Leeds Local Plan
Scoping Consultation Document

Leeds Local Plan

June 2026

Leeds Local Plan Scoping Consultation Document

Summary of this consultation

We would like your views on which general topic areas the Leeds Local Plan should cover and how you would like to be consulted as the plan is developed.

Introduction

To help everyone take part in this consultation, we have split this document into two parts. The first part includes a background to this consultation and the two consultation questions. The second part provides additional background and more detailed technical information for those who would like to know more. This includes a summary of the work already undertaken, and a summary of the new plan-making process and national policy changes.

What is the Leeds Local Plan?

The Leeds Local Plan covers the Leeds district (see plan below) and sets out where new development will be located, what it will look like, which green space and heritage assets will be protected and how infrastructure will be provided to help support new development. The plan will cover the period to 2043 and must be prepared in accordance with national legislation. Overall, the Leeds Local Plan presents a major opportunity for the Leeds district to meet the needs of all people living in the city and across the Leeds district, while protecting and conserving our best assets.



Plan of the Leeds district

In summer 2025 we gathered valuable feedback from local people on the issues and options for the new Local Plan, and this will be used to help progress the Plan under the new planning system.

Part 1 - Background and Consultation Questions

Background to this consultation

This is the first stage in preparing the Leeds Local Plan under the new local plan-making process, which was announced by the Government in December 2025.

There are three public consultation stages in this process:

1. Scoping Consultation: this is the current stage. It seeks views on what the plan should contain and how people wish to be engaged in the process.
2. Plan Content and Evidence Consultation: this will seek views on the emerging vision for the plan, the evidence supporting it, potential policies and site options. This is planned for Winter 2026/27.
3. Proposed Plan Consultation: this will seek views on a full draft of the Plan. It is currently planned for Autumn/Winter 2027.

This follows a scoping consultation held in 2023 and provides a helpful opportunity to revisit and update the topics that are important to both local people and plan-making, and to have your say on how we consult in the next stages of the plan.

The aim of the Government's new local plan process is to simplify and streamline how plans are prepared, to ensure they are completed within 30 months. This means that the Leeds Local Plan will be complete in 2029.

Around 20,000 people made comments on sites and emerging policies last year. The full consultation report will be published later this year, alongside the consultation on the proposed content and evidence for the local plan. In the meantime, we have published a high-level summary of the consultation, highlighting how many people took part, how they took part, where they live and feedback on the consultation experience. We hope this will help you to understand what consultation and engagement would work best for you or your community when we consult on the plan in future.

Thank you to everyone who shared their views in previous consultations. Your feedback will be used to help shape the plan.

Question 1 - Scope of the Leeds Local Plan

We would like your views on the proposed scope of the plan. We think the plan should cover the following topics:

- **Distributing Development:** the overall approach to locating new homes, businesses and other types of development.
- **Housing and Affordable Housing:** meeting needs for new homes across the district, including homes of different types and tenures
- **Economic Development and Employment:** supporting employment by planning for the needs of businesses
- **Centres and Commercial Development:** supporting the role of our centres and our high streets
- **Minerals and Waste:** meeting specific requirements for mineral extraction and waste management
- **Transport and Connectivity:** planning for future investment in transport infrastructure and helping enable people to travel more sustainably
- **Landscape and Rural Development:** protecting important landscapes and open spaces, and supporting the vitality of rural communities
- **Placemaking:** making sure that new development helps create well-designed and sustainable places
- **Resilience:** supporting the creation of resilient places that use energy and other resources efficiently, increase energy security, reduce the shocks associated with global climate change and support legally binding carbon emission reductions
- **Flood Risk:** planning to avoid, reduce and mitigate the risk of floods
- **The Environment:** protecting valued green and blue spaces and the natural environment
- **Supporting the Delivery of the Plan:** ensuring that the Plan is effective and brings forward the infrastructure that is needed to support new development.

Question: ***Do you agree with the proposed scope of the Leeds Local Plan?***
Yes / No / Don't know

Is there anything else you would like to add or exclude from the scope?
.....
.....
.....

Question 2 - How would you like to be consulted on the future stages of the plan?

Following this consultation, in Winter 2026/7, the Council will consult on the following:

- The draft vision for the Leeds Local Plan
- Draft planning policies for new development
- Proposed site allocations/options
- Supporting evidence

We recognise that people and communities have different needs when it comes to getting involved. To help us provide effective consultation and engagement, we'd like to understand what works best for you and how you would like to take part.

Question: ***What are the consultation and engagement methods that work best for you?*** *(Tick all boxes that apply):*

<u>Promotion</u>

- ☐ Email notification
- ☐ Social media posts
- ☐ Digital adverts
- ☐ Posters and flyers in libraries and community hubs
- ☐ Local news
- ☐ Adverts in local printed publications

<u>Material</u>

- ☐ Informative videos
- ☐ Short summary versions of the material
- ☐ Longer more technical versions of the material
- ☐ Evidence base documents
- ☐ Online consultation material
- ☐ Paper consultation material available for reference at libraries, hubs and events

<u>Events</u>

- ☐ Drop-in events in Leeds city centre
- ☐ Drop-in events in neighbourhood spaces (libraries, community buildings etc.)
- ☐ Meetings with community and resident groups
- ☐ Meetings with equality groups (e.g. disability groups, religious groups, LGBTQ+ groups etc.)
- ☐ Online webinars for information and Q&A

<u>Commenting</u>

- ☐ Online platform/survey
- ☐ Paper survey
- ☐ Email address
- ☐ By post/hand-written

Other

- Accessible venues
- Large print documents
- Language translation
- HTML documents for screen-readers
- Telephone conversations

Are there other consultation methods you would like us to consider?

.....

.....

How to respond

This consultation is only about the scope of the plan and how we engage with you in future. It is not about specific sites or policies, as this will be the focus of the next consultation in Winter 2026/7. We already have your comments from Summer 2025 and they are being used to help inform the next consultation.

If you do not have comments about the scope or how we engage with people in preparing the plan, but would like to know when we are consulting on sites and policy options, then you should sign up to our mailing list [add link]

This consultation runs from 24th June to 5th August 2026, and you can make your comments about the scope or how we engage in any of the following ways:

- **Online portal –** https://leedslocalplan.commonplace.is/
- **Email –** leedslocalplan@leeds.gov.uk
- **Postal address for written comments –** Leeds Local Plan Consultation, Policy & Plans Team, 9th Floor East, Merrion House, 110 Merrion Centre, Leeds, LS2 8BB

If you need this document or the survey in an alternative format (large print, easy read, another language), contact us using the details above.

If you have any queries, please contact the team on (0113) 3787993.

How we will use your comments

Thank you for taking the time to respond to this consultation. Your comments will be used to agree the overall scope of the Leeds Local Plan and to decide how we will consult you on it in the future.

We will publish details of who responded to this consultation, a summary of the main issues raised, how have the responses informed the plan and how we will undertake future consultations as soon as possible.

Next stage of consultation

There will be further opportunities to comment as the Local Plan progresses. We anticipate that we will next be consulting in winter 2026 when people will be able to comment on the policy options, evidence base and potential site allocation choices.

Privacy and Use of your Information

By taking part in this consultation, you agree to Leeds City Council collecting and processing your personal information.
To meet its statutory obligations under planning legislation, the Council must make consultation responses available for public inspection. This includes publishing your name, address, and the content of your comment online.
To protect your privacy, any personal information not required by law to be published, such as telephone numbers or signatures, will be removed before publication.

We collect only the information necessary to:

- record and analyse consultation responses
- contact you if clarification is needed
- keep you informed about future stages of the Local Plan (if you opt in)

Your comments may be summarised in a Consultation Statement, but personal contact details will not be published. Responses may be shared with Council planning officers, the Planning Inspectorate, the appointed Programme Officer, and external partners working on the Local Plan.

Consultation data is retained only as long as necessary to support the plan-making process and meet legal requirements. You have rights over your personal data, including access, correction, and, in some cases, the right to request that we stop using it.

For full details on how Leeds City Council uses and protects your information, please see our Planning Privacy Notice: [insert link to Leeds Planning Privacy Notice]

Part 2 - Further information

This section:

Explains the work already undertaken on the Leeds Local plan, including

- Consultation
- Provides a summary of the new plan-making process
- Summarises national planning policy changes

Work already undertaken on the Leeds Local plan

Accompanying this consultation is a high-level summary of the last consultation undertaken on the Leeds Local Plan (link). The feedback already received will help to shape the plans content and evidence for consultation in Winter 2026/27, but we also hope that you will find it useful in considering which forms of consultation and engagement work best for you and your community.

There have been two previous consultations on the Leeds Local Plan:

- **Spring 2023 – proposed scope:** public consultation on the proposed scope of the Plan.
- **Summer 2025 – Issues and Options:** a wide-scale consultation on draft objectives, policy approaches and a wide range of potential sites. Over 40,000 comments were received.

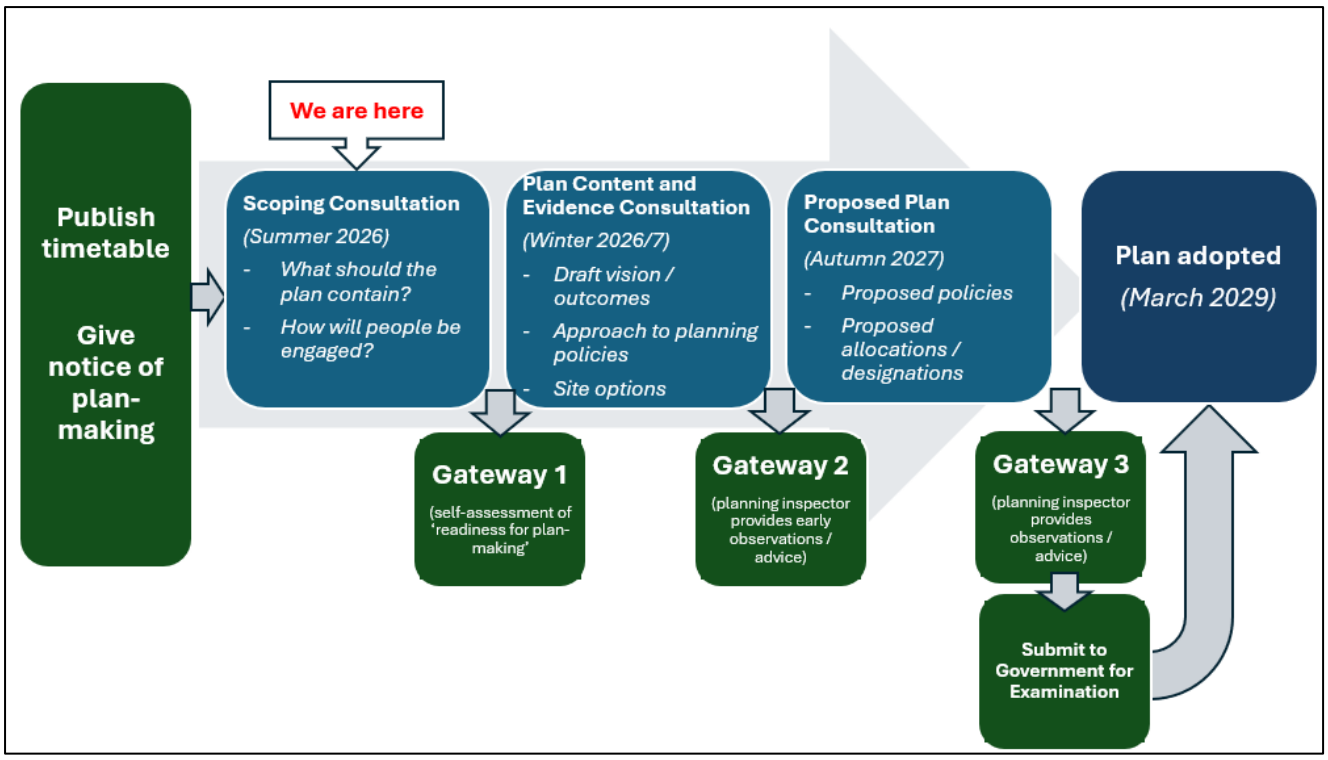
These consultations were held under the previous national regulations which means we need to consult again on the scope of the Plan.

A summary of the new plan-making process

Key features of the new plan-making system:

- Local Plans are expected to be prepared and adopted within **30 months**
- Plans are shorter and more focused on the most important local issues
- Local Plan policies will complement and not repeat national planning policies
- Three 'gateway' checks will help guide the plan to adoption, and help identify any issues at an early stage.

The overall process is shown in the diagram below:



The 'Notice of Intention to Commence Plan-making' and new 'Local Plan Timetable' can be viewed here - Emerging Local Plan

Summary of national planning policy of changes

In March 2026 the Government concluded consultation on proposed major updates to national planning policy. The proposed changes included:

- Clarification that Local Plans should be as streamlined as possible and only include policies which extend beyond site or location-specific requirements where necessary and clearly justified.
- Proposed 'National Development Management Policies' that would provide a consistent national basis for planning decisions, reducing the need for some local planning policies.
- Limits what Local Plans can set quantitative standards for, and the extent to which Local Plans can address matters that are also considered through Building Regulations.

The final updated version of the NPPF has not yet been published, so the results of this consultation will be combined with further government announcements and will, together, shape and direct the scope of the plan.