Bassetlaw Local Plan 2045
Gateway 1 self-assessment summary

30 October 2026

Bassetlaw
DISTRICT COUNCIL
— North Nottinghamshire —

Bassetlaw Local Plan 2045 – Gateway 1 Self-assessment summary – Regulation 21

1. Introduction

1.1 Bassetlaw District Council is preparing a new Local Plan for the administrative area of Bassetlaw District. This self-assessment summary sets out how we have got ready for plan-making and provides other key information about the Local Plan. Its publication is required by Local Plan making regulations and marks the formal start of the plan-making process for the Bassetlaw Local Plan. Further information about the new Local Plan is available at Bassetlaw Local Plan Review 2026 | Bassetlaw District Council

1.2 In July 2026 the government confirmed how local government re-organisation will affect existing local authorities in Nottinghamshire. At that time, it was expected that local government re-organisation would come into force on 1 April 2028. The intention was that planning responsibility would move to the new unitary authority on that date.

1.3 But, on 7 September 2026 the government announced a review of their plans for local government re-organisation. Local government re-organisation for Nottinghamshire has been paused while that review is carried out.

1.4 The government has made clear that local government reorganisation is not a reason to delay plan-making. We will continue to prepare the new local plan in line with the published local plan timetable bassetlaw-local-plan-timetable-sept-26.pdf, including passing through its Gateway 1 self-assessment to get the new Plan to an advanced stage so that the authority with planning responsibility can take it forward.

2. How we got ready to prepare a new local plan

2.1 The current Bassetlaw Local Plan was adopted in 2024.

2.2 The government has introduced a new way of producing Local Plans. We are following legislation and the new required processes. We started preparing a new Local Plan for Bassetlaw in 2026. This included publishing a notice of intention to commence plan making on 11 June 2026 Bassetlaw Local Plan Intention Notice.

2.3 Government policy says we should adopt the new plan within 30 months of 30 October 2026 (the date this summary is published). This is to help ensure we have an up-to-date local plan that responds to the needs of Bassetlaw and our communities.

2.4 This summary explains what we did to get ready to prepare a new local plan to meet the 30-month timeframe.

3. We published a timetable for preparing the plan

3.1 Our Local Plan timetable shows when we expect to carry out the different stages and activities for preparing a plan. It helps us check if and how we can adopt the plan within the 30-month timeframe. The timetable was first published on 11 June 2026. We'll keep this updated as we make more progress.

3.2 The timetable shows how the Local Plan is expected to be adopted within the 30-month timeframe, by April 2029. The timetable is available on our website bassetlaw-local-plan-timetable-sept-26.pdf

4. We established project management and governance arrangements

4.1 Preparing a local plan is a complex process. It involves many people across the council and from other organisations. As outlined in our draft Engagement Strategy (within the Scoping Report) Local Plan Scoping Report Explained | Bassetlaw District Council, we have been working with colleagues across the Council, with Elected Members and with external stakeholders to understand the key issues and priorities for Bassetlaw.

4.2 We have an officer team and budgets in place and project plans to ensure coordination of plan-making processes. We have received government Local Plan funding to supplement our budget for plan-making.

4.3 In terms of governance arrangements for the Local Plan, all key stages will be considered and approved by Elected Members of the Council. In Bassetlaw this includes consideration and guidance by Overview and Scrutiny Committee and approval by the Cabinet or Full Council. We also hold all Member workshops to help inform the process. Consideration and approval processes of the key Local Plan stages will be undertaken in accordance with the Council's constitution and regulations. It is considered that the current arrangements for governance of the Local Plan will enable the Plan to be completed in the 30-month timeframe. This will be kept under review and other Member engagement may be required.

5. We planned how we'll consult on the plan

5.1 Engagement with the public and key stakeholders is essential so the local plan can represent the needs of Bassetlaw's communities.

5.2 Between September – October 2026 we have undertaken a scoping consultation appendix-1-scoping-report.pdf to get people's views on what the plan could contain and how we propose to consult on the plan at key stages.

5.3 Our draft Engagement Strategy sets out how we have engaged so far and how we propose to continue this engagement through the preparation of the Plan, including the methods we will use for consultation. Through the scoping consultation we have asked for feedback about our draft Strategy (within the scoping report) appendix-1-scoping-report.pdf . We will review all responses and change the strategy where appropriate before it is finalised.

5.3 Our approach will be to engage with stakeholders throughout the preparation of the Local Plan, including outside the formal consultation periods and where appropriate prepare statements of common ground with key partners to show points of agreement/disagreement.

5.4 We will continue to engage and collaborate with the East Midlands County Combined Authority and neighbouring authorities in preparing the Local Plan. This is particularly important as the Combined Authority identifies Bassetlaw as a location for strategic growth with associated transport and infrastructure needs.

5.5 We will continue to engage with local organisations and build on engagement

with established forums, such as the Worksop Together Board and the Retford Town Centre Partnership Board, using methods where we can encourage participation.

5.6 We will continue to engage with colleagues across the Council to ensure that the programmes and strategies that the Council is working on are reflected in the Local Plan, for example Vision 2040 and the new Growth Strategy.

5.7 We have started to collect evidence for the Local Plan. We will work with specialist consultants and colleagues across the Council on our evidence base. We will publish the evidence base alongside the next stages of the Local Plan for views.

5.8 Consultation and engagement will include; meetings, drop in events and published material for comment both electronically on our website, through digital platforms where appropriate, or by downloading documents and bespoke response forms. Email notification, legal notices and all the Council's media channels will be used for the required stages of consultation, and all key information and consultations will be published on our website and be available in hard copy at the Council offices and in libraries across Bassetlaw. We will also produce Local Plan Explainers and posters/leaflets to highlight consultations. Further information is set out in our draft Engagement Strategy appendix-1-scoping-report.pdf.

6. We began scoping the content of the plan

6.1 Scoping includes considering how well the existing plan is working and gathering baseline information about the area. This helps to identify our future needs and ambitions. Starting this early means we can begin preparing the new plan with a clear vision, making it quicker and easier to consult on the plan and make decisions about it.

6.2 We have undertaken a Scoping Consultation between September and October 2026 to seek people's views on what the plan could contain and how we propose to consult on the plan at key stages. This consultation included the publication of the following documents:

- A Scoping Report
- A Local Plan Explainer booklet
- A draft Engagement Strategy

6.3 We also undertook a second 'call for sites' which asked landowners and developers to submit sites to the Council for consideration for inclusion in the Local Plan. The first call for sites was held in 2025.

6.4 Our Scoping Report set out what we considered to be the key issues for Bassetlaw informed by our monitoring and baseline information. It also identified the evidence that we plan to collect going forward. We will also consider standard information that can be used for preparing Local Plans referenced by government guidance and identified through stakeholder consultation.

6.5 The content of the Plan will be confirmed at the later stages of plan-making following further consultation and informed by the content of the National Planning Policy Framework and the emerging East Midlands Spatial Development Strategy.

6.6 The National Planning Policy Framework contains national decision-making policies and the Spatial Development Strategy is expected to contain strategic policies, so the number of policies in the Local Plan is likely to be more limited than currently with a focus on key local issues, sites and delivery. This could include:

- A Plan Vision for Bassetlaw
- Plan Objectives setting out what we want the Local Plan to achieve
- A Spatial Strategy setting out where development will be located supported by infrastructure
- Measurable Outcomes so that the performance of the Local Plan can be monitored after adoption
- Information and assessment about our current Local Plan policies and which ones we think that we should retain.
- Our housing and employment needs and Plan requirement, with a Plan period to 2045.
- The identification of sites to meet housing and employment and other needs, over the Plan period.
- Policies that cover key local issues for:
  - Supporting economic development
  - Supporting our town and local centres
  - Providing sustainable and suitable homes
  - Addressing and adapting to climate change
  - Ensuring high-quality design
  - Providing for healthy places
  - Protecting and enhancing the natural environment
  - Conserving and enhancing the historic environment
  - Encouraging sustainable and active travel
  - Providing for key infrastructure to support growth

6.7 We also want to make sure that the Local Plan can help deliver the spatial elements of the Council's corporate plan, Vision 2040. This includes:

- supporting the national transition to a net zero economy
- being a place to do business
- making the most of the district's connectivity
- enhancing natural and historic environments
- ensuring through partnership working that communities have easy access to education, health and other facilities
- promoting sustainable living
- promoting Bassetlaw as a healthy place to live, work and visit.

7. We began a Strategic Environmental Assessment

7.1 We're legally required to identify, describe and evaluate likely significant effects on the environment of:

- implementing the local plan
- reasonable alternatives, taking into account the plan's objectives and scope

7.2 This process will consider how local, national and international environmental protection objectives and any other environmental challenges are taken into

account in the plan. It will help us to predict significant environmental effects and develop ways of preventing, reducing and offsetting these.

7.3 It is important we start this work early and are transparent about how we're doing the assessment when engaging stakeholders and communities.

7.4 We plan to publish an SEA Scoping report which meets the legislative requirements for Strategic Environmental Assessment before we reach the next plan-making stage. As part of the scoping consultation we will consult the required statutory consultees. We plan to publish a report covering the legislative requirements for SEA alongside the Plan at each key stage.

8. How to stay up to date

8.1 At all key stages of the Local Plan information and material for public consultation will be available on our website Bassetlaw Local Plan Review 2026 | Bassetlaw District Council.

8.2 The Local Plan team can be contacted on planningpolicy@bassetlaw.gov.uk for any questions and for requests to be added to our database to informed about the next Local Plan stages.