

Borough Council of
**King's Lynn &
West Norfolk**



King's Lynn and West Norfolk New Local Plan (2026-2044)

Timetable

Published August 2026



Timetable for preparing the King's Lynn and West Norfolk Local Plan

Please note that where precise dates are currently unknown the month and year are stated, and specific dates will be added once known through future updates to the Timetable. The Local Plan Timetable has effect from 15 June 2026 and fully replaces/supersedes the previous Local Development Scheme.

Date	Local Plan Stage	Description
1st June 2026 - 29th October 2026	Prepare and Approve PID along with Timetable	Prepare and approve the Project Initiation Document (PID), setting out the scope, governance arrangements, key responsibilities, resources, milestones and timetable for preparing the Local Plan.
15th June 2026 (30th June 2026 deadline)	Publish Notice of Intention to Commence and timetable	Publish Local Plan Timetable in accordance with the new plan-making regulations and Government template. The Local Plan Timetable will be reviewed once a month and updated and republished if necessary. Publication of the Notice of Intention to Commence Local Plan Preparation.
1st - 29th September 2026	Scoping Consultation	A Local Plan Scoping Consultation will be undertaken for a period of four weeks from 1st until 29th September 2026, when representations will be invited. This consultation will invite feedback on matters including how we will engage with the public and stakeholders throughout the plan-making process and what the plan should contain.
30th October 2026	Gateway 1 Self-Assessment	Publication of a document setting out details of how we have got ready for plan making, marking formal commencement of plan-making for the purposes of the 30-month timeframe.
2nd November 2026	Publish Scoping Consultation findings	Publish a summary of the representations received during the Scoping Consultation, the key issues raised and how the feedback will inform preparation of the Local Plan.
1st April 2026 - Ongoing	Collating and Producing Evidence	Collate and produce the evidence needed to support the Local Plan. The evidence base will be reviewed and updated throughout the plan-making process as further information becomes available.
2nd November 2026 - 30th November 2026	Prepare Vision and Strategy for Consultation	Prepare the draft vision, strategic objectives and broad spatial strategy for consultation, informed by the Scoping Consultation findings and the emerging evidence base.
1st September 2026 - 31st December 2026	Site Assessment and Selection	Assess potential development sites against the agreed methodology and available evidence to identify suitable options for inclusion in the Local Plan.

Date	Local Plan Stage	Description
4th January 2027 - 1st April 2027	Development of plan content	Develop the draft Local Plan content and supporting evidence, including the vision, aims and objectives, proposed spatial strategy, policy options and other key plan elements, in readiness for the Draft Plan Consultation.
17th May 2027- 30 th June 2027	Publication of Draft Plan Consultation	Consultation for a period of at least six weeks on the proposed Local Plan content and evidence, including draft vision, any proposed aims and objectives, the proposed spatial strategy, summary of the evidence that the Council intends to gather, details of evidence already gathered and initial draft policies. Date that notice will be published.
1st November 2027 - 31 st December 2027	Gateway 2 and Advice sought	Seeking observations from the Planning Inspectorate on the draft plan and supporting evidence. Gateway 2 will take between 4-6 weeks.
1st April - 16th May 2028	Proposed Plan Consultation	Consultation for at least eight weeks on the Proposed Local Plan and supporting documents. Date that notice will be published.
1st September 2028 - 30 th October 2028	Gateway 3 and Advice sought	Testing the Local Plan has met the 'prescribed requirements' and can proceed to Examination. Gateway 3 will take between 4-6 weeks.
15th November 2028	Submission of the proposed Local Plan to the Secretary of State	Submission of Local Plan for Examination.
15th November 2028 until 16th March 2029	Examination of Local Plan	Examination of the Local Plan against the tests of soundness set out in national policy.
31st May 2029	Adoption of Local Plan	Borough Council to formally adopt the new Local Plan.

Change Log from the previous published timetable

The timetable has been updated to provide a fuller programme of activity between commencement of plan preparation and adoption. The principal changes from the previous timetable are summarised below.

- **Project initiation added:** a new stage covering preparation and approval of the Project Initiation Document and timetable from 1st June to 29th October 2026.
- **Scoping findings added:** a new milestone on 2nd November 2026 for publishing a summary of representations, key issues and how feedback will inform the Local Plan.

- **Evidence work made explicit:** an ongoing stage from 1st April 2026 has been added for collating, producing, reviewing and updating the evidence base.
- **Vision and strategy preparation added:** a new stage from 2nd to 30th November 2026 covers preparation of the draft vision, strategic objectives and broad spatial strategy.
- **Site assessment and selection added:** a new stage from 1st September to 31st December 2026 sets out the assessment of potential development sites.
- **Draft plan development added:** a new stage from 4th January to 1st April 2027 covers development of plan content, policy options and supporting evidence before consultation.
- **Existing statutory milestones retained:** the dates for the Notice of Intention, Scoping Consultation, Gateway assessments, Draft Plan Consultation, Proposed Plan Consultation, submission, examination and adoption remain unchanged.
- **Descriptions clarified:** wording has been expanded and standardised to explain the purpose and expected outputs of each stage more clearly

The matters that the Local Plan will deal with

The Local Plan will be a comprehensive Local Plan covering the period 2026 – 2044 replacing the existing adopted King’s Lynn and West Norfolk Local Plan (2025). The Local Plan will include a vision, objectives, policies and site allocations. The Local Plan will not cover minerals and waste, as Norfolk County Council is the planning authority for these matters.

The geographical area to which the plan will relate

The Local Plan will cover the administrative Borough of King’s Lynn and West Norfolk. The area is shown on the map. The Local Plan is not being prepared as a joint local plan.

Any Supplementary Plans to be prepared

There are no current confirmed plans to prepare any Supplementary Plans or any joint Supplementary Plans.

