

Compton Parish Council Local Plan Sub-Committee Report – May 2022

Local Plan Review

Following advice from a planning consultant, Guildford Borough Council has decided to delay a formal review of the Local plan until 2024. In the meantime, the Council says it will continue to look at the evidence base, an essential first step before the review. This includes:

- understanding retail, leisure and employment changes in the borough
- working with Surrey County Council and National Highways to review the transport evidence
- developing plans for the town centre.

The Planning Consultant had warned that the Government's standard method of determining the target housing number could be imposed on Guildford at the time of a formal review which may result in a much higher target number than is currently the case.

Development Management Policies

The second part of the Local Plan, the Development Management Policies was brought to the Council's Executive Advisory Board on May 10, ahead being brought to the borough council's Executive on May 26 and then to the full council on June 9. These policies aim to help support the Council's decisions on planning applications and to guide developers.

Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill

The Government has announced proposals for a fresh approach to planning. The Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, Michael Gove, has said that the new proposals, to be included in a new [Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill](#), would help the government reach its housing target of 300,000 new homes a year and would help overcome resistance in local communities which existed because:

- the infrastructure needed hasn't come with housing developments;
- democratic choices have sometimes been overridden by planning inspectors;
- the environment hasn't been protected; and
- houses have been plonked down simply to reach an arbitrary housing target.

Council Leader Joss Bigmore has said he welcomes Mr Goves's words, but that the Council would have to wait for new policies and legislation before any fundamental changes to the Local Plan could be made.