Rushcliffe Local Plan

Gateway 1: self-assessment summary

Publication date: 31 October 2026

How we got ready to prepare a new local plan

We announced we would be preparing a new Local Plan for Rushcliffe on 30 June 2026. On that date, we published a Notice of Intention to Commence Local Plan Preparation in accordance with Regulation 19 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026 ("the Regulations"), thereby giving the required four months' notice before Gateway 1.

This Gateway 1 self-assessment summary has been prepared to satisfy Regulation 21 of the Regulations. It sets out how Gateway 1 was passed on 31 October 2026 and the Council therefore formally started preparing the new Rushcliffe Local Plan on this date.

Government policy says we should adopt the new Local Plan within 30 months of passing Gateway 1. This is to help ensure that Rushcliffe has an up-to-date Local Plan that responds to the needs of the Borough and its communities.

Below, we explain what we did to get ready for the 30-month process. Also provided are links to the timetable, consultation material and other information about the new Rushcliffe Local Plan.

Find out about the Rushcliffe Local Plan

We published a timetable for preparing the Local Plan

In accordance with the requirements in section 15B of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and Part 2 of the Regulations, we published the Local Plan timetable on 30 June 2026.

The timetable shows when we expect to carry out the main stages and activities needed to prepare the Local Plan. It helps us assess whether the Local Plan can be adopted within 30 months. We will keep the timetable under review as work progresses.

The Local Plan's Scoping Consultation ran from 18 September to 23 October 2026. The formal 30-month Local Plan preparation period starts on 31 October 2026. The timetable provides for:

- consultation on proposed Plan content and evidence in May/June 2027;
- consultation on the proposed Local Plan from May to July 2028;
- submission for examination on 2 October 2028; and
- adoption by 30 April 2029.

We have considered the main factors that could affect delivery, including the timing of evidence studies, procurement, staff capacity, consultation analysis, decision-making, changes to national policy, strategic planning work and local government reorganisation. These matters will be kept under review through the project plan and risk register. If an issue begins to affect a key milestone, we will consider what action is needed and update the published timetable where necessary.

On the basis of the work completed to date, we consider that the published timetable provides a realistic route to adoption of the Local Plan within 30 months, while recognising that it is demanding and will require regular monitoring.

View the Local Plan timetable and Notice of Intention to Commence Local Plan Preparation

We established project management and governance arrangements

Preparing the Local Plan will require input from Council officers and elected councillors, as well as neighbouring authorities, infrastructure providers, statutory bodies and other organisations. Clear project management and governance arrangements are needed so that work keeps to timetable and decisions are taken at the right time.

We have established an initial project plan for preparing the Local Plan, linked to the published timetable. This has been informed by material prepared by the Planning Advisory Service on project management for local plan preparation. Workstreams cover consultation, the evidence base, the vision and spatial strategy, policy development, site assessment, infrastructure identification and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). Relevant council services and external organisations are being involved and will continue to be involved as their input is required.

We have also prepared an initial risk register. It covers matters such as staffing and specialist capacity, budgets, procurement, external inputs, consultation workloads, changes to national policy, the emerging East Midlands Spatial Development Strategy and potential

local government reorganisation. The register focuses on proportionate monitoring and responding where an issue could affect a decision or milestone.

These matters will be reviewed through regular programme meetings, senior officer involvement and early and ongoing discussion with finance, legal, procurement, communications and democratic services within the Council.

We planned how we will consult on the Local Plan

Public consultation is essential if the Local Plan is to reflect the needs of Rushcliffe's communities. We want people and organisations to understand the choices involved and to have opportunities to influence the Local Plan before decisions are made.

We have undertaken the Scoping Consultation to get people's views on what the Local Plan could contain and how we propose to consult on the Local Plan at key stages in its preparation.

Information was published on a dedicated Local Plan webpage, supported by the Scoping Consultation document and a separate webpage summarising the consultation. People could respond directly online, by email or by post. The consultation was advertised online and via social media and we contacted a range of consultees, including statutory bodies, neighbouring authorities, infrastructure providers, parish and town councils, community organisations, businesses, landowners and other interested parties.

An Engagement Plan is being prepared to explain how the Council intends to involve local communities and other stakeholders throughout the Plan's preparation. The Scoping Consultation asked how people and organisations should be involved as the Plan progresses and the feedback received will be used to inform and finalise the Engagement Plan.

The responses to the Scoping Consultation are being recorded in a structured database so that the issues raised can be reviewed consistently. We will publish a summary explaining the main messages and how they will inform the next stage. The Engagement Plan will be finalised following analysis of the consultation responses, taking account of comments about engagement and the effectiveness and accessibility of the methods used.

View the Scoping Consultation material

We began scoping the content of the Local Plan

The Rushcliffe Local Plan will plan for the future development of the Council's planning administrative area and will cover matters over which the Council has responsibility as the local planning authority.

The Local Plan will contain a vision, objectives, spatial strategy, and policies and proposals to achieve sustainable development through meeting the objectively assessed development and infrastructure needs of the area (including for new housing and employment land), protecting the natural and built environment and responding to climate change. The Local Plan will be capable of being used in the determination of planning applications for the development and use of land and buildings in Rushcliffe that are submitted to the Council for determination.

National planning policy sets out that the Local Plan should cover a period of no less than 10 years from the point of its adoption.

The Scoping Consultation document provides the starting point for deciding in detail what the Plan should contain. It describes the context for preparing the Local Plan, national planning policy and other key considerations, and locally important issues and characteristics of Rushcliffe that need to be taken into account. It also identifies the main issues and questions that subsequent Local Plan preparation stages will need to address.

It covers matters including the Plan's vision and spatial strategy, housing, the economy, town and other centres, infrastructure and local services, transport, climate change and flood risk, the natural environment, heritage and design and placemaking.

Since the Scoping Consultation was undertaken, we have started preparing an early draft vision and objectives for Rushcliffe to 2041, which will be the likely end date for the Plan. Possible measurable outcomes have also been identified. These cover homes, jobs and skills, travel, infrastructure, design, climate resilience, flood risk, biodiversity and heritage. They will be refined following further engagement and after further evidence has been reviewed.

Work is continuing to identify development requirements, including for new homes, establish high-level spatial options, gather settlement information, assess potential locations and sites for growth, and identify infrastructure needs.

We have mostly identified and scoped our evidence needs and have a plan for how we will deliver this, including where evidence will need to be commissioned from external consultants.

A 'Call for Sites' is due to begin in November 2026 using dedicated online software. Landowners, developers and others will be able to submit land for consideration as possible site allocations for housing, employment or other uses. Submitting a site will not mean that it will be allocated or granted planning permission. Sites will be assessed alongside other reasonable options before a preferred strategy is selected.

Read the Rushcliffe Local Plan Scoping Document

We began work on the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is used to identify and evaluate the likely significant environmental effects of the Local Plan and reasonable alternatives. It helps the Council compare choices and consider how adverse environmental effects could be avoided, reduced or offset.

We are well progressed with the SEA screening and scoping work needed to establish the appropriate approach to environmental assessment.

We have concluded from the screening work that a SEA is required for the Local Plan. For the SEA's scoping stage, we have undertaken the following work:

- Identified other relevant plans, programmes and environmental protection objectives. This establishes the wider policy context for the Local Plan and SEA.
- Collected baseline information. This describes the current environmental characteristics of Rushcliffe and how they are likely to change without the Local Plan.
- Identified key environmental issues and problems. This draws out the matters on which the SEA should focus.
- Developed an SEA framework, which comprises specific environmental objectives against which the likely effects of the Local Plan can be assessed.

We have sought the views of the statutory environmental consultees (the Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England) on the scoping work and asked them whether the proposed scope, level of detail and SEA assessment framework are appropriate.

The next steps are to complete this scoping process. This is subject to any comments received from the statutory environmental consultees. We also currently expect to consult further on the proposed scope and approach to the SEA alongside the consultation on Local Plan content and evidence in May/June 2027.

The SEA scoping process has therefore not yet been concluded, so this summary does not prejudge the final outcome.

We are planning for wider change

The Local Plan is being prepared while the East Midlands Combined County Authority's Spatial Development Strategy is being prepared and local government reorganisation is also being considered. These processes may affect strategic priorities, governance and future plan-making arrangements.

The Council is continuing to prepare a Local Plan for the current Rushcliffe Borough area. We will keep relevant changes under review and work with neighbouring authorities and

strategic partners. Evidence, consultation responses and spatial planning work will be documented so that they remain useful if responsibilities or administrative arrangements change during plan preparation. We are also working closely with neighbouring authorities, continuing the successful joint working relationship which resulted in the production of the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan.

How to stay up to date

The Council's new Local Plan webpage will be updated as work progresses. It will provide consultation updates, evidence documents, draft Local Plan material, key decisions and timetable information.

Visit the Rushcliffe Local Plan webpage

To receive email updates about the Local Plan, please register your details on our Local Plan Consultations and Updates form.

If you wish to contact the Planning Policy team, email localdevelopment@rushcliffe.go.uk or telephone 0115 991 9911 and ask for Planning Policy.

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