

Cabinet Meeting Resolution

**Executive
Forward Plan
Reference**

E3636

Reset Local Plan Options Document

Date of Meeting	25-Sep-25
The Issue	In 2024 government issued significant changes to national planning policy and a revised standard method figure of housing need. The revised housing need figure for Bath & North East Somerset is more than double than that of the previous government. As a result the Council decided in 2024 to reset preparation of its Local Plan in order to consider the implications of changed policy and to enable progression towards a sound Local Plan. Resetting the Local Plan requires the Council to prepare and consult on a further set of options for meeting the substantially increased level of housing need, associated job growth and some new policy approaches. The report seeks approval of a reset Local Plan options document for consultation commencing in October this year.
The decision	(1) To approve the Reset Local Plan Options document (Appendix 1 of the report) for public consultation for a period of six weeks from 3rd October to 14th November 2025, subject to the amendments set out in the schedule to the revised officer recommendation. (2) To agree and authorise the Executive Director for Sustainable Communities, in consultation with the Cabinet Members for Built Environment, Housing and Sustainable Development and Communications and Community, to issue communications relating to the reset Local Plan Options and to undertake consultation as summarised in section 10 of the report and outlined in the communications and engagement plan (Appendix 2 of the report). (3) To delegate authority to the Executive Director for Sustainable Communities, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Built Environment, Housing and Sustainable Development, to agree textual changes to the Options document (Appendix 1 of the report) prior to its publication for consultation.
Rationale for decision	Resetting preparation of the Local Plan means that consultation on a further set of Options is necessary before progressing towards a Draft Local Plan. The council is required to test and consult on all 'reasonable alternatives' to meet the increased level of housing need.
Other options considered	In progressing the Local Plan, the other option which was considered was accelerating preparation of the Local Plan in order that the transitional arrangements published by the government alongside the revised NPPF could be met. However, it was concluded that this would be impossible in a way that ensured the Local Plan would have been found sound at examination. Therefore, progressing the reset Local Plan to the programme set out in the Local Development Scheme (LDS) (and summarised in paragraph 3.7 of the report) is the only appropriate course of action.

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The Decision is subject to Call-In within 5 working days of publication of the decision