



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q: What are “Main Modifications” to the Local Plan?

A: Main Modifications are changes to the emerging Local Plan 2021-2040 that have been put forward by the appointed Planning Inspectors, following the examination hearings.

These are changes to the Local Plan that are necessary, in order to make it “sound” and allow for the Plan to pass examination and then be adopted by the Borough Council.

Q: Why are we consulting upon the Main Modifications Part 1 now?

A: The Local Plan 2021-2040 was submitted to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, in March 2022. Shortly after submission, two Planning Inspectors were appointed to carry out an independent examination of the Plan.

The Inspectors posed a series of “Matters, Issues and Questions” for the Borough Council and interested parties. These were followed by a series of examination hearings, where participants could present their case as to why the Plan would need to be amended, in order to pass examination. The hearings took place over four separate weeks, in December 2022, January 2023, March 2024 and April 2024.

Following the final round of hearings (16-19 April 2024), the Inspectors gave the Borough Council the go-ahead to consult on their Main Modifications (Part 1).

Q: How will the consultation be run?

A: The consultation will run along the lines of previous consultations for the Local Plan. This will take place over 8-weeks (7 August – 2 October 2024, inclusive).

The Main Modifications are proposed to amend or replace parts of the submission (March 2022) version Local Plan 2021-2040. This is necessary to bring the Plan up to the necessary standard to pass examination.

Interested parties and respondents (including statutory and non-statutory consultees and interested individuals) are invited to comment upon whether the Main Modifications to the Local Plan meet the tests of soundness:

- Legally compliant?

- Complies with the Duty to cooperate?
- Positively prepared (i.e. seeks to meet the area's objectively assessed needs)?
- Justified (an appropriate strategy, taking into account the reasonable alternatives, and based on proportionate evidence)?
- Effective (i.e. deliverable over the plan period)?
- Consistent with national policy ([National Planning Policy Framework \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk))?

To be accepted, representations will need to relate to specific Main Modifications and not other Local Plan-related matters or issues.

The following will be published for consultation:

1. Schedule of Main Modifications Part 1 (with supporting appendices);
2. Schedule of Additional Modifications;
3. Policies/ Inset Maps Modifications documents; and
4. Sustainability Appraisal and Habitat Regulations Assessment updates.

The consultation relates to the Schedule of Main Modifications Part 1. However, where minor (e.g. factual/ grammatical corrections or updates) or Additional Modifications (as set out in the Additional Modifications schedule), or presentational issues are identified regarding the Policies Map (e.g. cartography), the consultation also provides an opportunity to highlight these and allow for corrections or amendments to be made.

The consultation is underpinned by updates to the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA). Both the SA and HRA are statutory requirements for the Local Plan.

Q: This consultation relates to the Main Modifications Part 1 – what other consultations (Main Modifications Part 2 etc) are going to take place?

A: The Part 1 consultation relates to all aspects of the Local Plan, except Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople.

Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople sites and policies will be subject to a separate Main Modifications (Part 2) consultation. This will take place during the autumn, following the examination hearing sessions schedule to take place on 3 and 4 September 2024.

Q: Who will be consulted?

A: In accordance with the Statement of Community Involvement, all statutory consultees and interested parties will be consulted, subject to the requirements of the 2018 Data Protection Act.

Q: How and when can I respond to the consultation?

A: The consultation will commence on Wednesday, 7 August 2024, running for 8 weeks (closing date, Wednesday, 2 October 2024). Details will be set out on the Local Plan examination web page:

- https://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/info/20079/planning_policy_and_local_plan/951/local_plan_review_2016-2036_examination).

To assist the consultation, there will be a representation form. Once the consultation is open (7 August), respondents will be able to submit representations by way of an online version of this form. This should be used, to ensure we can capture the information required to allow us to process your response. Please note that representations must be received within the 8-weeks period to be considered.

Representations should relate to the tests of soundness (above). Please note that responses will need to be received by the close of consultation (**11:59pm, Wednesday 2 October 2024**), to be accepted.

Q: What happens to representations?

A: Following the close of consultation (2 October 2024), valid (duly made) representations will be collated and forwarded onto the Planning Inspectors for their consideration.

It is emphasised that the Local Plan examination is directed and led at all stages by the appointed Planning Inspectors.

Q: What are the next stages in the process?

A: The Inspectors will consider any representations received and use these to inform their final report on the Local Plan 2021-2040. The timetable for the next stages is set out in the Local Development Scheme ([A10 - Local Development Scheme \(updated April 2024\)](#)).

- October 2024 – Submission of Main Modifications Part 1 responses to Inspectors;
- January 2025 – Receipt of Inspectors' final report;
- February 2025 – Adoption of Local Plan 2021-2040 by the Borough Council.