

Local Plan 2022 - 2042 Launch Document

Easy Read

**Bath & North East
Somerset Council**

Improving People's Lives

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Introduction

The Council is starting to write a new **Local Plan**.

The Local Plan is the long-term plan for Bath and North East Somerset through to 2042.

It will be an important planning document about what can be built, where, how, and why.

It will cover topics like new housing, transport, the environment, jobs, and how communities can live well together.

This Launch Document marks the start of the preparation of the Local Plan.

We want to know if you agree with the information in the Launch Document.

The issues the Council would like to address

The main issues the Council would like to address in the new Local Plan include:

- Tackling **Climate Change**

Climate change (or global warming) is the process of our planet heating up. The changing climate will make our weather more extreme and unpredictable.

- Protecting the environment and nature
- Providing new homes, including affordable homes
- Creating jobs and places to work
- Providing transport options so that we don't have to use cars so much
- Protecting the District's heritage

A place's **heritage** is all the qualities, traditions, or features of life there that have continued over many years and have been passed on from one generation to another.

- Providing high quality development
- Supporting healthy and successful communities
- Providing the infrastructure needed to support new housing

Infrastructure means the basic facilities in a place which enable it to function. This might include things like roads, doctor's surgeries, and schools.

- Increasing creation of renewable energy

Renewable energy is energy made from resources that nature will replace, like wind, water and sun.

Timeline

This is the timeline for the new Local Plan.

- At the moment the Council would like comments from you on the information in this Launch Document.
- Then, in November 2022, the Council will start to collect information about the main issues in the Local Plan. This will include asking people whether they know any available land that may be suitable for development.
- The Council will also talk to people about what they like about where they live and what could be improved.
- The Council will use all of the information that they have collected to prepare a set of options for potential policies that help to address issues in the local area.
- They will ask for everyone's opinions on these options in October 2023.

- In 2024 the Council will review people's opinions of these options. They will use this information to prepare a Draft Local Plan.
- In summer 2024 the Council will publish the Draft Local Plan and will ask for everyone's opinions again.
- The Draft Plan will be submitted to the Government at the end of 2024.
- An Inspector working for the Government will review the Draft Local Plan and will hold an Examination to assess it in early 2025.
- The Inspector will assess whether the Draft Local Plan has been prepared in line with Government requirements. They will recommend whether the Council can adopt the Local Plan or whether any changes are needed.
- The Council aims to adopt the Local Plan in September 2025.

Adopting a Local Plan means that the Council agrees to use the information in the document to make decisions.

Talking to communities and stakeholders

A **stakeholder** is a person or group of people who have an interest in the Local Plan.

The Council will talk to communities and stakeholders across the District at different stages whilst the Local Plan is being written.

The Council will carry out targeted engagement with community groups, stakeholders and groups of people who might not usually be involved in writing a Local Plan.

The Council will ask for everyone's opinions on a draft version of the Local Plan in autumn 2023.

If you would like any further information on engagement, please send an email to:

planning_policy@bathnes.gov.uk

Collecting Evidence

The Local Plan will need to be based on evidence, which the Council will collect.

The Council will use existing evidence as well as arranging new studies.

Some of the issues that the evidence base will need to cover include:

- Housing
- Transport
- Design
- Green belt

Green Belt is an area of land which is protected from development like new buildings or roads. This land is usually located around cities, towns or villages.

- Flooding

- Landscape
- Ecology

Ecology is the study of living things, like animals and plants, and their surroundings.

- Renewable Energy

Renewable energy is made from resources that nature will replace, like wind, water and sunshine.

- Health
- Air quality

Air quality is the term we use to describe how polluted the air we breathe is.

- Green Infrastructure

Green infrastructure is the network of green spaces and features across the District, such as parks, playing fields, woodlands, trees and allotments.

- Infrastructure

Infrastructure means the basic facilities in a place which enable it to function. This might include things like transport, doctor's surgeries, and schools.

- Viability

Viability looks at the amount it costs to develop a piece of land.

Working with others outside Bath and North East Somerset

The Council must work with other Councils and stakeholders outside Bath and North East Somerset.

A **stakeholder** is a person or group of people who have an interest in the Local Plan.

This is because some planning issues cross boundaries into neighbouring areas.

These issues might include things like housing, transport and flooding.

The Council will prepare a document to set out and monitor agreements with other Councils and stakeholders outside of Bath and North East Somerset.

Let us know what you think

There are some questions to answer on the Council's website about this Local Plan Launch Document.

Here is a link to the website:

www.bathnes.gov.uk/localplan

You can answer the questions between **4th October and 15th November 2022**.

If you can't use the website, email your comments to:

planning_policy@bathnes.gov.uk

Or call a member of the planning policy team on the phone using the phone number **01225 39 40 41 (and select option 6)**.

Or write your comments and send them to:

B&NES Council, Planning Policy

Lewis House,

Manvers Street

Bath

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