

Appendix IV: Table of Comments Made and Changes Requested at PTPWG 4th November 2025 on Local Plan Review – Regulation 18 Consultation Launch

Comments from PTPWG	Response
General Points	
SANGS (Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspaces) should have their own policy (or be clear within the Natural Environment Strategic Policy). The aims of and criteria for a SANGS should be set out within the policy.	Noted. To be addressed at the Reg 19 stage of the Local Plan in a strategic policy.
The document needs to be clearer that the policies within the Reg 18 are draft and do not become Council policy until the Local Plan is adopted after the Examination in Public.	Wording will be added to section 1.1 'What is a Local Plan?' explaining that all of the policies in the Reg 18 are draft and the document reviewed for other areas where this could usefully be clarified.
Members requested that signposting was added for residents explaining that strategic policies will be included at the next stage – Reg 19.	A sentence will be added after paragraph 1.4.4 explaining that strategic policies will be set out at the Reg 19 stage and the document reviewed for other areas where this could usefully be clarified.
Rural exceptions sites don't need to be linked to the settlement hierarchy.	Whilst it is important to offer local communities the opportunity to bring forward affordable housing in their own areas where there are no alternatives, it is still important that development is sustainably located. By retaining the phrase 'settlement hierarchy', it makes clear that proposed development should seek to be located near a level of services available to the scale of development being proposed.
There may be benefit in developing a policy on stewardship and governance for strategic sites.	Officers will investigate the feasibility of including a policy on stewardship and governance for the Reg 19 Local Plan and will bring their research to a future meeting of PTPWG.
There is a need to ensure adequate health provision in the Local Plan.	Noted. This would be addressed in a future Strategic Health policy and within the Infrastructure Delivery Plan and alongside allocation policies.

The new Climate Change policies are ambitious, but welcomed.	Noted. They have been strengthened and expanded to meet the Council's Climate and Ecological Emergency declaration, the Corporate Plan, the Climate Change Act and the National Planning Policy Framework.
DM Policies: Housing	
Policy H4 – Members encouraged giving consideration to enabling standalone sites for self and custom build housing rather than solely as part of larger sites.	Officers will explore this through HEELA work and the developer engagement process. If feedback from that and to the Reg 18 consultation shows demand the policy will be amended at Reg 19 stage.
DM Policies: Infrastructure	
INF 1 – Sittingbourne urban hierarchy image is not correct/basemap not up to date - Figure 22.0.5.	Noted. It shows a point in time and the copyright declaration shows the production date. Officers will seek to change the diagrams for Reg 19.
DM Policies: Climate Change, Pollution and the Water Environment	
Policy C5: There was concern that heat networks should not impact end user affordability.	Policy C5 (end of point 9) text amended as follows (new text underlined): Under each stage of the above hierarchy, it is essential that any connection or development of heat networks must demonstrate that they result in a lower on-site energy demand and carbon emissions than an individual renewable heating system approach, <u>and do not negatively impact affordability for end users.</u>
Glossary	
Brownfield and Greenfield definitions need to be added to the glossary.	Done.