

The journey of your Local Plan

A guide to work so far, public feedback and what happens next



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An introduction

Having an up-to-date Local Plan is absolutely essential. It is fundamentally linked to our strategy for the regeneration of Havant Borough and essential to our future economic growth and prosperity.

The Local Plan is so wide reaching that it will always be evocative, drawing out strong emotions and clear opinion from residents who care about their local community. I believe the borough of Havant is fortunate to have so many residents eager to contribute towards this vision. How our borough develops between now and 2036 will be influenced by this shared work.

With thousands of hours of research undertaken, multiple public consultations held and a refinement of the Local Plan with each and every iteration, we are now close to submitting a final version of the Plan for independent examination by Central Government.

This document covers the work to date, the invaluable comments provided by our residents, and on-going work which will feed into the final version of the Local Plan to be submitted. It will help you understand the final stages of this long process, and the outcomes that will be achieved.



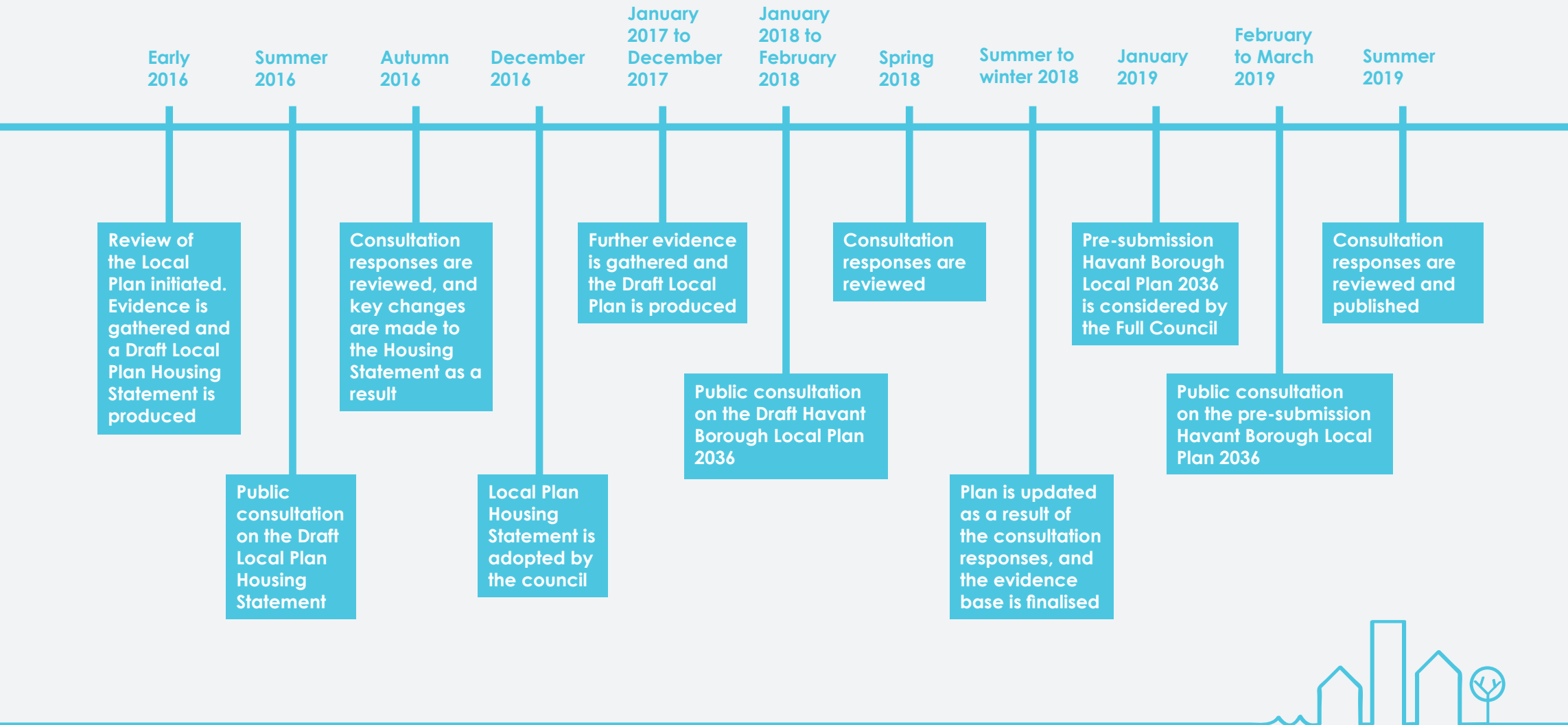
Councillor Tim Pike

Deputy Leader and Cabinet Lead for
Planning, Regeneration and Communities

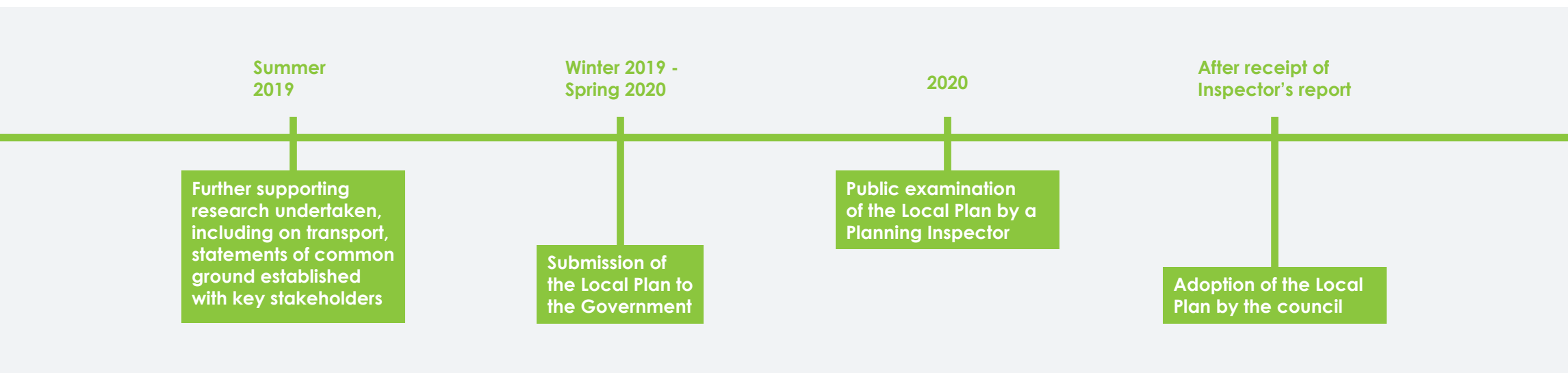


The story so far...

A tremendous amount of work has been undertaken to date, supported by engagement from residents and other interested parties.



and what's next...



Before it is adopted, the Plan will need to be examined by a Planning Inspector on behalf of the Government. The Inspector's role is to examine whether the submitted plan is 'sound' and meets all legal and procedural requirements. In terms of soundness the Inspector will consider whether the Local Plan is based on robust evidence and meets the need for development. For legal compliance, the Inspector will consider if the Plan has been prepared according to the correct procedures. The examination will therefore concentrate on the issues that affect the Plan's soundness and legal compliance, not delving into other matters.

The Inspector will consider all of the feedback received through consultation on the Pre-Submission Local Plan and all of the research which has been carried out to inform the preparation of the Plan. They will then ask a series of questions, seeking responses in writing. The Inspector will then decide what the Examination Hearing sessions should cover and decide who should be invited to appear at Examination. The Hearing sessions take the form of a round table discussion with the Inspector leading the debate. Only those who the Inspector invites to attend will be able to speak at the hearing sessions, although they will be held in public so you will be able to come and watch the sessions if you want to.

As part of the examination, the Inspector will consider if there are any changes needed to the Plan to make it sound and legally compliant. These are, known as 'main modifications'. The Inspector will then prepare a report on the soundness and legal compliance of the Plan and recommend whether or not the council can proceed with the adoption of the Plan. The Inspector's conclusions will be evidence-based and informed by professional expertise and judgment.

It is only once the Local Plan has passed this rigorous public examination that the council can adopt the Plan.



A Local Plan can only be adopted if found 'sound' by the Government.



The inspector is appointed on behalf of the Government.



The inspector will **ONLY** consider if a Local Plan is sound and meets legal/procedural requirements.



The inspector will decide what questions/issues to consider and invite relevant parties to provide statements and appear at Hearings.



Only those invited can contribute to Hearings. Anyone can attend, but only to view proceedings.

The inspector has access to all data and feedback regarding the Local Plan.



The inspector will consider whether the Plan requires modification to make it sound.

The council can only adopt the Plan if the Inspector finds the Plan legally compliant and sound.

Public feedback

Havant Borough Council received substantial feedback on the Pre-Submission Local Plan. 159 distinct topics were raised from 311 respondents who engaged in the consultation. Although the Planning Inspector will have full access to all feedback arising from the consultation, the council has identified the main issues for the Inspector which can be found in the Consultation Statement. This document will be submitted alongside the Local Plan which will help inform the examination of the Plan.

The four key issues likely to be raised at examination are:

Long Copse Lane (Emsworth)



Key concerns with the proposed Long Copse Lane site include:

- The impact on the landscape
- Whether there would be an impact on key natural habitats and biodiversity
- The impact on highway capacity and safety

Lower Road (Old Bedhampton)



Key concerns with the proposed Lower Road site include:

- Harm to the Old Bedhampton Conservation Area
- A direct impact on the heritage, individuality and vernacular style of the area
- Precedence-setting for further local development

Development on Hayling Island



Key concerns with the proposed development on the island include:

- The highway capacity of the island, the methods used to assess the impact that development would have and the proposed mitigation
- Flood risk and coastal erosion
- The increased stress on existing infrastructure

Further development is needed



Key concerns from site promoters including:

- That some sites are not in the Plan but should be allocated for development
- That some sites should be larger or used for something different to that proposed in the Local Plan

What's next from the council?

Statements of Common Ground

These vital documents are in production and provide full transparency on how the council – as part of its duty to co-operate – has addressed strategic issues with other organisations such as Natural England, Historic England, Environment Agency, neighbouring authorities and more.

Transport assessments

Further work is underway to provide valuable addition insight into how the transport infrastructure of the borough will need to develop over time. Highlights include significant research on whether the Southleigh strategic site will need direct access onto the A27, and further work to clarify what traffic mitigation is needed on Hayling Island.

Funding opportunities

Major opportunities are being explored to access funds which will have a profound and positive impact on the borough. For example – and in conjunction with Hampshire County Council – the borough will be accessing funds from the £1.28 billion Transforming Cities programme to support sustainable travel. This includes major improvements to the bus route infrastructure of the borough, enhanced opportunities to cycle safely, improved walking routes and more.

In conclusion



The development of the Local Plan has been a long and complex process. It has developed over time through hard research and an on-going, meaningful dialogue with the residents of the borough. This dialogue has led to noticeable changes in the Local Plan as it has developed, refining the Plan to best represent the needs of the borough up to 2036 and beyond.

The long journey is approaching its final stage, where the Local Plan will receive intense scrutiny to ensure it is fit for purpose. As it is assessed, the Inspector will hear from those with concerns about the soundness and legal compliance of such a pivotal document. Assuming it is approved, the document will then provide the council with a framework which sets out how and where development should take place, and provides Havant borough with high-quality homes and vital infrastructure it needs.



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