

**Rutland Local Plan**

Regulation 18 (Preferred Options) consultation toolkit

November 2023

**Introduction**

We’re asking for your help to tell people about a major public consultation on Rutland’s new Local Plan.

At this stage of the plan-making process, we’ve published a draft version of the Local Plan that shows preferred options for future growth in Rutland, as well as draft policies on a wide range of planning issues. This is a critical stage because it represents the best chance for residents and businesses to provide feedback on the Plan before it is finalised.

The Local Plan is an opportunity to shape change in our towns and villages in a sensitive and sustainable way. If you’re already familiar with the concept of a Local Plan, you’ll know it helps to identify how much new housing and economic growth is required and where it should be built. It also looks at the impact of any new development and what kind of infrastructure is needed. It is therefore vital we get as much feedback as possible from across the County.

We would appreciate any help you can give us to encourage people to take part in this public consultation. To make this as easy as possible, we have produced a toolkit which includes:

* Short and medium-length summaries explaining the consultation
* A set of frequently asked questions
* Example social media posts
* A printable poster

Please feel free to share any of the above with anyone who’s interested.

The consultation period runs from Monday 13 November 2023 until Monday 8 January 2024. During this time, you can read and comment on the Draft Local Plan by going to: [www.rutland.gov.uk/localplan](http://www.rutland.gov.uk/localplan)

Anyone without internet access can take part in the consultation by calling: 01572 722 577. Please keep reading for more information.

**Short article for newsletters and websites**

Length: 150 words

**HAVE YOUR SAY ON RUTLAND’S DRAFT LOCAL PLAN**

Rutland County Council is consulting on a new Local Plan. This is a stage of the plan-making process when the Council asks for feedback on a draft version of the Plan, which sets out policies on issues like housing, growth, employment, the environment and transport, supported by detailed evidence.

The Council wants to hear from residents and businesses about whether you think the Draft Local Plan takes the right approach to future development in Rutland.

The consultation is now live and runs until **Monday 8 January 2024**. You can find all the information you need on the Local Plan and how to take part by visiting: [www.rutland.gov.uk/localplan](http://www.rutland.gov.uk/localplan).

Once the consultation closes, Rutland County Council will review all the comments, feedback and evidence it has received before finalising and adopting the new Local Plan.

This is the biggest and best opportunity to influence what Rutland’s next Local Plan looks like. Please get involved and have your say.

**Medium article for newsletters and websites**

Length: 250 words

**HAVE YOUR SAY ON RUTLAND’S DRAFT LOCAL PLAN**

Rutland County Council is consulting on a new Local Plan. This is a stage of the plan-making process when the Council asks for feedback on a draft version of the Plan and whether this document takes the right approach to deal with various challenges that were highlighted during a previous round of consultation in summer 2022.

The draft Local Plan sets out policies on how the Council will plan for future housing, employment, transport and
retail growth. Residents and businesses are being asked for their views on the overall strategy, choice of sites and policies proposed.

The formative Issues & Options consultation held in 2022 has shaped the development of this draft version of the Local Plan. For example, during this earlier stage, options were put forward for low, medium and high levels of housebuilding over the life of the new Plan. To reflect the feedback received from residents, the number of new homes required in this Plan is the lowest option.

Once this latest stage of consultation closes, Rutland County Council will assess all the feedback and evidence it has received before moving on to checking the legal soundness of the Plan and then submitting it to national Government before its adoption.

Consultation on the Draft Local Plan is now live and will run until Monday 8 January 2024. You can find all the information you need about the Local Plan and how to take part in this consultation at: [www.rutland.gov.uk/localplan](http://www.rutland.gov.uk/localplan).

This is the biggest and best opportunity to influence what Rutland’s next Local Plan looks like. Please get involved and have your say.

**ENDS**

**Frequently asked questions**

**What is a Local Plan?**

Every Planning Authority must have a Local Plan that sets out what can be built and where building
should take place over a period of at least 15 years.

Local Plans include important policies to support environmental protection, jobs and the economy. They also help to decide where investment is needed for infrastructure like roads, schools and health services. The Local Plan should:

* Include land for housing and employment development
* Ensure an appropriate range of house types
* Support the economy and create employment opportunities
* Identify necessary infrastructure improvements to support the development proposed
* Safeguard heritage, culture, recreation and environmental assets
* Help to make Rutland a more environmentally sustainable place and net-zero carbon by 2050

**Why do we need a Local Plan?**

It's a legal requirement for councils to have an up-to-date Local Plan for their area. The local plan should cover at least 15 years and be developed in line with national planning policy. The Plan should set out what we want our local area to look like at the end of this period. That might include things like:

* Encouraging economic growth by identifying enough land for new businesses
* Improving the quality and quantity of parks and play space
* Delivering new roads

A key part of the Local Plan is setting out how many new homes are needed and exactly where they should be built.

**How will the Local Plan affect me?**

If you live or work in or around Rutland, the Local Plan is relevant to you.

The Plan guides where and how changes to our towns, villages and countryside may happen over the next 15-20 years. This means that the Local Plan is likely to impact you at some point in the future. For example, you or a family member may need to buy or rent a house in Rutland during the period covered by this Plan. You may work locally or want to set up a business here. You may simply want to be able to shop locally or make sure that our landscape, wildlife and cultural heritage is protected.

Changes which might affect you now or in the future include:

* The building of new homes, offices, industrial units and shops
* The creation of new jobs
* The building of community facilities
* The location of our parks and play spaces
* Routes for walking and cycling

**What is the Regulation 18 consultation stage of the Local Plan?**

At this stage of the Local Plan process, we are inviting residents and businesses to have their say on a draft version of the new Local Plan, which indicates the preferred options for growth, supported by evidence. The consultation runs from Monday 13 November 2023 until Monday 8 January 2024. This is an important stage of the plan-making process and the best opportunity to help shape the future of Rutland’s towns and villages.

**How can I take part in this consultation?**

You can find all the information you need about the Draft Local Plan and give take part in this consultation by visiting our website: [www.rutland.gov.uk/localplan](http://www.rutland.gov.uk/localplan). You can also contact us with questions by emailing: localplan@rutland.gov.uk

If you don’t have access to the internet, you can take part in the Local Plan consultation by phoning: 01572 722 577.

**What happens after this consultation?**

Once the consultation period ends on Monday 8 January 2024, Rutland County Council will carefully consider the feedback it has received and make changes to the draft, where appropriate. The Plan will then move on to the next stage, Regulation 19 consultation, at which point the Council will ask for comments on the Plan’s legal soundness. The Local Plan will then be submitted to the Government for an independent examination before the final version is published and adopted.

**What happens if I miss the opportunity to participate in Regulation 18 consultation period?**

If you miss the Regulation 18 consultation period, you will still have a chance to comment on the Local Plan during the Regulation 19 consultation. However, at this later stage in the process, the Council will only be asking for comments on the legal soundness of the Plan. This is why it’s very important to give your feedback on the Draft Plan now, to make sure your voice is heard.

**What are the stages of developing a Local Plan?**

Before being adopted, a Local Plan must go through several stages:

**Call for sites** – Landowners, developers and interested parties suggest sites so the Council can consider which ones may be suitable and available for future development, to help meet local needs.

**Issues and Options** – The Council gathers a wealth of detailed evidence on the needs of the local area and identifies the different ways that planning policies and future developments could help to meet these needs.

**Regulation 18 Consultation** – A Draft Local Plan is published so residents, businesses and interest groups can give feedback and comments on the overall strategy, possible sites and policies. This is the current stage in Rutland’s Local Plan process.

**Regulation 19 Consultation** – The next version of the Local Plan is published and consulted on for ‘soundness’ – whether it is legally compliant and aligns with national policy.

**Examination** – The Council submits the Local Plan to Government for independent examination.

**Adoption** – The Local Plan becomes policy and will be used as the basis to make decisions on all planning applications.

All these various stages in the plan-making process are detailed on the Council’s website: [www.rutland.gov.uk/planning-building-control/local-plan/new-local-plan](http://www.rutland.gov.uk/planning-building-control/local-plan/new-local-plan)

**Social media posts**

If you have a social media platform like Facebook or Instagram, you can help us to promote the Local Plan consultation by sharing one or more of these posts, with a link to further information on our website. We’ve also provided some images to use alongside this wording.

**POST #1**

Rutland County Council is developing a new Local Plan and wants to hear your views.
To learn more about the Plan, which covers housing, the economy and climate change,
visit: [www.rutland.gov.uk/localplan](http://www.rutland.gov.uk/localplan) and have your say.

**POST #2**

Interested in what future development could look like in Rutland? Take a look at the County’s draft Local Plan and share your feedback on what’s proposed. Consultation runs until 8 January 2024. Full details at: [www.rutland.gov.uk/localplan](http://www.rutland.gov.uk/localplan)

**POST #3**

Rutland County Council wants to hear from you! A new Local Plan is being developed and the Council wants feedback from residents and businesses. To learn more about the draft Plan and sites chosen for future growth in the County, visit: [www.rutland.gov.uk/localplan](http://www.rutland.gov.uk/localplan)

**Poster**

We have created an A4 poster which can be printed and displayed in windows or on notice boards at village halls, local shops and pubs – anywhere it might be seen by people who live and work in the County. We cannot send out printed copies of this poster on the mail.

**Questions and further information**

If you would like to help promote the Regulation 18 consultation on Rutland’s Draft Local Plan and need information or materials in a different format, please email: communications@rutland.gov.uk with ‘Local Plan’ in the subject line and member of our Corporate Communications Team will get back in touch.

If you have any questions about the contents of Rutland’s Draft Local Plan or any of the various stages of the Local Plan process (including Regulation 18) please email: localplan@rutland.gov.uk

Thank you