

Local Plan: Scoping Report

Shaping the future of Waverley

June 2026

www.waverley.gov.uk/newlocalplan

The Waverley Local Plan

Scoping Consultation

June 2026

Front cover image credits

Daffodils in Waverley

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High Street, Godalming, Surrey

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Contents

1	What is this scoping consultation of the local plan for?	3
2	What matters are relevant to the preparation of the new local plan including what the local plan should contain	5
3	Priorities for the Local Plan	9
4	Scoping Consultation Questions	13
5	What Happens Next?	14
6	How should we engage with you in the preparation of the new local plan?	15
7	The Draft Engagement Strategy for the New Waverley Local Plan	16
8	What Are the Stages of Preparing Local Plans?	19
9	What Are the Potential Engagement Activities?	20
10	What Do We Do With Your Comments on Each Stage of the Local Plan Preparation?	28
11	How Do You Find Out What Difference Your Comments Have Made to the Local Plan?	29
12	Scoping Consultation Questions	30
13	What Happens Next?	31

Appendices

Appendix A	Consultation Groups Involved in Local Plan Production	32
Appendix B	Sequence of Key Local Plan-Making Steps	34
Appendix C	Key Demographic Highlights and Waverley Consultations Summary	36
Appendix D	Waverley Consultations	40

1. What is this scoping consultation of the local plan for?

Introduction

- 1.1 Waverley Borough Council has begun the process of preparing a new Waverley Local Plan for the Borough. The new Local Plan will positively guide and shape future development in the Borough until 2044. It will set out a vision and strategic objectives that will support economic growth, ensure communities continue to thrive and protect and enhance the landscape and natural environment. The Local Plan will also identify infrastructure that will be required to support growth in the Borough.
- 1.2 Planning therefore effects everyone. The areas where we live, work and play need to evolve to meet the changing needs of our community and respond to challenges like pressure for new housing. People may notice the role of planning when there's an issue, or a proposed development that is local to them. However, by that stage in the process, lots of decisions have been made and there can be limited opportunities to change things. That is why it is important that we involve communities at an early stage in the process when it is possible to make a difference.
- 1.3 A local plan sets out its planning policies and site allocations for development and the use of land. It is a blueprint for investing in development in the Borough. It provides certainty for communities, developers, infrastructure providers and those with an interest in the well-being of the area on where development will be delivered. The local plan sets out the planning policies which planning applications will be considered against.
- 1.4 The preparation of a new local plan is at an early stage. We need your help to prepare it, so this Scoping Consultation invites you to tell us:
 - a) What matters are relevant to the preparation of the new local plan including what the local plan should contain
 - b) How we should engage with you in the preparation of the new local plan

How to respond to the consultation

- 1.5 The Scoping Consultation starts on Monday 15th June 2026 and will run for 6 weeks until 11.59pm on Monday 27th July 2026.
- 1.6 Copies of the consultation document can be viewed at:
 - Waverley Borough Council, The Burys, Godalming, GU7 1HR
 - Libraries in Godalming, Farnham, Haslemere, Cranleigh and Bramley. Please see www.surreycc.gov.uk/libraries for addresses and opening times.
- 1.7 We strongly encourage you to submit your comments through the Council's online consultation platform, which can be accessed via www.waverley.gov.uk/newlocalplan. However, if this is not convenient to you, you can request an offline response form by contacting us via:
 - planningpolicy@waverley.gov.uk; or
 - Planning Policy Team, Waverley Borough Council, The Burys, Godalming, GU7 1HR
- 1.8 If you would like to deliver your representation form by hand, then please deliver it to the reception at the Council Offices.
- 1.9 Please note that comments submitted will be publicly available and cannot be treated as confidential, although address, telephone and email details will not be published. Please see our privacy statement for more information: [Privacy Notice for Planning Policy Consultations | Waverley Borough Council](#).
- 1.10 If you have any queries about the above or require the documentation in an alternative format, please contact the Planning Policy Team by email at planningpolicy@waverley.gov.uk or by telephone on 01483 523291.

2. What matters are relevant to the preparation of the new local plan including what the local plan should contain

- 2.1 The Local Plan must include a vision for the Borough which will set out how our area should change over the period of the plan. The vision can also set out longer term ambitions beyond the plan period. It will guide the local plan throughout its development and help monitor its success.
- 2.2 To consider the vision we need your views to establish the key priorities for planning in the Borough. This will help us decide where new development should go and what new infrastructure is needed to support it. The Council will then consult on this draft vision at the next consultation on the proposed content of the new local plan which is intended to be carried out in the spring of 2027.

What the Council must do

- 2.3 There are several matters that the Council are required to address when preparing a new local plan. This is either due to legislative or national policy requirements and are to ensure that a local plan can be found sound by an independent planning inspector at the examination stage and prior to its adoption.

Prepare a new local plan

- 2.4 The Council adopted its strategic planning policies and site allocations in 2018 under Local Plan Part 1. More detailed planning policies and other allocations were subsequently adopted in 2023 under Local Plan Part 2. In line with the legislation, the Council had to review Local Plan Part 1 in 2023, five years after its adoption. As a result of this review, the Council decided to prepare a new local plan to meet the challenge that more development, including housing, is needed. It agreed that this new local plan would be one document only containing all the policies and site allocations rather than split into two parts like the currently adopted local plan.
- 2.5 From April 2027, Waverley Borough Council will become part of the new West Surrey unitary council, following the government's confirmed plans for local government reorganisation across Surrey. This change will see West Surrey taking responsibility for the areas currently served by Guildford, Waverley, Runnymede, Spelthorne, Surrey Heath and Woking. However, the government has been clear that councils must not delay preparing a new local plan because of local government reorganisation.
- 2.6 If Waverley does not prepare a new local plan, it runs the risk that the government will intervene in its preparation and take it upon themselves to prepare it. This could result in having a local plan that the local community does not support, with development taking place in inappropriate locations and/or lack the infrastructure to support it. In the short term, if it does not have an up-to-date local plan, the Council could lose planning appeals against the refusal of planning permission on sites which have been considered unsuitable for development. The challenge from speculative development coming forward could also mean that the Council cannot coordinate development and plan for the delivery of the supporting infrastructure.

Follow the legal process for preparing a Local Plan

- 2.7 New local planning regulations were introduced in March 2026 that sets out a new system for Councils to prepare local plans including the specific order that they must carry out tasks. The government has told us that we must adopt a new local plan within 30 months of publishing a Gateway 1 self-assessment which demonstrates that we can formally start to prepare the new local plan.

Undertake a scoping consultation for the new local plan

- 2.8 The first task that must be carried out in preparing a new local plan is a consultation on a Scoping Document. This must be carried out soon after the Council formally publishes its intention to prepare a new local plan and be completed before the Council formally starts the 30-month process for preparing it by publishing the Gateway 1 self-assessment. The legislation requires the Council to consult on the Scoping Document by 30th April 2027 at the latest.
- 2.9 The Council had started preparing its new local plan under the local planning regulations that were in force at the time. In 2025 it undertook a consultation on a draft vision for the Borough by carrying out workshops with our local communities. Following that, the Council consulted widely on some issues and options for the new local plan to consider in the autumn of 2025. However, because of the new legislation that is now in force, the previous engagement work carried out in 2025 cannot be considered as the scoping consultation for a local plan. So, whilst we appreciate that many of you took the time to come to our visioning workshops, attended our roadshows and gave us your views on our Issues and Options document for the local plan last year, we must still consult on this scoping document.

Prepare a vision for the Borough

- 2.10 The Council must prepare a vision as part of the local plan. The vision will set out how the Borough should change over the period of the plan. It can also be used to reflect longer term ambition beyond the period. It will help set the direction for change and indicate the kind of place that the local plan is looking to create. It should:
- Set out key aims and objectives over the next 15 years or longer; and
 - Be ambitious and reflect what the local plan can realistically achieve.
- 2.11 The scoping document gives us the opportunity to start this process by asking you what the key local priorities should be for the plan.

Decide on a strategy for where development should go

- 2.12 The vision will be used to set out a spatial strategy for the Borough. This strategy will help to achieve high quality development and help shape the places in the Borough where people will live, work and visit.
- 2.13 The government has told us that local plans must focus on a strategy for development for the Borough and include only policies and site allocations that are necessary for the strategy to be implemented and to improve the environment at a local level. Therefore, the new local plan should only include policies that have necessary site or location-specific policies and requirements where there is a clear and justified reason for including them.

Follow the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

- 2.14 The government's planning policy is set out in the NPPF. It is currently being reviewed but once the new version is published the government has told us that the policies for decision making and for preparing local plans in the NPPF must be used straight away.

Plan for the infrastructure needed to support the required development

- 2.15 The preparation of the new local plan will assess what infrastructure is needed to support the development planned. It will decide what, how much and where supporting infrastructure will need to go. This will be informed by up-to-date evidence on existing infrastructure capacity.

Plan for 15 years from adoption

- 2.16 The government has told us that the local plan must cover a period of no less than 15 years from the date the plan is adopted. The Council's agreed timetable for the adoption of the new local plan is 2029 so the plan period must run to at least 2044.

Plan to deliver less than the development needed

- 2.17 The starting point for the Council must be to meet at all the housing and development assessed as needed unless there is evidence that demonstrates that there are good planning reasons that we cannot do so.
- 2.18 For new housing, the development assessed as needed is calculated by the government's standard method. Using the available assessment of housing need calculated by the government's standard method for December 2024, Waverley's housing need was 1,481 homes a year. If the plan period is from 2024 to 2044 the total housing needed would be 29,260 homes. To put this into perspective, when Local Plan Part 1 was examined in 2017, the Planning Inspector determined that the housing needed in Waverley was 507 homes a year.
- 2.19 The plan is also required to consider if it can accommodate any housing needed in neighbouring councils where there is evidence to show that those areas cannot meet all their housing need. For Local Plan Part 1 the examining Planning Inspector added another 83 new homes a year to meet Woking's unmet housing need, taking the housing requirement in the local plan to 590 homes a year.
- 2.20 The planning reasons for not meeting all the development assessed as needed can include environmental protections and designations such as Special Protection Areas, areas with a high probability of flooding, National Landscapes, the Green Belt and the inadequate provision of infrastructure. However, the evidence of constraints does not necessarily mean that there should be no development, but that the protections afforded to sites or locations in these areas need to be considered carefully when deciding on the amount of development that may be appropriate.

Prepare a local plan that relates to planning matters

- 2.21 The government's proposed planning policies states that local plans should be limited to whether they are an acceptable development or use of land. The government proposes that new local plans should only set standards that are locally variable such as affordable housing, infrastructure requirements, design, parking and open space where their inclusion can help to provide certainty to applicants.
- 2.22 In addition, the government is proposing that local plans should not cover matters already addressed by building regulations except for locally set national technical standards for accessibility and water efficiency (where tighter local standards than the existing optional standard can be set due to pressure on water supplies). This means that the local plan cannot cover matters relating to the construction of or internal layout of buildings (unless they refer to the implementation of the nationally described space standards). In terms of standards for energy efficiency the government has said that it intends to use legislation to amend the Planning & Energy Act 2008 to make clear that councils should not set higher energy efficiency local standards for residential development. This means that the Council needs to be proportionate when gathering the evidence needed to support the preparation of the new local plan.

Not repeat planning policies in other development plans or national policy

- 2.23 The government has said that local plans should avoid unnecessary duplication of policies in other development plans. The proposed NPPF includes a set of decision-making policies that should be applied nationally and local plans should not replicate, restate or modify these. Any local policies that are inconsistent with the national policies should be given very limited weight.
- 2.24 This scoping consultation does not cover neighbourhood plans as the Council does not prepare them. This is the role of the local community. In Waverley's case, as the borough is completely covered by parishes, all neighbourhood plans must be prepared by the Parish or Town Council that covers the neighbourhood area the plan relates to. Therefore, it is up to the Town and Parish Council to consider what their neighbourhood plans should contain and how they will consult their community on its preparation.
- 2.25 Waverley does have a role to play in advising or assisting the Parish or Town Council to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan, particularly as a neighbourhood plan must be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the development plan for the area. It also carries out the consultation when the neighbourhood plan is submitted for its independent examination and decides if the neighbourhood plan should be made (adopted) following the examiner's recommendations. However, this is part of the neighbourhood plan process and not part of Local Plan preparation.

3. Priorities for the Local Plan

- 3.1 The Council consulted on what the local plan should contain through the engagement we undertook last year under the new superseded legislation:
- a) Waverley Local Plan – Stakeholder Engagement Workshops June 2025 held virtually and in-person in June 2025; and
 - b) An Issues and Options consultation that ran between 27th October and 8th December 2025.
- 3.2 We cannot use this previous engagement to demonstrate that we have satisfied the legal requirements for this scoping consultation. However, the feedback and responses to it was helpful so we hope you will find that the summary of the key priorities that were identified through this previous engagement, set out below, will help you consider how you wish to respond to this consultation.

What you have already told us that the local plan should deal with

- 3.3 The issues raised from the previous engagement work are summarised below in the form of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats:

Strengths

- Attractive green open space, countryside and biodiversity;
- Strong settlement and community identity supported by active communities and characterised by their heritage and spatial separation;
- Town and village centres with some excellent cultural, recreational and community facilities which are accessible by foot from surrounding neighbourhoods and public transport;
- Good public transport links between the north of the borough and the south of the borough; and
- Strong housing market that can support delivery including the supporting infrastructure needed.

Weaknesses

- Traffic and parking congestion;
- Poor public transport links from the east of the borough to the west of the borough as well as from some settlements to other settlements;
- Railway station use is over capacity (including parking);
- A limited range of jobs, particularly in growing sectors to meet needs and to support career progression;
- Unaffordable housing;
- Lack of housing types and sizes to meet needs of specific groups;
- Lack of infrastructure (including transport, water, sewerage, communications, education, health);

- Impact from development on the biodiversity/Special Protection Areas (including pollution); and
- Small and separate settlements making it difficult to be self-sufficient.

Farnham (and surroundings)

- Currently overdeveloped relative to its size; and
- Car dependency because the town centre is not accessible from some neighbourhoods by walking.

Haslemere (and surroundings)

- Topographical constraints; and
- Town Centre viability (with a limited retail offer).

Cranleigh (and surroundings)

- Poor transport links because of a poor road network, limited bus service and no rail link.

Godalming (and surroundings)

- Countryside and Green Belt constraints.

Opportunities

- To revitalise settlements, especially through maximising brownfield development/carefully managed town centre densification;
- To deliver an appropriate mix, size and type of housing including affordable housing;
- Cross boundary potential to meet needs (especially in Guildford and in East Hants (including Whitehill/Bordon);
- To deliver infrastructure before development takes place;
- To use the attractiveness of the borough for growth (including its location in the National Landscape/gateway to the South Downs National Park);
- To connect green infrastructure and improve access to green spaces;
- To deliver sustainable/eco development to contribute to the green economy;
- To plan effectively rather than forced to accept speculative development;
- To improve public transport links/Integrated transport hubs – multi modal;
- To create effective traffic management (including to reduce congestion);
- To distribute development across the Borough more fairly;
- To facilitate small businesses and deliver retail to contribute to the green economy; and
- To use technological advances to facilitate growth.

Farnham (and surroundings)

- To plan a new settlement to the west (including in neighbouring authority); and
- To provide a road bypass.

Haslemere (and surroundings)

- To improve connectivity, including between the two centres.

Cranleigh (and surroundings)

- To deliver supporting infrastructure;
- To improve transport connections; and

- To consider potential development between Rowly and Cranleigh Road.

Godalming (and surroundings)

- To redevelop the vacant employment/retail sites; and
- To develop the Guildford and Godalming Greenway link.

Threats

- Climate Change;
- Uncertainty over commitment to infrastructure;
- Development adversely affecting protected landscape and countryside valued for its openness;
- Reducing and/or removing the identity of settlements (spatially and physically);
- A desire to retain private transport even if public transport is improved;
- Changes to technology changing land use requirements; and
- Spatial and environmental constraints to development.

The Key Priorities

3.4 Considering the comments that we have received from our earlier engagement we consider that the key priorities that the local plan needs to deal with are:

- Conserving and enhancing the outstanding environment and heritage of the Borough;
- Providing and improving the necessary infrastructure and services to support development and growth, including green and blue infrastructure;
- Investing in green and blue infrastructure to support and enhance nature recovery;
- Ensuring development creates well designed, safe and distinctive places that contribute to the health and wellbeing of communities;
- Providing wider wellbeing benefits for all residents to give them the opportunity to lead active and healthy lifestyles with access to jobs, services and high-quality green spaces for recreation, sport and play;
- Delivering new homes in locations with access to jobs and services by non-car modes of travel, or where investment can help create more sustainable places;
- Providing genuine walking, cycling and public transport choices for most residents and workers to meet their day-to-day transport needs;
- Ensuring that buildings and public realm meet the highest possible standards of environmental building and energy efficient design, contributing to a strong sense of place and delivering a net zero future to meet residents' needs including making them genuinely affordable to local people;
- Locating and designing buildings, green spaces and infrastructure to be resilient to changing climate;
- Maintaining a thriving economy to provide new high-quality jobs, helping to limit the reliance on out-commuting;
- Supporting economic growth through the provision of high-quality commercial premises in sustainable locations and improving physical and digital infrastructure;
- Increasing the supply of affordable homes to support all sectors of the economy that underpin day-to-day residents' needs;
- Facilitating a living, working countryside that accommodates thriving land-based businesses and small clusters of green businesses; and

- Supporting the vibrancy of town and village centres so that they remain the focus of our thriving communities.

Evidence that we are gathering

3.5 To support the preparation of the new Waverley Local Plan the Council is currently gathering the following planning evidence:

Evidence	Aims
Housing & Economic Development Needs Assessment	Assesses the overall housing and employment land to meet assessed needs and the housing to meet needs of specific groups in the community. Assesses the amount and types of affordable housing needed in the Local Plan
Traveller Accommodation Assessment	Establishes the overall accommodation needs of Gypsy and Traveller groups in the community having regard to current supply & future needs
Land Availability Assessment	Assesses the potential of sites for housing, business and other land use development following the assessment of the site for their suitability, availability and achievability
Infrastructure Delivery Plan	Assesses the existing provision of all types of infrastructure and how much will be needed in the future to support growth, what it will cost to meet that need and where the funding might come from
Strategic Flood Risk Assessment	Assesses the risk to development from all sources of flooding including the cumulative impact that development or changing land use would have on the risk of flooding, and the effect of climate change on the risk
Water Cycle Study	Assesses available water infrastructure provision to demonstrate if proposed growth targets and associated housing developments can be achieved without harming the water environment and identify where additional infrastructure is needed with associated timescales
Green Belt and Landscape Assessment	Assesses the potential for grey belt identification and informs any Green Belt boundary alterations. Assesses the impact of development on landscape qualities. Assesses the sensitivity of the landscape to help establish the principle of development for potential site allocations
Transport Assessment	Assesses transport issues relating to the planned development in the Local Plan, in the context of the vision for the plan, including measures that will be needed to deal with the anticipated transport impacts of the development
Playing Pitch Strategy	Assesses existing playing pitch provision and supply, evaluating future needs and developing a plan for strategic priorities to ensure sufficient land is available to meet those needs
Viability Assessment	Assesses the realistic viability of policy requirements and allocations within the Local Plan and ensures that the total cumulative cost of all relevant policies will not undermine the deliverability of the Plan

4. Scoping Consultation Questions

We would like your help by answering the following questions:

- 1.** What do you consider are the key priorities for the local plan?
- 2.** Do you think that there are any priorities that are more important than others?
- 3.** How can the local plan focus on the key priorities for a specific area?
- 4.** Is there any planning evidence other than those listed in para 3.5 of this document that the Council needs to gather to support the preparation of the new local plan?

5. What Happens Next?

- 5.1 Following the scoping consultation, the Council will review and consider all the comments received on it. We will then prepare the proposed plan content and evidence, which will include a draft vision and objectives, and a proposed draft spatial strategy. There will be an opportunity for communities and stakeholders to comment on the proposed plan content and evidence at the next formal consultation stage which is expected to take place in the Spring of 2027.

6. How should we engage with you in the preparation of the new local plan?

- 6.1 This section of the scoping consultation document sets out a draft engagement strategy on the Council's approach to consulting and engaging the community and stakeholders on the preparation of the new Waverley Local Plan. It outlines how we intend to work closely with communities and stakeholders in preparing the new Local Plan, carrying out a range of engagement and consultation throughout its preparation. It also sets out we will take an inclusive and proactive approach to engagement, providing the opportunity for all to engage in the plan-making process.
- 6.2 This part of the Scoping Consultation is therefore inviting feedback from our communities and stakeholders on the content of this Draft Engagement Strategy.
- 6.3 The Council has already got an engagement strategy for planning matters, the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI), which was approved in 2024. However, the legislation requires the Council to ask what ways would be appropriate for communities and other stakeholders to engage with preparation of the new local plan within a scoping consultation. Many of the principles set out in the Draft Engagement Strategy are therefore based on the plan-making part of the Council's SCI.

7. The Draft Engagement Strategy for the New Waverley Local Plan

The new Waverley Local Plan

- 7.1 The new Waverley Local Plan is central to delivering Waverley's vision for the future and delivering the Council's five strategic priorities. The local plan sets out how the Borough will grow over the next 15 years (from adoption of the Plan) and it includes planning policies for how much housing we need to provide as well as broad policies for land uses such as employment, town centres and transport. The Council has begun work on preparing a Waverley Local Plan for the period up to 2044 under the new plan-making regulations.
- 7.2 During the development of the local plan, it will be important to consider the following:
- Corporate context - Understanding how the local plan could support wider Council plans and strategies.
 - Legislation and national policy - The plan-making process must abide by various legislative requirements and consider the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).
 - Evidence gathering - The NPPF requires the local plan to be underpinned by relevant and up to date evidence which is adequate and proportionate.
 - Working with other authorities and agencies - Understanding other plans and strategies of other local authorities and stakeholders to ensure implications are considered.
- 7.3 The local plan goes through various stages of preparation, and it is important to clearly set out how and when people can become involved. This strategy therefore seeks to sets out the following:
- Why is community involvement important?
 - Who do we consult when we prepare the local plan?
 - What are the stages of preparing the local plan?
 - What are the potential engagement activities?
 - What do we do with your comments?

Why is community involvement important?

- 7.4 The National Planning Policy Framework (December 2024) at paragraph 16 sets out that plans should:
- *be shaped by early, proportionate and effective engagement between plan-makers and communities, local organisations, businesses, infrastructure providers and operators and statutory consultees.*
- 7.5 The Waverley Borough Council Corporate Strategy 2024-2028 sets out the Council's commitment to an open, inclusive approach to communications and decision-making. The Council is committed to engaging with the Waverley community, including the seldom heard and previously under-represented groups such as young people. This will ensure that, as far as possible, development proposals meet the needs and wishes of

local people, whether this is through the choice of sites or the type and design of development proposed, including measures to address wider impacts on the natural environment and on infrastructure and services.

- 7.6 The government, as part of the recent changes to the planning system, is seeking to improve the engagement that takes place during plan-making and the opportunities for communities to influence their plan. The focus has been on making it easier and simpler for people to engage in the planning process, including using more accessible and digital tools. The aim is to make it easier for communities and stakeholders to give their views. The importance of reaching the seldom heard is also recognised, including groups who are less represented.

Who do we consult when we prepare the local plan?

Specific and General bodies

- 7.7 The new Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026 set out who the Council has a statutory duty to consult as part of the local plan process. The organisations are grouped into specific and general consultation bodies, and includes residents, businesses and landowners in the local authority area (see Appendix A).
- 7.8 Specific bodies are those organisations the Council is required to consult and include organisations such as the Environment Agency, National Highways, Town and Parish Councils, health care providers, utility companies and neighbouring local authorities.
- 7.9 General bodies include voluntary groups, business interests and amenity groups who may be interested to find out how the local plan may affect them. Unlike specific bodies there is no definitive list of general bodies with whom the Council must consult. The Council has a large database of organisations and community groups active in the Borough, which has been developed through previous consultation exercises. It includes amenity groups, conservation bodies, residents' associations, disability groups, business interests, landowners and developers.
- 7.10 The Council will involve these organisations and groups in the preparation of the local plan. We will endeavour to keep the database up-to-date and will encourage other organisations to register their interest.

Strategic consultees

- 7.11 The new plan-making legislation has removed the Duty to Co-operate which was established by the Localism Act 2011. Instead, the new system will rely on revised national policy and the new tier of strategic planning (Spatial Development Strategies) to ensure effective co-operation between plan-making authorities.
- 7.12 Local planning authorities are expected to continue to collaborate across their boundaries, including on unmet development needs from neighbouring areas. The Council will therefore continue to work closely with other local planning authorities and other prescribed organisations regarding strategic priorities and areas of common interest.

The Waverley community

- 7.13 Waverley has a resident population of 128,200. There are also around 12,000 businesses, and many local interest and residents' groups. It is important to understand who the local community is to ensure that we engage and consult in the most effective way, and that the views received are representative of the whole community. Other interested parties may also include residents or businesses in neighbouring authorities.
- 7.14 Seldom Heard Groups - Waverley recognises that certain groups in society have specific needs or have less chance than others to get involved and are therefore under-represented in the planning process. In Waverley such seldom heard groups may include young people, elderly people, rural communities, people on low incomes, people with disabilities, gypsy and traveller communities and ethnic minorities. The Council will continue to promote social inclusion by actively seeking to involve seldom heard groups in the local plan process.
- 7.15 Individuals - Waverley intends to keep individuals who have registered an interest in plan preparation on the Waverley Planning Service database involved at each stage of the local plan. We will raise awareness about the preparation of the local plan through a range of activities including updates on the Council's website and social media pages. Individuals can register an interest in the preparation the local plan in writing and through the Council's planning consultation hub.
- 7.16 Businesses – It is important to recognise that it's not just residents that make up our community. The Borough's many businesses are located in the town and village centres, industrial estates and in the countryside. All make a significant contribution to the local economy including farming that has an important role in the rural economy. Some 30% of the people that work in the Borough commute from other areas. We also have a high proportion of people who work from home and a high number of micro businesses that employ less than 10 people.
- 7.17 There is also a strong voluntary and community sector that provides several valued services across Waverley. These organisations are important in delivering services to local people and, as such, are a key consultee on planning issues.

8. What Are the Stages of Preparing Local Plans?

8.1 On 25 March 2026 the government brought into effect new plan-making regulations that require local plans to be prepared and adopted within 30 months from the formal start of the process. The regulations specify the sequence of key plan-making steps in which a local plan must be prepared by law. The sequence of these steps is set out in Appendix B. More broadly we consider that the key stages for preparing the local plan are:

- Stage 1 Getting ready;
- Stage 2 Preparing the plan;
- Stage 3 Proposed local plan;
- Stage 4 Examination; and
- Stage 5 Adoption.

9. What Are the Potential Engagement Activities?

- 9.1 The draft engagement strategy seeks to set out the engagement and activities that will enable opportunities for all communities and stakeholders to influence the new Waverley Local Plan. The tables below contain information relating to:
- The engagement and consultation activities that are legally required;
 - The potential engagement activities proposed at each key stage of plan-making; and
 - The anticipated outputs for each stage of the process.
- 9.2 In collating the data from the demographic analysis (see Appendix C), the information of who has responded to previous consultations (see Appendix D) and the information gathered on possible seldom heard groups, a draft engagement strategy for the Local Plan has been developed. Engagement will therefore involve a variety of different groups, Parish and Town Councils, community groups, key stakeholders, landowners, and under-represented groups to ensure that engagement on the local plan is inclusive and accessible. To support reaching communities, the Council will use a digital-first approach which will be supported by a range of traditional engagement activities.

Stage 1: Getting ready

- 9.3 Before the formal 30-month local plan process starts, the Council will spend time 'getting ready' before starting to prepare a new plan. Any time spent 'getting ready' does not count towards the 30-month period, however it must be for a period of at least 4 months. This stage starts the initial process of preparing the local plan and the gathering of evidence and the identification of the main issues. This is where the process of engaging with residents, businesses, service providers, utilities and all other stakeholders will begin. Being involved in the early stages of plan preparation is strongly advised as your comments and views help the Council build a clear understanding of the key issues facing stakeholders and communities and support the Council in setting the policy direction of the proposed plan.
- 9.4 The local plan timetable along with the notice of intention to commence will be published. A Scoping Consultation will then run for a minimum of six weeks that will seek feedback from stakeholders on how to engage with them and what the Plan should contain. This early engagement with statutory bodies, other stakeholders and local people and communities seeks to raise awareness, scope the issues and gain an understanding of initial views. This will inform development of the Local Plan vision, strategic objectives and next stages of plan preparation.

Table 1: Getting ready (stage 1)

When	What we must do: Legal requirements	Engagement activities carried out	Stage 1: Key outputs
June to October 2026	• Publish the local plan timetable and notice of intention to commence on the local plan pages of the Council's website. • Make the local plan timetable and notice of intention to commence on the local plan available for public inspection at the Council's offices and local libraries. • Publish the Scoping Consultation on the local plan pages of the Council website. • Make the Scoping Consultation documents available for public inspection at the Council's offices and local libraries during the consultation period. • Invite representations regarding the Scoping Consultation from general and specific consultation bodies.	• Public consultation for six weeks. • Emails and letters sent to stakeholders on the Council's consultation database regarding the Scoping Consultation. • Using the Council's online consultation portal. • Press releases on Council website and local newspapers. • Publication and distribution of posters. • Articles in appropriate Council newsletters.	• Understanding and confirmation from stakeholders and communities about the key issues facing the Borough and opportunities to address these. • To establish local priorities, issues and opportunities to prepare local plan vision and objectives. • Stakeholder understanding of the emerging evidence base. • Recognition of neighbouring local planning authorities' strategic matters and issues, and establish the need for shared evidence. • Ensure up to date understanding of land availability and deliverability to meet development requirements.

Stage 2: Preparing the plan

9.5 Following the conclusion of the Scoping Consultation, the Gateway 1 self-assessment will be published and marks the start of the statutory 30-month plan-making timetable. A scoping consultation report will also be published setting out the key matters raised and responses to any comments received.

9.6 This stage builds on early engagement undertaken and focuses on preparing a draft local plan vision, the strategic objectives and the development of the spatial strategy. The proposed local plan content and evidence will then be published, and a formal six-week consultation period will be undertaken. This consultation will seek representations on matters including the draft vision and any proposed aims and objectives, the proposed spatial strategy and summary of the evidence base that is intended to support the local plan. Following the consultation, a consultation report will be published addressing the main issues raised and responses to any comments received. The Council will also seek observations and advice from the Gateway 2 assessor in relation to progress towards preparing a sound plan.

Table 2: Preparing the plan (stage 2)

When	What we must do: Legal requirements	Potential engagement activities to consider	Stage 2: Key outputs
November 2026	• Publish Summary of Scoping Consultation on the local plan pages of the Council website. • Make the Summary of Scoping Consultation available for public inspection at the Council's offices.		
February 2027 to March 2027	• Publish a notice of plan content and evidence consultation on the local plan pages of the Council website. • Make the notice of plan content and evidence consultation available for public inspection at the Council's offices and local libraries. • Consult on the proposed local plan and evidence for 6 weeks. • Publish proposed local plan content and evidence on the local plan pages of the Council website. • Make the proposed local plan content and evidence available for public	• Press releases on Council website, local newspapers and magazines. • Road show events across the borough held on varying days and times, and in different settlements. • Publication and distribution of posters, fliers and promotional leaflets. • Articles in appropriate Council newsletters. • Present information at public events. • Posts on the Council's website and social media channels. • Create an easy to digest overview of the plan that highlights areas of most interest for online publication.	• Community and stakeholder understanding of the evidence base collated to date. • Increase understanding for communities and stakeholders about the likely direction of the local plan, its spatial strategy and policies. • Responses to consider and analyse in the next stage. • Continue to work with stakeholders and infrastructure providers. • Further consider land availability and deliverability to meet development requirements.

When	What we must do: Legal requirements	Potential engagement activities to consider	Stage 2: Key outputs
February 2027 to March 2027 (continued)	inspection at the Council's offices and local libraries during the consultation period. • Invite representations regarding the proposed local plan content and evidence from general and specific consultation bodies. • Send emails and letters to stakeholders on the Council's consultation database.	• Online surveys and questionnaires. • Using the Council's online consultation portal. • Surveys of the Council's Citizens panel. • Ideas wall - create a virtual ideas wall so people can share their fears for the future. • Public consultation using virtual exhibition. • Community planning workshops. • Stakeholders focus groups. • Meetings with community groups and other key stakeholders, such as Town and Parish Councils. • Present information at Town and Parish Forum or Planning Agents forum.	
June 2027	• Publish Summary of Consultation on proposed local plan content and evidence on the local plan pages of the Council website. • Make the Summary of Consultation on proposed local plan content and evidence available for public inspection at the Council's offices.		
October 2027	• Publish Gateway 2 observations and advice and all other documents on the local plan pages of the Council website. • Make the Gateway 2 observations and advice available and all other documents for public inspection at the Council's offices and local libraries. • Send Gateway 2 observations and advice to those who requested to be notified and those mentioned in the observations and advice.		

Stage 3: Proposed Local Plan

9.7 This stage will consider the responses received from the previous consultation stages and the findings of the Sustainability Appraisal prior to the publication of the Proposed Local Plan for an 8-week consultation period. This consultation provides statutory consultees, stakeholder and local people and communities with an opportunity to make representations on the soundness of the Proposed Local Plan, the map of the proposed Local Plan policies and details of the evidence. Alongside the consultation period, the views of the relevant spatial development strategy authority will be sought about whether the proposed Local Plan is in general conformity with the strategy.

9.8 Following the consultation, a consultation report will be published addressing the main issues raised and responses to any comments received. The Council will also seek observations and advice from the Gateway 3 assessor on whether the prescribed requirements have been met in relation to the Proposed Local Plan. Once the assessor has confirmed that the prescribed requirements have been met, then the Proposed Local Plan and accompanying evidence and documents can be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for Examination.

Table 3: Proposed Local Plan (stage 3)

When	What we must do: Legal requirements	Potential engagement activities to consider	Stage 3: Key outputs
November 2028 to July 2028	• Publish a notice of the Proposed Local Plan consultation on the local plan pages of the Council website. • Make the notice of the Proposed Local Plan consultation available for public inspection at the Council's offices and local libraries. • Consult on the Proposed Local Plan for 8 weeks. • Publish Proposed Local Plan submission documents on the local plan pages of the Council website. • Make the Proposed Local Plan submission documents available for public inspection at the Council's offices and local libraries during the consultation period.	• Press releases on Council website, local newspapers and magazines. • Road show events across the borough held on varying days and times, and in different settlements. • Publication and distribution of posters, fliers and promotional leaflets. • Articles in appropriate Council newsletters. • Present information at public events. • Recorded presentations available on the Council's website and social media channels. • Create an easy to digest overview of the plan that highlights areas of most interest for online publication • Using the Council's online consultation portal. • Public consultation via a virtual exhibition	• Inform interested parties about content of the Proposed Local Plan, and how to submit representations. • Receipt of representations to consider and provide to an independent Inspector.

When	What we must do: Legal requirements	Potential engagement activities to consider	Stage 3: Key outputs
November 2028 to July 2028 (continued)	• Invite representations regarding the proposed local plan from general and specific consultation bodies. • Send emails and letters to stakeholders on the Council's consultation database.	• Meetings with community groups and other key stakeholders, such as Town and Parish Councils. • Present information at Town and Parish Forum or Planning Agents forum.	
June 2028	• Publish Summary of Consultation on proposed local plan on the local plan pages of the Council website. • Make the Summary of Consultation on proposed local plan available for public inspection at the Council's offices.		
July – August 2028	• Publish Gateway 3 observations and advice and all other documents on the local plan pages of the Council website. • Make the Gateway 3 observations and advice available and all other documents for public inspection at the Council's offices and local libraries. • Send Gateway 3 observations and advice to those who requested to be notified and those mentioned in the observations and advice.		

Stage 4: Examination

9.9 An independent Inspector holds an Examination into the soundness of the Plan and associated evidence base. The Examination hears evidence from those making representations of the Plan on the key issues or questions highlighted by the Inspector.

Table 4: Examination (stage 4)

When	What we must do: Legal requirements	Potential engagement activities to consider	Stage 4: Key outputs
August to December 2028	• Submit Proposed Local Plan and documents to the Secretary of State. • Publish statement on Council's website confirming the date the Proposed Local Plan was submitted. • Make the Proposed Local Plan submission documents available on the local plan pages of the Council website and for public inspection at The Burys and local libraries. • Notify all those who requested to be notified of the submission and where the documents can be inspected. • Publish examination process, hearings timetable and matters to be discussed on the Local Plan pages of the Council website and make available for public inspection at The Burys and local libraries.	• Press releases on Council website, local newspapers and magazines. • Update social media channels. • Send emails and letters to statutory bodies and all stakeholders on the planning policy database. • Using the Council's online consultation portal.	• To make those who submitted representations on the Proposed Local Plan of the Examination.

Stage 5: Adoption

9.10 Following the Examination, the Inspector will issue a report recommending whether the Plan can be formally adopted.

Table 5: Adoption (stage 5)

When	What we must do: Legal requirements	Potential engagement activities to consider	Stage 5: Key outputs
January 2029	• Publish the Inspector's decision on the Local Plan on the local plan pages of the Council's website and make available for public inspection at The Burys and local libraries. • Notify all those who requested to be notified of the decision. • Publish the local plan and adoption statement on the Council's website and make available for public inspection at The Burys and local libraries.	• Press releases on the Council website. • Articles in appropriate Council newsletters. • Update social media channels.	• Communicate the Inspector's decisions on the Local Plan. • Provide notification of the Council's intention to adopt the Local Plan.

10. What Do We Do With Your Comments on Each Stage of Local Plan Preparation?

- 10.1 What you think matters and the Council will seek to take your comments into account when preparing the new Waverley Local Plan. We do have to make some very difficult decisions at times and must follow planning law, national policy and government guidance. There are certain things that we can't change or influence and we will let you know when this is the case.
- 10.2 When submitting comments on the Local Plan, it is important that you make comments that are relevant to the question being asked, or to the section of the Local Plan that you are commenting on, so that we can analyse your views in the most effective way.
- 10.3 The General Data Protection Regulations (2018) provide strict rules on how we deal and store your personal information that accompanies any comments you may make on any planning issues. The Council's Privacy Notice for Planning Policy Consultations sets out how we will use the information you provide us when engaging in a planning policy consultation.

11. How Do You Find Out What Difference Your Comments Have Made to the Local Plan?

- 11.1 The new regulations set out that local planning authorities must publish consultation summaries following each consultation period including the scoping consultation, the proposed local plan content and evidence consultation and the proposed local plan consultation. Following each of these consultation periods, summaries will be published and include:
- details of the bodies that were invited to make comments;
 - how they were invited to make comments;
 - a summary of the main issues raised in the comments received; and
 - how the local planning authority has had regard to the comments received.
- 11.2 A summary of the consultation responses must be published before embarking on next stage. This will deal with the broad themes of consultation responses rather than responding to individual representations. The summaries will be placed on the Council's website.

12. Scoping Consultation Questions

We would like your help by answering the following questions:

- 1.** Do you agree with the potential engagement methods for each stage of the Local Plan preparation as set out in Stages 2,3, 4 and 5 of the Draft Engagement Strategy?
- 2.** Do you agree that the potential engagement methods are appropriate to meet the needs of our communities and stakeholders as set out in the demographic profile in Appendix C of the Draft Engagement Strategy?
- 3.** Are there any other engagement activities that should be considered?
- 4.** How can we focus on ensuring that those groups that are seldom heard are engaged throughout preparation of the new local plan?

13. What Happens Next?

- 13.1 Following the scoping consultation, the Council will review and consider all the comments received, including on the Draft Engagement Strategy. We will then seek to finalise our engagement strategy which we will use to assist preparing our plan.

Appendix: A

Consultation Groups Involved in Local Plan Production

The Council must involve the following statutory organisations in the local plan process. These along with the government departments listed in the table below form the specific consultation bodies as defined in the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026. These are:

Table A1: Specific consultation bodies

Specific consultation bodies
• Active Travel England; • Canal and River Trust; • Civil Aviation Authority; • Sport England; • Environment Agency; • Forestry Commission; • Secretary of State for Transport; • National Highways; • Surrey County Council – Highways, Transport and Network Management; • Historic England; • Homes England; • Waverley and Guildford Clinical Commissioning Group (formerly Primary Care Trust) and NHS Frimley Integrated Care Board (formerly North East Hampshire and Farnham Clinical Commissioning Group); • Relevant electricity and gas companies; • Thames Water, South East Water and Southern Water: water and sewerage undertakers for Waverley; • Relevant telecommunications companies; • Natural England; • Network Rail Infrastructure Limited; • Office Road and Rail; • Other adjacent local authorities; • Town and Parish Councils; • Surrey Police; • Police and Crime Commissioner; • Surrey County Council – Education and Lifelong Learning and Land, Planning and Development.

Table A2: General consultation bodies

General consultation bodies
• Voluntary bodies some or all whose activities benefit any part of Waverley Borough Council's area; • Bodies that represent the interests of different racial, ethnic or national groups in Waverley Borough Council's area; • Bodies that represent the interests of different religious groups in Waverley Borough Council's area; • Bodies, which represent the interests of disabled persons in Waverley Borough Council's area; and • Bodies, which represent the interests of persons carrying on business in Waverley Borough Council's area.

Table A3: Other consultees

Other consultees
Bodies and individuals that are registered on the Waverley Planning Service database. These have been grouped and include: • Individual residents, residents' associations, local strategic partnership, neighbouring parish councils, schools, community groups, societies, political parties; • Local businesses, business associations, chambers of commerce, business improvement districts, commercial companies; • Developers, agents, planning consultants, architects, surveyors, landscape architects, housing associations; • Landowners, Estate agents (residential and commercial); • Disabled groups, public agencies, charity organisations, voluntary organisations, care providers, health providers, leisure groups, minority groups, religious groups, sports bodies, young people, older people, faith groups, equalities, community support; • Surrey Hills AONB Board, Environment and nature, historic groups, Conservation Area Advisory Committees; • Infrastructure providers, schools and education institutes, transport groups; • Members of Parliament; and • Government Departments.

Appendix: B

Sequence of Key Local Plan-Making Steps

Table B1: Local plan-making steps

Step	Regulation	Description of task
Publish local plan timetable	Regulation 8	The timetable must be kept up-to-date and set out the anticipated and actual dates for key plan-making stages.
Public notice of intention to commence local plan preparation	Regulation 19	Publication of notice which commences a minimum 4-month notice period so that stakeholders are aware plan-making is beginning.
Scoping consultation	Regulation 20	Inviting feedback from stakeholders on how to engage with them and what the plan should contain.
Gateway 1: self-assessment of readiness	Regulation 21	Publication of a document setting out details of how you have got ready for plan-making, marking formal commencement of plan-making for the purpose of the 30-month timeframe.
Publish summary of Scoping Consultation	Regulation 22	Publication of Scoping Consultation report setting out the key issues.
Consultation: proposed local plan content and evidence	Regulation 23	Minimum 6-week consultation on the proposed local plan content and evidence, including a draft vision.
Publish summary of proposed Local Plan content and evidence.	Regulation 24	Publication of consultation report setting out the key issues.
Map of proposed policies	Regulation 25	Prepare map of proposed local plan policies.
Gateway 2	Regulation 26	Seeking observations and advice from PINS to support the early resolution of potential soundness issues and progress towards the 'prescribed requirements'.
Consultation: proposed local plan	Regulation 27	Minimum 8-week consultation on the proposed local plan and its supporting documents.
Conformity with Spatial Development Strategy	Regulation 28	Consult on conformity with Spatial Development Strategy (if adopted).

Step	Regulation	Description of task
Publish summary of consultation on proposed Local Plan	Regulation 30	Publication of consultation report setting out the key issues.
Gateway 3	Regulations 31-33	Testing if the proposed local plan has met the 'prescribed requirement' and can proceed to examination.
Examination	Regulations 34, 35 and 37	Examination of the local plan against the tests of soundness, to be set out in national policy.
Adoption	Regulation 39	Publication of the local plan and adoption statement.

Appendix: C

Key Demographic Highlights and Waverley Consultations Summary

A range of statistical data has been collated to build a picture of the demographic profile of the population in Waverley to assist in the development of an engagement strategy for the Local Plan. This chapter provides a summary of the key findings from that statistical data, which has been obtained from the 2021 Census data that have been reported by NOMIS. It focuses on the data relating to age, gender, religion, ethnicity, main and householder languages and economic deprivation to provide insight into the profile of communities in Waverley.

The chapter also provides an overview of the demographic profile of respondents from previous Local Plan consultations on the engagement platform, Commonplace. This information has been collated from those who responded to the equalities data questions as part of planning policy consultations. It should be noted that it is not mandatory for these questions to be completed. The equalities data collected through Commonplace is therefore limited and should be considered as indicative only. We will seek build on this initial data in future consultations to refine the engagement strategy. A summary of data and information is available in Appendix D.

It is important that the analysis of the 2021 Census data and the equalities data is considered in the development of the engagement strategy for the Local Plan to ensure that engagement levels are increased whilst also being proportionate to the composition of communities in Waverley. This should ensure that more residents and communities, including seldom heard groups, can participate and engage in the Local Plan process. The key findings are set out below.

Age

The Census data indicates that the age groups with the highest proportion of the population are those aged 50-64 years (20.7% of the population) followed by those aged 35-49 years (19.9%) and 65-74 years (10.6%). The age groups with the lowest proportion of the population are those aged 85 years and over (3.6%), 20-24 years (4.4%) and 16-19 years (4.9%).

The number of respondents previous planning policy consultations should be broadly representative of the population of Waverley as set out by the Census data. The equalities data collated indicates that the age bands with the highest proportion of respondents are 64-75 years (27.3%) followed by 55-64 years (22.7%). This shows a considerable over-representation within these age bands. This is despite the age bands in equalities data not aligning with the Census data. In contrast, there were no respondents in the age band 16-24, and only 6.1% of respondents in age band 25-34 years. This suggests an under representation of age groups covering 16 to 34 who make up a total of 18.5% of the population in Waverley. There is also an under representation in age band 85 years and over.

The initial data and analysis indicate that the young people and older people (85 and over) are under-represented in previous Local Plan consultations. The engagement strategy should seek to address this and increase participation within these communities.

Sex

The Census data sets out that the number of male and female residents within Waverley is relatively evenly split with 51.5% of the total population identifying as female whilst 48.5% identify as male. The equalities data collected indicates that 36.7% of individuals who responded to planning policy consultations were female and 55% are male. This is inconsistent with the composition of Waverley residents which has a greater number of females than males. This difference is notable and the disparity will be monitored by gathering further equalities data during future planning policy consultations.

Religion

The data from the Census shows that a total of 66,605 (51.9%) residents in Waverley are Christian and a further 49,987 (39%) of the population have no religion. There are also Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, Jewish and Sikh communities that in total represent 2.3% of the population in Waverley. Currently there is no equalities data from previous planning consultations relating to religion.

Ethnicity

The ethnic profile of Waverley residents shows that a significant number of the population identify as White (93.7%). The data also sets out that a total of 8,138 (6.3%) residents form part of other ethnic groups with the largest community identifying as Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh (2.8%). A further 2.2% of the population identify as Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups and 0.7% identify as Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African.

The equalities data from previous planning consultations indicates that 87.3% of respondents identify as White (English/Welsh/Scottish) and a further 3.6% identify as White (Irish) and White (Other). Therefore, a total of 90.9% of the population identify as White. Whilst 1.8% of respondents identified as Mixed/Multiple (White and Asian), there were no respondents who identified as Asian or Black. This contrasts with the Census data which sets out that 2.8% and 0.7% of the population identify as Asian and Black, respectively. It is recognised that there is a high response rate from residents who identify as White in comparison with other ethnic groups within Waverley.

Main and household languages

The Census data regarding ethnicity should be considered alongside main languages spoken by individual residents and household language. Table C1 identifies the main languages spoken by at least 0.2% of the population in Waverley. It sets out that while 96.3% of residents speak English, there are other residents that speak European, East Asian and South Asian languages. Table C2 sets out that English (95.2%) is the main language spoken in households in Waverley. However, there are also 2,532 (4.9%) households where another main language is spoken. It should also be noted that within these 2,532 households, a total of 1,182 households does not include an adult who speaks English as a main language. There is potential that a proportion of residents may encounter barriers to engaging with local plan activities or be excluded from consultations due to language considerations.

Table C1: Main language of Waverley residents

Main language	Value	Percent
English (English or Welsh in Wales)	120,024	96.3
Other European language (EU)	1,952	1.6
East Asian language	648	0.5
South Asian language	626	0.5
Other European language (EU): Polish	398	0.3
Other European language (EU): Romanian	375	0.3
South Asian language: Urdu	354	0.3
Portuguese	276	0.2
Spanish	270	0.2
East Asian language: All other Chinese	245	0.2
Other European language (EU): Hungarian	242	0.2

Table C2: Household language in Waverley

Household language (English and Welsh)	Value	Percent
All adults in household have English in England, or English or Welsh in Wales as a main language	49,916	95.2
At least one but not all adults in household have English in England, or English or Welsh in Wales as a main language	1,350	2.6
No adults in household, but at least one person aged 3 to 15 years, has English in England or English or Welsh in Wales as a main language	252	0.5
No people in household have English in England, or English or Welsh in Wales as a main language	930	1.8
Total	52,448	100

Disability

The Census data sets out that a total of 109,842 residents or 85.7% of the population report having no health conditions or have a health condition that does not impact upon day-to-day activities. However, in Waverley a total of 18,396 (14.4%) of residents have reported that their day-to-day activities were either limited a little or limited a lot.

The equalities data from planning policy consultations indicates that 69.8% of respondents do not consider that have a disability or long-term health condition. Conversely a total of 22.3% of respondents do identify as having a disability or long-term health condition.

The categories used for the collating the Census and equalities data regarding disability and long-term health problems do not directly correspond and therefore analysing the level of engagement in proportion to the composition of Waverley residents is problematic. Nonetheless, the engagement strategy will seek to increase participation amongst this group.

Deprivation

The data from the Census categorises deprivation into four-dimensional themes, which are:

- Education
- Employment
- Health
- Housing

In Waverley 59.5% of households do not meet the definition of any of the four deprivation categories and a further 29.9% are only considered as being deprived in one of the categories. The remaining 10.5% (5518) of households within Waverley are assessed as meeting the definition of being deprived in two or more categories. It is this group that the engagement strategy should seek to reach to ensure future decisions do not further exacerbate deprivation.

Appendix: D

Waverley Consultations

Waverley Borough Council has been using the online engagement hub, Commonplace, to enable local people to participate in consultations. Through this platform we have collected some equalities data as part of our planning policy consultations. However, it should be noted that there is no requirement for the equalities questions to be completed. Furthermore, if a respondent decided not to complete equalities questions, then this would not invalidate an individual's consultation response. The equalities data collected through Commonplace should therefore be considered as indicative only.

During the previous planning policy consultations that have utilised Commonplace, the Council has received a total of 93 responses to the equalities questions. The equalities questions related to:

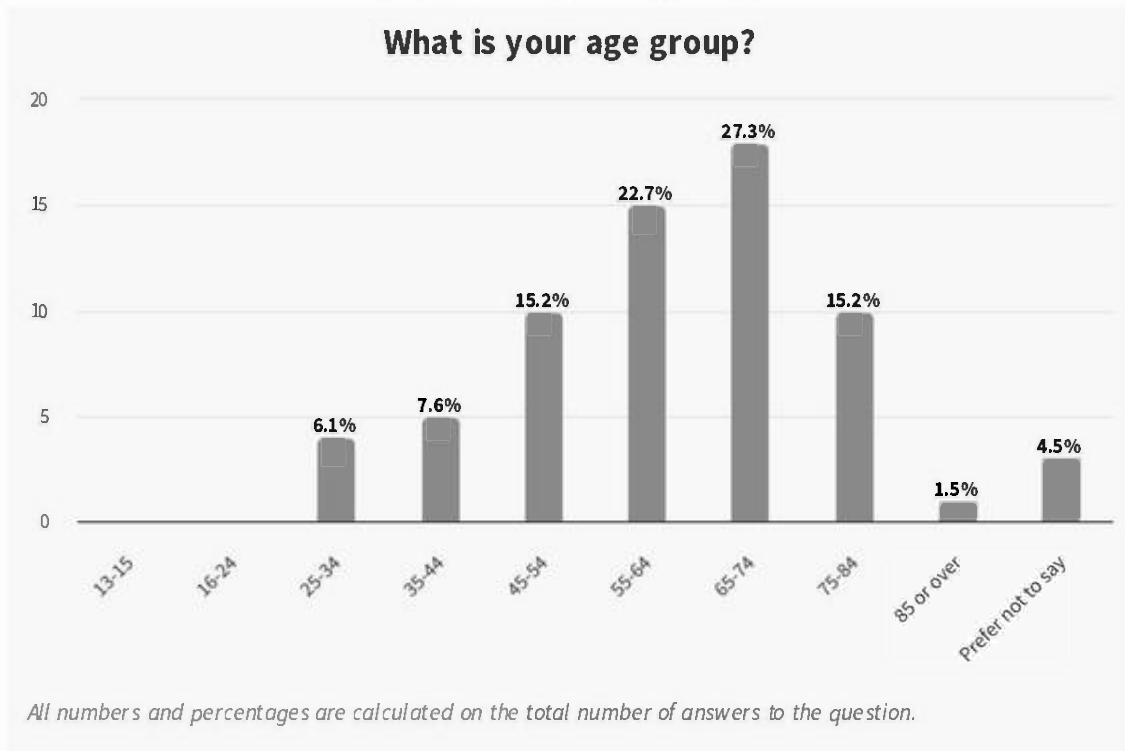
- Age
- Gender
- Ethnicity
- Disability
- Postcode
- Connection to the area

The diagrams below focus on the responses received relating to gender, age, ethnicity and disability. It is acknowledged that the data collated is limited and is therefore considered a starting point. We will seek to build upon this initial equalities data in future planning policy consultations to refine the engagement strategy.

Age

The data in diagram D1 indicates that the age bands with the highest proportion of respondents are 64-75 years (27.3%) followed by 55-64 years (22.7%). The next largest groups of respondents are 45-54 years and 75-84 years; both with a 15.2% response rate. There were no respondents in the age bands 13-15 and 16-24; however, it should be noted that 4.5% of those who responded to this question preferred not to provide this information. The age bands with the lowest response rates are 85 or over (1.5%) and 25-34 years (6.1%).

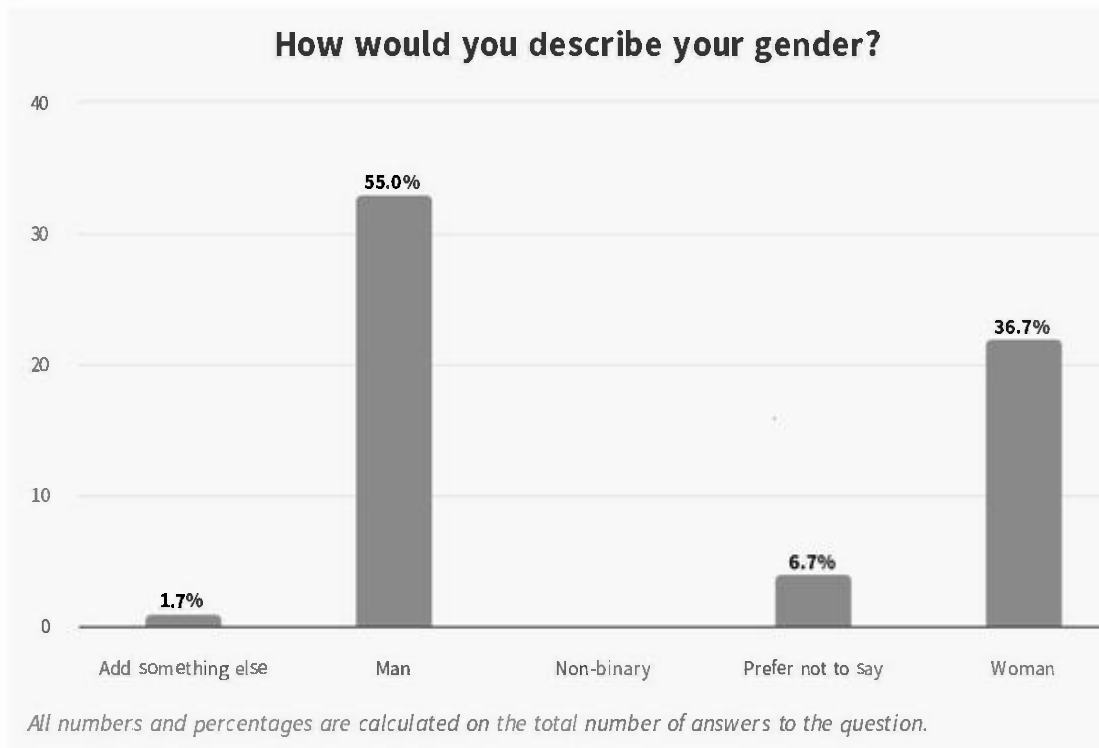
Diagram D1: Age of respondents



Gender

Diagram D2 sets out that 55% of individuals who responded to planning policy consultations were male and 36.7% female. A further 1.7% of respondents identify as another gender identity whilst 6.7% of respondents preferred not to provide this information.

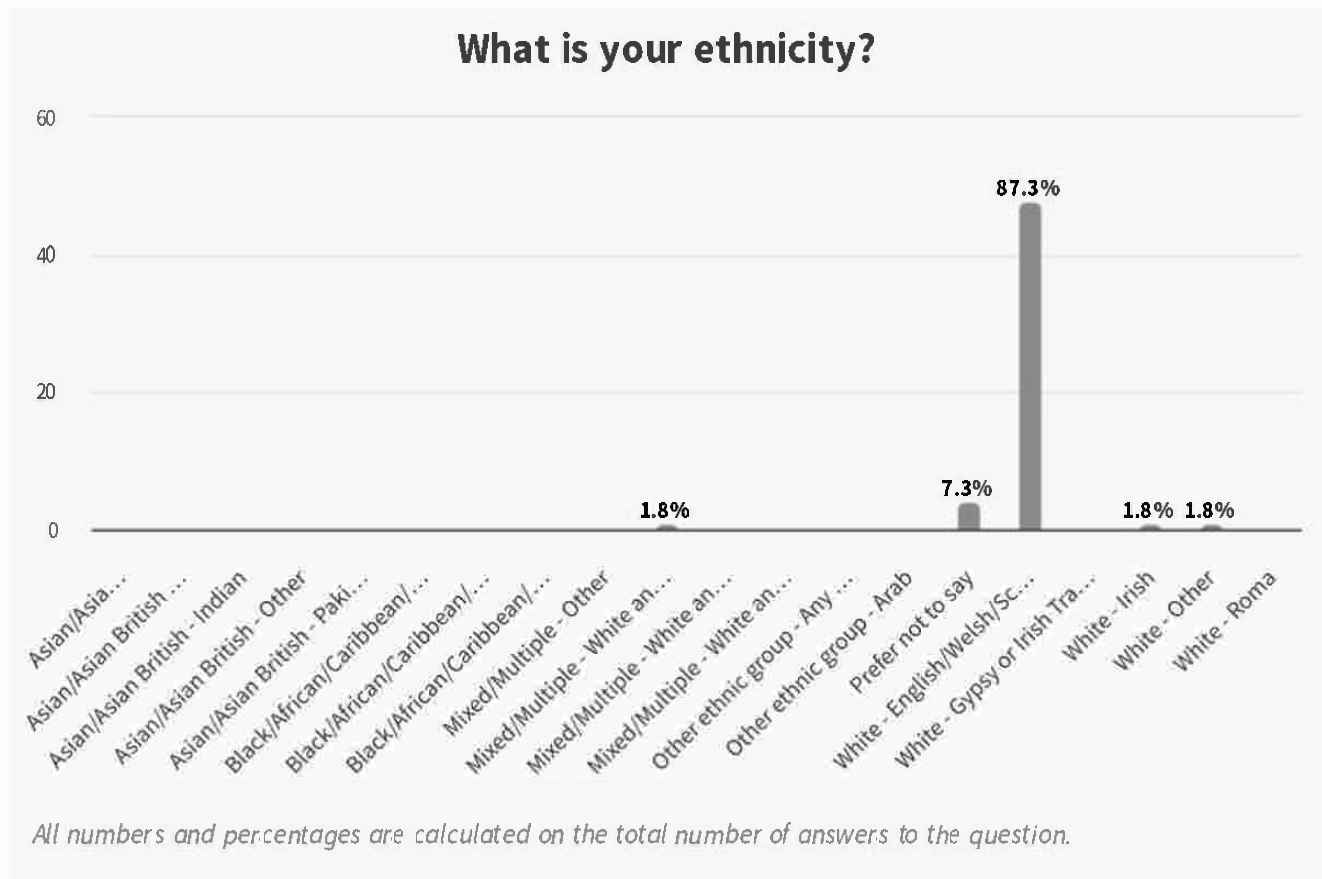
Diagram D2: Gender of respondents



Ethnicity

The data in diagram D3 sets out that a total of 87.3% of respondent's identity as White (English/Welsh/Scottish) and a further 3.6% identify as White (Irish) and White (Other). A total of 1.8% of respondents identified as Mixed/Multiple (White and Asian). The data shows that there were no respondents who identified as Asian or Black.

Diagram D3: Ethnicity of respondents



Disability and long-term health condition

The data in diagram D4 indicates that 69.8% of respondents do not consider that have a disability or long-term health condition. Conversely a total of 22.3% of respondents do identify as having a disability or long-term health condition.

Diagram D4: Disability or health conditions of respondents

