

Northampton Local Plan Part 2 Proposed Modifications Consultation

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a Local Plan?

A Local Plan is a planning policy document prepared by a local planning authority. It sets out a vision and framework for the future development of an area. Local plans are used to guide decisions on planning applications that are submitted by developers.

West Northamptonshire Council is responsible for preparing the Northampton Local Plan Part 2 (LPP2). Once adopted, the LPP2 will guide growth and decision making within Northampton to 2029 to help create homes, jobs and high-quality development, and protect and enhance the built and natural environment.

What are the key stages of the Northampton Local Plan Part 2?

The Council has carried out a comprehensive consultation and engagement process during the development of the Local Plan since 2016.

In summary, the following consultation exercises have been completed:

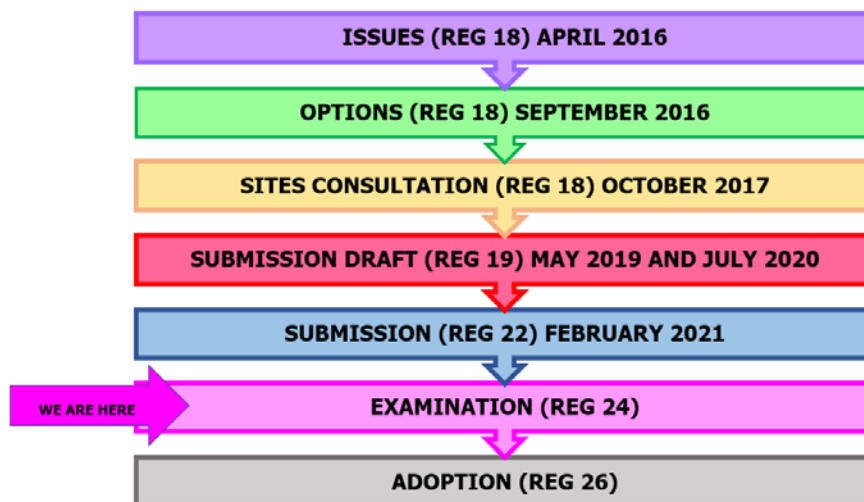
- Issues consultation – consultation took place in May and June 2016. The public were consulted on the scope and the key issues the new Local Plan Part 2 should address
- Options consultation – people were asked to consider options for delivering Northampton's housing needs (18,870 new homes by 2029) as well as Northampton's contribution towards the creation of 28,500 jobs across West Northamptonshire. This consultation stressed the importance of taking a positive and proactive approach in balancing growth requirements against the need to protect and enhance the built and natural environment. This consultation took place in September and November 2016
- Sites consultation – this consultation was undertaken to gather views on the potential future uses of sites to deliver the strategy and built development required in the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy, which forms Part 1 of the Local Plan. Consultation took place in October and November 2017
- Proposed Submission Consultation (Round 1) – the Council consulted on the policies and development allocations which it intended to submit to the Planning Inspectorate. This took place in May and June 2019. It was

concluded that there were a number of changes to be made to the local plan, as well as the formulation of new policies. A second round of proposed submission consultation was considered necessary to allow people the opportunity to comment on these changes prior to the plan's submission to the Planning Inspectorate

- Proposed Submission Consultation (Round 2) – The Council consulted on the policies and development allocations which it intended to submit to the Planning Inspectorate. This took place from June to September 2020.
- Examination – The Plan was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in February 2021 and hearings took place in November 2021.

What stage is the Local Plan at?

The Northampton LPP2 has reached the Examination stage which is the final part of the process before a plan can be adopted.



The Planning Inspectors (Philip Lewis BA (Hons) MA MRTPI and Mark Sturgess BSc (Hons) MBA MRTPI) have requested that the Council makes some modifications to the LPP2 as a part of the examination process. It is these modifications that the Council are now consulting on.

What are the Main Modifications?

Main Modifications are changes which will affect the overall 'soundness' of the LPP2 and, if made, will allow the Local Plan to be adopted.

Soundness is defined in the National Planning Policy Framework [National Planning Policy Framework](#)

What are Additional Modifications?

The Council is also consulting on Additional Modifications which are minor changes that do not relate to the plan's soundness. In addition, the Policies Maps have been

updated to reflect the main and additional modifications. The Inspectors will not be considering responses to the consultation on Additional Modifications or Policies Map changes in their report; these will be matters for the Council to consider.

Can I make general comments on the Local Plan?

You can only make comments on the modifications contained in the schedules of Proposed Main and Additional Modifications and the associated consultation documents listed below. This consultation is not an opportunity to comment on any other aspects of the submitted Local Plan that are not mentioned in the modifications documents. There is no need to re-submit previous representations, as these have already been considered by the Planning Inspectors as part of the Examination.

List of consultation documents

- The Proposed Main Modifications
- The Additional Modifications
- Proposed Changes to the Policies Map
- Sustainability Appraisal
- Habitats Regulations Assessment

The Sustainability Appraisal, Habitats Regulations Assessment and Policies Map have been updated to align with the proposed changes suggested through the Main Modifications to the Local Plan.

How and when can I comment on the Northampton Local Plan Part 2?

The Proposed Modifications consultation runs from Thursday 7 July 2022 to 23:59 on 18 August 2022.

Comments on the consultation can be made in the following ways:

- Via the Council's [Consultation Hub](#)
- By submitting a Representation Form via:
 - Email: Planningpolicy.nbc@westnorthants.gov.uk
 - Post: Planning Policy Northampton Area, West Northamptonshire Council, The Guildhall, St Giles' Square, Northampton, NN1 1DE
(Please ensure that there is sufficient time to guarantee delivery to our offices by the closing date for comments)

What are the next steps with the Local Plan?

The examination programme is in the control of the Planning Inspectors, but it is likely to comprise the following:

- The Council and the Inspectors will review representations made as part of the Proposed Modifications consultation, respond to comments and may

recommend any further modifications. The Inspectors will decide if further actions need to be taken.

- The Inspectors will then write their final report, setting out if they consider the Local Plan to be sound and directing any further changes deemed necessary to make the Local Plan sound.
- If the Local Plan is found sound, the Council will be able to adopt the Local Plan.

Officers envisage that the draft Local Plan is likely to be considered for adoption by the end of 2022. Further details can be found in West Northamptonshire Council's Local Development Scheme [here](#).

Given that the current stage of consultation is limited, what opportunities are there to be more involved in a future Local Plan?

Local Plans can be reviewed after they have been adopted. Current guidance requires Local Planning Authorities to do this at least every five years.