



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Basildon Borough Local Plan

June 2023

Basildon Centre

01268 533 333

St Martins Square

www.basildon.gov.uk

Basildon

SS14 1DL



BasildonCouncil

FAQs

What is a Local Plan?

It is the role of the Local Planning Authority (Basildon Council) to produce a Local Plan, showing how an area will develop in the future and provide policies that will guide decisions on whether planning applications are granted. A Local Plan sets out policies and proposals in an area that address needs and opportunities for housing and employment, whilst ensuring that infrastructure is adequately provided for a growing population. Policies will also safeguard the environment, and adapt to the effects of climate change, and achieve well-designed neighbourhoods. Local Plans are the starting point for guiding local planning decisions regarding development proposals and planning applications.

It is a legal requirement for councils to develop a Local Plan. Without a plan, we have much less control over the quality and location of development. With a Local Plan in place, we will be more able to protect what's important to us, direct development to appropriate locations and deliver local priorities and aspirations.

What is the current Local Plan?

The current adopted development plan is the Basildon District Local Plan Saved Policies 2007. The Saved Policies, from the Basildon District Local Plan 1998, represent the local planning policies currently applied by the Council to inform the determination of planning applications and enforce planning control. The saved policies have been reviewed against the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2021 to assess the level of compliance each saved policy has with the 2021 iteration of NPPF.

What stage are we at?

This is the initial stage of consultation for the new Local Plan, titled "The First Conversation about our new Local Plan". This consultation seeks to notify people that the Council is preparing a Local Plan for Basildon Borough, asking what they consider it should cover and provide their views on various issues. There will be various other consultation stages in which people can get involved throughout the Local Plan process.

The latest Local Development Scheme (LDS) sets out the timetable for the new Local Plan:

Basildon Borough Local Development Scheme: 2022 to 2027

Stage	Estimated Timescale
Issues and Options Consultation	Q2 2023
Draft Local Plan Consultation	Q3 2024
Publication Local Plan	Q4 2025
Submission to Secretary of State	Q2 2026
Independent Examination, including hearings, commence	Q4 2026
Recommendation from the Independent Examiner	Q3 2027
Adoption of the Local Plan	Q4 2027

Why is it called the “The First Conversation about our new Local Plan” and “Issues and Options Consultation”?

This consultation is the first part of the Regulations that Local Planning Authorities must fulfil when producing a Local Plan, and legislation calls this an “Issues and Options Consultation”. The Council also refers to this consultation as “The First Conversation about our new Local Plan” to make it more descriptive and user friendly but have used “Issues and Options Consultation” where requiring reference to the legislation.

How will my views be taken into account?

Councils are required by law to make the comments you send about the plan publicly available, including your name. Your comments will be made available for the public to read in council offices and online as part of the Local Plan preparation process. Your telephone number, postal address, email address, and signature will not be published. Please note that we cannot provide anonymity or accept comments marked ‘private’ or ‘confidential’. Comments that include offensive, racist, discriminatory, threatening and other non-relevant statements will be destroyed.

To ensure that the consultation reaches all members of our community we will also ask you to provide information about yourself, such as your age, sex and ethnicity, and any accessibility requirements. This information is optional and will not be published.

Every submitted comment will be considered and the results of this consultation will be published in a report that will give a detailed analysis of the results. This detailed analysis will be taken account of in the preparation of the new Local Plan.

How can I get involved?

The Issues and Options document is available online for you to read and comment on via our new consultation platform: <https://basildonlocalplan.commonplace.is/>

Reference copies will also be available at each of the Council's main deposit points:

- Basildon Borough Council Offices: The Basildon Centre, St Martin's Square, Basildon, SS14 1DL.
- Basildon Library: The Basildon Centre, St. Martin's Square, Basildon, SS14 1EE
- Billericay Library: 143 High Street, Billericay, CM12 9AB.
- Wickford Library: Market Road, Wickford, SS12 0AG

We will be holding online FAQ's and drop-in sessions which you are more than welcome to come along to for more information and to have your say on the future of the Borough. Details of the events are available on the Issues and Options Consultation page on our website: www.basildon.gov.uk/issuesandoptions

Can you help me understand the terms used?

Yes, a glossary of terms can be found on our consultation portal under 'Document Library'.

Where will new development be located?

We are still at an early stage of preparing our new Local Plan and no decisions have been made about where future development will be located. This is why it is important that as many people have their say at this stage, to ensure their views are taken into account before decisions are made on location.

As part of our consultation, we have identified six main ways in which our development needs could be met through our new Local Plan. These are:

- The densification of urban areas
- Urban extensions
- Infill development
- Expansion of existing villages
- New settlements
- Strategic transport corridors

The consultation document sets out some pros and cons of each of these spatial options and allows you to tell us which of the above options you would prefer as well as suggest other ones.

What about the infrastructure?

The Council has not made any decisions about where new development should be located for the new Local Plan. The ideas set out in this consultation are simply options we are considering. A new Local plan needs to be sustainable, and an important part of this will be the ability to improve infrastructure capacity across the Borough. One of the most effective ways of delivering new infrastructure is through the Local Plan process.

The Council will prepare a document called an Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP), which identifies the borough's infrastructure requirements including transport, schools, health, green infrastructure, utilities etc. The IDP will set out what is needed, where it is needed when it is needed and how it could be delivered and funded.

The capacity of roads, schools, doctor's surgeries and more will be considered when decisions are made about the location of new development. It may be that there are some areas, such as villages, where limited development can help to sustain existing services which might be under-capacity. In other areas, it may be that development can help fund extensions to existing services to allow these to cope with increased use. In some areas, it may even be possible for development to deliver brand new infrastructure.

When developers build new houses or business premises, they are required to make financial contributions towards local infrastructure needs. The larger the development, the higher these financial contributions will be. By making sure we get the strategy of our new Local Plan right, we can make sure that we locate new development in the locations where the best outcomes for our infrastructure needs can be achieved.

How does this relate to the neighbourhood plan my community is preparing?

A Local Plan provides the strategy and policies for the entire local authority area, and a neighbourhood plan must generally conform to this. Once made, neighbourhood plans form part of the overall development plan and are used to inform planning decisions within that neighbourhood area.

Neighbourhood planning groups will be kept informed as the Local Plan progresses. If a neighbourhood plan is made before the Local Plan is adopted, neighbourhood planning groups will need to consider whether aspects of the neighbourhood plan would require review once the new Local Plan is adopted.

Do I need to make a new account for this consultation if I'm already registered for the previous Local Plan?

Yes, you will need to register a new account for this Local Plan consultation. A new platform is being used for this consultation to allow for a more user-friendly experience. To register for updates on the new Local Plan, visit <https://basildonlocalplan.commonplace.is/>

I'm having difficulty with the consultation portal, or I have more questions about the consultation; how do I contact you?

If your question is not answered in this FAQ, you can contact us via the following ways:

- Email: planningpolicy@basildon.gov.uk
- Telephone: 01268 533333
- Post: Planning Policy Team, Basildon Borough Council, Basildon Centre, St Martin's Square, Basildon, Essex, SS14 1DL

How can I understand the planning system better?

To find out more about planning you can read the [NPPF](#) and [Planning Practice Guidance \(PPG\)](#) which provide robust information and guidance concerning planning.

Additionally, to view our Local Plan news, please look at our webpage: [Local Plan - Latest news and updates - Basildon](#). Or visit our consultation page: <http://www.basildon.gov.uk/issuesandoptions> which will detail opportunities to get involved and find out more about planning.

What is the timescale for the consultation?

The council is consulting on the Issues and Options document between 9am Tuesday 27th June 2023 and Tuesday 5th September 2023. All responses must be received no later than 5pm on 5th September 2023.

Why does it take so long to produce a Local Plan?

We are required by law to ensure that the Local Plan goes through defined consultation stages and that specific evidence is commissioned and completed to justify the plan's approach. The development of the new Local Plan is a detailed and resource intensive piece of work and must account for local views and national policy and legislative changes.

What happens next?

Once the consultation has closed, we will consider all comments received and publish a Statement of Consultation report, providing a summary of the main issues.

The responses we receive during the Issues and Options consultation will be analysed and used to inform the preparation of the Draft Local Plan. This will then be subject to further consultation.