence which underpins the new Local Plan and provides expected timescales for future plan-making stages, notably the Regulation 19 consultation and subsequent submission.

2.0 EVIDENCE BASE UPDATE

- 2.1 Work on various key pieces of evidence to inform the new Local Plan continues to progress. Some of these studies are dependent on other studies to be completed, for example the Viability Study needs to understand the recommended housing mix arising from the Housing and Employment Needs Assessment to be able to appraise its implications.
- 2.2 This section provides an update on the evidence base studies, as set out in Table 1 below:

Table 1: Evidence Base Update

Study	Update	Expected Completion
Sustainability Appraisal	The study continues to progress, with a number of policy areas already subject to Sustainability Appraisal and with further work ongoing to produce a 'whole plan' SA to support the Reg 19 version of the Plan.	Mid-April 2026
Transport Modelling	The transport modelling, undertaken by Leicestershire County Council is nearly complete with a draft report being reviewed by officers.	Early March 2026
Infrastructure Delivery Plan	This study is continuing to progress, and due to the completion of the transport modelling and the open space/sports studies, it can now be completed.	Mid-March 2026
Habitats Regulations Assessment	This study has recently commenced.	April 2026
Whole Plan Viability Assessment	This study is continuing to progress and can continue to progress given clarity on Infrastructure through the Infrastructure Delivery Plan and	April/May 2026

	Housing Mix and Type.	
Leicester & Leicestershire Housing Distribution Update Paper	Final report has been received and has underpinned the Statement of Common Ground on housing distribution presented elsewhere on this agenda.	Complete
Leicester & Leicestershire Updated Housing Mix Evidence	A draft report has been received and is being reviewed by officers on the steering group.	March 2026
Leicester & Leicestershire Strategic Distribution Needs and Apportionment Study	Report has been completed and has informed the Committee's decisions on strategic warehousing site allocations and the draft Statement of Common Ground presented elsewhere on this agenda.	Complete
Equality Impact Assessment	This study will be published to coincide with the Regulation 19 consultation.	April/May 2026
Open Space Study, Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy and Built Facilities Assessment	An update on this report was provided to the 28 January 2026 Local Plan Committee, it is currently in draft form and subject to further engagement with officers and relevant stakeholders.	April 2026
Area of Separation Study	Further outcomes reported to 28 January 2026 Local Plan Committee.	Complete
Noise Assessment	Study assesses the implications of housing allocations close to East Midlands Airport and Donington Park Circuit. A draft has been received.	March 2026
Strategic Flood Risk Assessment	Final report received.	Complete
Gypsy, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople	Partial update to be commissioned to ensure evidence aligns with plan-period to 2042.	April 2026

3.0 EXPECTED LOCAL PLAN TIMESCALES

3.1 Regarding the Local Plan, significant progress has been made on a number of policy areas which have been reported through the Local Plan Committee process. The following policy topic areas have previously been reported to Local Plan Committee:

- Strategic Policies relating to overall strategy, Settlement Hierarchy, Local Housing Needs Villages and the Countryside
- Development Management policies relating to a range of matters including Amenity, Renewables, Health and Wellbeing and Flood Risk
- Housing Allocations
- Some general housing policies
- General employment need allocations
- General employment policies
- Town Centre policies
- Infrastructure policies
- Nature Conservation policies
- Historic Environment policies

3.2 It is expected that the following policy areas will be reported to the Local Plan Committee in April 2026:

- Strategic B8 Warehousing allocation policies
- Policy H4 - Housing Types and Mix and Affordable Housing
- Lorry Parking
- New policy on Stewardship to set out an overall approach to how assets arising from new development are managed
- Policy AP1 – Design of New Development
- Allocation policy for Isley Woodhouse New Settlement
- Policy H9 – Provision for Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople

3.3 A comprehensive list of all the policies and their level of progress is provided in Appendix A.

3.4 Moving forward, Table 2 below sets out the overall expected timescales for progressing the full draft Regulation 19 Local Plan and the submission to the Secretary of State. Please note that a formal update to the Local Development Scheme will be reported to members in due course as an updated Local Development Scheme is a regulatory requirement at the point of submission. If any of the above policies cannot be reported to April Committee, for example because they are reliant on the evidence base being completed, these will be reported as part of the full draft Local Plan at the May Committee.

3.5 These key milestones demonstrate that the Council is still on track for the submission of the Local Plan before the cut-off-date of 31 December 2026, which is the date imposed for Local Plans to be submitted under the current plan-making system.

Table 2: Expected Key Milestones

Date/Month	Stage
22 April 2026 – Local Plan Committee	Report on outstanding policy areas
April 2026 (Date TBC)	Member briefing on Local Plan
20 May 2026 – Local Plan Committee June/July 2026 – Cabinet and Council	Seek approval to consult on the Regulation 19 Local Plan and to submit the plan following consultation
July – September 2026	Regulation 19 Consultation (minimum of 6 weeks but intend to extend to account for summer/school holidays)
October 2026	Process representations received and collate all the documentation for submission
November/December 2026	Formal Submission of the Local Plan

4.0 NEXT STEPS

- 4.1 The evidence base documents will be finalised and matters of significance will be highlighted in the May Local Plan Committee report.
- 4.2 The policy areas outlined above will be reported to the April Local Plan Committee and the full draft Plan (Regulation 19) will be presented to an all-Member briefing and then to May Local Plan Committee.

Policies and other considerations, as appropriate	
Council Priorities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Planning and regeneration - Communities and housing
Policy Considerations:	The Local Plan is required to be consistent with the National Planning Policy Framework and other government guidance and requirements.
Safeguarding:	No issues identified
Equalities/Diversity:	An Equalities Impact Assessment of the Local Plan review will be undertaken as part of the Sustainability Appraisal.
Customer Impact:	No issues identified
Economic and Social Impact:	No issues identified at this stage
Environment, Climate Change and zero carbon:	<p>The decision, of itself, will have no specific impact.</p> <p>The new Local Plan as a whole will aim to deliver positive environmental and climate change impacts and these will be recorded through the Sustainability Appraisal.</p>
Consultation/Community/Tenant Engagement:	Consultation on the Draft Plan will be undertaken at Regulation 19 stage.
Risks:	A risk assessment for the Local Plan Review has been prepared and is kept up to date. As far as possible control measures have been put in place to minimise risks, including regular Project Board meetings where risk is reviewed.
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