



Central Bedfordshire Local Plan 2050

Town and Parish Council Clerks
7 May 2026

Local Plan update

- Started a new Local Plan in 2023 – focussed on early engagement and initial evidence
- New legislation, guidance and policies released by the government recently
- Have reset the timetable for preparing the new Local Plan
- 30 months to prepare and adopt the Local Plan
- Engagement is fundamental – we want to hear from our communities
- Developing an engagement strategy to reflect on feedback received through the scoping consultation

Local Plan Timetable

Stage	Date
Publish 'Notice of intention to commence Local Plan preparation'	26 March 2026
First formal consultation (scoping consultation)	6 May – 3 June 2026
Sites consultation (informal consultation)	1 July – 29 July 2026
Gateway 1 (self assessment summary) <i>*30 month timer starts</i>	26 August 2026
Second formal consultation (proposed content and evidence)	30 September – 11 November 2026
Gateway 2 (Planning Inspector input)	31 March 2027
Third formal consultation (proposed Local Plan)	27 October – 22 December 2027
Gateway 3 (pre-submission check)	5 April 2028
Submission for examination	1 June 2028
Adoption	28 December 2028

Town and Parish Council engagement

Questions for discussion:

- What barriers do you have in sharing information with communities?
- What can we do to support you in sharing information with your communities?
- What else can we do together to increase participation in the consultation stages?
- Did you use the toolkit we prepared for our launch consultation?
Feedback?

Central Bedfordshire Local Plan 2050

Notice of Intention to Commence Local Plan Preparation

Under the new planning system, we are required to publish a 'notice of intention to commence Local Plan preparation'. This provides communities and other stakeholders with advanced notice of plan-making so they understand when and how they can get involved in preparing the Local Plan 2050.

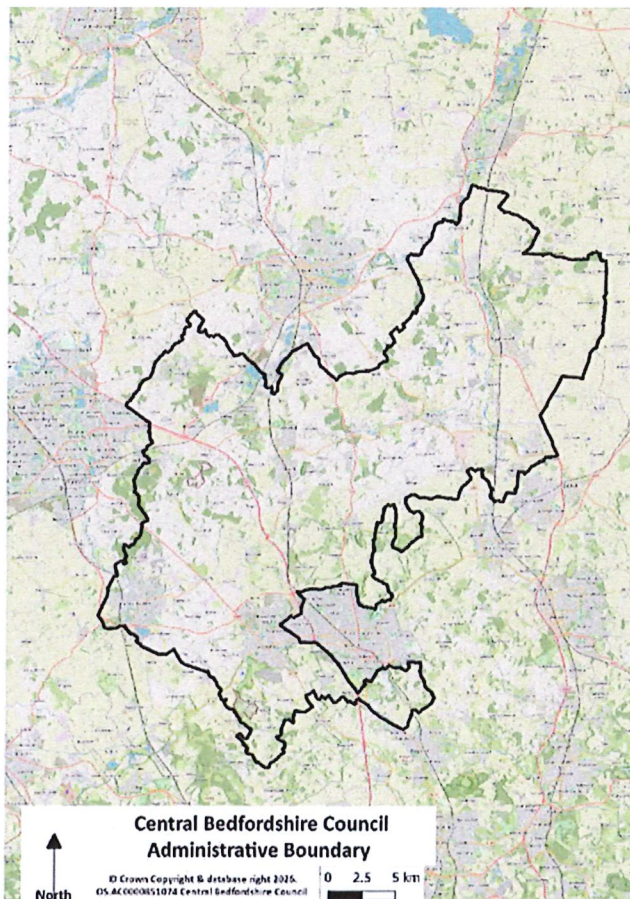
The Minerals and Waste Local Plan for Bedfordshire will not be incorporated into the Local Plan 2050, as it is being prepared separately. The timetable for the new Minerals and Waste Local Plan /will be available on our website.

Central Bedfordshire Council

Notice of intention to commence Local Plan preparation

Date of publication: 26 March 2026

In accordance with Regulation 19 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026, Central Bedfordshire Council gives notice that it is preparing a new Local Plan that will cover the administrative area of Central Bedfordshire, as shown in the map below.



The plan shall be referred to as the Central Bedfordshire Local Plan 2050.

The plan making timetable for preparing the Central Bedfordshire Local Plan 2050 is available to view:

- www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/local-plan-dates,
- at our principal office (Priory House, Chicksands, Shefford, SG17 5TQ) during office hours (Monday to Thursday 08:30am – 5pm and Friday 08:30am – 4pm) - The reception is not always staffed, so please contact us in advance to arrange to view the documents, and
- at all libraries within Central Bedfordshire during normal opening hours (check individual libraries for details).

Copies of the timetable will also be available on request by contacting localplan@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk.

Central Bedfordshire Council expect to start the 30 month plan preparation process on 26 August 2026.

For further information, please email localplan@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk.

Central Bedfordshire Local Plan 2050

Timetable

The Government has published legislation and guidance that requires all local authorities to adjust the way they prepare Local Plans. This means we've had to review and replace our original plan-making timetable (known as the Local Development Scheme) to ensure we meet the new legal requirements.

We are not starting the Local Plan again. Work is well underway and significant progress has been made. Although the new legislation introduces some new steps, our overall timetable still aims for adoption of the plan by December 2028.

The new timetable formally replaces our Local Development Scheme and does not relate to the Minerals and Waste Local Plan, which will have its own separate timetable.

Below is the current timetable for preparing the Central Bedfordshire Local Plan 2050, which will cover the administrative area of Central Bedfordshire. This timetable may be updated as the plan progresses.

This timetable takes effect from 26 March 2026.

Key stage of plan making	When it will happen	What it means
Publish 'Notice of intention to commence Local Plan preparation'	26 March 2026	Publishing the notice of intention to commence Local Plan preparation is a new requirement. It gives communities and stakeholders advance notice of plan-making and sets out when and how they can get involved in the process. The notice must be published at least 4 months before Gateway 1.
Start of first formal consultation (notice of scoping consultation) (4 weeks)	6 May 2026	This is a new requirement, similar to the engagement that we've already done. We will use this consultation to check that what we've heard from communities and stakeholders is still relevant.
Date when representations to the	3 June 2026	All comments (also known as representations) on the scoping

Key stage of plan making	When it will happen	What it means
scoping consultation will have to be received		consultation must be received on or before this date.
Consultation on submitted sites (4 weeks)	1 July 2026	An opportunity for residents, Town and Parish Councils, councillors and stakeholders to comment on sites submitted through our call for sites. This is not a formal consultation required by legislation.
Date when comments on the submitted sites will have to be received	29 July 2026	All comments on the submitted sites must be received on or before this date.
Gateway 1 (publication of self-assessment summary)	26 August 2026	This is a new requirement and is a self-assessment summary confirming that we have published the timetable and notice, completed the scoping consultation, and have a project plan in place to begin the formal stage of preparing the Local Plan. Once we complete Gateway 1, we have 30 months to prepare and adopt the Local Plan.
Start of second formal consultation (notice of proposed Local Plan content and evidence consultation) (6 weeks)	30 September 2026	This second formal consultation sets out the proposed vision, aims and objectives, and a summary of the policy topics that the plan will cover. We will also publish a summary of the evidence proposed to support the plan.
Date when representations to the proposed Local Plan content and evidence	11 November 2026	All comments (also known as representations) on the proposed Local Plan content and evidence

Key stage of plan making	When it will happen	What it means
consultation will need to be received		consultation must be received on or before this date.
Gateway 2	31 March 2027	This new requirement is a formal method of obtaining feedback from a Planning Inspector on the draft plan and supporting evidence, ensuring our approach aligns with national policy, guidance and legislation.
Third formal consultation (notice of proposed Local Plan consultation) (8 weeks)	27 October 2027	This 8 week consultation is on the final version of the plan and includes the proposed site allocations.
Date when representations on the proposed Local Plan consultation will need to be received	22 December 2027	All comments (also known as representations) on the proposed Local Plan consultation must be received on or before this date.
Gateway 3	5 April 2028	This new requirement is a final check by an external assessor to confirm plan meets planning regulations and the tests of soundness, before formally submitting it for Examination.
Submission of the proposed Local Plan to the Secretary of State for independent Examination	1 June 2028	The proposed Local Plan must be submitted for an independent Examination carried out by a Planning Inspector. The Examination should last no longer than 6 months.
Consideration of Adoption of the proposed Local Plan	28 December 2028	Consideration of adopting the proposed Local Plan as the

Key stage of plan making	When it will happen	What it means
		development plan for Central Bedfordshire.