



# Local Plan Review 2044

## Timetable



**25 June 2026**

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## 1. Introduction

- 1.1. The Government has introduced new legislative requirements in relation to the production of Local Plans.
- 1.2. This means that although Surrey Heath Borough Council is in the latter stages of preparing an updated Surrey Heath Local Plan 2019 – 2038 with adoption anticipated towards the end of 2026, the Council is required to start work on a new Local Plan under the new plan-making system. This Local Plan will cover the period 2026 – 2044 and will be known as the Surrey Heath Local Plan Review 2044.
- 1.3. This document sets out the timetable for preparing this new Local Plan Review. The timetable will be reviewed on a monthly basis and updated if necessary.
- 1.4. This timetable takes effect from **25 June 2026**.

### Local Government Reorganisation.

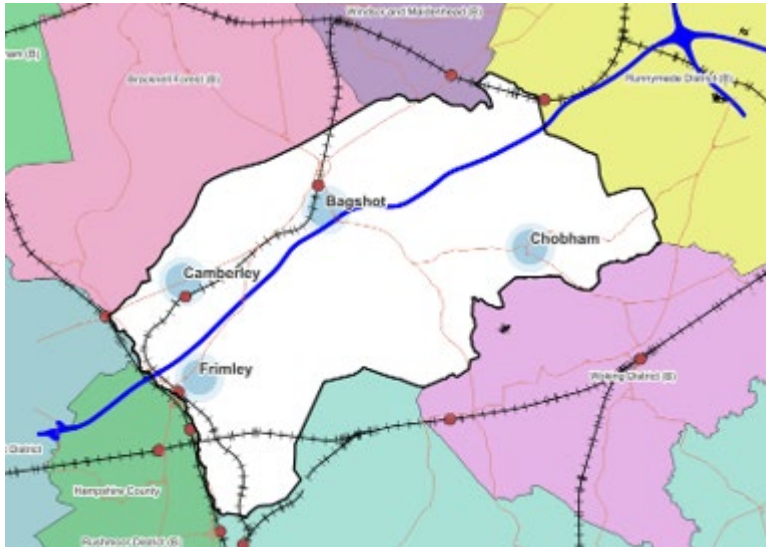
- 1.5. From 1 April 2027, Surrey Heath will become part of a wider West Surrey Council. After this date, West Surrey Council will be responsible for taking forward the remainder of the Local Plan preparation process and not Surrey Heath Borough Council. Dates after this time are subject to decisions by the new Council including resourcing and governance arrangements.



## 2. Geographical area

- 2.1. The Surrey Heath Local Plan 2026 – 2044 will cover the whole of the Borough as shown in Map 1 below.

**Map 1: Surrey Heath Borough Geographical Area**



## 3. Scope

- 3.1. The matters which the new local plan will deal with are:
- Setting a long-term vision.
  - Identifying development needs over the plan period including for housing, (including for gypsies and travellers and travelling showpeople, affordable housing, specialist housing and self and custom build housing), employment and retail and town centre uses.
  - The allocation of sites for different land uses but particularly to meet the housing requirement.
  - Identifying the need for different types of employment spaces such as offices, industrial space, warehouse space and data centres.
  - Defining town centres and setting out the approach to development within them.



- Setting out the need for infrastructure to support delivery of the Local Plan such as transport, utilities, green infrastructure, education, health care, libraries, community centres and sports facilities
- Setting out the approach to the protection and enhancement of the natural environment
- Setting out a positive strategy for the historic environment including locally and nationally listed heritage assets and conservation areas.
- Ensuring that the policies and allocations in the Local Plan contribute to the mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change.
- Setting requirements for high standards of design, including ensuring the efficient use of land.

#### 4. Local Plan preparation dates

- 4.1. The new plan making system sets out a requirement to prepare a local plan within 30 months with Surrey Heath being required to meet the following specific dates:
- 4.2. The following timetable reflects these requirements.
- Publish a timetable and notice of commencement by 31 June 2026; and
  - Publish a Gateway 1 Self-Assessment summary by 31 October 2026.
- 4.3. **SHBC** denotes decisions and actions which will be taken by Surrey Heath Borough Council.
- 4.4. **WSC** denotes decisions and actions which will be taken by the new West Surrey Council.

Local Plan Preparation Stage	Date
Publication of notice of intention to commence plan preparation (SHBC)	25 June 2026
Scoping Consultation (SHBC)  This consultation seeks views from stakeholders on the scope of the Local Plan and how they wish to be engaged in the plan-making process.	14 September – 19 October 2026



Local Plan Preparation Stage	Date
<p>Publication of Gateway 1 self-assessment (SHBC)</p> <p>This formally marks the start of the 30 month plan-making process and is a summary of work carried out to get ready to start the formal plan-making process.</p>	26 <sup>th</sup> October 2026
<p>Consultation on proposed plan content and evidence (WSC)</p> <p>This consultation will seek views on the proposed vision, spatial strategy options and a summary of the evidence gathered to date. It may seek views on policy wordings. The consultation will last for a minimum 6 weeks.</p>	June – July 2027
<p>Observations and advice sought for Gateway 2 (WSC)</p> <p>An appointed assessor from the Planning Inspectorate will review progress on the Plan and provide observations and recommendations to the Council.</p>	September 2027
<p>Consultation on the proposed plan (WSC)</p> <p>This final formal consultation will seek views on a full draft plan and policies map. The consultation will last for a minimum 8 weeks.</p>	April – May 2028



Local Plan Preparation Stage	Date
<p>Observations and advice sought for Gateway 3 (WSC)</p> <p>An appointed assessor from the Planning Inspectorate will decide whether the Plan is ready for submission based on prescribed requirements on legal compliance and the proposed submission documents.</p>	August 2028
<p>Submit the Local Plan for examination (WSC)</p> <p>Subject to passing Gateway 3 the Plan and supporting documents will be submitted to the Secretary of State for Examination.</p>	October 2028
<p>Adopt the Local Plan (WSC)</p> <p>Once adopted, the Plan will form part of the statutory Development Plan for the West Surrey Council area.</p>	April 2029

## 5. Supplementary Plans

- 5.1. The Council has not identified any Supplementary Plans at this time. If a need for a Supplementary Plan is identified in the future, we will update this document with the details and timetable for their preparation.

## 6. Schedule of Amendments

- 6.1. Surrey Heath Borough Council (and subsequently West Surrey Council) will maintain and publish a schedule of any amendments made to this timetable.

## 7. Further Information

- 7.1. For further information on the **Local Plan Review 2044** please visit the **Surrey Heath Borough Council website** or contact us on [planning.policy@surreyheath.gov.uk](mailto:planning.policy@surreyheath.gov.uk) or on 01276 707100

