

EAST HERTS LOCAL PLAN REGULATION 4 TIMETABLE

Plan Summary Timeline: Version 1 (June 11, 2026)

PURPOSE OF THE LOCAL PLAN TIMETABLE

Local planning authorities are required to prepare and maintain a local plan timetable so that communities and stakeholders can understand when a plan will be prepared and how and when they can get involved.

Plan-making regulations require timetables to be prepared consistently across all local planning authorities, so that progress is reported against the same set of milestones. The dates specified at stages (a) to (l) in the table below represent the defined stages of the plan-making process. The timetable will be updated at each stage to ensure it remains accurate and up to date.

In addition to these defined stages, the timetable also indicates when other required elements of the process are expected to take place, particularly reporting following engagement or assessment stages.

The timetable must be made available before, or alongside, the publication of the Notice of Intention to Commence Local Plan preparation.

IMPORTANT NOTE ON TIMESCALES

The dates included in the timetable are indicative and may be affected by a range of factors outside the Council's control. For example, it is not possible at the outset to predict either the volume or the nature of representations received during consultation stages. In addition, certain elements of the process, such as the availability of external examiners, are not within the Council's control and may affect progress against the timetable.

Hertfordshire is also undergoing local government reorganisation during the preparation of the East Herts Local Plan. This may affect the programme for plan preparation, as changes to governance arrangements, decision-making structures and electoral cycles could influence the timing of key decisions and stages in the process. As a result, some elements of the timetable may need to be reviewed as local government reorganisation progresses.

Appendix A

Reg. 4 ref	Activity	Indicative Start: Month/ Year	Indicative End: Month Year
(a)	The date on which the local planning authority will make their notice of intention to commence local plan preparation available under regulation 19(1) ¹	June 11, 2026	No later than 30 June 2026
(b)	The date on which the local planning authority will make a notice of scoping consultation available under regulation 20(1)(b)	June 11, 2026	No later than 30 June 2026
(c)	The date on or before which representations will have to be received by the local planning authority in accordance with regulation 20(4) (scoping consultation)	July 10, 2026	
(d)	The date on which the local planning authority will make their self-assessment summary available under regulation 21(3) <i>To follow the meeting of the Council scheduled for October 14.</i>	October 15, 2026	No later than October 31, 2026
	Publish ' <i>summary of scoping consultation</i> '		By February 19, 2027
(e)	The date on which the local planning authority will make a notice of plan content and evidence consultation available under regulation 23(1)(a)	w/c February 22, 2027	
(f)	The date on or before which representations will have to be received by the local planning authority in accordance with regulation 23(4) (consultation on proposed local plan content and evidence)	w/c April 5, 2027 <i>Six weeks after commencement</i>	

¹ 'Regulations' in this table refers to the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026

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Reg. 4 ref	Activity	Indicative Start: Month/ Year	Indicative End: Month Year
	Publish ' <i>summary of consultation on local plan content and evidence</i> '.		By October 29, 2027
(g)	The date on which observations and advice will be sought under section 15CA(3) of the Act ² in accordance with regulation 26 (gateway 2) <i>Anticipated to take 4-6 weeks</i>	w/c November 1, 2027	By December 18, 2027
	Publish observations and /or advice in relation to gateway 2 and comply with Regulation 26(5).		By December 31, 2027
(h)	The date on which the local planning authority will make a notice of proposed local plan consultation available under regulation 27(1)(a),	w/c February 21, 2028	
(i)	The date on or before which representations will have to be received by the local planning authority in accordance with regulation 27(4) (consultation on the proposed local plan),	w/c April 17, 2028 <i>Eight weeks after commencement</i>	
	Publish ' <i>summary of consultation on the proposed local plan</i> '		
(j)	The date on which observations and advice will be sought under section 15CA(3) of the Act in accordance with regulation 31 (gateway 3: prescribed requirements assessment) <i>Anticipated to take 4-6 weeks</i>	w/c July 24, 2028	By w/c September 4, 2028

² 'The Act' in this table is the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023. Schedule 7 section 15CA(3) states, 'The local planning authority must, at such times as may be prescribed, seek observations or advice in relation to a proposed local plan, from a person appointed by the Secretary of State'.

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Reg. 4 ref	Activity	Indicative Start: Month/ Year	Indicative End: Month Year
	Publish observations and /or advice in relation to gateway 3 and comply with Regulation 31(5) and, where prescribed requirements are met, Regulation 31(6).		By September 29, 2028
(k)	The date on which the local planning authority will submit their proposed local plan to the Secretary of State for independent examination under section 15D(1) ³ of the Act	w/c October 2, 2028	
	Independent Examination <i>Anticipated to take up to 5 months</i>	October 2028	March 2029
(l)	The date on which the local planning authority will consider adopting the proposed local plan under section 15EA ⁴ of the Act.	w/c April 2, 2029	

³ Section 15D(1) of the Act states, 'A local planning authority must submit their proposed local plan to the Secretary of State for independent examination if a person appointed by the Secretary of State under section 15CA(3) advises that the prescribed requirements are met in relation to the plan'.

⁴ Section 15EA of the Act deals with the circumstances under which a plan may be adopted.