

Scoping Consultation for the Future Portsmouth Plan

September 2026



Portsmouth
CITY COUNCIL

Contents

1	Introduction	3
2	Vision and Spatial Strategy	7
3	Homes	9
4	Economy & Employment	11
5	Infrastructure	13
6	Climate Change & Flooding	17
7	Natural Environment	19
8	Design, Placemaking & Heritage.....	21
9	Consultation Process	23

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This [Scoping Consultation](#)¹ is the first stage in preparing the new Future Portsmouth Plan (FPP). Portsmouth City Council want to hear from people who live and work in the City and other stakeholders about the key issues facing the City, what the priorities for the FPP should be and how people should be involved as the FPP progresses.
- 1.2 Your feedback will help us agree the scope of the FPP and establish how people should be consulted on this to feed into the FPP. This will then be set out in the Council's new Engagement Strategy.

What is the Future Portsmouth Plan?

- 1.3 The FPP will be a local plan covering the period up to 2045. A local plan is prepared by the local planning authority to help shape how the area will develop in the future. It will set out a long term vision for things like new homes, jobs, community facilities and infrastructure. It will also guide how the natural and historic environment will be protected, how climate change will be addressed, and how good quality places will be created.
- 1.4 Every local planning authority must have a local plan. It is the main document used to decide what can be built and where. It sets out the type, scale and location of future development and includes detailed policies for determining planning applications. The Council's current local plan - the [Portsmouth Plan](#)² was adopted in 2012. The Portsmouth Plan 2012 is to be replaced by the [Portsmouth Local Plan](#)³ which will guide development in the City up to 2040. The Portsmouth Local Plan is significantly progressed and is currently going through the Examination process.

Why does Portsmouth need a new local plan when one has only recently been prepared?

- 1.5 The requirement to prepare a new style local plan came in when new regulations were introduced in March 2026, enacting legislation from October 2023, requiring local authorities to prepare local plans under a new planning system.
- 1.6 The Council will continue taking the Portsmouth Local Plan forward to adoption (likely to be in early 2027) whilst working in tandem on the new style FPP which will plan for development up to 2045. The Portsmouth Local Plan,

¹ <https://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/services/development-and-planning/planning-policy/emerging-development-plan/future-portsmouth-plan-to-2045/notice-of-local-plan-scoping-consultation>

² <https://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/The-Portsmouth-Plan.pdf>

³ https://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/PLP-Composite-Nov_2025.pdf

once adopted, will remain in place until the new FPP is adopted (anticipated to be spring 2029).

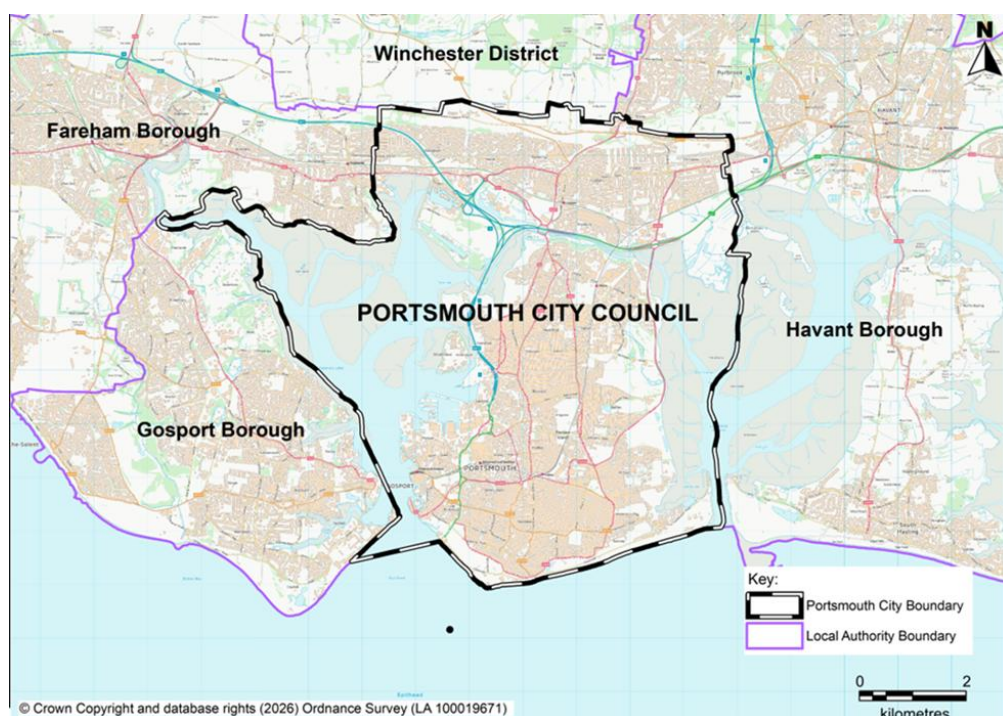
What's different about new style local plans?

- 1.7 New style local plans will look quite different from plans prepared under previous legislation - known as "legacy" plans. Recent changes in national policy mean that policy topics often covered by local plans in the past, are now covered by national decision-making policies instead. New style local plans cannot repeat what is already covered in national decision-making policies. New style local plans can only include policies that are specific to the local area, and policies which are required by national policy.
- 1.8 A new tier of plan called a Spatial Development Strategy (SDS) will in future form part of the statutory development plan and will sit "above" the FPP. For Portsmouth, this will be prepared by a new organisation called the Hampshire and the Solent Combined County Authority. The SDS will be a more strategic plan than the FPP as it will cover a much larger area than Portsmouth and will cover more strategic issues which are better dealt with over a wider geography. The FPP will need to be in general conformity with the SDS.

What area will the FPP cover?

- 1.9 The FPP will cover the administrative area of Portsmouth City. The boundary and the geographical area it will cover is shown on the map below at Figure 1.

Figure 1: Map of Portsmouth - the geographical area for the Future Portsmouth Plan



What is the timetable for the FPP?

1.10 The timetable for the FPP is set out below in Table 1.

Table 1 Future Portsmouth Plan Timetable

Local Plan Stage	Target Date	Date Completed
Notice of intention to commence local plan preparation	July 2026	Completed 14 July 2026
Scoping consultation	Notice published: 29 September 2026 Representations to be received by: 2 November 2026	
Gateway 1 Self-assessment summary published	17 December 2026	
Local plan content and evidence consultation	Notice published: May 2027 Representations to be received by: June 2027	
Gateway 2 observations & advice sought	December 2027	
Proposed local plan consultation	Notice published: March 2028 Representations to be received by: April 2028	
Gateway 3 observations & advice sought	July 2028	
Submission of local plan to Secretary of State	August 2028	
Adoption of local plan	April 2029	

1.11 The [Local Plan Timetable](#)⁴ and [Notice of Intention to Commence Local Plan Preparation](#)⁵ were published on 14 July 2026 (the Local Plan Timetable has subsequently been updated). This scoping consultation runs from 29 September - 2 November 2026. The dates of subsequent stages are set out above. Local Plan Timetables are updated on a regular basis, at least monthly, so if the dates for any future stages change, this will be reflected in the latest Local Plan Timetable on the Council's website.

⁴ <https://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/services/development-and-planning/planning-policy/emerging-development-plan/future-portsmouth-plan-to-2045/local-plan-timetable/>

⁵ <https://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/07/Notice-of-Intention-to-Commence-accessible-aa.pdf>

How to respond to this consultation

- 1.12 You can respond to this consultation by completing a [response form](#)⁶ online on the Council's website.
- 1.13 If you have any questions or need to respond in another format, please email the policy team at policyconsultations@portsmouthcc.gov.uk or write to us at Planning Policy, Portsmouth City Council, Civic Offices, Guildhall Square, Portsmouth, PO1 2AU.
- 1.14 The deadline for responses is 11:59pm on 2 November 2026.
- 1.15 The formal [Notice of Local Plan Scoping Consultation](#)⁷ is available on the Council's website. The Notice of Local Plan Scoping Consultation and the Scoping Consultation document will be available to view at the following locations during the consultation period: the Council's Civic Offices, the Central Library, Carnegie (Fratton) Library, and Southsea Library.

Other Consultations

- 1.16 At the same time as running this Scoping Consultation, the Council is running a ["Call for Sites"](#)⁸ which will follow the same timeframe as the consultation period for the FPP Scoping Consultation. This is for landowners and developers, and anyone else to submit sites with the potential for development to the Council for consideration for allocation in the FPP. Further details on this are available on the Council's website.
- 1.17 At a later date to this Scoping Consultation, the Council will also be consulting on its Strategic Environmental Assessment Scoping Report. Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is a process used to assess the potential effects on the environment of proposed plans, policies and strategies. The SEA Scoping Report for the FPP will set the framework against which the FPP will be assessed. The consultation period for the FPP SEA Scoping Report will be the same as for the FPP Scoping Consultation (5 weeks). The general public are not invited to respond to consultation on the SEA Scoping Report for the FPP as this is a technical document, which involves only statutory bodies, but it will be made available for anyone to view on the Council's website during and after its consultation period.

⁶ <https://solentlepapi.evolutive.co.uk/form/anonymousform/6a7c2b2e06c58f7ff696934e?&redirecturl=>

⁷ <https://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/services/development-and-planning/planning-policy/emerging-development-plan/future-portsmouth-plan-to-2045/notice-of-local-plan-scoping-consultation>

⁸ <https://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/services/development-and-planning/planning-policy/emerging-development-plan/future-portsmouth-plan-to-2045/call-for-sites>

2 Vision and Spatial Strategy

Vision

- 2.1 The FPP will include a vision for Portsmouth which articulates how the City should change over the plan period. The vision for the Portsmouth Local Plan (currently at examination) is based on the [Imagine Portsmouth 2040 Vision](https://imagineportsmouth.co.uk/the-vision/)⁹, and is set out below followed by an infographic showing how we want to be in 2040:

In 2040 Portsmouth will be an island city with an incredible waterfront, a rich cultural heritage and a strong maritime history. With a naval base, international port and strong local links across the south, we are the centre of culture and enterprise for our area. In 2040 we are very proud of Portsmouth, how we behave towards each other and how it feels to live here.



⁹ <https://imagineportsmouth.co.uk/the-vision/>

- 2.2 The Council would like to ask people if they think this vision is still appropriate and would be sensible to include in the new FPP, albeit with the date amended to 2045, to reflect the new plan period, or if this should be amended.

Question 1

Do you think the Imagine Portsmouth 2040 Vision should remain unchanged (other than the 2040 date being changed to 2045) or be amended?

- Leave the Imagine Portsmouth 2040 Vision unchanged other than the end date
- Amend the Vision

Question 2

If you would like the Vision to be amended, what changes would you suggest?

Spatial Strategy

- 2.3 The FPP will include a Spatial Strategy as well as site allocations which together will set out where new homes and jobs will go, and which areas will stay protected. These have not yet been prepared as the FPP is still at an early stage. However, at the same time as running this Scoping Consultation, the Council is running a "[Call for Sites](https://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/services/development-and-planning/planning-policy/emerging-development-plan/future-portsmouth-plan-to-2045/call-for-sites)"¹⁰ which asks people to submit sites to the Council for consideration for potential allocation for development. The results of the "Call for Sites" will feed into the preparation of the Spatial Strategy and potential site allocations which will be consulted upon at later stages of the FPP. Spatial policies will also include a settlement boundary for Portsmouth, and any policies required to protect or propose enhancement for specific purposes (such as habitat improvement).

¹⁰ <https://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/services/development-and-planning/planning-policy/emerging-development-plan/future-portsmouth-plan-to-2045/call-for-sites>

3 Homes

- 3.1 One of the key things which has to be specified in the FPP is how many homes are needed in Portsmouth. The Government has a formula called the "standard method" which calculates the housing need for all local planning authorities across England. The latest standard method figure for Portsmouth is 1,022 homes per year.
- 3.2 Whilst the starting point for the FPP will be trying to meet housing need, given its constrained island geography there is a lack of available sites for development, and it is unlikely that these needs will be met in full. The Council will therefore be speaking to neighbouring authorities to see if they are able to accommodate some or all of Portsmouth's unmet housing needs.
- 3.3 As well as the number of homes, the Council will also be required to establish the need for different types of housing such as affordable housing, student housing, and pitches and plots for gypsies, travellers and travelling showpeople.
- 3.4 There are a number of key issues in Portsmouth regarding housing relevant to the FPP which are set out in Table 2 below. These feed into determining what we think the priorities should be for the FPP related to housing, which are set out in Table 3.

Table 2 Homes: Key Issues for the FPP

Key Issues
It is difficult to meet housing need given Portsmouth's constrained island geography.
More affordable housing in Portsmouth is greatly needed, but poor viability in the City makes this difficult to deliver without external funding.
A large proportion of the Council's housing supply is from Houses in Multiple Occupancy (HMOs).
Some members of the community have specific housing needs to be met, such as older people, care-experienced young people and the military.

Table 3 Homes: Priorities for the FPP

Priorities
To establish how many homes can be developed in Portsmouth and when and where they will be delivered.
To ensure housing development is delivered at an appropriate density, making efficient use of land.

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|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To secure the delivery of affordable housing for those whose needs are not met by the market. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To meet the identified housing needs of everyone in the community and to secure a range of housing types and tenures, including older people, care-experienced young people and the military. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To ensure new development creates mixed and balanced communities. |

Question 3

Do you agree with the key issues and priorities for homes for the Future Portsmouth Plan?

Question 4

Do you have any suggestions for any further local housing key issues and priorities that should be addressed in the Future Portsmouth Plan?

4 Economy & Employment

- 4.1 A key matter to be addressed in the FPP is the amount of new employment floorspace to be developed over the plan period and the number of jobs to be created. This will follow a clear economic vision and strategy set by the Council. The FPP will also address barriers to economic growth such as employability and skills.
- 4.2 Planning defines employment as offices, research and development, industrial processes, manufacturing and warehousing and therefore the employment floorspace figures in the FPP will only relate to these types of businesses. There are a number of use classes defined in the Use Classes Order that provide jobs and generate income, for example schools and universities, but are not defined as employment in planning.
- 4.3 The City Centre along with the town, district and local centres lie at the heart of local communities across the City. In the age of internet shopping and changing social habits some of these centres are no longer thriving. They have high numbers of empty shops and suffer from anti-social behaviour. The hierarchy of centres and the boundaries of individual centres will be reviewed as part of the preparation of the FPP. Town centres are where main town centre uses should be located; main town centre uses are defined by national policy and include retail, leisure, entertainment, offices, arts, culture and tourism development. National policy will be used to determine whether development proposals would support the overall vitality and viability of town centres.
- 4.4 There are a number of key issues in Portsmouth regarding economy and employment relevant to the FPP which are set out in Table 4 below. These feed into determining what we think the priorities should be for the FPP related to economy and employment, which are set out in Table 5.

Table 4 Economy & Employment: Key Issues for the FPP

Key Issues
• The unemployment rate and levels of worklessness are consistently above regional and national averages.
• Some business premises are ageing and no longer fit for purpose
• There is a marked gap between the skills of the resident population and locally available jobs resulting in high levels of commuting.
• Major local employers and drivers of the local economy include His Majesty's Naval Base in Portsmouth, the University of Portsmouth, the National Health Service and Portsmouth International Port.
• Some of the City's town centres are in need of investment.

• Vibrant public events such as the Victorious Festival, Southsea Food Festival and the Great South Run attract large numbers of people into the City.
• The cultural economy is distinct and growing.

Table 5 Economy & Employment: Priorities for the FPP

Priorities
• To set an employment target that meets the economic development needs of the City in the context of its constrained island geography.
• To allocate sites for employment that meet the needs of the modern economy.
• To protect employment premises that are fit for purpose ensuring these are not replaced by higher value uses.
• To bridge the gap between local jobs and local skills.
• To protect and promote waterfront employment sites particularly those with deepwater access.
• To set out a hierarchy of centres where main town centre uses will be located.
• To enable the growth of the cultural and visitor economy.

Question 5

Do you agree with the key issues and priorities for economy and employment for the Future Portsmouth Plan?

Question 6

Do you have any suggestions for any further local economy and employment key issues and priorities that should be addressed in the Future Portsmouth Plan?

5 Infrastructure

- 5.1 Infrastructure refers to the services and facilities which are needed to support growth and help achieve sustainable places. In the FPP, infrastructure will include transport, education, health, communications and utilities, community facilities as well as green and blue infrastructure. The FPP will seek to ensure that the right infrastructure is provided in the right place at the right time thus supporting a strong economy, healthy communities and nature recovery. These benefits are often inter-linked, and it is important that opportunities are taken to promote infrastructure projects which will provide multiple benefits.
- 5.2 The Council will prepare an Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP), a living document¹¹ to assess the current infrastructure provision across the City, understand what is being planned with committed investment and what will be needed in the future to meet the overall anticipated growth set out in the FPP.
- 5.3 Transport is an important form of infrastructure and the [Portsmouth Transport Strategy 2021-2038](#)¹² sets out the current Local Transport Plan (LTP4). This sets four key strategic objectives for transport for the City:
- Deliver cleaner air
 - Prioritise walking and cycling
 - Transform public transport
 - Support business and protect our assets.
- 5.4 An integral part of the FPP will be a vision-led approach to planning for transport which will support the objectives of the LTP. This means focusing on the travel and movement needs of people rather than vehicles. The road network in Portsmouth cannot be expanded due to the constrained character of the City, and it is not possible to facilitate ever increasing car usage. Instead, we must use our existing highway network to move greater numbers of *people* rather than vehicles. The FPP will promote a safe, convenient, affordable and efficient transport network that provides opportunities for sustainable travel with alternatives to the private car.
- 5.5 The private car remains a popular choice for short trips in the City, leading to congestion, delays and poor air quality. This in turn results in negative health impacts particularly for people suffering from multiple disadvantages. The [Department for Transport's connectivity tool](#)¹³ scores Portsmouth as a relatively well-connected City. Portsmouth is compact and flat which means

¹¹ A living document is a dynamic file that is regularly updated, revised and edited as new information becomes available or conditions change.

¹² https://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/local-transport-plan4-update2021_final_accessible.pdf

¹³ <https://connectivity-tool-lite.dft.gov.uk/index>

that walking and cycling levels could be greater than they are currently. The FPP will help promote walking, wheeling and cycling as safe and attractive choices for people in Portsmouth.

- 5.6 Alongside better connections, the FPP will prioritise development in sustainable locations so that it is easier for people to access services, facilities and public transport. It should be noted the Portsmouth International Portsmouth is central to the City's economy and makes the City an international gateway.
- 5.7 Parking has a major impact on the quality of urban environment. [The Council's Parking Strategy](#)¹⁴ adopts a City-wide approach to enhancing residents' parking experiences, balancing efficiency, quality and convenience for users. The FPP will set local parking standards for new residential and non-residential development which will replace the existing [parking standards](#)¹⁵. This will include infrastructure for electric vehicles as well as weatherproof and secure cycle and other micro-mobility parking compatible for all users.
- 5.8 It should be noted that some forms of infrastructure most notably flood defences and green infrastructure are addressed in separate sections of this Scoping Consultation document. Furthermore, the allocations in the FPP may have site specific infrastructure needs. These will be addressed in the relevant allocation policies and the IDP as relevant.
- 5.9 There are a number of key issues in Portsmouth regarding infrastructure relevant to the FPP which are set out in Table 6 below. These feed into determining what we think the priorities should be for the FPP related to infrastructure, which are set out in Table 7.

Table 6 Infrastructure: Key Issues for the FPP

Key Issues
It is important to identify infrastructure requirements and sources of funding to ensure that the right infrastructure is delivered at the right time to support growth.
The road network in Portsmouth cannot be expanded due to the compact nature of the City. There is a need to use existing corridors to maximise the movement of people rather than just vehicles, and to improve non-car travel options across the City.

¹⁴ <https://travel.portsmouth.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/parking-strategy-may-2024-aa-accessible-updated.pdf>

¹⁵ <https://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Parking-standards-and-transport-assessments-Supplementary-Planning-Document.pdf>

• There is a need to improve connectivity of the City as the economic, cultural and learning centre of the sub-region.
• There is need for sustained investment to create a more integrated, connected, safe and attractive walking and cycling network which is used by more people for everyday journeys.
• There is an opportunity to improve air quality and health outcomes through reduced reliance on private vehicles and measures to minimise emissions from transport and international port-related activities.
• The City's green and blue infrastructure network faces challenges arising from development pressures and climate change.
• There is an opportunity to implement heat networks¹⁶, a highly efficient system which removes the need for individual boilers or heaters in each building.
• There are opportunities to improve the utility network, digital connectivity and energy infrastructure to support and drive development.

Table 7 Infrastructure: Priorities for the FPP

Priorities
• To ensure development is supported by necessary infrastructure for sustaining a strong and diverse economy, providing access to education and training opportunities for all, improved social wellbeing and mitigating the impact of climate change on communities across the City.
• To improve public transport particularly bus rapid transit services along key corridors connecting the wider travel to work area with Portsmouth itself to provide an attractive alternative to driving for many more journeys than today.
• To ensure that transport improvements and mitigation linked to development maximise the people-movement potential of key corridors through modal shift, greater use of technology and improving safety, particularly for vulnerable road users.
• To regenerate the City Centre enabling more people to live and work within Portsmouth itself, minimising the need for longer journeys, and promoting the growth and enhancement of sustainable travel within the City Centre.
• To set parking standards to balance travel needs, ensure efficient land use and protect the environment.
• To identify a strategic green grid across the City and resist the net loss of green and blue infrastructure.

¹⁶ insulated underground pipes to distribute heat from centralised sources

Question 7

Do you agree with the key issues and priorities for infrastructure for the Future Portsmouth Plan?

Question 8

Do you have any suggestions for any further local infrastructure key issues and priorities that should be addressed in the Future Portsmouth Plan?

6 Climate Change & Flooding

- 6.1 Climate change and flooding are key issues for the City. Large areas are at risk of flooding from the sea, a problem which will get worse with climate change. The City also has issues with air quality due to air pollution.
- 6.2 Responding to the global changes to our climate, Portsmouth declared a [climate change emergency](#)¹⁷ in 2019. As a low lying island City, Portsmouth is vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. The Council intends to mitigate the threat by reducing carbon emissions and increasing energy efficiency.
- 6.3 In new style local plans, there is limited scope for including many policies on flooding as this will be mostly covered by national decision making policies, but there is a requirement for new local plans to include policies on coastal change and management.
- 6.4 There are a number of key issues in Portsmouth regarding climate change and flooding relevant to the FPP which are set out in Table 8 below. These feed into determining what we think the priorities should be for the FPP related to climate change and flooding, which are set out in Table 9.

Table 8 Climate Change & Flooding: Key Issues for the FPP

Key Issues
• There is an opportunity to ensure energy efficiency and decarbonisation in new developments.
• As a highly urbanised area, Portsmouth is susceptible to the urban heat island effect¹⁸ and buildings are particularly vulnerable to overheating.
• Large areas of the City are at risk of flooding from the sea, a problem which will be worsened by climate change.

Table 9 Climate Change & Flooding: Priorities for the FPP

Priorities
• To support development which reduces greenhouse gas emissions, minimises energy use, maximises water re-use and uses nature-based solutions.
• To ensure new development adapts to and mitigates the impacts of climate change to minimise overheating and reduce the urban heat island effect.

¹⁷ <https://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/services/environmental-health/climate-action/portsmouths-climate-targets/2030-climate-change-strategy/>

¹⁸ An urban heat island occurs when a city experiences much warmer temperatures than nearby rural areas. Cities experience this warming because buildings, roads, and dark surfaces absorb and trap the sun's heat, while a lack of trees and plants stops natural cooling.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To consider whether to identify any areas likely to be affected by physical changes to the coast over the next century as Coastal Change Management Areas. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To safeguard land that is, or is likely to be, required for current or future coastal erosion risk management, or flood management. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To use opportunities provided by new development to reduce the causes and impacts of flooding. |

Question 9

Do you agree with the key issues and priorities for climate change and flooding for the Future Portsmouth Plan?

Question 10

Do you have any suggestions for any further local climate change and flooding key issues and priorities that should be addressed in the Future Portsmouth Plan?

7 Natural Environment

- 7.1 The City of Portsmouth poses a unique set of challenges and opportunities with regards to its natural environment. It is the UK's only "island city" and 40% of its administrative area is covered by international, national and local designations for nature. There are bird and wetland habitats of international and national significance, for example habitats of Brent Geese and Solent Waders. Locally significant flora and fauna include heathland, chalk grasslands and shingle habitats, and co-dependent insects, birds and invertebrates. A [Nature Emergency](#)¹⁹ was declared by the Council in 2022, committing 30% of land for nature recovery by 2030. It is therefore necessary to ensure that future development proceeds with nature's recovery at its heart.
- 7.2 The nature emergency declared by the Council recognises the decline in wildlife and the disconnect between people and nature. This disconnect has been driven by post-war development across the City and exacerbated by the effects of climate change. National planning policy seeks to drive nature's recovery and contribute to wider environmental outcomes, safeguarding our most important habitats, species and landscapes and recognising the centrality of natural capital to delivering sustainable growth.
- 7.3 The Environment Act 2021 and associated Regulations now require local authorities to prepare and publish local nature recovery strategies (LNRS) to identify nature priorities and nature-based solutions that inform other aspects of the City's longer term resilience, such as flood risk and climate change mitigation. The Council therefore needs to explore how the FPP can best align with and help to deliver the Hampshire LNRS.
- 7.4 There are a number of key issues in Portsmouth regarding the natural environment relevant to the FPP which are set out in Table 10 below. These feed into determining what we think the priorities should be for the FPP related to the natural environment, which are set out in Table 11.

Table 10 Natural Environment: Key Issues for the FPP

Key Issues
On-going protection of habitats and species of the international, national and local designated sites, with particular regard to the adverse effects of recreational disturbance and nutrient pollution.
A nature emergency has been declared in Portsmouth, triggered by a marked reduction in the number and variety of local plants and animal species.

¹⁹ <https://www.natureemergency.com/councils/portsmouth-city-council/>

• Green and blue infrastructure across the City is fragmented; there is potential for improvement to encourage biodiversity and reconnect people with nature, and to mitigate urban heat island effects.
• Portsmouth has lots of contaminated land, and there is a risk of pollution leaching out from this to the surrounding marine environment.

Table 11 Natural Environment: Priorities for the FPP

Priorities
• To set out the hierarchy for designated sites.
• To avoid and/or mitigate adverse impacts on international nature conservation designations, with regard to recreational disturbance, functionally linked land and nutrient neutrality.
• To work closely with neighbouring local authorities in the implementation of the LNRS.
• To closely align planning policies with the Council's emerging Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure strategies, including strategies to mitigate urban heat island effects.
• To support development that protects and enhances the City's natural environment and proposes improvements to green and blue infrastructure connectivity.
• To ensure a sequential approach to the delivery of Biodiversity Net Gain, prioritising on-site enhancements, followed by off-site options within the City before considering mitigation further afield.
• Wherever possible, to encourage development that helps deliver site de-contamination and/or remediation, especially in areas adjacent to the marine environment.

Question 11

Do you agree with the key issues and priorities for the natural environment for the Future Portsmouth Plan?

Question 12

Do you have any suggestions for any further local natural environment key issues and priorities that should be addressed in the Future Portsmouth Plan?

8 Design, Placemaking & Heritage

- 8.1 Well-designed developments help create better places and instil a sense of place and belonging for residents, businesses and visitors. Portsmouth benefits from many examples of attractive and high-quality buildings and places at a range of scales. However, there is always room for improvement. When poorly considered, a development's design from individual details or material choices on a building to a masterplan for a major scheme has the capacity to erode the overall quality and feel of an area. This ultimately has the ability to impact on people's health and wellbeing.
- 8.2 Design intersects with multiple policy areas including the climate emergency and public health. Its consideration pervades planning decision making. In this context, seeking to achieve the highest possible quality of design in buildings and places is both fundamental to the planning process and the key consideration for design and placemaking in plan making.
- 8.3 Portsmouth is the UK's only island city with an historic environment that is both extensive and diverse geographically and through time. It has been shaped throughout its history by the presence of the Royal Navy. This association and the wider social and cultural legacy expressed in its historic buildings and places are captured in its diverse range of heritage assets, including: 17 Scheduled Monuments, 707 Statutory listed buildings, 25 Conservation Areas, 3 Registered Historic Parks and 264 Locally Listed Buildings. These represent both a positive and an irreplaceable inheritance, which is a key driver in people's perceptions and recognition of the City. Heritage assets contribute to a sense of place and local distinctiveness whilst also being highly valuable in economic terms by attracting very large numbers of tourists to the Historic Dockyard and its historic waterfront.
- 8.4 The retention and appropriate conservation of the City's diverse heritage assets through the preparation of a positive strategy for the historic environment is the key consideration for heritage in plan-making. Notwithstanding this, it is considered that the number and nature of the new national development management policies for heritage will severely limit the scope for the Council to include policies on heritage in the FPP.
- 8.5 There are a number of key issues in Portsmouth regarding design, placemaking and heritage relevant to the FPP which are set out in Table 12 below. These feed into determining what we think the priorities should be for the FPP related to design, placemaking and heritage, which are set out in Table 13.

Table 12 Design, Placemaking & Heritage: Key issues for the FPP

Key Issues
• Proposals for new development in the City may benefit from enhanced design.
• Portsmouth has a number of heritage assets that are considered to be 'at risk'.
• Portsmouth is very highly urbanised, and there is limited land available for new development.
• Poor quality construction and outdated buildings contribute towards climate change.

Table 13 Design, Placemaking & Heritage: Priorities for the FPP

Priorities
• To ensure that the highest quality outcomes are achieved in the design of new buildings and places in the City.
• To consider a policy for the Plan that addresses heritage at risk.
• To ensure new development makes efficient use of land, including exploring opportunities for tall buildings and high density development.
• To require sustainable construction to both adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change. This could include a number of design issues including water efficiency measures and energy efficiency measures.

Question 13

Do you agree with the key issues for design, placemaking and heritage for the Future Portsmouth Plan?

Question 14

Do you have any suggestions for any further local design, placemaking and heritage key issues and priorities that should be addressed in the Future Portsmouth Plan?

9 Consultation Process

- 9.1 The Council want to ensure that local communities, businesses and stakeholders can participate meaningfully in the preparation of the FPP. As part of this Scoping Consultation, we are seeking views on how we communicate and engage with the local community, residents and interested parties at future stages of the process.

Question 15

Which channels would you use to find out information on the Future Portsmouth Plan? (tick all that apply)

- ☐ Portsmouth City Council website
- ☐ Email from the Council
- ☐ The Council's social media platforms (Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn)
- ☐ From Council documents located in local libraries and Council offices

Question 16

Which preferred channels would you use to tell us your views on the Future Portsmouth Plan? (tick all that apply)

- ☐ Completing online form
- ☐ Responding by email
- ☐ Responding by post

Question 17

If the Council held a consultation event on the Future Portsmouth Plan would you attend? (tick all that apply)

- ☐ Yes, would attend an in person event
- ☐ Yes, would attend an online event
- ☐ No, would not be interested in attending a consultation event

Question 18

Would you like to be kept informed about progress and consultations on the Future Portsmouth Plan?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

- 9.2 Following this Scoping Consultation, the Council will prepare an Engagement Strategy which will set out the process for engaging with people on the FPP moving forward. This will include a list of specific consultation bodies (as defined by the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026)) and general consultation bodies (voluntary bodies, some or all of whose activities benefit all or part of the Council's area; bodies which represent the interests of persons in the Council's area who share a protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010; and bodies which represent the interests of persons carrying out business in the Council's area) who will always be contacted for each consultation. We are interested to find out which groups or organisations we should be communicating with.

Question 19

Are there any community groups or local organisations you think we should consult with? If yes, please provide details, including contact details.

Question 20

Is there anything not covered in this Scoping Consultation which you would like taken into account in the preparation of the Future Portsmouth Plan?