

## OFFICER DELEGATED DECISION NOTIFICATION (NON-EXECUTIVE)

<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Medway Local Plan</b>
<b>Decision:</b>	<p>Submission of the Local Plan to the Planning Inspectorate.</p> <p>Following consideration and approval of the Local Plan at the special Council meeting on 26 June 2025, the Council has undertaken the following steps to facilitate submission of the Local Plan to the Inspectorate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Published the Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan for representations for a six week period from 30 June to 11 August 2025.</li> <li>• Carried out a programme of consultation events and activities to raise awareness of the Publication of the draft plan and discuss proposals with residents and wider stakeholders.</li> <li>• Collated and reviewed over 500 responses to the consultation on the draft plan.</li> <li>• Produced a consultation report setting out the key issues raised in the representations.</li> <li>• Engaged with neighbouring Councils and statutory consultees through Duty to Cooperate and produced an updated report and Statements of Common Ground.</li> <li>• Prepared an updated Infrastructure Delivery Plan through engagement with service providers.</li> <li>• In liaison with Natural England carried out an air quality assessment to produce an update to the Habitats Regulation Assessment.</li> <li>• Met with the Planning Inspectorate and completed a pre-submission checklist for the Inspectorate. The Advisory Visit with a Planning Inspector in September 2025 informed the Council that the Inspectorate did not favour the Council preparing a schedule of proposed modifications to the plan, in response to issues raised in the consultation on the draft plan. The modifications would be considered through the Examination process.</li> <li>• Commissioned a Programme Officer for the examination</li> <li>• Set up an <a href="#">examination website</a></li> <li>• Submitted the <a href="#">draft Local Plan</a> with all representations received and supporting information to the Planning Inspectorate for examination.</li> </ul> <p>Following submission of the draft plan to the Planning Inspectorate the next steps will involve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appointment of an Inspector(s) to lead the examination of the Medway Local Plan. (anticipate early January 2026)</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initial correspondence from the Inspector which may generate further tasks for the Council. (anticipate January 2026)</li> <li>• The Inspector will identify Matters, Issues and Questions for responses by the Council and interested parties. (anticipate February, subject to initial correspondence)</li> <li>• Arranging Hearing Sessions (anticipate Spring 2026)</li> <li>• Issuing of Inspector's Report with recommendations. (anticipate late Summer 2026)</li> <li>• Subject to Inspector's recommendations, publish schedule of main modifications to plan content for representations. (anticipate Autumn 2026)</li> <li>• Present the plan with proposed modifications to Full Council to approve for adoption as part of the updated development plan. (anticipate late 2026)</li> </ul> <p>The examination process and timetable are set by the Planning Inspectorate, and the dates shown are subject to change.</p>
<b>Type of Decision:</b>	<p>Decision made in accordance with minute nos. 128(c), (d) and (e)/2025:</p> <p>(c) - The Council approved submission of the Proposed Submission Local Plan and supporting documents to the Secretary of State for examination, with the Regulation 19 representations.</p> <p>(d) - The Council agreed to delegate authority to the Director of Place, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Climate Change and Strategic Regeneration, to prepare an addendum to the Plan that may be necessary to address soundness issues raised by representations received on the Regulation 19 Draft Plan, and to include this in the submission materials to the Planning Inspectorate.</p> <p>(e) - The Council agreed to delegate authority to the Director of Place, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Climate Change and Strategic Regeneration, to agree to any Main</p>

	<p>Modifications and to undertake a 6 week public consultation on any Main Modifications that arose out of the Local Plan examination process and for this information to be forwarded to the Planning Inspectorate.</p> <p><a href="#">Special Council meeting 26 June 2025 - report and minutes</a></p>
<b>Name and title of decision taker:</b>	Adam Bryan, Director of place, in consultation with Councillor Simon Curry, Portfolio Holder for Climate Change and Strategic Regeneration
<b>Reasons for Decision</b>	To comply with full Council decisions made at the meeting held on 26 June 2025
<b>Date of Decision:</b>	11 December 2025
<b>Details of any other options considered and rejected</b>	None
<b>Director:</b>	Adam Bryan, Director of Place
<b>Lead Officer:</b>	Catherine Smith, Head of Planning Policy
<b>Conflicts of Interest:</b>	None

## Background Papers

[Council 26 June 2025](#)