Kirklees COUNCIL

Kirklees Local Plan



Frequently asked questions

November 2026

www.kirklees.gov.uk/localplan

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1 Local Plan – Frequently asked questions

This Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document has been designed to help explain the Local Plan process in clear and straightforward terms. It provides answers to some of the most common questions about what a Local Plan is, why it is needed, how decisions are made, and how residents, businesses and stakeholders can get involved.

As work on the Local Plan progresses, this document will be updated to reflect new information and address emerging questions.

If you cannot find the information you are looking for, please contact the Local Plan team, who will be happy to help on local.development@kirklees.gov.uk.

1.1 About the plan

1.1.1 What is the purpose of the Local Plan?

The purpose of the Local Plan is to set out:

- A vision and strategic objectives for development within Kirklees (particularly for new housing and employment).
- How and where different levels of development will be located (sites allocations).
- A suite of planning policies to guide decisions on planning applications.
- Designations showing land to be protected/safeguarded (such as local green spaces, priority employment areas).
- Infrastructure provision to support the delivery of development.
- A monitoring framework to review the plan's success.

1.1.2 What period will the Local Plan cover?

The new Local Plan will cover the period from 2024-2043.

1.1.3 Why does Kirklees need a new Local Plan?

The council has a legal duty to prepare and maintain a Local Plan. National policy also expects Local Plans to be kept under review to ensure that they continue to meet local needs and changing circumstances. The Government has made clear that having an up-to-date plan in place is a national priority and regularly monitors plan-making progress.

The planning system is intended to be plan-led. Planning decisions must be made in accordance with national planning policy and the development plan unless other important considerations known as material considerations indicate otherwise.

The current Kirklees Local Plan was adopted February 2019. Cabinet agreed on 24th March

2026, to proceed with a full up-date of the Local Plan under a new plan-making system introduced in March 2026.

1.1.4 What happens if we do not update our current Local Plan?

Every local authority is required to have a 5-year housing land supply and a Local Plan that identifies and maintains enough deliverable land to meet housing needs over the next five years.

Where a council cannot demonstrate a 5-year housing land supply, national planning policy sets a presumption in favour of sustainable development. As a result, when developers submit planning applications on sites that the council would prefer to protect, it can be more difficult to justify refusing permission.

Without an up-to-date Local Plan:

- Development can take place in a less coordinated way.
- The council has less influence over where new homes are built.
- It becomes harder to ensure that housing growth is supported by the necessary infrastructure, such as schools, healthcare facilities, transport improvements, local services and green spaces.
- Communities may have less certainty about where future development will occur.

A new Local Plan will provide a clear strategy for managing growth across Kirklees. It will help ensure that new homes, jobs, infrastructure and green spaces are planned together, allowing development to take place in the right locations and in a coordinated and sustainable way.

Additionally, the Government has powers to intervene where it considers that a local authority is not making sufficient progress in preparing or updating its Local Plan. These powers include directing a council to take specified steps to progress plan preparation or in some circumstances, taking over aspects of the plan-making process or plan content. This would reduce the extent to which decisions about the timetable and process remain under local control.

1.1.5 How will the content and priorities of the Local Plan be shaped?

The content and priorities of the Local Plan will be shaped through a combination of evidence, community engagement, national planning policy requirements and decisions made by elected members. It will use evidence about housing, jobs, town centres, green spaces, infrastructure, flooding and other issues to help plan for the needs of current and future communities. The evidence studies help us understand what Kirklees needs and where there may be opportunities or constraints. They will be used alongside other information to shape future Local Plan policies and development requirements.

1.2 Getting involved

1.2.1 What is the timetable for producing the new Local Plan?

All Local Plans prepared under the new plan-making system are intended to be completed within 30 months from the start of the plan preparation up to adoption. The Government's aim is to create a more streamlined process that focusses on key stages such as evidence gathering, Local Plan Scoping, consultation and examination taking place to a fixed timetable.

All Local Plans are required to publish a Local Plan Timetable and to keep it up to date. Kirklees Council Local Plan Timetable can be viewed at: Local Plan Timetable | Kirklees Council.

Table 1: Local Plan Timetable Key Milestones

Plan milestone	Date
Local Plan Scoping Consultation	July – August 2026
Gateway 1 self-assessment	October 2026
30-month plan-making period starts	
Consultation on proposed Local Plan content and evidence	June-July 2027
Gateway 2	November 2027
Consultation on proposed Local Plan	April – May 2028
Gateway 3	August – September 2028
Plan submission for examination	September 2028
Adoption	April 2029

1.2.2 What are the new government Gateway tests?

Gateway tests are formal checks built into the Government's new plan-making system to ensure that plans are progressing to the required timetable and meeting key requirements before they move to the next stage. One of their key purposes is to identify potential issues early, rather than waiting until the end of the process when the plan reaches Examination.

1.2.3 How can I be kept informed about progress on the Local Plan?

Our Local Plan webpage has more detailed information about the Local Plan process and each of the various stages we will go through: Emerging Kirklees Local Plan | Kirklees Council

This will be kept updated and will include links to evidence reports, consultation feedback and the consultation documents.

If you would like to be kept informed about future consultations, you can join our mailing list, and

you will receive communications about key milestones and consultation events for the areas you are interested in: Kirklees Council - Register your Interest in Planning Policy.

1.2.4 Does the evidence mean that decisions about the level and location of development have already been decided?

No. The evidence studies are just one tool to shape the Local Plan. We will consult and listen to our stakeholders, ensure that the plan fully considers national planning policy, and undertake robust site assessments to determine whether sites are available, suitable and deliverable in the plan period. The evidence has an important role in providing information about the needs, opportunities and constraints across Kirklees. It will also help inform the Local Plan and future planning decisions. However, being identified in an evidence study does not, on its own, mean that land will be allocated for development.

1.3 Understanding the evidence

1.3.1 How will all this evidence be used?

The evidence studies each look at a different part of planning for the future of Kirklees – from homes and jobs to flooding, Green Belt, town centres, sports facilities, waste, minerals and heritage. Together, they help build a clearer picture of the needs and opportunities across the district. The evidence will be considered alongside other information and consultation feedback to help shape the Local Plan and future planning policies.

1.3.2 How do landowners suggest potential development sites to us?

Since February 2020 the Council has undertaken a 'Call for Sites' to allow landowners, to inform the council of potential sites to be considered for inclusion in the updated Local Plan. The Call for Sites has been paused since August 2025. Sites can still be submitted to us, but they will not be included in the Draft Local Plan consultation, currently timetabled for June 2027. Any sites received after 31st August 2025 will be considered as part of the Proposed Local Plan consultation.

Further information can be found here: Call for sites | Kirklees Council

1.3.3 How will I be able to comment on the Local Plan evidence?

We are not inviting comments on the Local Plan evidence at this point. It has been released to help stakeholders engage with the Local Plan process.

We will be consulting on the proposed Local plan content and evidence in June 2027 where residents, businesses partner and other stakeholders will be able to comment on all aspects of the plan and the supporting evidence.

1.4 Homes and Housing Demand

1.4.1 Why does Kirklees need more homes?

The Government has set an ambitious target to deliver 1.5 million new homes nationally over the current Parliament and requires all local planning authorities to identify and plan for their housing needs through up-to-date Local Plans. This means all authorities are expected to contribute to meeting national housing needs, helping to achieve a housing requirement of around 370,000 homes per year across England.

The housing evidence shows that more homes are needed in Kirklees to meet the needs of current and future residents. This includes affordable homes, family homes, smaller homes and homes for older people, disabled residents and people with specialist housing needs.

The evidence also highlights the importance of providing a mix of homes for people to buy, rent and access as affordable housing.

1.4.2 How many new homes does Kirklees need?

The Government has established a standard method for assessing local housing need which all authorities are required to follow. The standard method uses a formula that incorporates a baseline of local housing stock which is then adjusted upwards to reflect local affordability pressures to identify the minimum number of houses expected to be planned for. Using the new standard method the most recent calculation for Kirklees is 1,927 dwellings per year (as of May 2026) which represents a need of 36,613 dwellings over the plan period (2024-2043). This is based on existing housing stock of 191,952 dwellings and an affordability ratio of 6.34.

1.4.3 What does the demographic evidence indicate about future housing needs in the district?

Whilst the Standard Method identifies the overall housing need figure for the district based on existing dwelling stock and local affordability, the Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) assesses demographic trends and future household change, and provides the evidence that we will use to develop Local Plan policies to ensure the housing mix of development reflects the needs of current and future residents.

The main demographic trends from the SHMA based on 2022 population and household projections for 2024-2043 predict:

- An increase in the total population of Kirklees from 444,989 in 2024 to 468,086 by 2043.
- An increase in total households from 183,375 in 2024 to 209,738 by 2043.
- A decrease in the 0-19 age population.
- A marked increase in single person households.
- An increase in households with 2 or more adults.
- An increase in households with someone over 65.
- People with disabilities and support needs.

The SHMA provides several policy recommendations on:

- Affordable housing need – new tenure, including 48% social rent, 34% affordable rent and 18% affordable home ownership split.
- Overall dwelling type/size by tenure, size, and type.
- Accessible homes.
- Need for sheltered/retirement housing and extra care.
- Need for specialist housing.
- Meeting the needs of different groups.

We will use the SHMA evidence and policy recommendations to inform Local Plan policies that respond to the needs of different groups.

1.4.4 Why does the Local Plan identify land for new housing when there are empty homes available?

The Council is committed to bringing empty homes back into use through a range of measures which are already in place to identify long-term empty properties and work with owners to return them to occupation.

However, there will always be a proportion of vacant homes throughout the district due to normal housing market activity, such as properties being sold, inherited, renovated or between tenancies.

While bringing homes back into use can make a positive contribution to meeting housing needs, the number of long-term empty properties in Kirklees is relatively small and can only make a limited contribution to overall housing delivery.

The Local Plan must plan for additional homes to meet the needs of current and future residents by considering all sources of housing supply, including the development of previously developed land, conversions, urban regeneration opportunities and new residential development.

1.4.5 Will new housing include affordable homes?

There is a significant need for affordable housing in Kirklees, with demand currently greater than the available supply.

The evidence will help inform future Local Plan policies about the type, size and tenure of homes that are needed, including affordable housing. The Council's housing services will play an important role in helping to develop and implement these policies, ensuring that identified housing needs and local priorities are reflected in the Local Plan. New housing developments will be expected to contribute towards meeting identified affordable housing needs, in line with Local Plan policies and national planning guidance.

1.4.6 Will new homes be suitable for older and disabled people?

The evidence shows that demand for housing for older people, disabled residents and people with specialist needs is expected to increase.

New homes will therefore need to take account of accessibility and support residents throughout their lives. The evidence will help inform future policies about housing standards and the mix of homes needed.

1.4.7 What are the accommodation need of Gypsy, traveller and Travelling Showpeople communities?

Kirklees has undertaken a Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment to understand accommodation requirements for Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople communities in Kirklees. This identifies a need for additional accommodation over the Plan period and indicates that further land may need to be identified to help meet these needs. This evidence will help inform future Local Plan policies and decisions on how the accommodation needs of these communities are addressed.

1.4.8 Is there enough brownfield land to meet development needs without releasing Green Belt land?

The Council has assessed the capacity of brownfield land through the Brownfield Land Register and wider housing land evidence. While previously developed land is prioritised wherever possible, the available brownfield supply is insufficient to meet all identified development needs over the plan period.

In addition, some brownfield sites face constraints that can affect their suitability, availability, viability or delivery. As a result, the Local Plan must consider all reasonable options for meeting development needs, including land currently within the Green Belt where evidence demonstrates this is necessary and justified.

1.4.9 Is there a brownfield first policy?

No. National planning policy promotes the effective use of land and maximising the use of suitable brownfield land. However, national policy does not require all brownfield opportunities to be considered prior to the consideration of greenfield land.

1.4.10 How can more development be encouraged in urban areas/settlements?

The Government places great weight on promoting the effective and efficient use of land. It does this through promoting the re-use or intensification of certain underutilised sites, the use of design guides, design codes and (where appropriate) masterplans to illustrate opportunities for making more effective use of land on sites of different sizes and promoting higher density standards for town centres and locations that are well-connected.

1.5 Green Belt/Grey Belt and development?

1.5.1 What is Green Belt?

The designation and protection of Green Belt is controlled by national policy, and the fundamental aim is to prevent urban sprawl by keeping land permanently open.

National planning policy sets out five purposes for including land within a Green Belt:

- To check the unrestricted sprawl of large built-up areas.
- To prevent neighbouring towns merging into one another.
- To assist in safeguarding the countryside from encroachment.
- To preserve the setting and special character of historic towns; and
- To assist in urban regeneration, by encouraging the recycling of derelict and other urban land.

1.5.2 Can Green Belt boundaries be changed?

National Policy states that Green Belt boundaries should only be altered in exceptional circumstances that are fully evidenced and justified, through the preparation or updating of Local Plans. The Council is required to demonstrate that it has examined fully all other reasonable options for meeting its identified needs for development before releasing land from the Green Belt.

1.5.3 Will the Local Plan mean more development on Green Belt land?

National Planning Policy requires that Local Plans should be informed by an assessment of the role of Green Belt within the district. The Local Plan evidence includes an assessment of Green Belt land across Kirklees. This looks at how different areas contribute to the purposes of the Green Belt. This does not mean that Green Belt land will automatically be developed. Any future consideration of Green Belt release would need to be supported by evidence and take account of housing and other needs, brownfield opportunities, suitability (technical assessment), availability (willing landowner), deliverability, infrastructure and sustainability. While previously developed land is prioritised wherever possible, the available brownfield supply is insufficient to meet all identified development needs over the plan period, therefore Green Belt land release will need to be considered to enable the Council to meet the development needs in full.

1.5.4 What levels of affordable housing can be sought on Grey Belt/Green Belt land?

Where major development involving the provision of housing is proposed on land released from the Green Belt through plan preparation or review, or on sites in the Green Belt subject to a planning application, the ‘Golden Rules’ apply.

The first ‘Golden Rule’ is the provision of affordable housing which reflects the Local Plan policy requirements. These requirements will be set in Policy and will require at least 50% of the housing to be affordable, unless this would make the development of these sites unviable.

This rule also applies to land that meets the definition of ‘grey belt’.

1.5.5 What does grey belt mean?

Grey belt is land in the Green Belt comprising previously developed (brownfield) land and/or land that does not strongly contribute (makes a weak or moderate contribution) to preventing sprawl of large built-up areas (purpose a) or preventing towns from merging (purpose b). It is not a separate planning designation and is not automatically suitable for development.

The Green Belt Parcel Analysis identifies areas that may meet the national definition of ‘grey belt’ land. However, being identified as grey belt does not mean that the land will be developed or allocated for development. Land identified as grey belt would still need to be considered against other planning requirements, including environmental, infrastructure and sustainability issues and would be subject to gaining planning approval.

1.5.6 Is all Green Belt land being considered for development?

The Green Belt Parcel Analysis assesses Green Belt land across Kirklees to understand how important different areas are to the purposes of the Green Belt. Some areas make a strong contribution and are considered strategically important, while others make a lower contribution and may meet the definition of grey belt. The assessment itself does not decide about whether land will be developed. It provides the evidence required to enable the Council to consider all options when considering Green Belt land release.

1.5.7 What happens if land is identified as grey belt but isn’t suitable for development?

Being identified as grey belt does not mean land is suitable for development. For grey belt land to be appropriate for development it first must be in a sustainable location. Even if that is the case that land may still be unsuitable for development because of, for example, environmental, highways, historic, infrastructure or ecology reasons.

Any future decisions would need to consider these factors alongside the wider need for development.

If land identified as grey belt, isn’t released for development through the Local Plan process, it will remain as Green Belt land.

1.6 Infrastructure, Environment and Climate Change

1.6.1 How will infrastructure cope with new development?

The Local Plan is not just about new homes and jobs. We also need infrastructure such as schools, healthcare, public transport, roads, utilities, parks and leisure facilities. Alongside the preparation of the Local Plan, the Council gathers evidence from a range of organisations and infrastructure providers to understand what is needed to support additional growth. These requirements will be set out in the Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) in support of the Local Plan.

1.6.2 How is viability considered throughout the plan process?

Viability is considered throughout Local Plan preparation to make sure that the combined policy requirements and infrastructure expectations do not make development unviable. It informs policy drafting, is tested and scrutinised through consultation and examination, and ultimately helps demonstrate that the Local Plan can be delivered in practice over the plan period.

A whole plan viability assessment will be carried out to test whether the cumulative impact of planning requirements such as affordable housing, open space, infrastructure and biodiversity net gain can be accommodated without making development undeliverable. The assessment is usually based on a range of hypothetical development typologies and market scenarios.

1.6.3 How will the Local Plan take account of flooding?

Flood risk is an important consideration when deciding where future development should take place. The Strategic Flood Risk Assessment provides the evidence needed to understand current and future flood risk across Kirklees, it looks at different types of flooding, including flooding from rivers, surface water, groundwater, sewers and reservoirs. It identifies areas where flood risk is higher and helps inform how future development can be directed to locations with the lowest risk of flooding.

1.6.4 How can the Local Plan help to shape places which are more resilient to the effects of climate change?

The Local Plan can play a key role in helping places adapt to climate change and reduce their contribution to it. It can ensure that future development is located, designed and built in ways that are more resilient to the impacts of flooding, extreme heat, drought and severe weather. It can identify opportunities for green infrastructure provision and nature-based solutions which can safeguard and improve carbon storage, support nature recovery and resilience.

1.7 Jobs, and the local economy

1.7.1 Will there be enough land for businesses and jobs?

The Employment Land Study looks at how much land Kirklees may need for businesses, industry, warehouses and offices in the future. It shows continued demand for industrial and warehouse space, particularly from existing local businesses looking to grow. It also identifies a limited supply of larger sites suitable for major industrial, logistics and manufacturing developments. The evidence will help the Local Plan support future economic growth, investment and job creation.

1.7.2 Where will new employment development take place?

The evidence identifies North Kirklees as having an important role because of its access to the M62 and M1 and its potential to accommodate larger employment sites. However, the Employment Land Study does not by itself decide where specific developments will take place. It provides evidence about the amount and type of employment land that may be needed in the future.

1.7.3 Will there be a policy on data centres in the Local Plan?

Data centres are becoming increasingly important to the digital economy and can contribute to investment, innovation and employment. However, they can also have significant requirements for electricity supply, telecommunications infrastructure, land, water resources and cooling systems. As a result, they need to be in particular locations to power them, for example near to National Grid’s electricity transmission system.

The Kirklees Employment Land Study concludes that the limited number of suitable sites suggests that the Council should remain open to alternative sites in optimal locations that could meet any market demand for data centres.

Therefore, the Local Plan will consider whether specific policies are needed to guide proposals for data centres and ensure that any development is in an appropriate and sustainable location, taking account of impacts on infrastructure, energy consumption, the environment and neighbouring uses.

Any proposed planning policies will be subject to public consultation as part of the Proposed Local Plan Content and Evidence consultation in June 2027.

1.7.4 Will there be enough shops, restaurants and leisure facilities?

The Retail and Leisure Capacity Study looks at how Kirklees' town, district and local centres are performing and whether more shops, restaurants, cafés and leisure facilities may be needed.

The evidence identifies a need for more convenience shopping in Holmfirth, Marsden and Slaithwaite, while there is no significant shortage of comparison-shopping provision. It also identifies a potential need for a small amount of additional restaurant and café space, with new provision focused on existing town centres.

1.8 Green Spaces, Heritage and Community Facilities

1.8.1 Will parks, recreation grounds and other green spaces be protected?

The Open Space Study (to be completed) assesses the quantity, value and accessibility of a range of open spaces across Kirklees, including parks, recreation grounds, natural and semi-natural greenspace, amenity greenspace, allotments and community food growing, cemeteries and churchyards, and provision for children and young people.

The findings from the Open Space Study will help identify where these important green spaces, such as parks, recreation grounds, sports facilities, allotments and other valued green spaces will continue to be protected through the designation of these sites as Urban Green Space in the Local Plan. This will ensure communities have access to high-quality green spaces and recreation opportunities.

Development proposals that would result in the loss of these green spaces will only be supported where they comply with strict policy requirements and the loss can be appropriately justified.

1.8.2 Will new development provide new open spaces and sports facilities?

Yes. The Local Plan will be informed by evidence on open space, sport and recreation needs to identify where additional provision is required. New development will be expected to contribute towards meeting these needs, either through new facilities on-site or contributions towards improvements elsewhere. The Playing Pitch Strategy looks at whether Kirklees has enough sports pitches and facilities to meet current and future demand. It identifies the quantity and quality, of facilities for sports including football, rugby, cricket and hockey. The findings will help identify where facilities need to be protected, improved or expanded and can help secure contributions from new development towards sports infrastructure.

1.8.3 How will the Local Plan protect important places such as Castle Hill?

The Castle Hill Setting Study Addendum looks at how future development could affect the setting and views of Castle Hill and Victoria Tower. It identifies areas where development could potentially have a harmful impact on this important heritage asset. This evidence will help planners understand what constraints or mitigation measures may be needed when considering future development proposals.

1.9 Planning for Communities and Resources

1.9.1 How will the Local Plan consider waste and recycling?

The Waste Needs Assessment looks at how waste is currently managed across Kirklees and whether there will be enough capacity to deal with future needs. The evidence shows that Kirklees currently has enough capacity to manage most of the waste produced in the district, but existing waste facilities will need to be protected. Future changes to recycling requirements could also increase the need for facilities to process materials such as food waste and glass.

1.9.2 How will the Local Plan deal with anaerobic digestion?

Anaerobic Digestion (AD) is a process that breaks down biodegradable waste, such as food waste and agricultural materials, to produce biogas that can be used to generate renewable energy. It also produces a nutrient-rich by-product that can be used on farmland.

For Local Plan purposes, AD is considered alongside composting as a form of organic waste treatment. Facilities can play an important role in helping to manage waste sustainably, divert waste from landfill, support the circular economy and contribute towards renewable energy generation.

There is currently one permitted AD facility operating in Kirklees, the Clayton Hall Farm Bioenergy Plant.

1.9.3 How will the Local Plan consider minerals and quarrying?

The Minerals Evidence Base looks at the supply of minerals needed for construction and development, including sandstone, clay and shale, crushed rock, sand and gravel and recycled materials. Kirklees has significant reserves of high-quality sandstone, and the evidence says existing quarries should be protected to help meet future demand. The evidence also highlights the importance of using recycled and secondary materials and ensuring that quarry restoration supports biodiversity, nature recovery and climate resilience wherever possible.

1.10 Delivering development

1.10.1 What happens if we don’t have enough land to meet our development requirements?

The Local Plan must identify sufficient land to meet housing needs over the Plan period, and the council will need to demonstrate to an independent Inspector at Local Plan examination that it has taken all reasonable steps to identify available, suitable and deliverable land.

Without an up-to-date Local Plan, the Council has less control over where development can take place. This means there is a greater risk of development coming forward on less appropriate sites where the Council may find it difficult to resist proposals.

By allocating sufficient land, the Local Plan provides a planned and coordinated approach to accommodating future development needs to ensure that supporting infrastructure, affordable housing and other community benefits are delivered alongside new development. This will give greater certainty to residents, communities and developers about where development can take place.

Options to find more land may include:

- Reassess sites rejected in earlier stages of the site assessment process.
- A further targeted Call for Sites.
- Workshops with major house builders and small and medium developers.
- Demonstrate a robust approach to the identification of sites within urban areas.
- Use the consultation on the Proposed Local Plan Content and Evidence to highlight the need for more sites.
- Consult with neighbouring local authorities to see if they have capacity to meet any unmet needs.

1.10.2 How do we get landowners to bring forward development?

One of the ways of encouraging landowners to bring forward land or sites is through the Local Plan process. An allocation in the Local Plan identifies that the principle of development is established subject to a future planning application. This can provide more certainty.

Landowners are more likely to promote sites where requirements are demonstrably deliverable. A Whole Plan Viability Assessment demonstrating that affordable housing requirements are realistic and infrastructure expectations are proportionate can provide confidence that the development is viable and encourage delivery.

Working closely with landowners and developers throughout the Local Plan process can help to support the delivery of sites. Master planning of an allocation enables early engagement on a site prior to a planning application.

1.10.3 Could the council compulsory purchase land to deliver development?

Yes. A local authority can use compulsory purchase powers (CPO**)** to acquire land to facilitate development, but it is generally a measure of last resort and must satisfy clear statutory and public interest tests.

The council would need to demonstrate:

- The site is important to delivering the Local Plan.

- There is a realistic prospect that development will proceed if the land is acquired.
- Attempts have been made to negotiate voluntarily.
- The public benefits outweigh interference with private property rights.

Typical timeframes vary between a year to four years and may be longer if there are multiple landowners involved. A CPO can be an expensive process, legally complex and resource intensive. Therefore, negotiating with landowners and developers to secure voluntary agreement is the preferred method.

1.10.4 How will the Local Plan deal with cross-boundary issues and the implications of development on the borders of Kirklees?

Planning issues do not stop at administrative boundaries, so the council will work closely with neighbouring authorities and other organisations when preparing the Local Plan. This includes considering how development in Kirklees may affect neighbouring areas, and how development proposed elsewhere may affect Kirklees.

The Local Plan will be informed by ongoing discussions with adjoining councils, infrastructure providers, transport authorities and other key stakeholders. Matters that may require a cross-boundary approach include housing and employment growth, transport networks, flood risk, Green Belt, ecology, utilities, education provision and healthcare infrastructure. We will work to agree Statements of Common Ground to demonstrate agreement on cross-boundary matters.

Where development is proposed close to the Kirklees boundary, we will assess potential impacts on neighbouring communities, including traffic movements, access to services, landscape character and environmental effects. We will also seek to understand and respond to any implications arising from development proposed in neighbouring authority areas.

The Local Plan will be supported by evidence studies and strategic planning arrangements to ensure that cross-boundary matters are properly considered and that development is planned in a coordinated and sustainable way.

The emerging West Yorkshire Spatial Development Strategy (SDS) will provide a strategic framework for planning across the wider city region and will help local authorities to work together on issues that extend beyond individual council boundaries. The Kirklees Local Plan will take account of the SDS while providing the detailed policies and site allocations needed to guide development within the borough.