

Overview and Scrutiny (Performance and Growth) Panel – 02/09/2026

Cabinet – 09/09/2026

Council – 09/09/2026

Report by: Head of Planning, Infrastructure and Public Protection

Lead Cllr: Tom Sanderson

Executive Councillor for Planning



Wards	Open / Exempt	Key Decision?
All	Open	Yes

Report Title: Pre-Submission Local Plan to 2046, Sustainability Appraisal and supporting documents

Executive Summary: *This report provides the opportunity for the Overview & Scrutiny Panel to consider the proposed Regulation 19 Pre-Submission Local Plan to 2046 prior to its consideration at Cabinet and Council. The accompanying report sets out the context in which the draft Local Plan to 2046 has been prepared and the implications for its preparation of recent changes in national legislation regarding plan-making. It draws attention to the statutory nature of this phase in inviting representations on soundness and legal compliance.*

The report summarises responses received to the consultations on the Preferred Options draft Local Plan, the Sustainability Appraisal and the Additional Sites Allocations and identifies the key proposed changes to the draft Local Plan made in response to these. It identifies the evidence base prepared to inform and support the Local Plan. It also lists the alternative options considered for plan preparation and explains the reasons why they were not recommended.

The report also presents the Sustainability Appraisal that accompanies this stage of Local Plan preparation which considers the environmental, economic and social implications of the proposed Local Plan. In addition, it presents the Habitats Regulations Assessment which considers the impact of the proposed policies and sites on sites of international and national nature conservation value both individually and in combination. The report seeks approval for their publication for consultation.

The role of Overview & Scrutiny is to provide independent challenge and assurance on the production of the proposed Regulation 19 Local Plan before it is published, and representations on the legal compliance and soundness of the plan are invited during a 6-week period. Overview & Scrutiny acts as a 'critical friend' to the Council's executive to ensure decisions are transparent, inclusive and responsive to residents.

Overview & Scrutiny does not determine the content of the plan, nor does it make decisions on behalf of the Cabinet. The Panel provides observations, recommendations and constructive

challenge to inform the Cabinet. Ultimately this is to help satisfy the Council that the evidence, methodology, strategy and proposed policies have been thoroughly considered before recommendations are made to Cabinet.

It is the role of an independent Inspector, appointed by the Secretary of State, to undertake an independent examination in public of the Council's proposed plan, to consider all duly made representations and to test the soundness and legal compliance of the plan before the Council can proceed to formal adoption. The Inspector will set out guidance, ask formal questions and lead public hearings where developers, stakeholders and the public can ask questions and raise concerns as part of the debate on topics.

1. Recommendations

The Overview & Scrutiny Panel (Performance & Growth) is invited to:

- 1.1. Comment on the report for Cabinet and Council