

Report title	Runnymede Local Plan production timetable (April 2024)
Report author	Georgina Pacey
Department	Planning, Economy and Built Environment
Exempt?	No
Exemption type	Not Applicable
Reasons for exemption	Not Applicable

Purpose of report:

- **To resolve**

Synopsis of report:

In the Written Ministerial Statement of Michael Gove which was published on 19th December 2023, the Secretary of State required all local authorities to provide the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) with an up to date timetable for plan making within 12 weeks (by 12th March 2024). Officers have provided a provisional timetable to DLUHC but have confirmed that this timetable still requires the approval of the Council's Planning Committee, and is subject to change.

Through this report, officers are seeking approval of the timetable for the Local Plan Review for publication and confirmation to DLUHC.

Recommendation(s):

That the Planning Committee:

Approves the proposed timetable for the review and update of the Runnymede 2030 Local Plan as set out at paragraph 2.6 of the officer report.

1. Context and background of report

- 1.1 The review of the Runnymede 2030 Local Plan commenced in January 2021 but was paused in September 2022 due to uncertainty at a national level around the Government's proposed planning reforms.
- 1.2 A meeting of the Council's Planning Committee on 28th June 2023 revisited the pause to the Local Plan Review and three potential options for resuming work on the Local Plan were discussed. Members elected to proceed with the option for preparing a plan under the new plan-making arrangements (expected to commence at the end of 2024).

- 1.3 A further update on the Government’s planning reforms was provided to the Planning Committee on 25th October 2023. This report provided information on the contents of the Government’s July 2023 consultation relating to the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill and its plan making reforms. This report also set out a high-level picture of the current and future workstreams of the Planning Policy team up until the commencement of the new plan making system.
- 1.4 Since this time, on 26th October, the Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill gained Royal Assent and is now an Act. Furthermore, a revised version of the National Planning Policy Framework was published in December 2023.
- 1.5 On 19th December 2023, Michael Gove MP published a Ministerial Statement titled, ‘Long term plan for housing update’¹. Amongst other things, this statement set out, ‘*I am issuing a direction to seven of the worst authorities in terms of plan-making, requiring them to publish a plan timetable within 12 weeks of the publication of the new NPPF – and should they fail, I will consider further intervention to ensure a plan is put in place. This does not mean I am not prepared to act elsewhere, and I expect all other authorities to make sure that they have an up-to-date plan timetable in place within the same timeframe, with a copy provided to my department*’ (underlining is the author’s emphasis). This 3 month period ended on 12th March 2024.

2. Report and, where applicable, options considered and recommended

- 2.1 In January 2024, in light of the request set out in the 19th December Written Ministerial Statement, officers reviewed previously issued consultation material published by the Government which related to the proposed roll out of the new plan making system. In the July 2023 public consultation (Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill: consultation on implementation of plan-making reforms²), the Government set out its proposal to roll out the new system initially with expert plan-making support to a first, small cohort of around ten “front runner” authorities to prepare new-style local plans, which could start in the autumn of 2024.
- 2.2 The consultation material set out that the remaining authorities that did not make it into this front-runner grouping would be ranked chronologically by the date that they have most recently adopted a plan containing strategic priorities, grouped together sequentially into groups of up to 25 authorities and then each group would be allocated a 6-month plan-making commencement window (a “wave”), within which plan making should start. However, what is not currently known is how many authorities are waiting to prepare Local Plans under the new plan-making system and thus how long Runnymede might have to wait to begin plan-making under this proposed arrangement.
- 2.3 Officers emailed DLUHC in early February 2024 asking if the Government could confirm its plan making commencement window for Runnymede so that a realistic timetable could be produced by the Council. Within this email, officers also expressed the Council’s willingness to be a front runner for trialling the new plan making system.
- 2.4 Unfortunately, no response from DLUHC was received. As such, officers produced a provisional timetable and submitted it to DLUHC on the 12th March deadline as required by the Secretary of State. However, within this email it was set out to

¹ [Written statements - Written questions, answers and statements - UK Parliament](#)

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/plan-making-reforms-consultation-on-implementation/levelling-up-and-regeneration-bill-consultation-on-implementation-of-plan-making-reforms#the-future-of-plans-and-plan-making-a-non-technical-summary>

Government that this timetable would be subject to the consideration of the Planning Committee this Spring, and once the Committee has decided whether they wished to adopt this timetable, officers would let Government know the outcome of this decision and publish any agreed timetable on its website.

- 2.5 As a reminder, based on the contents of the Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill: consultation on implementation of plan-making reforms consultation, it is expected that after an initial scoping and early participation stage, local plans will be prepared within a 30-month time period, this excludes the early scoping and participation stage. The stages in the proposed new plan making system are set out in the graphic at Appendix A.
- 2.6 Based on the Government’s indicative timetable for plan making under the new arrangements, and the timing information for the various stages set out in Appendix A, the suggested timetable for Runnymede is set out below.

Proposed dates	Details of the stage and key activities (based on information in the Government’s July 2023 Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill: consultation on implementation of plan-making reforms consultation)
<p>1st January to end of June 2025 (6 months)</p>	<p>Scoping and early participation stage</p> <p>This stage occurs before the 30 month timeframe for plan preparation starts. This stage is expected to take a minimum of 4 months as this is the minimum period of ‘notice’ that must be given to stakeholders of the fact that the Council intends to formally commence the 30 month plan preparation timeframe. 6 months is recommended for this stage in Runnymede to allow for Local Plan briefings to occur with newly elected Members after the local elections in early May 2025.</p> <p>As part of this stage, planning authorities will need to “invite” views on what the plan should contain and feedback on key issues that should be addressed. It will also provide an important opportunity for local authorities to garner the views of communities and key stakeholders on how they would like to be engaged throughout the process.</p> <p>The knowledge and experience of all stakeholders will be key to this and in identifying who should be engaged at this stage. The expectation is that planning authorities will be required to invite a range of relevant persons and bodies, which might include communities, statutory bodies and neighbouring authorities, to participate informally at this stage. However, this is also likely to be supported by informal engagement with elected members and other internal stakeholders within the wider authority, to ensure the plan ties in with the authority’s wider corporate strategies.</p> <p>A Project Initiation Document will need to be prepared to distil the key messages emerging from the early engagement activities carried out, outlining the ‘main messages’ of this participation to front-load discussions on vision and strategy. The basis of a vision and strategy will begin to emerge during</p>

	<p>this stage, which will then be underpinned by evidence and refined throughout the local plan process.</p> <p>This stage will also allow an opportunity to review the Council's Local Plan timetable.</p> <p>Feedback from engagement and evidence gathering at this stage will be required to inform the Strategic Environmental Assessment (and its eventual replacement Environmental Outcomes Reports).</p> <p>At the end of this stage, planning authorities are expected to have a clear idea of the level of commitment required to produce the plan and the key themes that will shape it (key paragraphs from July 2023 Government consultation material: 43, 50-53)</p>
<p>30 month timetable begins</p>	
<p>Gateway 1 (advisory checkpoint)</p> <p>July 2025 (expected to take 1 month)</p>	<p>Topics to be considered: Review of the Project Initiation Document including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Proposed scope of the plan and identifying the evidence required to create a sound plan -Project management, governance, risks to delivery and resourcing to deliver against the local plan timetable -The overall approach to engagement with communities and stakeholders, including statutory bodies throughout the plan preparation process -Data and digital approach -Early scoping of relevant Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) (and subsequently Environmental Outcome Report (EOR)) requirements, and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) requirements -Scoping out topics where local specific development management policies may be required. -Headline position on delivering new homes based on the standard method and recent Housing Delivery Test (HDT) results and, where possible, describe the high-level options available to deliver development needs in the area. -Headline positions on how plan with reflect any relevant Local Nature Recovery Strategy <p>At this stage Officers will also scope out requirements to introduce a new Infrastructure Levy charging schedule and Infrastructure Delivery Strategy.</p> <p>(key paragraphs from July 2023 Government consultation material: 113)</p>
<p>1st July 2025-end of October 2025 (4 months)</p>	<p>Plan visioning and strategy development</p> <p>The purpose of this stage is to: establish the vision, aims and objectives of the local plan, building on the work done at the scoping stage; to confirm the evidence required to support this; and the spatial options and topics to be covered in local policies as part of the plan.</p>

	<p>In line with the aim to strengthen the role of plan visions, an established vision will influence the spatial options and link to the local policies and sites. The Government's view is that a vision that is tested, including through the process of environmental assessment, and well established will result in a local plan that can support proposals and initiatives that align with it, and robustly defend itself from proposals that are not.</p> <p>The proposed eight-week mandatory consultation which will occur during this stage, will be important in establishing the vision. It will be the first opportunity for all stakeholders to formally comment on the issues an area is facing and how they may be tackled in the local plan.</p> <p>At the end of this stage, the planning authority should be confident about the proposed vision, aims and objectives and know what options are available to deliver them.</p> <p>(key paragraphs from July 2023 Government consultation material: 43, 54-57)</p> <p>Although it is not specifically mentioned in the Government's consultation material, as it is mentioned in the Government's commentary on Gateway 2 (see below), at this point, officers will also need to work with communities to support them as they develop Neighbourhood Priorities Statements. This is a simpler form of neighbourhood planning tool which will allow communities to identify their key priorities for their local area, including their development preferences, and will provide a simpler and more accessible way for them to participate in neighbourhood planning.</p>
<p>1st November 2025-end of December 2026 (14 months)</p>	<p>Evidence gathering and drafting the plan</p> <p>This is second stage within the 30 month timeframe and marks the mid-point between scoping and examination with the second gateway assessment.</p> <p>The Government has stated that they propose to advise in guidance that the aim of this stage is to decide on an appropriate strategy for the local plan, in terms of the spatial options and policies that will best meet the planning authority's vision, aims and objectives.</p> <p>The expectation will be that the evidence base should relate directly to the tests of soundness to keep it proportionate.</p> <p>The Government proposes that guidance on this stage of the plan preparation should encourage continuous engagement with Members, in line with the governance arrangements agreed in the Project Implementation Document Plan.</p> <p>Gateway 2 is an advisory checkpoint which will occur midway through this stage and the topics to be considered will be:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress against Project Initiation Document and programme • Progress against observations or advice received at Gateway 1 • Topic-specific advice based on planning authority and appointed person identified issues (around emerging plan and evidence) • Data and digital requirements (including policies map) • Progress with relevant SEA (and subsequently EOR requirements) and HRA • Engagement with communities and statutory bodies • Compliance with the requirement to have regard to certain matters, including any relevant Neighbourhood Priorities Statements <p>Following the second gateway assessment, planning authorities should seek final Member sign-off of the local plan for public consultation.</p> <p>(key paragraphs from July 2023 Government consultation material: 43, 58-61, 113)</p>
<p>1st January 2027- end of May 2027.</p> <p>(5 months)</p>	<p>Engagement, proposing changes and submission of the plan</p> <p>The Government has stated that they intend to set out in guidance that this final stage before the submission of the local plan needs to be as focused as possible. They will expect that issues are resolved with statutory consultees and stakeholders during the mandatory consultation window which will occur during this stage, with an opportunity to make modifications to the plan prior to the submission. The planning authority should seek Member sign-off of any changes and avoid re-consulting wherever possible prior to the examination.</p> <p>The third gateway assessment will also occur during this stage. This gateway check point is mandatory for all local authorities to complete. The topics to be covered at gateway 3 are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procedural and legal requirements met • Regard had to observations and advice at Gateways 1 and 2 • Evidence prepared as proposed and any previously identified gaps addressed • Relevant SEA (and subsequently EOR) and HRA published, including explanation of compliance with national requirements • Summary of representations available • Digital and data requirements met (including policies map) • Nationally defined templates used, where appropriate • Engagement activities undertaken in line with Project Initiation Document with regard to national guidance • Spatial Development Strategy general conformity statement prepared (where relevant)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practical readiness for examination (e.g. venue identified for hearings etc.) <p>(key paragraphs from July 2023 Government consultation material: 43, 62, 113)</p>
<p>1st June to end of November 2027</p> <p>(6 months)</p>	<p>Examination</p> <p>The Government has stated that they intend to set out in guidance that this stage should last a maximum of six months, to move away from the current situation where examinations can potentially last for several years. The new gateway assessment process will be key to achieving this, by ensuring that any issues with the plan are picked up earlier in the plan-making process and resolved prior to the examination.</p> <p>(key paragraphs from July 2023 Government consultation material: 63)</p>
<p>December 2027</p> <p>(1 month)</p>	<p>Finalisation and adoption of digital plan and monitoring</p> <p>Local Plan to be finalised and adopted.</p> <p>Following adoption of the local plan, planning authorities will be expected to monitor how their plan is performing, to ensure that key objectives are being met and that policies are effective. A proposed detailed monitoring return, which planning authorities would be expected to complete within four years of the plan being adopted, would ensure that updates to plans can be more targeted and focused.</p> <p>The existing complex requirement for plans to be reviewed at least once every 5 years and updated as necessary will be replaced by a clearer requirement in regulations for planning authorities to commence an update of their local plans every 5 years. This would not preclude planning authorities from commencing an update sooner. The intention is to encourage a more rolling rhythm of updates to plans wherever possible, ensuring plans and their evidence are routinely kept up to date. Ultimately, this will make plans more effective.</p> <p>(key paragraphs from July 2023 Government consultation material: 64 and 65)</p>

2.7 Officers are not proposing to formally start the Local Plan development process prior to January 2025 as previous consultation material from the Government suggests that only the 10 front runners will be able to start plan making in the autumn of 2024. Officers have confirmed to DLUHC that the Council could move its formal start date forward (subject to the necessary Planning Committee approval) if Runnymede was made a front runner authority.

2.8 Prior to the January 2025 formal start date, to ensure that a meaningful early evidence base is prepared to enable stakeholders to contribute their views to shape the Local Plan in an informed way during the first (and informal) consultation stage,

officers are proposing to focus on updating/producing/reviewing the following parts of the evidence base:

-Borough wide Design Code: Particular focus will be on collating baseline information on the characteristics of the Borough, providing an analysis on the Borough's townscape (including relevant information on existing height and density of development)

-Green Belt Review parts 1 and 2 (with a focus on reviewing whether previous conclusions still remain valid and also incorporating newly promoted sites (since the Runnymede 2030 Local Plan was produced) into the stage 2 work.

-Early transport evidence base

-Sustainable Places Part 2

-*Strategic Land Availability Assessment*

-Production of high-level information on housing and employment needs

-*Open Space Study*

-Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment

-Level 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

-*Infrastructure Baseline Assessment*

-*Project Initiation Document (including Communications Strategy)*

- 2.9 In the Government's July 2023 consultation, the Government confirmed their ambition for a digital planning system that is underpinned by standardised and open planning data. To achieve this ambition, the Government has introduced legislation which will allow them to prescribe a common format based on standardised data across plan-making.
- 2.10 In the same consultation, the Government also confirmed that they were in the process of undertaking work to standardise elements of the evidence base produced by Local Authorities to underpin their local plans which are particularly complex. Standardisation could be a more detailed level of guidance, through to standard methodologies, or even tools developed to support planning authorities to produce evidence. The precise type of standardisation is likely to vary by evidence topic.
- 2.11 The above measures are intended to make it easier for planning authorities to understand what to produce, and to be more confident that their evidence base is proportionate and sufficient to support a sound local plan.
- 2.12 In both cases however, no further information has yet been published to clarify what the data and evidence standards will be that will underpin Local Plans under the new system. For this reason, during the 2023/24 financial year, production of the local plan evidence base was largely limited to areas where work could be undertaken in house to prevent wasting public money on work that would likely need repeating later in a different format.
- 2.13 In relation to the pieces of evidence proposed to be progressed for the remainder of the 2024 calendar year, whilst the data and evidence standards are expected to change under the new plan making system, the items listed under paragraph 2.8 are considered likely to be required to underpin plan making in Runnymede (and a new Infrastructure Levy charging schedule if required). Even if the data/evidence standards do change mid-way through evidence production, the items listed under paragraph 2.8 in italics would be carried out in house with no consultancy spend and would be relatively straightforward to update in house, minimising financial risks.
- 2.14 Furthermore, officers have secured £40,000 to progress the Design Code work. Whilst this project is likely to cost in excess of this amount, the funding received will reduce overall Council spend. Furthermore, the National Model Design Code was

published in 2021 and the Design Code Pathfinder programme means that there is already significant best practice in the public domain. It is considered unlikely that there will be wholesale changes to the Design Code regime moving forwards.

- 2.15 The early transport evidence base and Sustainable Places Part 2 work would be carried out by Surrey County Council in their role as the Highways Authority. Spend would be reduced on the Level 1 SFRA and Green Belt Review work by carrying out the bulk of the work in-house but with external peer review being arranged by specialist consultants. Again, all these pieces of evidence are considered highly likely to be required to underpin plan making. The Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) is a specialist piece of work which will be carried out by consultants. The Council's current GTAA is in excess of 5 years old and good practice is therefore that the assessment should be updated.
- 2.16 The biggest risk is considered to be in producing employment and housing evidence as it is considered more likely that the data and/or evidence standards could change in this area. This is because paragraph 95 of the July consultation material indicates that economic needs assessments and housing and employment land availability assessments would benefit from standardisation and/or more readily available baseline data. Furthermore, the Government has previously suggested that the standard methodology for calculating housing needs is likely to transition from reliance on the 2014 household projections to the 2021 Census data results during the course of 2024. This Local Plan evidence in this area is usually carried out by consultants in the form of a Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment. Procuring this work too early could result in abortive costs. Officers will explore whether it is possible to produce a high-level analysis in-house in the absence of further guidance being provided by the Government.
- 2.17 When considering other matters, as part of the production of a Local Plan timetable, Paragraph 76 of the July 2023 consultation material sets out that a number of additional matters also need to be addressed alongside the timetable for plan making itself. The requirements are set out in the table below, alongside the suggested response from officers at this time:

Local Plan Timetable requirement	Officer recommendation
The matters the local plan is seeking to address	To be determined during the scoping and early participation stage of plan preparation. The matters that the Local Plan addresses will be dependent to some degree to the content of the Government's National Development Management policies which have not yet been published.
The geographical area of the local plan	The whole of Runnymede Borough
What (if any) supplementary plans the local planning authority is looking to prepare, as well as the subject matter and geographical area or sites these supplementary plans relate to	Current adopted Supplementary Planning Documents are as follows: -Infrastructure Delivery and Prioritisation SPD -Runnymede Design SPD -Thames Basin Heaths SPD -Green and Blue Infrastructure SPD -Affordable Housing SPD -Runnymede Parking Guidance SPD

	<p>An Energy SPD is currently being produced and is reported elsewhere on this agenda.</p> <p>It is too early to comment on which of these topic areas may need to be retained in Supplementary Plans as part of the new plan making system but this matter will be kept under review by the Council. To some extent, the Council's decision in this regard will be dependent on the content of the Government's National Development Management policies which have not yet been published, as well as the breadth of the Council's Design Code which is currently in the early stages of preparation.</p>
How the authority seeks to implement its authority-wide design code	As a Supplementary Planning Document initially. The intention would then be to retain as a Supplementary Plan under the new plan making arrangements.
Details of joint plan-making (including any joint committees), where relevant (including for supplementary plans)	No joint plan making activities identified at the time of writing.
A timetable for the preparation of the local planning authority's local plan and any supplementary plans they are seeking to prepare	A timetable for plan preparation is contained in this report. Timetables for the production of supplementary plans will be produced in due course.

3. Policy framework implications

- 3.1 Approving the timetable contained in section 2 of this report would ensure that Runnymede Borough Council complies with the Written Ministerial Statement published on 19th December 2023, by confirming that the timetable sent to Government on 12th March 2024 has been approved by Members, and thus is the Council's most up-to-date timetable for producing a new Local Plan.

4 Resource and finance implications

- 4.1 The Planning Policy Team is currently fully resourced. £100,000 for consultancy support is provided on an annual basis within the Planning Policy budget to support planning policy activities. Due to the pause in Plan Making, the £100,000 allocated to the Planning Policy Team for the 2023/24 financial year was not spent and is being held in a reserve account, which can be drawn down, as required, to support Plan Making under the new system. This should help ensure flexibility and also that there is a contingency plan in place to ensure that the Local Plan evidence base can be produced in the reduced period required under the new plan making arrangements.
- 4.2 A number of technical elements of the Local Plan evidence base are likely to be produced by specialist consultants. Officers in the Planning Policy Team will follow the Council's Procurement policies and procedures to ensure value for money. Efforts will also be made to produce as much evidence as possible in house.

5. Legal implications

- 5.1 None identified at the current time. At the start of Plan Making, it is recommended that Counsel be appointed to support the Council as it prepares its local plan, to help ensure legal compliance and that the tests of soundness are met.

6. Equality implications

- 6.1 An Equalities Assessment will be produced as part of Plan preparation to assess the impact of the policies proposed on people with protected characteristics.

7. Environmental/Sustainability/Biodiversity implications

- 7.1 One of the Council's most significant policy documents in relation to the environment and climate is the Local Plan. Local Plans are subject to strict environmental legislation as they are being developed which ensures that significant adverse impacts on protected sites is avoided/mitigated.
- 7.2 The adopted Runnymede 2030 Local Plan includes a number of policies which contribute to the mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change. The review of the Local Plan presents a significant opportunity to revisit policy requirements related to climate change. However, it is yet to be seen what the content of the Government's proposed National Development Management policies will be in relation to climate change. Once the National Development Management policies have been published and reviewed by officers, it will be possible to explore what additional local requirements may be possible.

8. Risk Implications

- 8.1 Approval of the interim Local Plan production timetable submitted by officers to Government on 12th March 2024 would avoid the risk of damage to the Council's reputation with DLUHC for not producing an up to date Local Plan timetable in a timely manner as required by the Secretary of state in his Written Ministerial Statement published on 19th December 2023.
- 8.2 There is a risk that plan making in Runnymede could be delayed beyond what is shown in the timetable at section 2 of this report. This could be due to the Government putting the Council in a later 'wave' for plan making commencement. As it stands, the Government has consulted on proposed transitional arrangements to provide Councils (and their plans) protection from speculative development during the transition to the new plan making system. In the most recent consultation, it is stated in paragraph 250 that,

'Should we go ahead with one of the roll-out options set out above, we intend to extend this transitional protection from speculative development. Once the new plan-making system is commenced, after their most recently adopted plan is five years old, for 30 months after the point at which they are required to start making their new-style local plan, authorities would be protected from speculative development (i.e. their plans would be considered up to date for decision making purposes). This is intended to ensure that local planning authorities do not face adverse consequences from being placed into a wave which would mean them beginning plan-making later than they otherwise would do'.

8.3 If the above arrangements are introduced, this would provide additional protections for Runnymede after its adopted Local Plan has become 5 years old and reduce risks associated with speculative development.

8.4 It is possible that the Government will not allow plan making to commence in Runnymede in January 2025, as the consultation proposals set out in July 2023 state that:

244. The first cohort of local planning authorities, the “front runners” could start plan-making from autumn 2024.

245. The next key milestone would be 30 June 2025. This would be seven months after the first cohort had started, so all the first gateway assessments should have been completed and there will be learning and best practice for other authorities to draw on.

The remaining authorities would be:

- *ranked chronologically by the date that they have most recently adopted a plan containing strategic priorities*
- *grouped together sequentially into groups of up to 25 authorities*
- *each groups allocated a 6 month plan-making commencement window (a “wave”), within which plan making should start*

8.5 This could be taken to indicate that beyond the front runner authorities, local authorities will not be able to commence plan making until at least 30th June 2025. Officers are of the view however that any delays to planmaking in Runnymede should be minimised as far as possible. It is unclear whether the Government would legally be able to prevent plan making commencing in Runnymede in January 2025. However, it is considered that it is desirable to commence the early scoping participation and participation stage in January 2025 so that the Council is in the best position possible to deliver a plan within 30 months, whenever this period may begin (and even if it is delayed by the Government). Risks are considered to be relatively limited even if such a delay was to occur as long as transitional arrangements are in place. If the Council is asked to push its plan making commencement date back, a further report will be brought through the Planning Committee for consideration.

8.6 The contents of this report is based on consultation proposals which are potentially subject to change. This presents a further risk to the suitability of the timetable. In addition, there is expected to be a general election in Autumn 2024. This could see plan making arrangements change from the proposals currently set out by the Government.

8.7 At the current time, it is not possible to assess what the financial and resource implications of producing a local plan under the new plan making system will be as the evidence and data requirements have not been published. This presents a risk that the local plan timetable as set out in this report is not achievable.

9. Other implications

9.1 None identified at this time.

10. Timetable for Implementation

- 10.1 If approved by the Planning Committee, the timetable set out in this report would be published on the Council's website without delay and a copy passed to the Government.

11. Conclusions

- 11.1 Officers recommend that the timetable for the review and update of the Runnymede Local Plan is approved by the Planning Committee.

12. Background papers

Planning Committee reports on the Local Plan Review from 28th June 2023 and 25th October 2023.

Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill: consultation on implementation of plan-making reforms, July 2023: [Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill: consultation on implementation of plan-making reforms - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/levelling-up-and-regeneration-bill-consultation-on-implementation-of-plan-making-reforms)

13. Appendices

Appendix A: Stages in the new plan making system