

Bassetlaw Local Plan timetable

Publication date: September 2026



1. Introduction

The Local Plan Timetable sets out the key milestones for the preparation and adoption of the new Bassetlaw Local Plan. It will ensure that Bassetlaw's communities and other stakeholders understand the timescales for the Plan coming forward and when they can get involved.

The Local Plan Timetable has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of The Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 and the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026.

The new Local Plan will not cover minerals and waste matters. Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC) in its role as Minerals and Waste Planning Authority will prepare separate minerals and waste local plans. NCC will therefore prepare a separate timetable for those plans.

Subject to a Cabinet decision, the Local Plan Timetable would come into effect on 3 September 2026.

2. Scope and Content of the Bassetlaw Local Plan

The Government's plan-making reforms during 2025 and 2026 represent a significant restructuring of local plan preparation with a focus on up-to-date plans, and a more efficient, accessible, transparent planning system that supports a national growth agenda.

The Government expect a Local Plan timetable to be kept up to date and be publicly available on the Council's website. Keeping the public and other stakeholders informed about the development of a local plan, and when and at what stage they can become involved will encourage wider engagement in its production, helping to deliver a more robust plan.

Publishing our Local Plan timetable in response to the new plan-making system will support the Government's ambitions to support economic growth and new homes. A new Local Plan will ensure that the Bassetlaw area can be sustainably planned for in the longer term.

The Council will be producing a new style Local Plan under the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 and the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026. The Plan will respond to changes to the planning system introduced through the new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) in August 2026. This means that our new Local Plan will be produced within a 30-month formal period and will have more of a digital format. On adoption, it will replace the current Local Plan in its entirety.

Bassetlaw District is part of the East Midlands Combined County Authority (EMCCA). The Mayoral Combined Authority will lead on the preparation of a Spatial Development Strategy (SDS) for the East Midlands. This will set out a high-level strategy for the long-term growth and the strategic infrastructure required to support the area. Our Local Plan will need to be in general conformity with the SDS.

The Government has confirmed that emerging SDSs should not delay councils preparing their Local Plans, but it will be important to ensure that Bassetlaw fully engages in the preparation of the SDS. We are already working closely with EMCCA to progress two regional growth areas in the district: Trent Valley Supercluster and East Midlands Investment Zone. This will ensure that our plan contributes to the delivery of the East Midlands Growth Plan (2025) and in time is in conformity with the SDS.

The new Local Plan will set out a vision and spatial development strategy for the district and focus on local spatial policies, site allocations and the timely delivery of supporting physical, social and environmental infrastructure. National decision-making policies that deal with everyday planning matters are within the NPPF.

The scope and content of the Bassetlaw Local Plan will be reviewed following the scoping consultation and a subsequent consultation on proposed Local Plan content and evidence, with the Local Plan Timetable updated where necessary.

3. The geographical area to which the Bassetlaw Local Plan relates

The Local Plan will cover the entirety of the administrative boundary of Bassetlaw District Council.

The Council is not proposing to prepare a joint local plan and has not agreed, nor is it proposing to agree, a joint committee with any other local planning authority.

4. Supplementary Plans

Our current Local Plan is supported by nine Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) which provide additional planning guidance on a number of specific planning related topics. From 30 June 2026, new SPDs are no longer supported under the new plan-making system, although existing SPDs remain in force until a new style Local Plan is adopted.

The Government have introduced Supplementary Plans in the new plan-making system. Supplementary Plans will form part of the development plan and have the same weight as a local plan for the purposes of decision-making and follow a similar process. Supplementary Plans can be used to build on existing policies in the local plan, for example, to set out a design code or masterplan for a site allocated in a local plan.

At this stage no Supplementary Plans have been identified. The Council will therefore need to consider whether there is detail from the existing SPDs which can be embedded in the new Local Plan.

If in future the decision is made to prepare Supplementary Plans, these will be included in an update to the Local Plan Timetable. For each Supplementary Plan, the subject matter and geographical area, site or sites to which they relate will be confirmed. It will also be confirmed whether any Supplementary Plan is to be prepared jointly with another local planning authority.

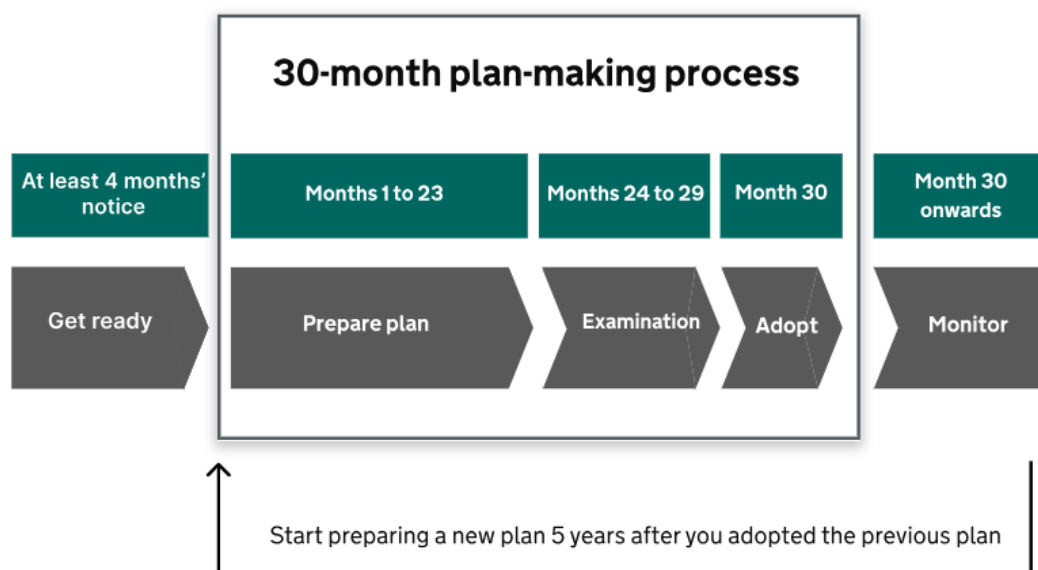
5. Approach to ensuring the quality of design of new development

The Council must ensure that the Local Plan includes design requirements that should be met for planning permission to be granted for development or types of development in the district. The Council will ensure that the Local Plan has design policies to meet this requirement.

The Council will consider whether there are elements of the Bassetlaw Design Guide SPD which can be embedded into the new Local Plan or whether more detailed design guidance should be included within a Supplementary Plan. This will be confirmed through a future update of the Local Plan Timetable.

6. Timetable for the preparation of the new Bassetlaw Local Plan

An overview of the new plan-making process is provided below.



The formal stage of plan-making is required to be completed within a 30-month time period.

Notice of commencement of plan-making is required to be made a minimum of 4 months prior to the start of the formal 30 month period. During this initial preparatory period the Local Plan Timetable was published (June 2026) and a scoping consultation will need to be undertaken about what the plan should contain and how future engagement on the plan should be carried out.

The Council held a 'Call for Sites' in 2025 to gain an understanding about what land is available for development for different uses including housing, employment, retail and gypsy and travellers. A second Call for Sites is expected to be carried out alongside the scoping consultation.

Gateway 1 marks the start of the 30-month plan production period. For Gateway 1, local planning authorities are required to prepare and publish a self-assessment summary which sets out details of their readiness for local plan preparation.

A summary of the scoping report representations will be published before consultation is then undertaken on the proposed local plan content and evidence, including:

- a draft vision and objectives
- a proposed spatial strategy
- a summary of the evidence to be used and details of any evidence already gathered
- any other elements, which may include initial draft policies

The Plan then moves to Gateway 2 where observations and advice are sought from the Planning Inspectorate, including:

- progress towards preparing a sound plan, in line with the tests of soundness set out in the National Planning Policy Framework
- progress towards the Gateway 3 prescribed requirements; and
- what further work is advised to be undertaken.

Consultation is then undertaken on the proposed local plan and supporting submission documents, including:

- the proposed local plan
- the policies map of proposed local plan policies
- details of the evidence gathered to support the proposed local plan
- details relating to the scoping consultation and consultation on proposed local plan content and evidence, including a summary of the main issues raised by respondents and how those main issues have been addressed in the proposed local plan

There is an opportunity to make any amendments to the plan before progressing to Gateway 3, where the Planning Inspectorate provides observations on whether the prescribed requirements set out in the regulations are met in relation to the proposed local plan.

Once it is confirmed that the proposed local plan meets the prescribed requirements, then the local planning authority must submit it for independent examination.

The purpose of the examination is to determine whether it is reasonable to conclude that the local plan is sound, in line with the tests of soundness set out in the National Planning Policy Framework.

Where the appointed independent Inspector identifies that further work is required for the plan to be sound, and decides that the examination is to be paused, the regulations confirm that the maximum length of the pause is 6 months.

The local planning authority must publish the recommendations and reasons received from the Inspector as soon as is reasonably practicable after receipt and notify any person who requested to be notified of this.

Subject to the recommendations of the Inspector, Full Council would then consider adoption of the Plan.

7. Key Milestones for producing the Bassetlaw Local Plan

The key milestones for the preparation of the Bassetlaw Local Plan are shown below.

Key Milestone	Description	Date
Publish local plan timetable	Sets out anticipated dates for each plan-making stage. Must be kept up to date.	11 June 2026
Publish notice of intention to commence plan-making	Gives 4 months' notice about the start of plan-making	11 June 2026
Scoping report consultation	Scoping report gives information about what the Local Plan will contain and how stakeholders/communities can engage with the process. 6 week consultation with representations to be received by 15 October. Call for Sites to run alongside.	3 September-15 October 2026
Gateway 1 – self assessment publication	Sets out how the LPA has got ready for plan-making, marks formal start of plan-making and 30-month plan production period	30 October 2026
Proposed Local Plan content and evidence - consultation	6 week consultation on the local plan content, vision and evidence. Representations to be received by early July.	May-July 2027
Gateway assessment 2	Independent assessment to resolve potential soundness issues and to help make sure prescribed requirements can be met	August-September 2027
Draft Local Plan - consultation	8 week consultation on the draft local plan and supporting documents. Representations to be received by mid December.	October-December 2027
Gateway assessment 3	Independent assessment to determine if prescribed requirements are met & Examination can start	January-February 2028
Submission of proposed local plan to Planning Inspectorate for examination	Submission of plan to Planning Inspectorate for independent examination on behalf of the secretary of State	March 2028
Independent examination	Independent assessment by the Planning Inspectorate commences	May 2028

Date the local authority will consider adopting the local plan	Decision of Full Council.	April 2029
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Consultation dates and the end of a representation period are dependent on the Council's municipal calendar and approval by the relevant Council committee. Progress is being made towards the timeframes identified above, once a new municipal calendar is published the Local Plan Timetable will be updated to confirm:

- the date on which a consultation will begin, and
- the date on which representations will have to be received by the LPA.

Gateway 2 and 3 assessment timescales and the timescale for the independent examination is subject to Planning Inspectorate availability and approvals.

8. Monitoring and Updating the Local Plan Timetable

The Council will review the Local Plan Timetable monthly from the date of publication and update when any changes are required.

The Council will also update the Local Plan Timetable when the following stages are reached:

- Publication of Gateway 1 self-assessment
- Publication of Gateway 2 advice
- Publication of Gateway 3 advice
- Publication of the recommendations and reasons of the examiner following the examination of the plan

The Local Plan Timetable will also be updated if any additional consultation is to be undertaken or if any changes are required to be made due to the need to repeat the Gateway 3 assessment of the Plan or if the Council takes a decision to either withdraw or revoke the Plan.

A record of all updates to the Local Plan Timetable will be recorded in a separate schedule.