

Next Local Plan: Scoping Consultation (September 2026)

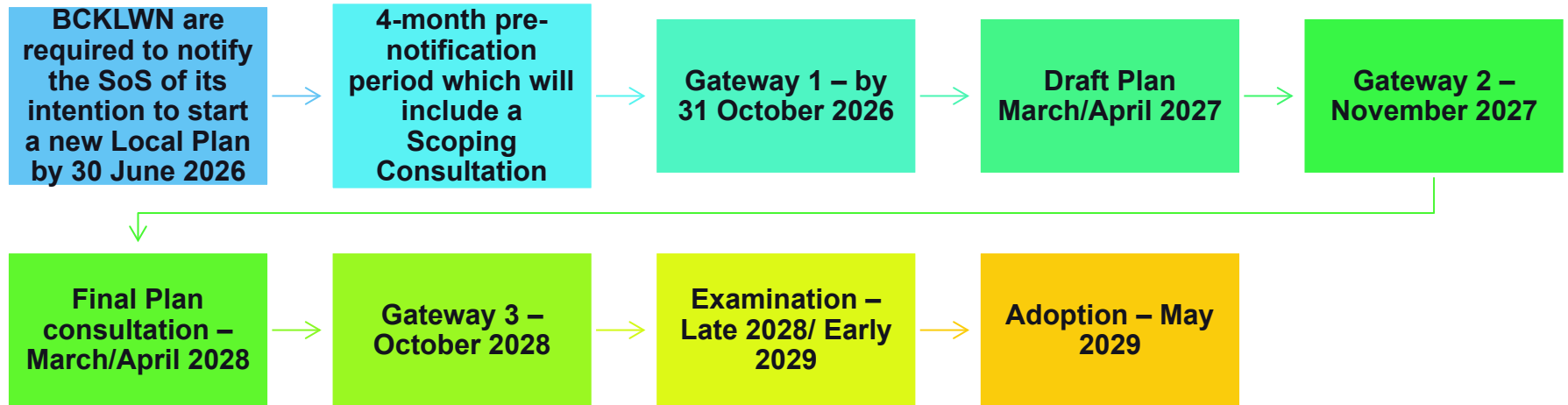
Local Plan Task Group - 16 June 2026

Borough Council of
King's Lynn &
West Norfolk



New Local Plan Timetable

The Government requires us to set a 30-month timetable for preparing the next Local Plan:



Scoping Consultation: what is it?

- Preliminary stage in preparing a new Local Plan
- Intended to be relatively light touch and high-level
- Will start after publication of our Notice of Intention.
- Focusing upon:
 1. What new Local Plan should cover; i.e. its scope
 2. How we should engage with consultation bodies (statutory/ non-statutory); i.e. setting a consultation and engagement strategy
- Directed towards national statutory bodies (e.g. Environment Agency, Natural England etc); adjacent local authorities; parish councils & local communities; infrastructure/ utilities providers; land-owners/developers etc.
- 28 days consultation (1-29 September 2026, inclusive) (regulations are for a minimum of 21 days)



What the Local Plan should cover (quality of life)

- Scoping is about Understanding issues facing the Borough – that is, the current baseline (status quo) and what the Local Plan could do to address these
- **Quality of life** (3 questions):
 1. What are your favourite things about where you live?
 2. What do you not like about where you live?
 3. What would make your area a better place to live?



What the Local Plan should cover?

Locational (spatial) matters (3 questions):

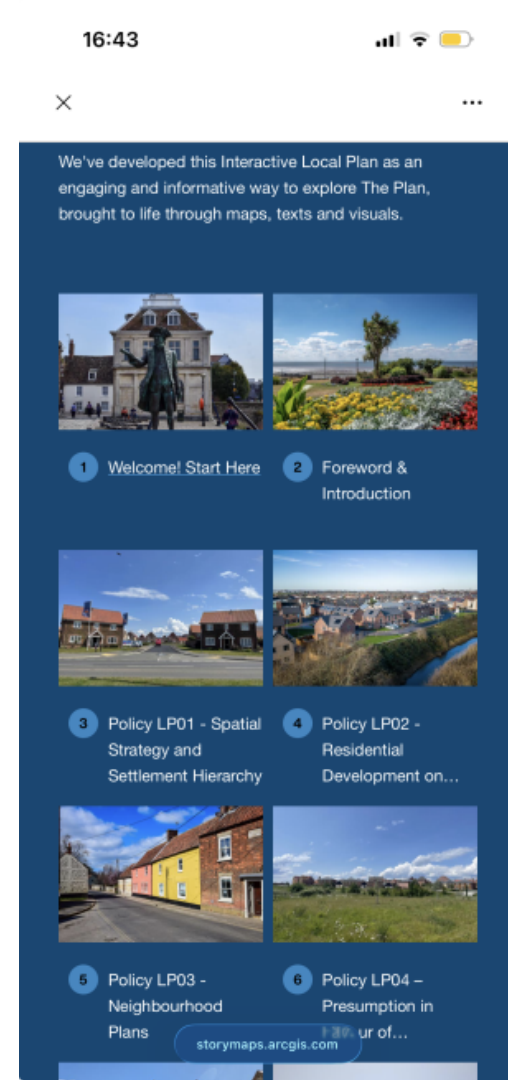
1. The Government says we have to build more homes and sites for businesses in West Norfolk – if we have to build them anyway, where do you think we should put them? *[supported by interactive map]*
2. What would you like us to think about when planning for new homes?
3. Options: New homes, Social housing, Parks and open spaces, Shops, Natural environment, Climate change, Historic buildings, Transport, Jobs, Healthcare provision, Something else (please say what it is)

...Plus miscellaneous/ generic question – Is there anything else you want us to think about as part of the new Local Plan? *[allowing respondents to submit any further thoughts/ comments about the Local Plan]*



Consultation & Engagement (3 questions)

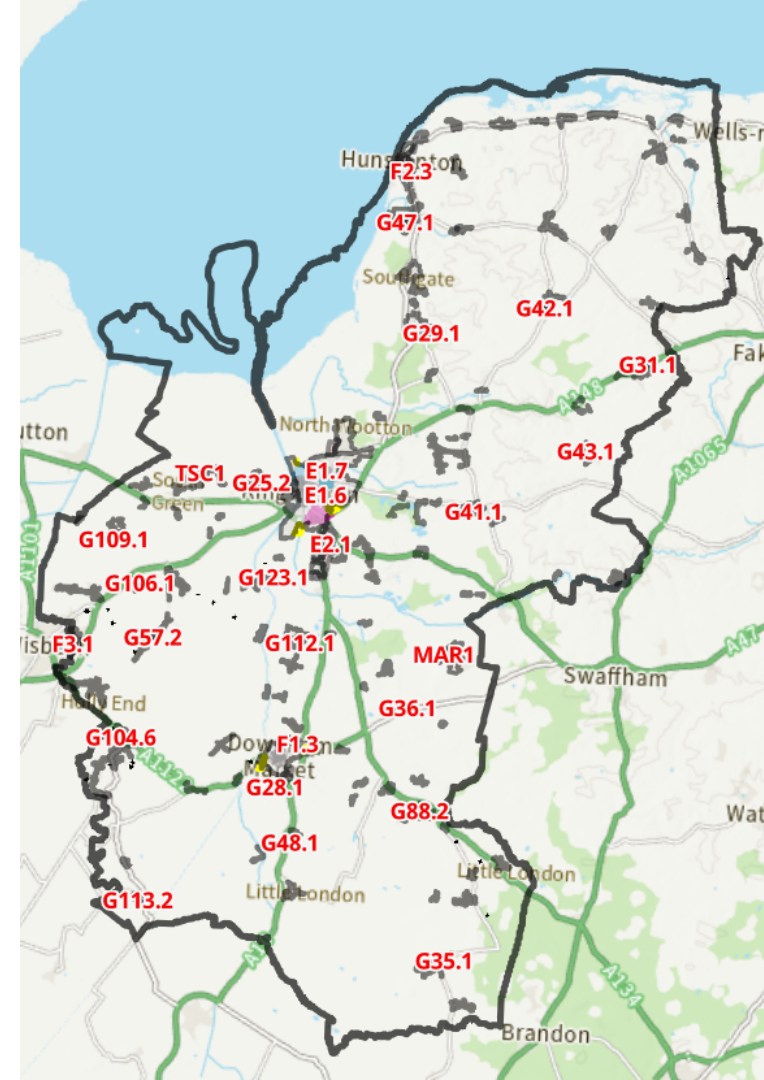
- Setting a consultation and engagement strategy - How consultation could be made easier:
 1. Local people are a crucial part of making a Local Plan. How would you like to be kept informed, and asked for your opinion? Email, Online newsletter, Website, Online events, In-person events, Social media (e.g. LinkedIn / Instagram / Facebook), YouTube, Podcast, Something else (please say what it is)
 2. What might get in the way of you telling us what you think, and is there anything we could do to make it easier?
 3. Is there anything else you want to say about how we can include local people in our work to make the new Local Plan?
- ...Plus 4 “demographic” questions (age group/ income/ home ownership status/ Postcode (where people live)), to understand profile of respondents



Call for Sites (2 questions)

750+ responses received through Call for Sites:

1. We have published an interactive map of the sites submitted through the Call for Sites 2026. Do you have any comments you'd like to make?
2. If you would like to submit a site for consideration as part of the Local Plan, please do so via link *[to submission process and online form]*.



Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

- Legal requirement since 2004 – remains so under new system
- 5 stage process, undertaken in parallel with Local Plan preparation, culminating in SEA report, alongside final Local Plan
- First stage: scoping – understanding current situation (“baseline”):
 - 4 weeks consultation with statutory bodies – Environment Agency/ Historic England/ Natural England
 - SEA scoping consultation by SEA Scoping Report, setting out baseline situation/ status quo
 - Data/ information re current environmental/ social/ economic situation
 - Plans/ policies/ programmes that will influence Local Plan preparation



Evidence base

- Approx 30 separate workstreams
- Includes several specialist studies being/ to be undertaken by external consultants, including:
 - Housing Needs Assessment (underway)
 - Strategic Flood Risk Assessment/Water Cycle Study (SFRA) (underway)
 - Landscape Character Assessment/ Renewable Energy Potential and Capacity Study (underway)
 - Green Infrastructure Assessment (out to tender shortly)
 - Open Space Audit (out to tender)
- Other studies (to be prepared at a later date), include:
 - Local Plan Viability Assessment
 - Habitat Regulations Assessment



Open Space Audit

- The Planning Policy Team are working closely with the Parks Team to produce an Open Space Audit. This document will assess all public open spaces for their quality, quantity, and accessibility.
- The types of spaces included are; children's play areas, amenity green space, churchyard and cemeteries, allotments, natural green space and civic spaces.
- The Council has mapped all sites to its knowledge and is now consulting with Parish and Town Councils to check the data.
- The study, once complete, will identify what type(s) of public open spaces are needed to support future growth and investment. It will also identify those broad locations of where any new spaces are required.
- The study will also enable the Local Plan to set locally specific open space standards.



Conclusions

- Scoping Consultation to take place over 4 weeks, in September
- Series of questions, focused on what Local Plan should contain and setting consultation and engagement strategy for plan-making
- Call for Sites submissions (January – May 2026) to be published & further sites can be submitted
- SEA – Scoping Consultation (alongside Local Plan Scoping)
- Evidence base, including Open Space Audit
- Questions?

