

# Central Bedfordshire Council Local Development Scheme

~~September~~ January **2023**5

**A great place to live and work.**

## Contents

1. Introduction .....	3
2. The current Development Plan .....	3
3. Central Bedfordshire Local Plan Review.....	6
4. Other relevant planning documents .....	10
5. Supporting Statement.....	14
Appendix 1 - Risk and Mitigation Management .....	17
Appendix 2: Local Plan timetable .....	22

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Council has a duty to prepare, publish and maintain a Local Development Scheme (LDS). The LDS sets out a high-level work programme and proposed timetable for producing Local Development Documents and also acts as a basis for project and budget management.
- 1.2 The LDS provides information to help ensure that local communities, businesses, developers, service and infrastructure providers and other interested organisations know when they will be able to participate in the development of the Council's planning documents.
- 1.3 The requirement for an LDS is set out in the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (section 15, as amended). The LDS must specify, amongst other things:
- The documents that will be prepared to form the statutory development plan;
  - What will be included in each document and the geographic area to which it relates;
  - Whether the documents are to be prepared jointly with one or more other local planning authorities; and
  - The timetable for the preparation and revision of documents.
- 1.4 This LDS covers the period from 2023 up to 2028. It replaces the previous version approved in ~~April 2022~~November 2023, ~~which set out the initial timetable for the review of the current Central Bedfordshire Local Plan (2015–2035)~~ and has been updated in response to the Government's requirement to confirm plan making timescales within 12 weeks of the publication of the new National Planning Policy Framework (December 2024).

## 2. The current Development Plan

- 2.1 The Government requires every local authority to have an up-to-date Development Plan in place.
- 2.2 The current Development Plan for Central Bedfordshire includes:

- [The Central Bedfordshire Local Plan 2015 - 2035 \(2021\)](#) ;
- [The Minerals and Waste Local Plan: Strategic Sites and Policies \(2014\)](#);
- [Minerals and Waste Local Plan \(2005\)](#) ; and
- The following [adopted Neighbourhood Plans](#):
  - Arlesey (2018)
  - Biggleswade (2022)
  - Caddington and Slip End (2018)
  - [Campton and Chicksands \(2021\)](#)
  - [Clifton \(2024\)](#)
  - Eaton Bray (2019)
  - Fairfield (2017)
  - Flitton, Greenfield and Pulloxhill (2021)
  - Gravenhurst (2021)
  - [Haynes \(2021\)](#)
  - [Houghton Regis \(2024\)](#)
  - Langford (2021)
  - [Northhill \(2019\)](#)
  - [Maulden \(2024\)](#)
  - Pottton (2019)
  - Silsoe (2019)
  - Sutton (2021)
  - Totternhoe (2021)
  - Wrestlingworth and Cockayne Hatley (2018)

- 2.3 Central Bedfordshire Council was formed as a unitary authority in April 2009. This brought together areas previously administered by Mid Bedfordshire District Council, South Bedfordshire District Council and Bedfordshire County Council. The adopted Local Plan is the key strategic planning document and is the first Local Plan to cover the entire administrative area of Central Bedfordshire. It replaced the separate plans prepared for the previous administrative areas, namely, the Core Strategy and Development Management Policies DPD (2009) and the Site Allocations DPD (2011) for the former Mid Bedfordshire area, the Local Plan for the former South Bedfordshire area (2005) and the saved policies from the Bedfordshire Structure Plan (1997).
- 2.4 The adopted Local Plan sets out the long-term vision and objectives for the area and plans for the delivery of new homes, infrastructure and jobs. It also sets out policies to be used for determining individual planning applications.
- 2.5 The adopted Local Plan consists of one main document, accompanied by the Policies Maps, which provides a spatial representation of the Local Plan policies. It is supported by an evidence base of technical documents, which can be viewed on the [Local Plan pages](#) of the Council's website.
- 2.6 The Minerals and Waste Local Plan: Strategic Sites and Policies (MWLP: SSP) document was adopted by the Council in January 2014. It was also adopted by two other councils, Bedford Borough Council (15 January 2014) and Luton Borough Council (21 January 2014). The MWLP: SSP sets out the strategic allocations for mineral extraction and for waste management development in the Plan area together with strategic policies which will guide the ongoing supply of minerals and development of waste management facilities.
- 2.7 Some of the policies in the MWLP: SSP supersede the policies in the previous Bedfordshire and Luton Minerals and Waste Local Plan, which was adopted in 2005.
- 2.8 The Localism Act (2011) gave communities the power to shape development in their area by writing a Neighbourhood Plan with a vision for their local area and accompanying planning policies. Once adopted these documents are statutory plans to be used for decision making in planning decisions. At the time of writing, there are currently ~~16~~<sup>19</sup> adopted plans, as set out in paragraph 2.2, and several other areas are currently

developing their own Neighbourhood Plans. The Council's website sets out the latest [neighbourhood planning status](#) for each area.

### 3. Central Bedfordshire Local Plan Review

3.1 The Local Plan must be kept up-to-date and Regulation 10A of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended) requires local planning authorities to review local plans at least once every five years from their adoption date to ensure that policies remain relevant and effectively address the needs of the local community.

~~3.2 However, the Council made a policy commitment in the adopted Local Plan to carry out an early review, as acknowledged by the Inspectors in the [Inspectors Report \(July 2021\)](#). The requirement to review the Local Plan is set out in Policy SP1a: Partial Review of the Local Plan. This requires the Council to commence a partial review within six months of adoption. [The review was completed in July 2023 and work commenced on preparing a new Local Plan.](#)~~

~~3.3 The Council has considered the [Planning Advisory Service \(PAS\) Local Plan Route Mapper \(October 2021\)](#) which provides advice on the best process for reviewing local plan policies. The key considerations set out by PAS as part of a review of local plan policies are national policy, housing need, implementation of policies/delivery and changes to local circumstances with implications for spatial strategy.~~

~~3.43.2 The Council has now completed this review and this LDS is part of the Council's commitment to undertake a full update of the Local Plan.~~

~~3.53.3~~ The Council will continue to report on the effectiveness of the policies in the adopted Local Plan as part of the Annual Monitoring Report (AMR). The AMR will be published on an annual basis, which will allow the Council to keep communities and stakeholders informed of the progress in plan-making. The AMR will also include an assessment of whether the targets set out in the Monitoring Framework at Appendix 3 of the adopted Local Plan are being achieved.

#### Local Plan Timetable

~~3.63.4~~ The timetable for the Local Plan is set out in Appendix 2. The key stages in respect of this are summarised below:

- Preparation of Local Plan update (including monitoring of polices and updating the evidence base): Evidence gathering for Local Plan: **July 2023 onwards**. This is an ongoing process as the evidence base is developed and updated throughout the preparation of the Plan, and may be carried out up until its Submission to the Secretary of State;
- Outcome of the Plan Review reported to Council committees: **September 2023 - November 2023**;
- Informal/non-statutory engagement ~~and evidence review~~: **September 2023 - February-March 2024**.
- Early public and stakeholder engagement ~~—Issues and Options~~: **April-July 2024 – July-September 2024**. This is not a statutory stage in the process but ~~is proposed to~~ ensure s early engagement with local communities and key stakeholders.
- ~~Non-statutory consultation on methodologies for site assessment and other technical evidence~~: **September 2024 – October 2024**
- Public and stakeholder engagement - ~~Draft~~ Local Plan Issues and Options Formal Consultation (Regulation 18): **February 2026 – April 2026**. Consultation will take place over a 12-week period, however, the exact timeframe will be confirmed once the updates and review of the evidence base has been undertaken.
- Publication of the proposed submission (Pre-Submission) plan for representations (Regulation 19): **September 2027 – October 2027**. Consultation will take place over a minimum of 6-weeks, however, the exact timeframe will be confirmed once the representations made at Regulation 18 have been reviewed and any updates to evidence base has been undertaken.
- Submission of Plan to Secretary of State for Examination (Reg 22): **February 2028**
- Examination Period: **March 2028 – August 2028**. This is an externally led process, therefore, the Council has no direct control over timeframes. The Examination period identified aligns with the timescales being proposed by Government as part of changes to the plan making system.
- Inspector’s Report: **September 2028**
- Adoption: **December 2028**

3.73.5 It is important to note that the timeframe for the Examination of the Plan is indicative. This stage will be determined by the Planning Inspectorate and will therefore influence when the final adoption date of the Plan will occur.

3.83.6 The timetable has been produced with the best available information at the time of writing. The LDS timetable may be subject to change in response to changes in circumstances which are outside of the Council's control, for example, updates to national government policy and guidance and legislation; government decisions and announcements in relation to the delivery of significant infrastructure across the wider region, such as East-West Rail and the Bedford and Milton Keynes Waterway Park project; and a decision on the Universal Studios project.

3.9 — The Government have implemented a series of changes to the planning system, with the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act (2023) and the publication of the new National Planning Policy Framework in December 2024. Further known changes coming in 2025 include the Planning and Infrastructure Bill, a National Development Management Policies and updated guidance on Green Belt, viability, flood risk and climate change, for example. If there are unexpected changes to what is being proposed and how the new plan-making system will operate, there may be a need to review and update the LDS again. ~~published a White Paper on changes to the planning system in August 2020, which contained significant changes to the plan-making system. Many of these proposals have been taken forward and are set out within the recently published Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill (May 2022). In broad terms, it proposes changes to the form of Local Plans, the types of policies Local Plans could contain, the evidential and appraisal requirements informing Local Plans, the Duty to Cooperate, and the stages and timescales involved.~~

3.103.7 ~~The LDS takes account of what is being proposed as part of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill. However, if there are unexpected changes to what is being proposed and how the new plan-making system will operate, there may be a need to review and update the LDS again.~~

3.8 In terms of East-West Rail, the Autumn Statement in October 2024 ~~Autumn Statement in November 2022~~ recommitted to reconfirmed Government's transformative growth plans

for our railways, including the intention to deliver the remainder of the East West Rail project between Bletchley and Cambridge.

3.9 The Autumn Budget (2024) set out that government is prioritising the investment that matters most, which includes investment in transport – unlocking growth-enhancing schemes like East West Rail between Oxford, Milton Keynes and Cambridge, including funding to accelerate delivery of the Marston Vale Line ensuring services will run between Oxford and Bedford from 2030.

~~The Budget delivered by the Government in March 2023 further underlined the government’s commitment to the project. A further announcement was made in May 2023 and confirmed the proposals which will be taken forward for further development. These include:~~

- ~~● A preferred route alignment between Bedford and Cambridge, including new stations which would serve Tempsford and Cambourne, and a southern approach to Cambridge;~~
- ~~● Revised service frequencies along the line of route to best meet demand;~~
- ~~● Six-tracking of the Midland Mainline at Bedford to boost capacity and improve resilience;~~
- ~~● Relocation of Bedford St. John’s station to better serve Bedford Hospital;~~
- ~~● Potential level crossing changes and closures which account for increased EWR traffic but preserve public access; and~~
- ~~● The launch of a ‘need to sell’ property support scheme to help affected homeowners.~~

3.113.10 The East West Rail Company will consult further on its proposals as part of a statutory consultation ahead of an application for a Development Consent Order. This consultation is due to take place in 20254.

## Risk Assessment

~~3.123.11~~ An assessment has been carried out to identify factors which could impact on the delivery of the work programme set out in the LDS. The risks and actions to manage these risks are identified in Appendix 1.

## 4. Other relevant planning documents

4.1 The Local Plan is also supported by other local planning documents. This includes Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs), which provide additional guidance to Local Plan policies, and Technical Guidance documents. These documents and their status are identified in Table 1.

**Table 1: Other relevant planning documents**

Document	Scope	Status
<a href="#">Annual Monitoring Report (AMR)</a>	Monitors the implementation of both the Local Development Scheme and policies in the Local Plan.	Produced annually, covering the period April to March.
<a href="#">Design Guide SPD</a>	Supports Policy HQ1 of the Local Plan and sets out the design principles and standards to ensure developments are of the highest quality. The SPD is a material consideration in determining planning applications.	Adopted August 2023.
<a href="#">Electric Vehicle Charging: Guidance for New Development SPD</a>	The Council has created the Electric Vehicle Charging: Guidance for New Development SPD. The SPD sets out the requirements for electric vehicle charging points to be provided for all new developments and provides guidance on the types, design, layout and standards of electric vehicle charging, as well as the information	Adopted December 2022.

	that developers are required to provide at the planning application stage. The SPD is a material consideration in determining planning applications.	
<a href="#">Environmental Framework</a> (Technical Guidance)	Brings together studies, assessments and guidance documents covering the natural environment, sustainable resource management and the challenge of mitigating and adapting to Climate Change.	Adopted June 2016. Will be reviewed as part of the Local Plan evidence base review and updates may be required.
<a href="#">Forest of Marston Vale Design Guidance SPD</a>	The Council has created the Forest of Marston Vale: Design Guidance SPD in collaboration with Bedford Borough Council and the Forest of Marston Vale Trust. The SPD supports Policy EE9 of the Local Plan and sets out how the 30% tree cover requirement should be achieved in the Forest area. It provides specific guidance on the amount of trees required for different types and scales of development, the tree planting options available and design guidance to ensure the character of the Forest area is protected. The SPD is a material consideration in determining planning applications.	Adopted December 2022.
<a href="#">Housing Policy Technical Guidance SPD</a>	The Housing Policy Technical Guidance SPD provides further detail on how the housing policies within the	Adopted August 2023.

	Local Plan should be implemented, including details of what CBC are expecting from developers and how applications will be assessed. The SPD is a material consideration in determining planning applications.	
<a href="#">Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP)</a>	The IDP forms part of Central Bedfordshire Council's Local Plan evidence base. The purpose of the IDP is to set out the infrastructure that will be required to support the delivery of the allocated housing and employment growth through the Local Plan to 2035.	<del>Updated periodically as new information is available.</del> Last updated <del>April 2018</del> <u>June 2024</u> . <del>A further update is currently underway and will be published alongside the draft Planning Obligations SPD in Autumn 2023.</del> <u>The IDP will be reviewed alongside the new Local Plan.</u>
<a href="#">Leisure Strategy SPD</a>	The Leisure Strategy is a suite of facility-based strategies which look at the current and future provision of indoor sports and leisure centres, recreational open spaces, and outdoor sport. This is split into Chapter 1 – Indoor Leisure Facilities Strategy, Chapter 2 – Recreation and Open Space Strategy, and Chapter 3 – The Playing Pitch Strategy. The fourth chapter seeks to marry the facilities with the types of physical activities needed to support Central Bedfordshire's residents in pursuing a healthy active lifestyle.	Chapter 1: updated and adopted July 2021 Chapter 2: <del>to be reviewed</del> <u>is updated and adopted</u> 2023. Childrens Play Provision Guidance updated September 2022. Chapter 3: <del>currently being reviewed and updated with adoption expected by end 2023/early</del> <u>updated</u> 2024. Chapter 4: updated and adopted July 2021.

<p><a href="#">Local Transport Plan 3 (LTP3) 2011-2026</a></p>	<p>The Local Transport Plan sets out a long-term framework for investment in transport across Central Bedfordshire. It establishes a strategic approach through which to deal with key transport issues, a series of objectives, and broad areas of intervention through which schemes will be identified and improvements made to the transport network. The long-term approach of the Plan is supported by a shorter-term, three-year Implementation Plan, detailing specific initiatives and areas in which investment will be made.</p>	<p>Adopted 2011. This will be updated by LTP4 to include the latest guidance and aspirations for the area and is currently in progress.</p>
<p><a href="#">Masterplans and Development Briefs</a> (Technical Guidance)</p>	<p>Guides the development of specific allocated sites, to ensure that they meet the Plan’s objectives. They often include key principles, design guidance, and provide a masterplan which has been developed in consultation with residents.</p>	<p>Many of the larger scale sites allocated by the adopted Local Plan will require these, and some have already been prepared or are in the process of being prepared. The Local Plan includes Policy HQ9 which sets the thresholds for the preparation of Development Briefs, which would also apply to any windfall sites.</p>
<p><a href="#">Minerals and Waste Plan</a></p>	<p>The Minerals and Waste Local Plan will contain an overall vision which sets out how the area should develop in respect of minerals extraction and waste management developments. It will contain strategic objectives</p>	<p>To be reviewed (timetable to be confirmed).</p>

	<p>setting out how the Plan will implement the vision. As well as policies for the provision of sufficient minerals, waste recovery and disposal capacity, it will also identify strategic sites for both mineral extraction and waste management.</p>	
<p><a href="#">Parking Standards for New Developments SPD</a></p>	<p>The Parking Standards for New Developments SPD sets out the number of parking spaces required for different types of vehicles in both residential and commercial developments, as well as giving more comprehensive guidance on the types of parking that should and shouldn't be provided. The SPD is a material consideration in determining planning applications.</p>	<p>Adopted August 2023.</p>
<p><a href="#">Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)</a></p>	<p>Sets out the Council's approach to engaging with communities to inform plan making, as well as engagement within the development management and enforcement processes.</p>	<p>Adopted October 2022. The Local Plan will be accompanied by an Engagement Strategy, setting out how and when residents will have the opportunity to engage with and inform the Local Plan.</p>

## 5. Supporting Statement

- 5.1 This section explains the context for preparing the Local Plan as set out in the LDS. It also explains how the Council will manage resources and make decisions during the plan-making process.

## Links to Other Strategies and Plans

- 5.2 When preparing the new Local Plan, internal and external plans and strategies with spatial implications for the Council will be considered. This will ensure the strategic priorities contained in those plans and strategies, relating to the use and development of land within Central Bedfordshire, are integrated into the Local Plan. The Council will need to consider a range of Council plans and strategies such as, the Central Bedfordshire Economic Strategy: Building Local Prosperity, the Central Bedfordshire Sustainability Plan 2020-2030 ([refreshed in 2024](#)), and the Central Bedfordshire Vision 2050. The Council will also need to consider documents produced by external organisations and bodies, such as ~~the South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership (SEMLEP) and~~ England's Economic Heartlands (EEH).

## Joint Working

- 5.3 The Council has a legal requirement to engage with certain 'Prescribed Bodies' under the 'Duty to Cooperate' when preparing Local Plans which address strategic, cross-boundary matters. This includes engagement with ~~other~~ neighbouring ~~and Housing Market Area~~ Local Planning Authorities, and other statutory bodies, constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis.

~~5.4 The Levelling up and Regeneration Bill proposes to remove the Duty to Cooperate, although it will remain in place until those provisions come into effect. To secure appropriate engagement between authorities where strategic planning considerations cut across boundaries, the Government proposes to introduce an "alignment policy" as part of a future revised Framework. Further consultation on what should constitute the alignment policy is expected. Until details are announced, the Council will continue to engage under the Duty to Cooperate system.~~

## Resources

- ~~5.5~~5.4 The Strategic Growth team will have primary responsibility for preparing the Local Plan. Other specialist officers from within the Council will also be engaged to inform the evidence base and the development of policies.
- ~~5.6~~5.5 External consultants ~~may~~will be engaged on specific projects where it requires certain expertise or there is a lack of capacity within the Council.

## Reporting and decision-making procedures

5.75.6 The Local Plan process will be project managed by the Strategic Growth Programme Manager who will report on a regular basis to the Head of Strategic Growth. A Governance Strategy ~~will be~~ has been prepared, setting out the governance structure for the project. The Council's Corporate Management Team ~~and~~ the Leader of the Council ~~and~~ (as Executive Member for Planning ~~and Regeneration)~~ will be provided with progress reports as appropriate.

5.85.7 The Local Plan will be considered by ~~appropriate~~ Members at each stage. Full Council agreement will be required at key stages, including Publication and Adoption, in accordance with the Council's Constitution.

## Appendix 1 - Risk and Mitigation Management

Table 2: Risk and Mitigation Management

Risk	Comment	Likelihood / Impact	Mitigation Measures
Preparation of Local Plan to meet key project milestones.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Local Plan relies on substantial evidence on a range of issues, some of which is provided by external consultants and bodies.</li> <li>• Failure of key partners and other agencies to deliver evidence on time and make responses to key elements of the process.</li> <li>• The level of public engagement could prove greater than assumptions made, including new evidence submitted unexpectedly.</li> <li>• The quality of evidence base could be compromised and/or key milestones unable to be met.</li> <li>• Examination Process – ensure documents pass soundness and legal tests</li> </ul>	Medium / high Impact could be considerable.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor progress and give priority to achieving the key milestones set out in the LDS.</li> <li>• Provide resources and funding to complete evidence gathering. Encourage early engagement to secure evidence.</li> <li>• Build in flexibility in the programme to account for possible delays.</li> <li>• Consider drawing in additional resources, if necessary.</li> <li>• Reflect on lessons learnt from preparing previous development plans.</li> </ul>
Changes in national policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The NPPF and National Planning Practice Guidance</li> </ul>	Medium / high. Impact could	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Closely monitor new policy and guidance</li> </ul>

Risk	Comment	Likelihood / Impact	Mitigation Measures
<p>and legislation which require a significant alteration to Local Plan content and timetable</p>	<p>may be updated during the preparation of the Local Plan. The NPPF was most recently updated in <del>July 2021</del><u>December 2024</u>. The Planning Practice Guidance is updated regularly. Any changes to these documents will need to be considered.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The full details relating to changes to the planning system are still not yet confirmed, and additional Government consultations on <u>further</u> changes to the NPPF and National Development Management Policies is expected following the commencement of the Local Plan.</li> </ul>	<p>be considerable.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Build flexibility into the programme to enable any changes to be taken into consideration and reflected in the evidence base.</li> <li>Should changes to Government policy or the legislative framework impose additional requirements, and therefore additional time to resolve, an amendment to the Local Development Scheme will be prepared.</li> </ul>
<p>Staff resources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The need for additional staff resources may occur through sickness, staff turnover, difficulties in recruitment, or volume of work – both within the Strategic Growth Team and</li> </ul>	<p>Medium / high Impact could be considerable.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recruitment to commence as soon as the current post holder submits their notice (subject to available budget).</li> <li>Provide appropriate training to encourage staff</li> </ul>

Risk	Comment	Likelihood / Impact	Mitigation Measures
	<p>in other teams across the Council that input into the Local Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There may also be unforeseen pressures on staff time relating to other strategic workstreams, associated Planning reforms or strategic/regional consultations, for example.</li> </ul>		<p>retention and to upskill existing team members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider redeployment of suitable staff from other planning teams should opportunities arise to meet key targets and milestones.</li> <li>Consider recruitment incentives.</li> <li>Consider using consultants where specific expertise is required.</li> <li>Employ agency staff/consultants to cover periods of absence (subject to available budgets).</li> </ul>
Pressure on financial resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undertaking evidence studies, public consultation events and the formal Examination of the Local Plan requires significant financial resources.</li> <li>Any additional unforeseen costs would place a further burden on the budget.</li> </ul>	Low / medium. Impact could disrupt progress.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Close monitoring of the Local Plan budget and likely future commitments.</li> <li>Ensuring risks are raised during the budget monitoring process.</li> </ul>
Duty to Cooperate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><del>The LURB is proposing to remove the Duty to Cooperate, although it will remain in place until those</del></li> </ul>	Low / medium. Impact could disrupt progress.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><del>Until details are announced the Council will continue under the Duty to Cooperate system.</del></li> </ul>

Risk	Comment	Likelihood / Impact	Mitigation Measures
	<p><del>provisions come into effect.</del></p> <p><del>The requirements of the replacement “alignment policy” is uncertain.</del></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If the Council cannot demonstrate to the Examination Inspector it has complied with the Duty <u>to Cooperate</u>, the Local Plan will not be able to proceed further in the Examination process.</li> <li>• Engagement could slow down plan preparation if external stakeholders do not engage in a timely manner.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work closely with neighbouring local authorities in respect of the Duty to Cooperate on strategic priorities.</li> <li>• Appropriate ongoing engagement with statutory partners on identified Duty to Cooperate issues.</li> <li>• The preparation of Statements of Common Ground will identify strategic cross boundary issues and identify the mechanisms to address such issues, including the preparation of joint evidence if appropriate.</li> </ul>
Political Decision Making	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The political makeup and priorities of the Council may change over the duration of the preparation of the Local Plan.</li> <li>• With no party in overall control of the Council, there could be an impact on securing Full Council agreement/approval at key stages of the Local Plan.</li> </ul>	Medium / high. Impact could be considerable.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Internal Governance arrangements provide opportunities for Members to meet and discuss emerging policies and proposals with officers and senior management.</li> </ul>

Risk	Comment	Likelihood / Impact	Mitigation Measures
Neighbourhood Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Neighbourhood Plans progressing more quickly than the Local Plan resulting in the two parts of the development plan diverging, including the evidence base.</li> </ul>	Medium / high. Impact could be considerable.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engage with Neighbourhood Plan Groups to seek alignment as far as practicable.</li> <li>Emerging evidence base to take account of Neighbourhood Plans.</li> </ul>
Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are still some uncertainties around rail and road infrastructure, including the detailed timetable for the delivery of East-West Rail, upgrades to the A1, as well as other projects such as the BMK Waterway Park.</li> <li><del>Keep up to speed with the aspirations of the Oxford-Cambridge Partnership.</del></li> </ul>	Medium / high. Impact could be considerable.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engage with relevant infrastructure groups (EWR, DfT, National Highways, Homes England etc) and the <a href="#">Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG)</a> <del>Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC)</del>.</li> <li>Respond to consultations and keep up to speed with the latest programmes for strategic infrastructure delivery.</li> </ul>

## Appendix 2: Local Plan timetable





**Central  
Bedfordshire**

# **Central Bedfordshire in contact**

**Find us online:** [www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)

**Call:** 0300 300 8307

**Email:** [customers@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:customers@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)

**Write to:** Central Bedfordshire Council, Priory House,  
Monks Walk, Chicksands, Shefford, Bedfordshire SG17 5TQ