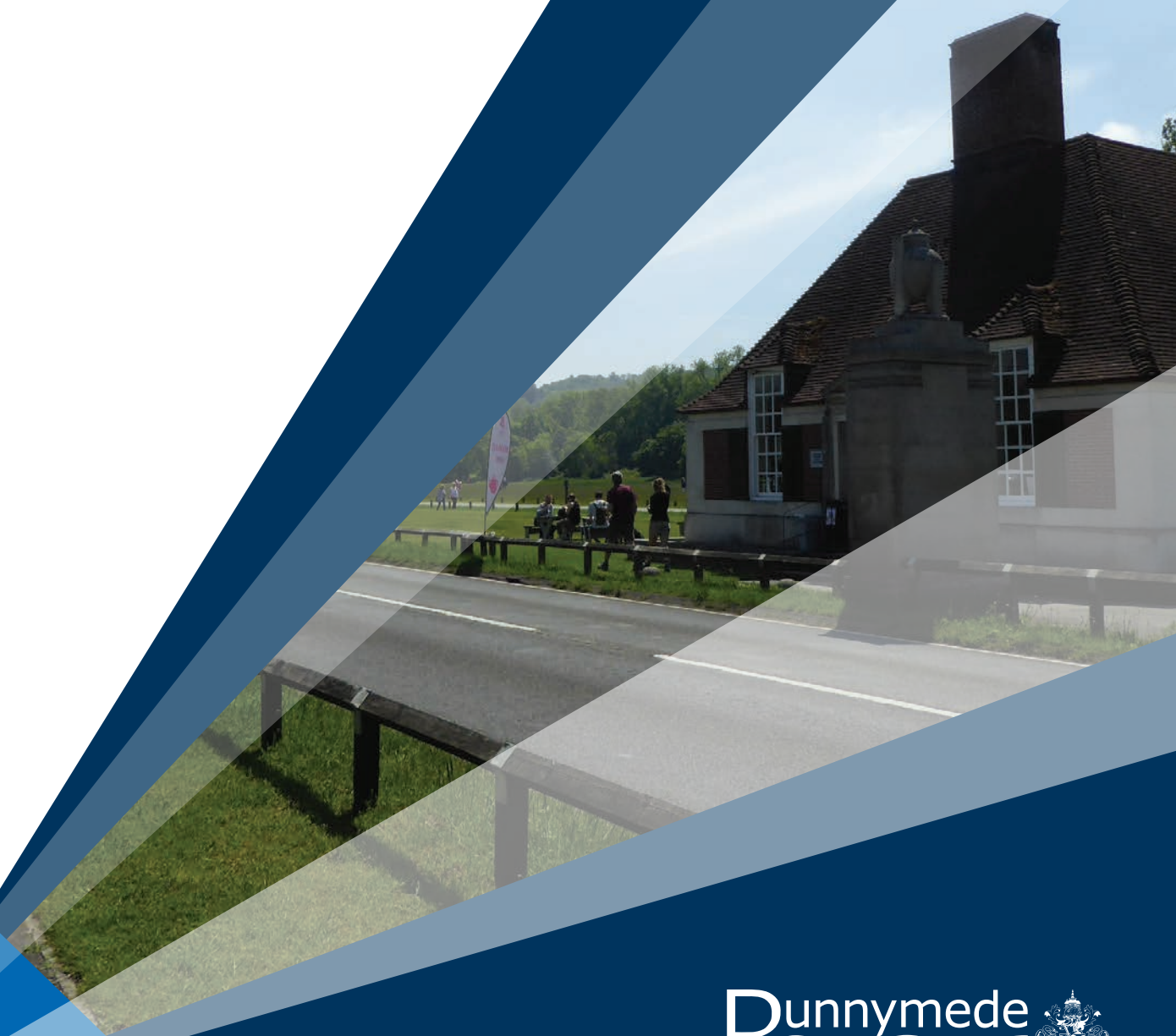


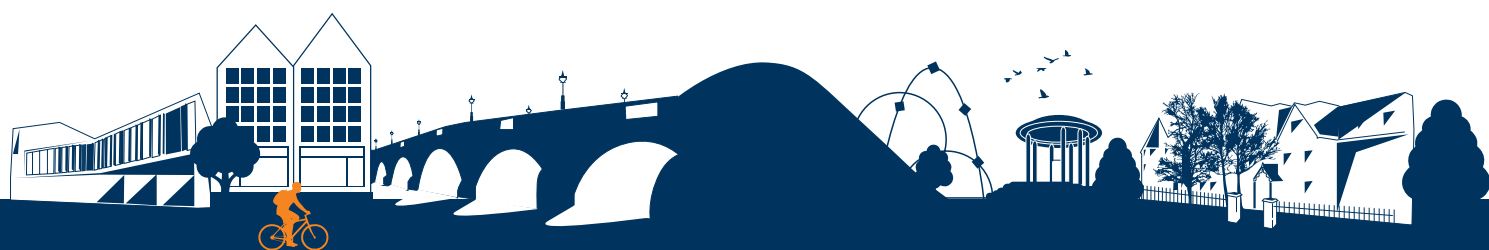
New Runnymede Local Plan

Strategic Cross Boundary
Matters Scoping Statement

July 2026



What should
Runnymede look like
in the **future?**



Strategic Cross-Boundary Matters Scoping Statement

To inform the new Runnymede Local Plan (July 2026)

1.0 Introduction, Background and Consultation

Introduction

- 1.1 The 'duty to co-operate' was introduced by the Localism Act 2011, with further guidance included in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2024) in the 'maintaining effective co-operation' section. It placed a legal duty on local planning authorities and county councils in England, and prescribed public bodies to engage constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis to maximise the effectiveness of local plan preparation in the context of strategic cross-boundary matters.
- 1.2 In November 2025, the Government published a Written Ministerial Statement (WMS) which made it clear that as part of its introduction of its new plan-making system, it had taken the decision not to 'save' the duty to co-operate, thereby removing this requirement for plans in the current system, and it also set out that the duty would cease to apply when the new Local Plan Regulations came into force in early 2026, including for plans at examination at that point in time.
- 1.3 In early March 2026 the Government published '[The Levelling Up and Regeneration Act commencement statutory instruments](#)'. Schedule 1 of the new regulations, which came into force on 25 March 2026, relates to "plan making saving and transitional provisions". This Schedule states in part 2(1)(a) that the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (PCPA) 2004 will continue to have effect ... except section 33A (duty to co-operate in relation to planning of sustainable development)".
- 1.4 This means that from 25 March 2026, the duty to co-operate has formally been revoked and replaced with the new "LURA-style" local plan system. However, this doesn't mean the need for plan makers to work collaboratively on cross-boundary and strategic issues disappears. Local planning authorities should continue to collaborate across their boundaries, including on unmet development needs from neighbouring areas, and Inspectors will continue to examine plans in line with the policies in the NPPF on 'maintaining effective co-operation'.
- 1.5 The new plan-making system is however more flexible and proactive in terms of this cross-boundary cooperation and instead of a strict legal test, the focus shifts to ensuring effective cooperation on cross-boundary issues. Local authorities will therefore still need to produce evidence that demonstrates that they are maintaining effective co-operation in line with the national policy requirements of the NPPF, and to produce robust evidence to demonstrate that effective co-operation on strategic matters of cross-boundary importance has been undertaken. It is however likely that under the new plan-making system there will be a greater focus on the need to produce Statements of Common Ground with key stakeholders on these key cross-boundary issues.
- 1.6 This Strategic Cross-Boundary Matters Scoping Statement sets out how Runnymede Borough Council intends to demonstrate in its evidence that it is maintaining effective co-operation on a range of cross-boundary issues in the new Local Plan for the Borough. It outlines which bodies the Council is proposing to engage with, and on what topics, and the ways in which it is proposing to engage with them.

- 1.7 This Statement should be read in conjunction with the Local Plan Engagement Strategy¹, which focuses on engagement activity with the general public and ‘general consultation bodies’ (e.g. voluntary groups and ‘hard-to-reach’ groups), on a range of local and more strategic issues (not exclusively strategic cross-boundary matters).

Background

- 1.8 The new plan-making system will rely on revised national policy, expected to be published in the form of a new NPPF later this year, and a new tier of strategic planning to ensure effective co-operation between plan-making authorities.
- 1.9 Details of the new tier of strategic planning authorities are beginning to emerge: the Devolution White Paper (published in December 2024) sets out the Government’s aim of achieving universal coverage of Strategic Authorities across England. One of the key roles of Strategic Authorities will be to produce or support the delivery of Spatial Development Strategies (SDS) in their areas. SDSs are intended to be a new mechanism for strategic planning across wider areas, and to help ensure strategic issues are addressed more effectively.
- 1.10 On the 12 February 2026, the Government published a non-statutory consultation on the proposed geographies for SDSs. The proposed Strategic Authority for Surrey covers the existing county area.
- 1.11 In addition to the creation of a new strategic tier of authority, the government are also proposing to reorganise local authorities. As announced by the Government on 5 February 2025, Surrey is on the accelerated programme for Local Government Reorganisation (LGR). This means that Surrey authorities will be at the forefront of this reorganisation.
- 1.12 As a result, on the 28 October 2025, the decision to implement two new unitary councils in Surrey was formally made by the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government. This decision, announced in a Written Statement to Parliament and letters to Council leaders, confirmed the creation of a two-unitary model (East and West Surrey) to replace the current county, district, and borough councils. The new unitary councils will formally take over all local services on 1 April 2027. Runnymede Borough Council will cease to exist, and the area will form part of the new West Surrey authority along with Spelthorne, Surrey Heath, Woking, Guildford and Waverley areas, and part of Surrey County Council.
- 1.12 Despite the abolition of the duty to co-operate there is clearly still a need for ongoing cross-boundary engagement with other local authorities and key stakeholder organisations as part of local plan production. It is also clear that those with whom we engage, including Runnymede Borough Council itself, are likely to change soon as part of the government’s reforms. These changes could well impact on the timescales/geography for plan-making for the Runnymede area, depending on when key changes are brought forward.
- 1.13 However, as it stands, the Council has adopted a new Local Plan timetable, and formally published its notice of intention to commence plan-making on 29 June 2026. Officers have therefore started work on various tasks as part of the ‘get ready’ stage of plan-making. Details of these activities are provided in Table 1 below.
- 1.14 As part of this process, it is considered important to produce a Strategic Cross-Boundary Matters Scoping Statement, as this forms part of the background evidence for the Local Plan and fulfils several important roles, notably it:

¹ Available at: www.runnymede.gov.uk/local-plan

- ensures the Council has identified all of the strategic issues which could affect the Borough and wider area at the earliest stage of plan preparation;
- sets out the framework for how Runnymede Borough Council will approach strategic cross-boundary engagement by identifying the authorities/bodies with which it will need to engage and the mechanism for that engagement (in broad terms);
- allows consultation with those authorities and bodies who may identify other issues, bodies or mechanisms for engagement that the Borough Council has not identified;
- provides a framework for future engagement whereby the Council will limit its consultation on strategic cross-boundary matters to the identified and agreed strategic issues and relevant local authorities, prescribed bodies and other key stakeholders.

1.15 This Strategic Cross-Boundary Matters Scoping Statement is therefore being produced in advance of the introduction of the new proposed introduction of reconfigured local authorities for cross-boundary co-operation. The Statement is, however, a live document and will be updated as and when needed.

Consultation

- 1.16 To ensure that Runnymede Borough Council is taking the correct approach to meeting its strategic cross-boundary obligations, the Council would like to hear from you if you consider that we haven't identified a strategic matter, a relevant authority/ body or that other processes/mechanisms for engagement would be more suitable than those outlined in this Statement.
- 1.17 The Statement has already been informed by targeted consultation with strategic partners, that took place in July-August 2025.
- 1.18 However, the Statement will also be made available as part of the new Runnymede Local Plan Scoping Consultation², where comments will be invited on it to inform the next iteration. Please provide, as part of your response, justification as to why you consider any alternative approaches should be taken; and please provide any evidence as to why the Council should engage with another authority / body on an identified / additional strategic matter.

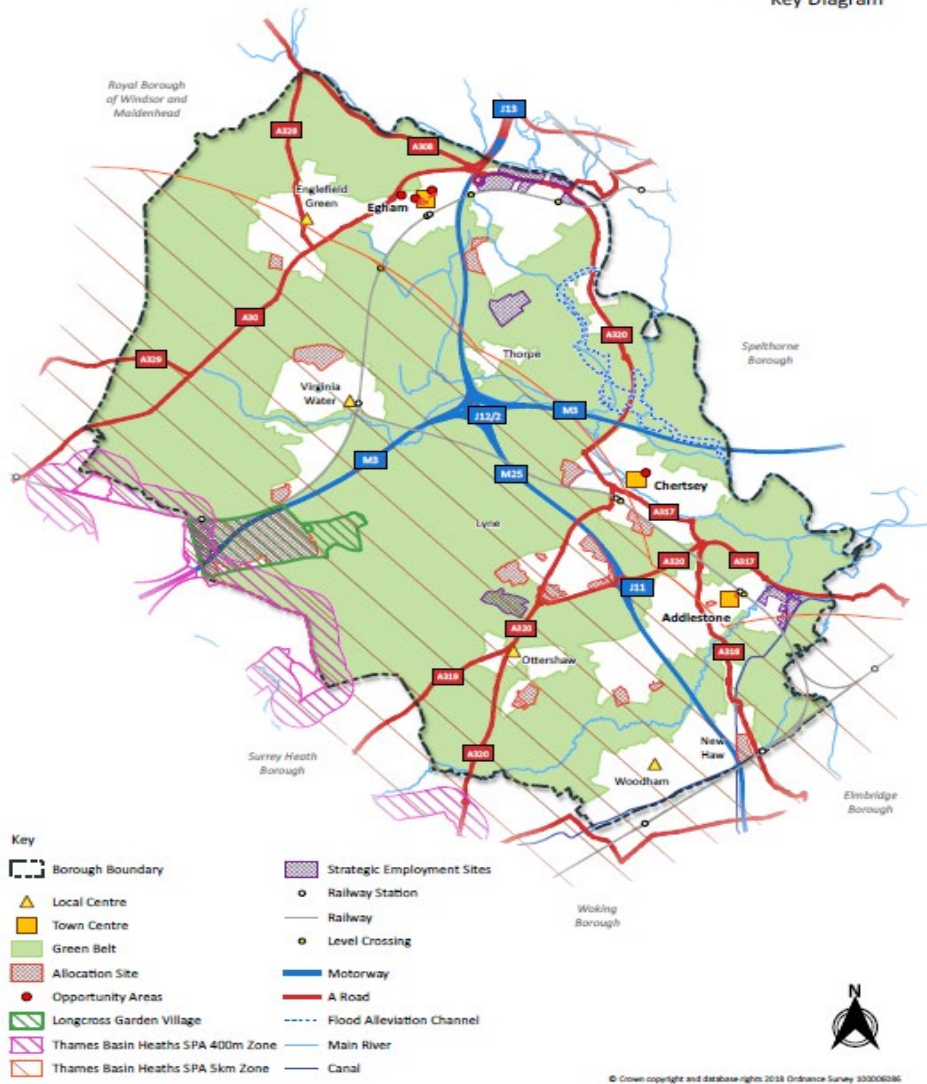
² Which will be hosted on the new Local Plan website: www.runnymede.gov.uk/local-plan

2.0 The Runnymede Context

Geographic Context

- 2.1 Runnymede is located in North West Surrey only twenty miles from Central London and is strategically located at the junction of the M25 and M3 motorways. It has excellent road and rail connections to the capital and by road to Heathrow Airport. There is good access to the wider South East Region by the motorway network and the Reading – Waterloo and Weybridge – Waterloo railway lines.
- 2.2 Runnymede is a small borough when compared with most of the other Surrey authorities, measuring only eight miles from north to south. Runnymede is home to approximately 88,000 residents (at the time of the 2021 Census) and contains the three main towns of Addlestone, Chertsey and Egham together with a range of other smaller settlements including Virginia Water, Woodham/New Haw, Englefield Green, Lyne, Longcross, Ottershaw and Thorpe. Approximately 74% of its area lies within the Metropolitan Green Belt, which makes the area an attractive location to live, work and visit.
- 2.3 Accessibility to London, Heathrow and Gatwick airports by rail and motorway makes Runnymede a highly desirable business location. The Borough has a strong local economic base with many commercial enterprises in the town centres, industrial estates, suburban business areas and business parks.
- 2.4 House prices are on average higher than in the rest of the South East, and similar to those in parts of London. The availability of affordable housing to meet local needs remains a key issue in the Borough.
- 2.5 Runnymede has a rich architectural and environmental heritage, having a range of Grades II, II* and I nationally listed buildings. The Borough also contains some important statutorily listed parks and gardens such as Great Fosters (Grade II*) and Savill Garden (Grade I) and several Scheduled Ancient Monuments, including the Bowl Barrows at Longcross, Chertsey Abbey and the hill fort and chapel at St Ann's Hill.

Runnymede Borough Key Diagram



- 2.6 The Borough also contains a number of nationally and internationally important nature conservation sites, including Windsor Forest and Great Park to the north west which is a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The Runnymede Meadows to the north of the Borough include an SSSI (Langham Pond), and the remainder is a Site of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCI). A small part of the Borough on its western side is also within 400 metres of Chobham Common SSSI, an integral unit of the TBHSPA. The Borough contains a number of Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspaces (SANGs) to encourage walkers and dog walkers away from the Special Protection Area (SPA). There are also two Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) at Chertsey Meads and the Riverside Walk at Virginia Water.
- 2.7 The Borough also has several ancient woodland sites and open spaces covering a number of categories including parks and gardens, allotments and cemeteries and churchyards.
- 2.8 Watercourses and lakes are a key characteristic of the Borough, with the River Thames running along the Borough's eastern boundary and the Basingstoke Canal forming the southeastern boundary. The River Wey, Addlestone Bourne and Chertsey Bourne run through the Addlestone and Chertsey areas of the Borough, and consequently much of the eastern side of the Borough is subject to flood risk. The water courses are all designated in parts as SNCI or SSSI. Recreationally, there are a number of water-based activities available in Runnymede including sailing, waterskiing, windsurfing, canal and

river boating and fishing. The Thorpe Park No. 1 Gravel Pit is a flooded former gravel pit, which is a SSSI and a Ramsar site. It is also an integral unit of the South West London Water Bodies SPA and is especially renowned for its wetland bird interest as it supports many wintering birds, including significant numbers of wintering Gadwall and Shoveler.

The New Local Plan Context

2.9 Paragraph 34 of the NPPF (2024) advises that “Policies in local plans and spatial development strategies should be reviewed to assess whether they need updating at least once every five years and should then be updated as necessary. Reviews should be completed no later than five years from the adoption date of a plan and should take into account changing circumstances affecting the area, or any relevant changes in national policy. Relevant strategic policies will need updating at least once every five years if their applicable local housing need figure has changed significantly; and they are likely to require earlier review if local housing need is expected to change significantly in the near future.”

2.10 The text in the NPPF responds to the legal requirement in Regulation 10A of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 to carry out such reviews. This regulation states,

“A local planning authority must review a local development document within the following time periods— a) in respect of a local plan, the review must be completed every five years, starting from the date of adoption of the local plan, in accordance with section 23 of the Act (adoption of local development documents).”

2.11 Regulation 23(5) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act referred to states;

‘A document is adopted for the purposes of this section if it is adopted by resolution of the authority.’

2.12 In Runnymede, the Council resolved to adopt the Runnymede 2030 Local Plan on 16 July 2020, meaning that the Council is required to review its Local Plan by 16 July 2025.

2.13 A comprehensive review of the Runnymede 2030 Local Plan policies was undertaken in-house by officers and the conclusions of this review were approved by members of the [Planning Committee on 23rd October 2024](#) (pages 67-80). The review concluded that at least a partial update is required to the Runnymede 2030 Local Plan. This review helps clarify likely areas of focus for the next, ‘new’ Local Plan.

2.14 As set out in the adopted Runnymede 2030 Local Plan, many of the policies contained in the Plan are considered strategic in that they set out an overarching strategy for the pattern, scale and quality of development and make sufficient provision for development (including housing etc), infrastructure, community facilities and the conservation and enhancement of the natural and built environment. The only policies that are not considered to be strategic are the following:

- SL19: Housing Mix and Size Requirements
- SL21: Presumption against loss of residential
- SL24: Self and Custom Build Housing
- SL25: Existing Open Space
- SL26: New Open Space
- SL27: Local Green space
- SL28: Playing Pitches
- EE4: Listed Buildings

- EE5: Conservation Areas
- EE6: Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest
- EE7: Scheduled Ancient Monuments, County Sites of Archaeological Importance (CSAIs) and Areas of High Archaeological Potential (AHAPs)
- EE8: Locally Listed and other Non-Designated Heritage Assets
- EE14: Extensions and Alterations to and Replacement of Buildings in the Green Belt
- EE15: Re-use of Buildings in the Green Belt
- EE16: Outdoor Sport and Recreation in the Green Belt
- EE17: Infilling or Redevelopment on Previously Developed Land in the Green Belt
- EE18: Engineering Operations in the Green Belt
- EE19: Change of Use of Land in the Green Belt
- IE12: Town Centre Opportunity Areas
- IE13: Local Centres

2.15 Work on the new Runnymede Local Plan and the stages involved in producing it, are set out in the adopted [Local Plan timetable](#). This timetable was approved at the [Planning Committee](#) on 25 February 2026, but is reviewed every month. This timetable updates the earlier one, produced in September 2025, and considers the fact that the government's introduction of the new plan-making system didn't occur quite as quickly as had initially been expected. The work on the new Local Plan will be broken down into several stages, illustrated in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Approved timetable for the preparation of the new Local Plan³

Stage	Activity	Indicative Start: Month/Year	Indicative End: Month/Year
Get ready	Developing project management process and structure, governance risk register and ensuring resources are in place to begin the project	01/09/2025	29/05/2026
Get ready	Scoping, collating and procuring early evidence and scoping strategic environmental assessment	01/03/2025	10/07/2026
Get ready	Scoping and production of an engagement strategy/Councillor and key internal and external stakeholder briefings/ early engagement about forthcoming plan production (Local Plan Scoping consultation to occur in September/October 2026 for 6 weeks).	01/08/2025	30/10/2026
Get ready	(Statutory) Notice of intention to start plan making	01/06/2026	30/06/2026
Get ready	Call for sites and initial site assessment process (Call for sites took place between Wednesday 17 September 2025 until Sunday 19 October 2025).	17/09/2025	31/03/2026
Get ready	Procuring Strategic Environmental Assessment	01/03/2026	30/06/2026
Get ready	Gateway 1 (Self-Assessment)/Commencement of plan-making	01/10/2026	30/10/2026
Prepare the Plan	Prepare Vision and Strategy for consultation feeding in emerging evidence	20/10/2026	31/05/2027
Prepare the Plan	Strategic Environmental Assessment Scoping Consultation (note statutory minimums)	07/09/2026	19/10/2026
Prepare the Plan	Public consultation on Vision and Strategy (note statutory minimums)	01/06/2027	13/07/2027
Prepare the Plan	Development of draft plan including responding to consultation and any further evidence gathering	14/07/2027	04/04/2028
Prepare the Plan	Councillor and key internal and external stakeholder briefings/ early engagement about next stage of plan production	01/09/2027	01/03/2028

³ The timetable displayed on this page is correct as of 24 April 2026. However, the timetable is reviewed monthly, and updated as appropriate. The latest timetable is available at: www.runnymede.gov.uk/local-plan/localplantimetable

Stage	Activity	Indicative Start: Month/Year	Indicative End: Month/Year
Prepare the Plan	Gateway 2 (PINS)	01/11/2028	13/12/2028
Prepare the Plan	Deadline for submission of plan and supporting documents for committee approval (indicative)	05/03/2028	05/03/2028
Prepare the Plan	Public consultation (8 weeks) on Local Plan	05/04/2028	31/05/2028
Prepare the Plan	Gateway 3 (PINS)	01/08/2028	12/09/2028
Examination	Plan Submission	30/09/2028	30/09/2028
Examination	Independent Examination (Indicative)	01/10/2028	31/03/2029
Adoption	Plan adoption (Indicative)	01/04/2029	30/04/2029

3.0 Consultation Bodies

Identifying which authorities and bodies Runnymede Borough Council should engage with on Strategic Cross-Boundary Matters

3.1 [The Town and Country Planning \(Local Planning\) \(England\) Regulations 2026](#) sets out that when the Council publishes its notice of intention to commence local plan preparation, the authority must invite those set out in Regulation (2) to make representations to the local planning authority about:

- i. such matters relevant to the preparation of the local plan as the authority consider appropriate, including what the plan should contain, and
- ii. how the authority should engage with them in the preparation of the local plan (Regulation 20).

3.2 Regulation 2 of the Town & County Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026 sets out what is meant by 'general consultation bodies' and 'specific consultation bodies'. Local authorities need to consider which of the 'general consultation bodies' are appropriate for consulting on the Local Plan and which of the 'specific consultation bodies' may have an interest in the preparation of the local plan (as set out in Regulation 20 (2)(a)(b)).

3.3 General consultation bodies include:

- (a) voluntary bodies, some or all of whose activities benefit all or part of the planning authority's area;
- (b) bodies which represent the interests of persons in the planning authority's area who share a protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010(9);
- (c) bodies which represent the interests of persons carrying on business in the planning authority's area;

3.4 Specific consultation bodies include:

- (a) Active Travel England
- (b) Any person – (i) to whom the electronic communications code applies as a result of a direction given under section 106 (3) (a) of the Communications Act 2003, and (ii) who owns or controls electronic communications apparatus situated in the planning authority's area;
- (c) Canal & River Trust
- (d) The Civil Aviation Authority
- (e) The Coal Authority
- (f) The English Sports Council
- (g) The Environment Agency
- (h) The Forestry Commission
- (i) A highway authority within the meaning in section 1 of the Highways Act 1980, any part of whose area is in or adjoins the planning authority's area (including the Secretary of State, where the Secretary of State is the highways authority);
- (j) The Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England;
- (k) The Homes and Communities Agency
- (l) If it exercises functions in the planning authority's area –
 - (i) an integrated care board established under Chapter A3 of Part 2 of the National Health Service Act 2006,

- (ii) (ii) a person to whom a licence has been granted under section 6 (1) (b) or (c) of the Electricity Act 1989 (licences authorising supply, etc.),
- (iii) (iii) a person to whom a licence has been granted under section 7 (2) of the Gas Act 1986 (licensing of public gas transporters),
- (iv) (iv) a sewerage undertaker appointed under section 6 (1) of the Water Industry Act 1991, and
- (v) (v) a water undertaker appointed under section 6(1) of the Water Industry Act 1991;
- (m) An Integrated Transport Authority for an integrated transport area within the meaning in section 77 (1) of the Local Transport Act 2008, which is in or adjoins the planning authority's area;
- (n) The Marine Management Organisation;
- (o) Natural England
- (p) A neighbourhood forum any part of whose area is in or adjoins the planning authority's area;
- (q) Network Rail Infrastructure Limited;
- (r) The Office for Nuclear Regulation
- (s) The Office of Rail and Road;
- (t) Where the planning authority are a London borough or any part of their area adjoins Greater London, Transport for London;
- (u) A relevant consultation body any part of whose area is in or adjoins the planning authority's area,
- (v) Where the planning authority are a London borough council, the Mayor of London;
- (w) Where the planning authority are not responsible for discharging education functions in their area, the local authority with that responsibility;
- (x) Where the planning authority are not the lead local flood authority for their area, that lead local flood authority;
- (y) The responsible authority for a local nature recovery strategy that relates to all or part of the planning authority's area appointed under section 105 (2) of the Environment Act 2021, where that authority is not the planning authority.

What does this mean for Runnymede?

- 3.5 In terms of which local authorities Runnymede Borough Council should be engaging with in its strategic cross-boundary work, these are authorities that share a border with Runnymede. Surrey County Council should also be contacted as the Highway Authority, Education Authority, and in their role as Lead Local Flood Authority, until such time as these responsibilities pass to West Surrey Council.
- 3.6 Heathrow Airport is recognised as having a significant economic influence upon Runnymede and the surrounding area. The recent announcement (January 2025) to seek to build a third runway at Heathrow Airport will therefore have a significant impact on the Borough.
- 3.7 For Runnymede Borough Council, it is considered that:
- (b) Mobile UK – includes mobile network operators;
 - (l)(i) the NHS Surrey and Sussex Integrated Care Board (ICB) and the NHS Thames Valley ICB cover Runnymede;
 - (l)(ii) Scottish and Southern Energy Networks – have appointed Regen to help with future scenario planning and UK Power Networks (which covers the other half of the Borough);
 - (l)(iii) Cadent Gas/ Scotia Gas Networks Limited and Southern Gas Networks plc cover the Borough;
 - (l)(iv) Thames Water is the sewerage undertaker for Runnymede;
 - (l) (v) Thames and Affinity Water supply water in the Borough;
 - (n) the Marine Management Organisation is not relevant for Runnymede;

- (y) the responsible body for the local nature recovery strategy is the Surrey Nature Partnership.

3.8 Please note that the Council's Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) (March 2021)⁴ sets out how the Council intends to engage with the community throughout the preparation of the Local Plan and so this issue will not be discussed further in this Statement. However, the Planning Policy Team is undertaking an exercise to update its list of general consultation bodies to invite to respond to the Scoping Consultation.

Runnymede Borough Council and bodies and forums dealing with cross-boundary issues

3.9 The Council is a member of several bodies and forums which deal with cross-boundary issues. The purpose of some of the groups is primarily for sharing information rather than the discussion of cross-boundary issues. The list in Table 2 below sets out the bodies and forums that Runnymede is a member of or, has been a member of if the group has disbanded recently. While the entire list cannot be relied upon to meet the cross-boundary requirements, they are included as they provide an ongoing framework for maintaining awareness of cross-boundary issues to the participants:

Table 2: Bodies and forums of which RBC is currently or was a member

Partnership/ Working Group	Authorities/ Organisations involved	Purpose
Planning Head of Planning (SHOP)	All Surrey Heads of Planning	To discuss and resolve cross boundary policy issues, share relevant information and experience.
Surrey Leaders Group ⁵	Surrey County Council and all Surrey local authority leaders	Cross boundary issues.
Surrey Planning Working Group	Surrey County Council and planning policy officers from all Surrey local authorities attend.	To discuss and share information about cross boundary policy issues and experience.
Surrey Infrastructure Steering Group	Core membership of borough and district authorities and county council Directors of Place.	Cross boundary issues relating to the promotion, co-ordination and unblocking the barriers to the provision of infrastructure in the County.
Thames Basin Heaths JSPB member and officer meetings for Runnymede	Councillor and officer representatives from all affected local authorities and County Councils as well as Natural England.	The Officer Group co-ordinates the strategic policy approaches of mitigating and managing the impacts of development on the SPA. It provides information to the JSPB for strategic decision making.

⁴ [Statement of Community Involvement \(SCI\) – Runnymede Borough Council](#)

⁵ In the past the Council has also been part of a Leader's group to consider the review of the London Plan. This group might well be reestablished should work on the review of the London Plan take place.

Partnership/ Working Group	Authorities/ Organisations involved	Purpose
Heathrow Strategic Planning Group and various associated working groups	Voluntary partnership of local authorities in the area surrounding Heathrow Airport.	The group is engaged in planning for the development of the sub-region and ensuring that the airport is operated and developed in a way that is well planned and sustainable for the communities that live around it.
Joint Infrastructure Group with Surrey County Council	Runnymede Borough Council and Surrey County Council.	Provides a forum for joint prioritisation of infrastructure projects and advice on CIL bidding from RBC officers.
Surrey Health and Planning Forum	Includes representatives from Surrey County Council, Integrated Care Boards, Surrey local authorities.	The Forum aims to strengthen links across planning and health teams. Networking Group that reports to the Health and Wellbeing Board.
North West Surrey Health and Care Alliance	Local health and care organisations and Surrey local authorities.	Place based partnership working together to improve the health, wellbeing and happiness of those living and/or working in the boroughs of Woking, Runnymede, Elmbridge and Spelthorne.
Surrey Enhanced Partnership Stakeholder Reference Group	SCC, bus operators, local community representatives and borough & district officers.	The Enhanced Partnership is the legal mechanism by which SCC and bus operators can make changes to bus services and infrastructure to increase bus use. The Stakeholder Reference Group provides feedback on behalf of bus users and plays a 'critical friend' role.
Participation in the Affinity Water LPA Engagement Programme	Network operator and local authority representatives.	Sharing information to understand local capacity, future development scenarios and network planning.
Participation in UK Power Networks' Distribution Systems Operator (DSO) Regional Engagement Programme	Network operator (including a dedicated Local Net Zero team) and local authority representatives.	Sharing information to understand local capacity, future development scenarios and network planning.
Participation in SSEN Distribution Future Energy Scenarios Programme	Network operator and local authority representatives.	Sharing information to understand local capacity, future development scenarios and network planning.

Partnership/ Working Group	Authorities/ Organisations involved	Purpose
Participation in the Water Resources Forum (Thames Water & Affinity Water)	Water Resources South East, six water companies in the South East region, multi-sector stakeholders.	Engagement to inform the development of the statutory Water Resources Management Plan.
Participation in Transport for the South East Engagement Programme	Partnership of 16 local authorities, representatives of district and borough authorities, protected landscapes and national delivery agencies, and other stakeholders.	Sub-national transport body for the South East. Works with stakeholders to determine what investment is needed to transform the region's transport system and drive economic growth.
Ofgem Regional Energy Strategic Plan (RESP) consultation events	Ofgem RESP Team and local authority representatives.	Collaboration to ensure Regional Energy Strategic Plans inform spatial and local energy plans.
Participation in the Surrey Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP) stakeholder events	Includes representatives from Surrey County Council, Surrey local authorities, and other stakeholders.	Collaboration to inform the development of the Surrey LAEP, which may have implications for spatial planning.

Strategic matters of relevance to plan-making in Runnymede and their geographic extent

3.10 The 2024 NPPF sets out (in paragraph 20) four strategic policy areas for setting out an overall strategy for the pattern, scale and design quality of places and making sufficient provision for:

“a) homes (including affordable housing), employment, retail, leisure and other commercial development;

b) infrastructure for transport, telecommunications, security, waste management, water supply, wastewater, flood risk and coastal change management, and the provision of minerals and energy (including heat);

c) community facilities (such as health, education and cultural infrastructure); and

d) conservation and enhancement of the natural, built and historic environment, including landscapes and green infrastructure, and planning measures to address climate change mitigation and adaptation.”

3.11 It then sets out, in the following paragraph, that Local Plans should make explicit which policies are strategic policies and that “these should be limited to those necessary to address the strategic priorities of the area (and any relevant cross-boundary issues).

3.12 Runnymede Borough Council used this section of the NPPF as a starting point for identifying the following potential cross-boundary strategic planning matters that should be discussed with relevant authorities and bodies⁶. These are set out below:

Housing and Economic Needs

⁶ See section 3 above.

Matter 1: Meeting Housing Needs

Matter 2: Meeting needs for gypsies and travellers and travelling showpeople

Matter 3: Delivering economic growth needs, including retail

Natural and Historic Environment

Matter 4: Thames Basin Heath Special Protection Area

Matter 5: Natural and Historic Environment

Matter 6: Flooding

Infrastructure

Matter 7: Transport

Matter 8: Social infrastructure including healthcare and education

Matter 9: Utilities including water and waste water

Climate Change

Matter 10: Climate Change

Other Strategic Matters

Matter 11: Green Belt and Grey Belt

Matter 12: Minerals and Waste

4.0 Details of Strategic Matters, Relevant Bodies and Engagement Methods

- 4.1 The following tables set out further detail on each of these strategic matters, and identifies what the Council believes to be the relevant bodies and organisations for each matter. It should be noted that whilst the Council considers that all those bodies listed may have an interest in one or more strategic matters in relation to plan-making activity in Runnymede, some bodies may have a critical role to play in ensuring that effective outcomes are achieved. This will be highlighted in further detail as appropriate in the Strategic Cross-Boundary Compliance Statement to be published alongside later versions of the Local Plan and following ongoing discussions with partner authorities and bodies.

Housing and Economic Needs

Matter 1: Meeting Housing Needs	The Council recognises that both the scale and distribution of housing development are key strategic issues for the Borough and its neighbouring authorities. It is important to consider issues relating to housing need and supply at a wider spatial scale than single authorities. This is one of the key reasons that the Government is committed to a plan-led system which involves more engagement and decision taking at a strategic level. The National Planning Policy Framework is clear that “effective strategic planning across local planning boundaries will play a vital and increasing role in how sustainable growth is delivered, by addressing key spatial issues including meeting housing needs...”⁷ As set out in the report above, the proposed geography of the new Strategic Authority is that the existing Surrey boundary will form the basis for the new Strategic Authority. However, it is likely to be some time before a Spatial Development Strategy is developed for the area. It is clear from the updated version of the Planning Practice Guidance for Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessments that the updated standard method for calculating housing need should be used to assess housing needs until such time as a spatial development strategy is published⁸. The standard method for assessing local housing need identifies an overall minimum average annual housing need figure but doesn’t break this down into the housing need of individual groups. The housing needs of specific groups will be included in the Runnymede Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment (HEDNA) report. This report is published on the new Local Plan website⁹.
Who is involved?	Local authorities Elmbridge Borough Council Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Spelthorne Borough Council Surrey County Council – Adult Social Care Team and Spatial Planning Team Surrey Heath Borough Council Woking Borough Council Other bodies Anglian Water Greater London Authority (GLA) Homes England Network Rail NHS Surrey and Sussex ICB NHS Thames Valley ICB Thames Water

⁷ Para. 24 of the NPPF (2024).

⁸ Para. 013 of the Planning Practice Guidance.

⁹ Available at: www.runnymede.gov.uk/planning-policy/2030-local-plan-review-evidence-base-documents/2

Methods for Engagement	-Meetings / discussions with relevant local authorities and bodies during the preparation of the HEDNA. -Request comments from local authorities and relevant bodies on the HEDNA and alongside the two consultation stages on the updated Local Plan. -Meetings / discussions / correspondence (verbal and email) with relevant authorities / bodies at officer level, and at Member level, if necessary, and when appropriate as housing strategy and policies are being developed. -Opportunity for written comments to be made on proposed evidence, allocations and policies during the public consultation stages of the Local Plan; and -Stakeholder events as appropriate.
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Matter 2: Meeting needs for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople	In preparing a new Local Plan, the Council will develop an evidence base assessing the needs of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople over the expected duration of the next Plan period (potentially up to 2043). This will necessitate contacting adjoining local authorities during the preparation of this evidence. Subject to the findings of this evidence and the opportunities to find additional sites (if required) within the Borough, the Council may need to work with neighbouring authorities if need cannot be wholly met within the Borough. The aim of such discussions would be to identify whether any of Runnymede's neighbours may be able to assist with accommodating any unmet needs arising from the borough.
Who is involved?	Local authorities Elmbridge Borough Council Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Spelthorne Borough Council Surrey Heath Borough Council Surrey County Council Woking Borough Council Other bodies Friends, Families and Travellers Surrey Community Action Greater London Authority (GLA) Homes England Network Rail Showmen's Guild of Great Britain Surrey Gypsy Traveller Communities Forum
Methods for Engagement	- Meetings / discussions with relevant local authorities and bodies during the preparation of the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA); -Request comments from local authorities and relevant bodies on draft GTAA; - Meetings / discussions / correspondence (verbal and email) with relevant authorities / bodies at officer level, and at Member level as appropriate as strategy and policies related to Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople are being developed; -Opportunity for written comments on proposed evidence, allocations and policies during the public consultation stages of the Local Plan; and,

	-Meetings with the with relevant local authorities and bodies to discuss issues arising in relation to travellers as appropriate.
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Matter 3: Meeting economic growth needs, including retail	The scale and distribution of economic growth and economic growth needs is another key strategic issue for the Borough and its neighbouring authorities, and one that is very closely linked to housing growth. As with housing, economic growth needs will be included as part of the HEDNA report. As part of this work, the role of sectors and sites in the Borough that have a wider than local impact will need to be considered with relevant partners at a wider spatial scale. The Devolution White Paper, published by the Government in December 2024, as previously referred to in para. 1.9 above sets out that there should be a particular focus when considering the geographies of Strategic Authorities on functional economic areas. As part of the evidence produced to inform the adopted Runnymede 2030 Local Plan, the Council considered the geographic extent of the functional economic market (FEA).¹⁰ This report concluded that overall, given the strength of transport links in and out of Runnymede, the Borough is most likely to sit on the edges of two different FEAs. The northern part of the Borough is considered to sit within a wider FEA which focuses on Heathrow airport at its centre. The boroughs that Runnymede has the strongest relationships with within this Heathrow centred FEA are Spelthorne, Hounslow and Hillingdon. It is these three authorities that it is recommended that Runnymede engages with as it progresses its economic work. Some links with the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead have also been found although overall this authority is considered to have stronger links elsewhere and be in a different FEA to Runnymede. The same can be said for Bracknell Forest. In terms of the southern parts of the Borough, the report concluded that the Addlestone and Chertsey areas are considered to sit on the edge of a South West London/M3/A3 corridor market. Again, the extent of this wider FEA is considered to cover a substantial geographical area stretching to Reigate to the south, Croydon to the east and Guildford to the south west. Whilst these areas undoubtedly have some links to Runnymede due to the existing transport network, the report didn't identify that Runnymede benefits from any strong links with these authorities. The analysis carried out indicated that in this wider FEA, Runnymede had the strongest links with Woking and Elmbridge and as such it is these authorities that it recommended that Runnymede engages with as it progresses its economic work. The Council is expected to refresh its Functional Economic Area (FEA) analysis as part of the HEDNA report. If differing conclusions are drawn to those described above (following consultation being carried out on any draft findings), then the list of partners below will be amended accordingly.
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¹⁰ [Functional Economic Area Analysis \(June 2015\)](#)

	The Heathrow Strategic Planning Group (HSPG) produced a Joint Evidence Base and Infrastructure Study in 2018 for member local authorities surrounding Heathrow (including Runnymede, Spelthorne, Slough BC, LB Hounslow, LB Ealing, Surrey County Council and Buckinghamshire Council). The study analysed the potential economic development and labour market arising from possible expansion of Heathrow Airport and explored how this related to the background growth for which the authorities were planning at this time. The Group is currently looking to update this evidence and is also producing a Joint Spatial Planning Framework (JSPF). This document seeks to provide an overarching flexible spatial framework for the sub-region over the next 30 years. The Council has recently updated the Retail and Main Town Centre Uses Study¹¹. This document assesses both the quantitative and qualitative need for new retail (comparison and convenience goods) floorspace and commercial leisure uses. Whilst there may be some cross-boundary issues arising (in terms of the need / provision of new floorspace), many of the recommendations / policy impacts are Runnymede-specific when it comes to retail.
Who is involved?	Local authorities Bracknell Forest Elmbridge Borough Council London Borough of Hillingdon London Borough of Hounslow Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Spelthorne Borough Council Surrey Heath Borough Council Surrey County Council Woking Borough Council Other bodies Civil Aviation Authority Greater London Authority (GLA) Heathrow Airport Holdings Network Rail Chambers of Commerce
Methods for Engagement	-Meetings / discussions with relevant local authorities and bodies during the preparation of the evidence (HEDNA, SLAA and Retail and Main Town Centre Uses Study in particular); -Request comments from local authorities and relevant bodies on draft evidence (including on the methodologies to be used where appropriate); - Meetings / discussions / correspondence (verbal and email) with the relevant authorities / bodies at officer level, and at Member level as appropriate as strategy and policies are being developed; -Opportunity for written comments on proposed evidence, allocations and policies during the public consultation stages of the local plan; and,

¹¹ Main report and updated addendum available at: www.runnymede.gov.uk/planning-policy/2030-local-plan-review-evidence-base-documents/3

	-Engagement through the Surrey Heads of Planning (SHOP) and engagement through joint working groups or other co-operative work with other partners.
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Natural and Historic Environment

Matter 4: Thames Basin Heath Special Protection Area	The Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area (TBHSPA) is located beyond the western boundary of the Borough and comprises areas of heathland protected by international and national legislation as a natural habitat for the internationally important bird species of woodlark, nightjar and Dartford Warbler. The TBHSPA covers eleven local authorities. New housing development is considered to have a likely significant effect on the heathland birds and a consistent package of avoidance and mitigation measures for the delivery of new housing needs is in place across the affected authorities. There are well established co-operation mechanisms through both an officer working group and a Joint Members Strategic Partnership Board which includes Natural England. Agreed avoidance and mitigation measures are set out in the Thames Basin Heaths Delivery Framework 2009 and saved South East Plan Policy NRM6. One element of mitigation is the delivery of Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG). As opportunities for SANG within the Borough are limited, joint working with other authorities, to explore possibilities such as shared SANG, may be required to enable house building within the Borough. A key issue is that as new housing development is judged to have a likely significant effect on the birds that have made the SPA their habitat, a consistent package of mitigation measures for the delivery of new housing must be in place across the 11 affected authorities to ensure that new housing in the 400m-5km zone of influence can continue to be permitted over the Plan period. It should be noted that currently agreed measures are in place by way of saved South East Plan Policy NRM6¹², Policy EE10 of the Runnymede 2030 Local Plan and¹³ the TBHSPA Delivery Framework.¹⁴
Who is involved?	Local authorities - Bracknell Forest Borough Council - Elmbridge Borough Council - Guildford Borough Council - Hampshire County Council - Hart District Council - Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead - Rushmoor Borough Council - Surrey County Council - Surrey Heath Borough Council - Waverley Borough Council

¹² [ARCHIVED CONTENT] (nationalarchives.gov.uk)

¹³ [Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area – Runnymede Borough Council](#)

¹⁴ [Supplementary Planning documents and other guidance – Runnymede Borough Council](#)

	Woking Borough Council Wokingham Borough Council Other bodies Environment Agency Natural England National Highways (how their infrastructure will cope in heatwaves / flood events etc) Surrey Nature Partnership Surrey Wildlife Trust
Methods for Engagement	-Discussions on the TBHSPA will take place at Member level through the TBHSPA Joint Strategic Planning Board meetings, and at officer level through the TBHSPA Officer Working Group and Strategic Access Management and Monitoring (SAMM) Group meetings; - Meetings / discussions / correspondence (verbal and email) with neighbouring authorities / relevant bodies at officer level, and at Member level if necessary (and when appropriate) as strategy and policies are being developed; and, -Opportunity for written comments on proposed evidence, allocations and policies during the public consultation stages of the Local Plan.

Matter 5: Natural and Historic Environment	Habitats and ecological networks cross local authority boundaries and therefore require co-operation – see also Matter 4. The Borough contains a variety of sites of biodiversity and nature conservation importance including Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)¹⁵, Ramsar sites¹⁶, Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCI)¹⁷, Local Nature Reserves (LNR) and Ancient Woodlands¹⁸. The Borough's River systems and waterways also have an especially important role to play in nature conservation by providing natural habitat linkages via multi habitat wildlife corridors. A number of these valued areas of nature conservation could be impacted by delivering the Borough's housing needs, either through the direct development of these sites; through reducing the connectivity of nature by removing valuable green corridors; or if the increase in population has a significant negative impact on the conservation of these areas. Therefore, if appropriate mitigation is not put in place or new development is permitted which adversely affects protected sites, they could become threatened. The introduction of the Environment Act 2021 brings with it a mandatory requirement for development to meet a minimum 10% Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG). The mandatory BNG requirement came into effect in February 2024 for major sites and April 2024 for minor sites and can be delivered on-site, off-site through contributing towards local projects or through
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¹⁵ [Special Areas of Conservation \(jncc.gov.uk\)](https://jncc.gov.uk/)

¹⁶ [Ramsar Sites | JNCC - Adviser to Government on Nature Conservation](https://jncc.gov.uk/)

¹⁷ [Surrey Local Sites Partnership \(surreynaturepartnership.org.uk\)](https://surreynaturepartnership.org.uk/)

¹⁸ [Ancient woodland, ancient trees and veteran trees: advice for making planning decisions - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ancient-woodland-ancient-trees-and-veteran-trees-advice-for-making-planning-decisions)

	Biodiversity Credits towards larger strategic level projects. The Environment Act 2021 also introduces a requirement for local authorities to prepare Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRs). As such, the issue is the identification of BNG projects and indirectly the implementation of LNRs. The Borough contains a number of heritage assets which join or straddle the borough boundary. This includes Windsor Great Park and Garden and the Basingstoke Canal Conservation Area which cross into other local authority areas and a number of assets in close proximity to the borough boundary. These assets therefore can potentially require cross boundary cooperation.
Who is involved?	Local authorities Elmbridge Borough Council Guildford Borough Council Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Spelthorne Borough Council Surrey County Council – Heritage and Ecology Teams Surrey Heath Borough Council Waverley Borough Council Woking Borough Council Other bodies Environment Agency Greater London Authority (GLA) Historic England National Grid – not DTC consultee but will have views on connecting renewables to the network National Highways (how their infrastructure will cope in heatwaves / flood events etc) Natural England Network Rail Surrey Heartlands (health impacts of climate change and how the built environment should adapt) Surrey Nature Partnership Surrey Wildlife Trust Thames Water
Methods for Engagement	-Meetings / discussions with relevant local authorities and bodies during the preparation of any evidence base documents relating to the historic and/or natural environment, as appropriate; -Request comments from relevant local authorities and relevant bodies on draft evidence (including on methodologies to be employed where appropriate); - Meetings / discussions / correspondence (verbal and email) with neighbouring authorities/relevant bodies at officer level, and at Member level if necessary as appropriate as strategy and policies are being developed; -Opportunity for written comments on proposed evidence, allocations and policies during the public consultation stages of the Local Plan; and, -Engagement through joint working groups or other co-operative work with other partners.

Matter 6: Flooding	Flooding is a serious risk to large parts of Runnymede Borough. The potential impacts of all types of flooding must be
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	assessed and their impact on delivering growth in the Borough quantified as part of the evidence gathering prior to the formulation of the Council's new Local Plan. In preparing the new Local Plan, the Council will need to identify the potential impacts of delivering the spatial strategy on all forms of flooding in the Borough and potential impacts in neighbouring authorities. This is particularly true in the case of Spelthorne, where the areas at risk of flooding from the River Thames extend into both boroughs. The other important cross-boundary waterway is the Basingstoke Canal that flows through the southern part of the Borough.
Who is involved?	Local authorities Elmbridge Borough Council Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Spelthorne Borough Council Surrey County Council (Lead Local Flood Authority) Surrey Heath Borough Council Woking Borough Council Other bodies Basingstoke Canal Authority Environment Agency Greater London Authority (GLA) National Highways Natural England Network Rail Surrey Nature Partnership Thames Water The Office of Rail and Road
Methods Engagement for	-Meetings / discussions with Surrey County Council and the Environment Agency (and other relevant bodies) during the preparation of the SFRA; -Request comments from relevant local authorities and other bodies on the draft SFRA; - Meetings / discussions / correspondence (including verbal and email) with relevant authorities / bodies at officer level, and at Member level if necessary, as appropriate as strategy and policies are being developed; -Opportunity for written comments on proposed evidence, allocations and policies during the public consultation stages of the Local Plan; -Through the River Thames Scheme Programme Board; and -Through the River Thames Scheme Sponsoring Group.

Infrastructure

Matter 7: Transport	The influence of Heathrow Airport on the wider area in terms of traffic generation is a cross boundary strategic issue, as is the prospect of the provision of a southern rail access to Heathrow Airport. In addition, Runnymede benefits from a strategic location at the junction of the M25 and M3 motorways. Local roads
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	include the A320 which runs from Guildford past the M25 junction 11 to Chertsey and Staines, the A30 which runs from Staines to Greater London and then down to the West Country and the A308 which runs from Egham to Hampton Court. Within Runnymede, National Highways is responsible for the strategic road network and Surrey County Council, as the Highways Authority, for the local road network. In preparing the new Local Plan, the Council will need to identify the potential impacts of delivering the Spatial Strategy on the highways network (including the Strategic Highway network), and identify with partners, any mitigation or highway infrastructure improvements and how this will be delivered. In addition, there will need to be joint working on any proposals for sustainable and active travel in order to join transport networks, including public transport, walking and cycling.
Who is involved	Local Authorities Elmbridge Borough Council Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Spelthorne Borough Council Surrey Heath Borough Council Woking Borough Council Other bodies Civil Aviation Authority Greater London Authority (GLA) Heathrow Airport Holdings Heathrow Strategic Planning Group National Highways Network Rail Office of Rail and Road Surrey County Council Transport for London Transport for the South East (TfSE) Active Travel England
Methods for Engagement	-Meetings / discussions with relevant local authorities and bodies during the preparation of the evidence, as relevant, with the Infrastructure Delivery Plan and Transport Assessment being of particular relevance; -Meetings/discussions / correspondence (verbal and email) with neighbouring authorities / relevant bodies at officer level, and at Member level if necessary as strategy and policies are being developed; -Opportunity for written comments to be made on proposed evidence, allocations and policies during the public consultation stages of the Local Plan; and, -Engagement through the 'Surrey Infrastructure Steering Group' (set up in 2022) who oversee the delivery of the Surrey Infrastructure Plan. Surrey also now holds individual meetings with LPAs - ours are via the RBC-SCC Joint Infrastructure Group meetings.
Matter 8: Social/Public Service Infrastructure	Social infrastructure can include healthcare facilities, universities, early years, schools, post-16 and adult education facilities, major sports facilities, libraries, blue light facilities

(including Healthcare and Education)	and criminal justice accommodation. Key strategic social infrastructure issues in Runnymede relate to healthcare and education. St Peter's Hospital lies within the Borough and serves a population of more than 410,000 people living in the boroughs of Runnymede, Spelthorne, Woking and parts of Elmbridge, Hounslow, Surrey Heath and beyond. The Royal Holloway University of London is also situated in Englefield Green to the north-west of the Borough. For Health Policy in Runnymede, the Surrey and Sussex Integrated Care Board (ICB) and Thames Valley ICB are the relevant bodies, as well as the Surrey and Borders Partnership NHS Foundation Trust for mental health and well-being matters. Regarding education, co-operation will be required with Surrey County Council as local education authority, with individual post-16 and adult education facilities and Royal Holloway University of London and may also be required with the neighbouring authorities as pupils may attend education facilities outside the Borough and vice versa.
Who is involved	Local Authorities Elmbridge Borough Council Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Spelthorne Borough Council Surrey County Council – libraries and education teams Surrey Heath Borough Council Woking Borough Council Other bodies Post-16 facilities such as local colleges and Royal Holloway University of London Local schools and/or Academy Trusts Early Years Settings Adult Education Settings NHS Surrey and Sussex ICB NHS Thames Valley ICB Primary Care Networks via the Integrated Care Board South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust Surrey and Borders Partnership NHS Trust Surrey Environment Partnership Surrey Fire & Rescue Service Surrey Police Sports England
Methods for Engagement	-Meetings / discussions with relevant local authorities and bodies during the preparation of the evidence, as appropriate, with the Infrastructure Delivery Plan being of particular relevance; -Meetings/discussions / correspondence (verbal and email) with neighbouring authorities / relevant bodies at officer level, and at Member level if necessary as appropriate as strategy and policies are being developed; -Opportunity for written comments to be made on proposed evidence, allocations and policies during the public consultation stages of the Local Plan; and,

	- Engagement through the Surrey Infrastructure Steering Group' (set up in 2022) who oversee the delivery of the Surrey Infrastructure Plan. Surrey also now holds individual meetings with LPAs – in Runnymede this is via the RBC-SCC Joint Infrastructure Group meetings. - Engagement through the Surrey Health & Planning Forum, made up of Surrey's districts and boroughs, Surrey County Council public health team, and the local ICS and ICP.
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Matter 9: Utilities including water and waste water, and waste services	Many services and utilities are provided by private companies and organisations that are not listed as prescribed bodies however with whom we must cooperate to ensure that the necessary infrastructure is in place to support planned growth. Utilities infrastructure includes water supply, waste water, wastewater treatment, energy supply and telecommunications. These services and their associated infrastructure are provided by the private sector utility companies which operate within and around the Borough. Runnymede Borough Council is the waste collection authority and Surrey County Council is the waste disposal authority. In preparing the update to the Local Plan, consideration must be given to any cross-boundary network operation, water supply and wastewater, and waste disposal issues so that future requirements can be delivered. Utility providers were not subject to the duty to co-operate. The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026 set out 'specific consultation bodies' and include utility providers and infrastructure providers within this category. Joint working with infrastructure providers will be set out in the Utilities chapter of the Infrastructure Delivery Plan.
Who is involved	Local Authorities Surrey County Council Spelthorne BC Surrey Heath BC Waverley BC Woking BC Other bodies National Grid UK Power Networks Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (Regen appointed to assist with this) Cadent Gas/ Scotia Gas Networks Ltd Southern Gas Networks plc National Gas Transmission (appointed Avison Young to provide advice on planning matters) Affinity Water Thames Water Mobile UK – mobile network operators Digital Infrastructure Operators Surrey Environment Partnership Environment Agency

	Methods for Engagement: -Meetings / discussions with relevant Surrey County Council Teams during the preparation of the evidence, as appropriate, with the Infrastructure Delivery Plan being of particular relevance; -Opportunity for written comments to be made on proposed evidence, allocations and policies during the public consultation stages of the Local Plan; and, - Engagement through the 'Surrey Infrastructure Steering Group' (set up in 2022) who oversee the delivery of the Surrey Infrastructure Plan. Surrey also now holds individual meetings with LPAs – in Runnymede these are via the RBC-SCC Joint Infrastructure Group meetings.
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Climate Change

Matter 10: Climate Change	Climate change is an issue that is not constrained by local authority boundaries and affects the whole of the UK and the world. It needs to be addressed by local authorities but also at a wider scale. Along with many other adjoining local authorities, the Council has declared a climate emergency. Surrey County Council has adopted a Climate Change Strategy. Joint working on the Strategy is coordinated through the Surrey Infrastructure Steering Group. Runnymede Borough Council has also adopted a Climate Change Strategy and Climate Change & Nature Action Plan, and a member working group has been set up to coordinate the delivery of key actions set out within the Action Plan across the Council, many of which will fall outside the remit of the Local Plan. This Statement focuses solely on Local Plan measures to address Climate Change issues. The potential to require adaptation and mitigation measures will be considered when developing the next Local Plan for the area. Discussions around such measures are likely to occur as part of wider discussions carried out in relation to the cross-boundary matters of Flooding, Health, the Natural Environment and Transport in particular.
Who is involved?	Local Authorities - Bracknell Forest Borough Council - Elmbridge Borough Council - Guildford Borough Council - Hampshire County Council - Hart District Council - Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead - Rushmoor Borough Council - Surrey Heath Borough Council - Waverley Borough Council - Woking Borough Council - Wokingham Borough Council - Spelthorne Borough Council - Surrey County Council

	Other bodies Active Travel England Affinity Water Environment Agency Greater London Authority (GLA) Heathrow Strategic Planning Group Historic England Natural England National Grid National Highways (how their infrastructure will cope in heatwaves / flood events etc) Network Rail Surrey and Sussex and Thames Valley ICBs (health impacts of climate change and how the built environment should adapt) SSEN Surrey Nature Partnership Thames Water UK Power Networks
Methods for Engagement	-It is envisaged that officer discussions will take place through meetings and correspondence with the relevant Local Authorities and other bodies; -Meetings / discussions / correspondence (verbal and email) with neighbouring authorities / relevant bodies at officer level, and at Member level if necessary (and when appropriate) as strategy and policies are being developed; and, -Opportunity for written comments on proposed evidence, allocations and policies during the public consultation stages of the Local Plan.

Other strategic matters

Matter 11: Green & Grey Belt	All land outside the settlement areas in the Borough is designated as Metropolitan Green Belt, which accounts for over 74% of the total land area. National planning policy restricts the amount and type of development that is defined as 'appropriate' in the Green Belt. The high percentage of Green Belt land in the Borough is likely to restrict the amount of development that can be delivered over the Plan period. The NPPF (2024) introduced a new concept of Grey Belt. This is land in the Green Belt which may or may not be previously developed and which does not strongly contribute to Green Belt purposes and where a wider range of development can be appropriate including residential and/or commercial development. If during the preparation of the emerging Local Plan it becomes apparent that Runnymede cannot meet identified housing and employment land requirements on land within its urban areas it may be necessary to consider whether these needs could be met through the release of land identified as Grey Belt and/or Green Belt land in line with NPPF paragraphs 145 & 148. These paragraphs require that exceptional circumstances to release Green Belt have been demonstrated and that where it is necessary to release Green Belt, a sequential approach of previously developed land (PDL), Grey Belt then Green Belt should be considered.
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	The Green Belt in Runnymede is part of the first substantial area of open land on the southwest edge of the London Metropolitan area. The 1988 Department of the Environment booklet, The Green Belts, notes that this western sector of Green Belt (outside London) is the 'most seriously fragmented of all'. As such, cooperation is required to protect it from further erosion and/or ensure that if any release is necessary to meet development needs this is done in a coordinated and strategic manner taking account of the need to identify Grey Belt and achieve sustainable patterns of development.
Who is involved?	Local authorities Elmbridge Borough Council Guildford Borough Council Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Spelthorne Borough Council Surrey County Council Surrey Heath Borough Council Waverley Borough Council (to ensure a consistent approach is taken in Surrey with the methodology). Woking Borough Council Other bodies Greater London Authority (GLA)
Methods for Engagement	- Potential for collaboration with neighbouring authorities on joint Green/Grey Belt review, particularly in the light of the proposals for unitary councils contained in the Devolution White Paper; -Meetings / discussions with relevant local authorities and bodies during the preparation of a Green/Grey Belt Review, as required; - Liaison with neighbouring authorities who are undertaking a separate Green/ Grey Belt review, to ensure, as far as possible, that a broadly consistent approach is being taken over reviews in line with national guidance; -Request comments from relevant local authorities and relevant bodies on draft evidence (including on methodologies to be employed where appropriate); - Meetings / discussions / correspondence (verbal and email) with neighbouring authorities/relevant bodies at officer level, and at Member level if necessary as appropriate as strategy and policies are being developed; -Opportunity for written comments on proposed evidence, allocations and policies during the public consultation stages of the Local Plan; and, -Engagement through joint working groups or other co-operative work with other partners.

Matter 12: Minerals and waste

- 4.2 It is considered that minerals and waste development does not necessitate its own chapter in this Scoping Statement as officers at Runnymede Borough Council do not envisage that there will be any policies in the Local Plan relating to waste or minerals development. This is on the basis that Surrey County Council (SCC) is the Mineral Planning Policy and Waste Planning Authority for Surrey and has

a number of adopted plans and policies¹⁹ that make provision for waste facilities and future mineral extraction across the County, whilst aiming to minimise the impact on local communities and the environment.

- 4.3 Furthermore, as noted elsewhere in this document, the Council is currently producing the evidence base necessary to underpin its new Local Plan, however it is not currently proposed that any new or updated evidence relating to the minerals or waste development in Runnymede is required.
- 4.4 Runnymede Borough Council will however continue to monitor the engagement with SCC relating to minerals and waste development over the course of Plan preparation and if at any time it is felt that a bespoke chapter is needed in the Council's Cross-Boundary Statement documentation on minerals developments, one will be produced.
- 4.5 It is currently envisaged that the main methods of engagement for matters relating to minerals and waste development, if required during Plan preparation, will be as follows:
- Meetings / discussions / correspondence (verbal and email) with SCC at officer level, and at Member level as appropriate, as strategy and policies are being developed; and,
 - Opportunity for written comments on proposed evidence, allocations and policies during the public consultation stages of the Local Plan.

¹⁹ [Minerals and waste policies and plans - Surrey County Council \(surreycc.gov.uk\)](https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/minerals-and-waste-policies-and-plans)

For all information contained within this document contact:

Runnymede Borough Council

The Civic Centre
Station Road
Addlestone
Surrey KT15 2AH

Tel 01932 838383

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