Luton Local Plan Review

Local Plan Timetable (May 2026)

This timetable was published and has effect on 28 May 2026.

A notice to commence Local Plan preparation was published on 28 May 2026.

1. Introduction

1.1 Government policy requires that the Council produce a Local Plan. This document contains a timetable for a new Local Plan for Luton. It sets out the key stages and milestones for the preparation of the Local Plan over a 3 year period to 2028. The timetable is published on the Council's website and will be kept up to date as the Local Plan progresses.

1.2 The timetable replaces the previous Local Plan timetable (in the Council's 2025 Local Development Scheme). A separate timetable will be published for the joint Minerals and Waste Local Plan.

1.3 Government policy allows for Supplementary Plans to produced which are site specific. Currently there are no plans to produce Supplementary Plans in order to focus resources on preparation of the Local Plan.

1.4 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (as amended) and the Town Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026 require that a Local Plan timetable is published and outline what it should contain.

Current Development Plan

1.5 **Luton Local Plan 2011 – 2031 (2017)** - this borough-wide Plan is part of the statutory development plan for Luton that sets out the Council's planning policies for sustainable development. It incorporates both strategic policies, including for sites, and development management policies across a wide range of topics.

1.6 **Minerals and Waste Local Plan: strategic sites and policies (2014)** – Luton Council carries out minerals and waste policy planning jointly with Bedford Borough and Central Bedfordshire Councils. This is the Councils' joint Plan, providing strategic policies for minerals and waste management development. These strategic policies should be read alongside relevant policies for the borough in the Luton Local Plan (the saved policies from the Bedfordshire and Luton Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2005 that were applicable to Luton were replaced in November 2017, on local plan adoption).

New Local Plan

1.7 A Local Plan is a land use or spatial plan that responds to issues and needs. It must be informed by evidence, community engagement, and cooperation with partners and organisations. Preparation of a Local Plan must conform with legal requirements and national planning policy.

1.8 The Local Plan will cover the area of Luton borough and will be prepared by Luton Council. The new Local Plan will help deliver our Luton 2040 Vision. It will replace the current 2017 Local Plan.

1.9 It will identify appropriate areas and sites for development, such as for new homes, offices, shops, and community facilities. It will cover a range of topic

areas including; housing needs (including for affordable housing), transport, health, the environment, nature and climate change.

1.10 When the Local Plan for Luton is completed (adopted) it will set out the amount, type and location of development and contain:

- A Vision for Luton
- Measurable outcomes to monitor progress in achieving the Vision
- A strategy for achieving this
- Land allocations for development where these are needed
- Policies which will be used to assess new planning proposals

1.11 A Design Code will be produced to ensure the Local Plan sets out design requirements for development.

1.12 A new separate joint Minerals and Waste Local Plan is being prepared for Luton, Bedford Borough and Central Bedfordshire jointly by these authorities.

Key Stages

1.13 The table is the timetable for the new Local Plan. It sets out the main stages in its preparation and identifies when the Council will undertake them. Each key stage will be considered by Members in accordance with the legislation and the Council's constitution.

1.14 A stage that involves formal stakeholder and public consultation is identified below in blue. Further information on consultation and engagement is set out in the Council's Engagement Strategy and will also be provided in correspondence, on the Council's website and through other methods before a consultation begins.

Table 1: Timetable

Stage	Detail	When
Publish local plan timetable (this document)	The timetable sets out the dates for key plan-making stages and must be followed and kept up to date.	28 May 2026
Publish notice of intention to commence local plan preparation	Publication of notice so that stakeholders are aware that the Council intends to produce a Plan.	28 May 2026
Consultation: Publish Notice of Scoping consultation	Publish Scoping consultation on what the plan should contain and how the Council should engage with stakeholders and the public.	28 May 2026
Call for Sites	An opportunity for landowners and developers to submit sites for consideration in the Local Plan.	28 May to 23 July 2026
Comments received to Scoping	The date when comments to the scoping consultation must be received by the Council.	23 July 2026

Consultation and call for sites		
Publish Summary of Scoping Consultation	Publish Summary of Scoping Consultation outcomes.	October 2026
Gateway 1: self-assessment of readiness	Publication of a self-assessment document setting out details of how the Council have got ready for plan-making, marking formal commencement of plan-making.	**Published** 22 October 2026
Consultation: Publish Notice of proposed local plan content and evidence	Minimum 6-week consultation on the proposed local plan content and evidence, including draft vision.	13 May 2027
Final Call for Sites	An opportunity for land owners and developers to submit sites for consideration in the Local Plan.	13 May to 24 June 2027
Comments received to proposed local plan content and evidence and call for sites	The date by comments to the proposed local plan content must be received by the Council.	24 June 2027
Publish Summary of consultation of proposed Local Plan content	Publish Summary of consultation on proposed Local Plan content.	August 2027
Gateway 2: Observations and advice	Seek observations and advice from the Planning Inspectorate to support the early resolution of potential soundness issues with the Plan.	17 August 2027
Consultation: Publish Notice of proposed local plan	Minimum 8-week consultation on the proposed local plan and its supporting documents.	18 November 2027
Comments received to proposed local plan	The date by comments to the proposed local plan must be received by the Council.	20 January 2028
Publish Summary of consultation of proposed Local Plan	Publish Summary of consultation on proposed Local Plan.	February 2028
Gateway 3: Observations and Advice	Testing of the proposed local plan with the Planning Inspectorate to check it has met	17 February 2028

	the ‘prescribed requirements’ and can proceed to examination.	
Submission of Local Plan	Submission of the Local Plan to the Secretary for State for examination.	15 June 2028
Examination	A public examination of the local plan against the tests of soundness, set out in national policy.	June to October 2028
Adoption	Publication of the local plan and adoption statement.	22 December 2028