

Kirklees Local Plan Engagement Strategy

October 2026

Table of Contents

1	Introduction.....	1
1.1	Purpose of the document.....	1
1.2	Background.....	1
2	How you can get involved in preparing the Local Plan	3
2.1	Local Plan key stages	3
2.2	Scoping Consultation.....	3
2.3	Consultation on Proposed Local Plan content and evidence.....	4
2.4	Proposed Local Plan consultation	4
2.5	Local Plan Independent Examination	5
3	Identifying stakeholders.....	6
3.1	General consultation bodies means:	6
3.2	Specific consultation bodies means:.....	7
4	Engagement principles and objectives.....	8
4.1	Engagement principles	8
4.2	Engagement objectives.....	10
5	Methods of engagement and consultation	11
5.1	Methods of consultation	11
6	Stakeholder matrix.....	15
7	Member engagement and governance arrangements	20
8	Monitoring and review.....	20
8.1	Monitoring success criteria	21

1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of the document

This Local Plan Engagement Strategy sets out how Kirklees Council will involve communities, businesses, landowners, infrastructure providers and other stakeholders in preparing the new Kirklees Local Plan. It explains when engagement will take place, who we will engage with, and how views will help shape the plan as it progresses through the plan-making process.

Government guidance: [Engaging the public when preparing a local plan - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/engaging-the-public-when-preparing-a-local-plan) sets out that plan-makers should have a well-defined community engagement strategy, clearly outlining the purpose, target audience and objectives and this should form part of the project management.

We are committed to ensuring everyone can participate in shaping the future of Kirklees. We will seek to engage a diverse range of residents, businesses, community organisations, infrastructure providers, developers, landowners, neighbouring authorities and statutory consultees throughout the preparation of the Local Plan.

Government guidance recognises that different stages of plan preparation will require different approaches to engagement. Effective engagement should be based on an understanding of local communities and stakeholders, identify clear target audiences, use appropriate methods of communication, and explain both the scope and purpose of each consultation exercise.

The approach set out in this strategy has been informed by feedback received during the Local Plan Scoping Consultation undertaken between August and September 2026, together with the principles established in the Council's Statement of Community Involvement (March 2024), which this document will replace.

1.2 Background

A new plan-making system was introduced in March 2026 through the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026.

A key early requirement of the new system is the completion of the Gateway 1 self-assessment, which demonstrates that the Council has the necessary governance, resources and project management arrangements in place to begin preparing a new Local Plan.

1.2.1 Gateway 1 assesses the council's readiness to prepare a Local Plan across five areas:

1. Preparing and publishing a Local Plan Timetable.
2. Establishing project management and governance arrangements.
3. Developing an approach to consulting and engaging on the plan.
4. Scoping the content of the plan.
5. Progressing the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).

Our Gateway 1 self-assessment summary can be viewed at: [Emerging Kirklees Local Plan | Kirklees Council](#)

This Engagement Strategy is a key component of the Local Plan programme. It sits alongside the Project Initiation Document, Local Plan timetable and governance arrangements, providing a framework for meaningful and proportionate engagement throughout the preparation of the Local Plan.

Engagement is an essential part of preparing the Local Plan. It helps the Council understand local issues, opportunities and priorities, test emerging options, and develop policies that are informed by local knowledge and evidence. While not all suggestions can be incorporated into the Local Plan, all representations will be considered and used to inform plan preparation and decision-making.

Engagement is also intended to improve transparency, build trust in the plan-making process and provide stakeholders with a clear understanding of how decisions are reached.

1.2.2 Our Local Plan Engagement Strategy has been informed by:

- Feedback from the Local Plan Scoping Consultation (August – September 2026).
- The Council's Statement of Community Involvement (March 2024): [Statement of Community Involvement | Kirklees Council](#).
- The Kirklees Inclusive Communities Framework: [Inclusive Communities Framework | Kirklees Council](#).
- Government guidance on engaging communities in Local Plan preparation: [Engaging the public when preparing a local plan - GOV.UK](#).

2 How you can get involved in preparing the Local Plan

2.1 Local Plan key stages

Government regulations¹ require local authorities to consult at key stages in preparing a Local Plan. These consultation stages provide opportunities for residents, businesses, organisations and other stakeholders to help shape the Plan.

The required consultation stages are:

- Scoping consultation
- Consultation on proposed Local Plan content and supporting evidence
- Consultation on the proposed Local Plan

Following each consultation, we will publish:

- A summary of the comments received.
- An explanation of how those comments have been considered in preparing the next stage of the Plan.

2.2 Scoping Consultation

Completed: August to September 2026

The Local Plan Scoping Consultation: [Kirklees Local Plan Scoping Consultation](#) sought views on:

- The key issues facing Kirklees.
- Planning priorities for the future.
- The evidence needed to support the Local Plan.
- A future vision for Kirklees.
- Preferred methods of community engagement throughout the plan-making process.

Feedback received through this consultation, together with ongoing evidence gathering, site assessments and engagement with elected Members, infrastructure providers and other stakeholders, will help shape the emerging Local Plan.

¹ The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) Regulations 2026

A summary of the consultation responses can be viewed via our website at: [Emerging Kirklees Local Plan | Kirklees Council](#)

2.3 Consultation on Proposed Local Plan content and evidence

Programmed for June – July 2027

This consultation will seek views on the emerging direction of the Local Plan before the Proposed Plan is prepared for consultation in 2028. We will invite comments from statutory consultees, residents, businesses, stakeholders and anyone who has asked to be notified of Local Plan consultations.

We will consult on:

- A draft vision and proposed measurable outcomes.
- Draft aims and objectives.
- A proposed spatial strategy approach.
- A summary of the evidence gathered, and any further evidence proposed. gathered.
- Initial draft Local Plan policies.
- Draft spatial strategy including site allocations and designations for protected land.

Following consultation, we will publish a summary of the comments received and explain how they have informed the preparation of the Proposed Local Plan.

2.4 Proposed Local Plan consultation

Programmed for April – May 2028

This consultation will present the Council's Proposed Local Plan before it is submitted for independent examination.

We will invite comments from statutory consultees, residents, businesses, stakeholders and anyone who has asked to be notified of Local Plan consultations.

Subject to a West Yorkshire Spatial Development Strategy being in place, the West Yorkshire Combined Authority will also be consulted to consider whether the Proposed Local Plan is in general conformity with that Strategy.

We will consult on:

- The Proposed Local Plan.
- Policies map showing proposed allocations and designations.
- Supporting evidence and technical papers.

- A summary of the main issues raised through the previous statutory consultation and how they have been addressed.

The consultation will last for a minimum period of 8 weeks. On completion, we will publish a summary of the consultation and make any updates to the plan and supporting evidence before moving to the next stage.

2.5 Local Plan Independent Examination

Programmed to start October 2028

Public examinations are open for anyone to attend. The Local Plan Programme Officer will notify anyone who has opted-in to being notified of the public examination information including the date, time and place of the hearing. You only have the right to be heard if you have made representations in relation to the Local Plan consultation.

3 Identifying stakeholders

The council, in preparing Local Plan documents, will aim to involve a wide range of different stakeholders at the earliest opportunity.

Stakeholders will include:

- Residents.
- Adjoining local authorities.
- Parish and town councils.
- Interest groups.
- Voluntary organisations.
- Businesses.
- Developers and landowners.
- Marginalised groups - which includes those with protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 (Age, Disability, Gender Reassignment, Marriage and Civil Partnership, Pregnancy and Maternity, Race, Religion or Belief, Sex, and Sexual Orientation). The Council also assesses the impact on unpaid carers, Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Communities, low income, and Members of the Armed Forces; and 'Seldom heard' - there is some overlap between marginalised groups and those 'seldom heard', who may be disengaged with the planning system. Additional effort should be taken to ensure that consultation is accessible to those who are seldom heard, rather than only those who usually engage with the planning system. Where a 'seldom heard' group is also a group with a protected characteristic, this is an important consideration in line with our duties under the Equality Act (2010). 'Seldom heard' groups include those who find engaging in planning issues less accessible for practical reasons – such as single parents, carers, those in full time or irregular work, rural communities, and those without adequate access to or knowledge of the internet.

Additionally, the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026 set out relevant and specific consultation bodies that that we are legally required to consult and involve in the preparation of the local plan.

There are two types of consultation bodies set out in regulations². These are general consultation bodies and specific consultation bodies.

3.1 General consultation bodies means:

- a) Voluntary bodies, some or all, of whose activities benefit all or part of the Planning authority's area.
- b) Bodies which represent the interests of persons in the planning authority's area who share a protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010(10).

² The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) Regulation 2026, Regulation 2

- c) Bodies which represent the interests of persons carrying on business in the planning authority's area.

3.2 Specific consultation bodies means:

- a) Active Travel England
- b) any person—
 - i. to whom the electronic communications code applies as a result of a direction given under section 106 (3) (a) of the Communications Act 2003, and
 - ii. who owns or controls electronic communications apparatus situated in the
 - iii. planning authority's area.
- c) Canal & River Trust
- d) the Civil Aviation Authority
- e) the Coal Authority
- f) the English Sports Council
- g) the Environment Agency
- h) the Forestry Commission
- i) a highway authority within the meaning in section 1 of the Highways Act 1980(31), any part of whose area is in or adjoins the planning authority's area (including the Secretary of State, where the Secretary of State is the highways authority)
- j) the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England
- k) the Homes and Communities Agency;
 - i. if it exercises functions in the planning authority's area—
 - ii. an integrated care board established under Chapter A3 of Part 2 of the National Health Service Act 2006(34),
 - iii. a person to whom a licence has been granted under section 6 (1) (b) or (c) of the Electricity Act 1989(35) (licences authorising supply, etc.),
 - iv. a person to whom a licence has been granted under section 7 (2) of the Gas Act 1986(36) (licensing of public gas transporters)
 - v. a sewerage undertaker appointed under section 6 (1) of the Water Industry Act 1991(37), and
 - vi. a water undertaker appointed under section 6 (1) of the Water Industry Act 1991.
- l) an Integrated Transport Authority for an integrated transport area within the meaning in section 77(1) of the Local Transport Act 2008, which is in or adjoins the planning authority's area;
- m) the Marine Management Organisation (N/A for Kirklees);
- n) Natural England
- o) a neighbourhood forum any part of whose area is in or adjoins the planning authority's area
- p) Network Rail Infrastructure Limited

- q) the Office for Nuclear Regulation
- r) the Office of Rail and Road
- s) where the planning authority are a London borough council or any part of their area adjoins Greater London, Transport for London (N/A for Kirklees)
- t) a relevant consultation body any part of whose area is in or adjoins the planning authority's area
- u) where the planning authority are a London borough council, the Mayor of London (N/A for Kirklees)
- v) where the planning authority are not responsible for discharging education functions in their area, the local authority with that responsibility
- w) where the planning authority are not the lead local flood authority for their area, that lead local flood authority
- x) the responsible authority for a local nature recovery strategy that relates to all or part of the planning authority's area appointed under section 105 (2) of the Environment Act 2021, where that authority is not the planning authority.

The council has a database with all known consultees and interested parties and if further groups or members of the public express an interest, they can be added to the consultee list.

4 Engagement principles and objectives

4.1 Engagement principles

We will:

1. sEngage early and continuously with residents, businesses, stakeholders and infrastructure providers throughout the preparation of the Local Plan.
2. Work collaboratively with residents, businesses and stakeholders to help shape the Local Plan from an early stage, recognising local knowledge and expertise as an important part of the evidence base.
3. Be clear and transparent about the purpose of engagement, the issues under consideration, what is in and out of scope, and how views will inform decision-making.
4. Provide timely opportunities to participate and clearly explain when, where and how people can get involved.
5. Use a range of proportionate and targeted engagement methods to reach different audiences and encourage broad participation.
6. Ensure engagement is accessible and inclusive providing opportunities for people of all backgrounds and abilities to participate, including those with limited digital access or knowledge of the planning system.
7. Meet and, where appropriate, exceed statutory requirements for community involvement and consultation.

8. Use digital engagement wherever possible to improve accessibility, efficiency and reach, while maintaining non-digital options for those who prefer them.
9. Provide information in clear, accessible formats using plain English wherever possible and offering alternative formats, translations or additional support on request.
10. Coordinate consultation activity across the Council to reduce consultation fatigue, improve efficiency and make effective use of existing feedback and evidence.
11. Tailor engagement methods to the stage of plan-making ensuring approaches are proportionate, meaningful and cost-effective.
12. Provide feedback on consultation outcomes explaining how responses have influenced the development of the Local Plan wherever possible.
13. Monitor and evaluate engagement activities to continually improve the effectiveness of future consultation and participation.

4.2 Engagement objectives

1. **Raise awareness and understanding**
Ensure residents, businesses and stakeholders including infrastructure providers understand the purpose of the Local Plan, the plan-making process, and the opportunities available to participate.
2. **Enable meaningful participation**
Provide timely, proportionate and accessible opportunities for people to engage in plan-making and influence the development of the Local Plan.
3. **Gather local knowledge and evidence**
Draw upon the knowledge, experience and aspirations of residents, businesses and stakeholders to help inform the evidence base, spatial strategy, site selection and policy development.
4. **Support the development of a locally informed spatial strategy**
Engage communities and stakeholders in considering the options, opportunities and challenges facing the borough and in shaping the preferred approach for future development.
5. **Promote inclusive participation**
Encourage participation from a diverse range of individuals and organisations, including groups that are traditionally under-represented or seldom heard, ensuring engagement is accessible and inclusive.
6. **Build trust through transparency**
Clearly explain what decisions are being made, what can influence those decisions, and how consultation responses have been taken into account.
7. **Meet statutory and regulatory requirements**
Fulfil all legal requirements for consultation and engagement throughout the preparation, examination and adoption of the Local Plan.
8. **Maintain and demonstrate co-operation between plan-making authorities**
Engage proactively and regularly with infrastructure providers, neighbouring and other relevant plan-making authorities (where there are strategic interdependencies across boundaries) and other relevant bodies to identify cross-boundary matters. Prepare, maintain and publish statements of common ground where required.
9. **Improve the quality and deliverability of the Local Plan**
Use engagement outcomes to identify issues, test options, refine policies and increase confidence that the plan can be effectively delivered.
10. **Monitor and continuously improve engagement**
Evaluate the effectiveness of engagement activities and use lessons learned to improve future consultation and participation exercises. We will work with our digital services and corporate communications team to monitor engagement.

5 Methods of engagement and consultation

The following methods may be used for engagement and consultation. The methods chosen will be tailored to the specific stage. Each method has pros and cons, and stating these will help us to decide the best combination of methods. We will work with our corporate communications team to identify the most effective channels of communication. This may include the use of local media by preparing press releases to circulate to local newspapers and radio stations or working with newspapers to prepare articles or advertisements to raise awareness and promote issues.

We will continue to explore a range of accessible engagement opportunities, including in-person events, online consultation, workshops, social media and digital communications including Kirklees Together.

We are increasing our use of digital engagement tools to make participation easier and to help analyse consultation responses more efficiently.

To support informed engagement, we will publish the Local Plan evidence base in November 2026, ahead of consultation on the proposed plan content and supporting evidence in June 2027.

5.1 Methods of consultation

Table 1 Methods of consultation

We May:	Pros:	Cons:	Things to consider:
Share information internally and maximise the use of networks or communication channels used by other services or local community websites where required.	This helps us to target consultation more effectively and/or to reach “marginalised groups” or communities.	Targeted consultation may mean a smaller number of responses. Risks associated with keeping several types of personal information about each person to identify groups.	Use to support usual mass communication methods to ensure a wide range of views that are representative. Consider anonymisation of sensitive data.

We May:	Pros:	Cons:	Things to consider:
Make use of council publications such as Kirklees Together to include articles.	Kirklees Together sends out weekly news bulletins via email across the district so can reach a large number of residents.	May not be read by everyone, may be inaccessible for those with disabilities or for whom English is not a first language.	Kirklees Council Library Service offers a 'Kirklees Talking News' service. A free audio newspaper is available via an App, Podcast, and USB.
Make use of social networking sites in accordance with the council's policy on social media.	Local Authorities increasingly use this to consult with 'seldom heard' groups, such as young people.	May be inaccessible for those who are uncomfortable or unfamiliar with social media, or those without a good internet connection. Risk of harassment of members of the public using social media to connect with Kirklees Council.	Kirklees council social media policy, secure use of personal data, moderation.
Make use of interactive workshops or discussion groups with key stakeholders. This could involve the use of external facilitators.	They were used to great effect at the early engagement stage of the existing Local Plan with targeted organisations to debate specific elements of the plan process.	May be difficult for those in rural communities to attend, can be costly.	Holding workshops in accessible locations, holding workshops in rural communities, using the opportunity to make use of diverse range of communication methods to appeal to different ages and abilities. An example would be a model making workshop.

We May:	Pros:	Cons:	Things to consider:
<p>Deliver presentations or hold question and answer sessions at meetings of existing groups where resources allow. This could include, Parish and Town Council meetings, Residents' Associations, Business Groups, interest groups or neighbourhood plan groups and schools/youth parliaments.</p>	<p>Facilitates discussion. Sessions at schools and youth parliaments helps us to reach young people.</p> <p>Kirklees Youth Council has now been running for more than 10 years and the report 'growing a stronger youth council', was published in October 2019, outlining how Kirklees Council will improve participation in local democracy among young people.</p>	<p>Can be difficult for everyone to be heard if some attendees are able to dominate discussion. Can be intimidating for those who are uncomfortable with confrontation. May be costly.</p>	<p>How such presentations/question and answer sessions can be structured to enable everyone to speak.</p>
<p>Make use of posters, flyers, or site notices – these may be used to raise awareness of consultation events or meetings or to make residents aware of proposals that could affect their area. These could be displayed in public places or places where there is a high volume of people.</p>	<p>Easy to reach many people with one poster or site notice.</p>	<p>May be missed if it is placed in an area that isn't used. For example, if there is a development proposal on a derelict site.</p>	<p>Use of advertising in several places.</p>

We May:	Pros:	Cons:	Things to consider:
Hold exhibitions or road shows with unmanned displays or staffed drop-in sessions.	Allows people to take in information in an easy-to-understand way if used correctly, can be used to reach rural communities.	Unstaffed exhibitions may mean that questions can't be asked and answered efficiently, staffed exhibitions are costly.	Accessibility of locations and the timing of the event. We will produce summary information and frequently asked questions (FAQ's) to inform consultation stages and provide the scope of the event.
Hold meetings with elected members – members will be kept informed of progress and plans through briefings, workshops, and e-mail.	Elected members can communicate with their communities and have the means and experience to advocate for them.	Indirect form of communication.	Use with a range of other methods.
Work with parish / town councils.	The parish / town councils can help arrange meetings for consultations, which could lead to better community engagement.	Not every area has a parish / town council, so this could lead to areas being less represented.	Communication with the parish / town councils would be key for this method to be successful.

6 Stakeholder matrix

The stakeholder matrix has been informed by the consultation requirements of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026, Government guidance on Local Plan engagement, the Council's Statement of Community Involvement, the Kirklees Inclusive Communities Framework, feedback received through the 2026 Local Plan Scoping Consultation, existing consultation databases, equality and demographic evidence, and the emerging Local Plan evidence base. The matrix will be reviewed throughout plan preparation to ensure that all relevant stakeholders are identified and engaged appropriately.

Table 2 Stakeholder matrix

Stakeholder	Potential interest in the Local Plan	Engagement methods	Stage
Residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing and employment Growth and distribution • Design Infrastructure • Green Belt • Natural and historic environment • Minerals • Waste • Flood risk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early release of evidence prior to statutory stages, • Digital via website, social media and Kirklees Together. • Webinars • In-person events or drop-ins 	All
Voluntary and community groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health and Well-being • Social Infrastructure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshops • In-person event 	All
Businesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic growth • Opportunities for small, medium enterprises • Strategic locations • Town centres 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business surveys • Workshops • Evidence from Blueprint consultations 	All
Minerals operators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supply and safeguarding of minerals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring • Technical meetings 	All
Waste operators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste needs, management, capacity and supporting infrastructure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical meetings • Statements of Common Ground 	All

Stakeholder	Potential interest in the Local Plan	Engagement methods	Stage
Youth Council, schools and colleges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future needs of younger people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshops • Youth forums and presentations 	All
Older people's organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessibility and ageing population • Housing choice • Health services • Mobility • Community facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targeted workshops and community meetings 	Evidence All
Faith groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community cohesion and inclusion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meetings through established networks 	All
Disability groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessibility and equality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targeted workshops • Accessible formats 	All
Gypsy and Traveller representatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accommodation needs • Traveller site provision and policy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct engagement, focus groups 	Content & Evidence Stage
Minority ethnic, community organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusive growth and equality • Housing and Employment accessibility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshop presentations • Community events • 	All
Local communities and neighbourhood groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local impacts and opportunities • Site allocations • Community facilities • Open space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshop presentations • Community meetings 	All
Parish and Town Councils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local priorities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Briefings on request • Webinars 	All

Stakeholder	Potential interest in the Local Plan	Engagement methods	Stage
Landowners, developers and planning agents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development opportunities • Site promotion • Strategy development • Deliverability and viability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developer forums • Developer workshops 	All
Infrastructure providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure planning and viability • Utilities • Education • Health • Transport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical meetings • Statements of common ground 	All
Neighbouring local authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross-boundary issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing • Employment • Transport • Environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Officer meetings • Statements of Common Ground 	All
West Yorkshire Combined Authority	Strategic policy alignment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular SDS meetings • Consultation on alignment with emerging SDS 	Strategic alignment throughout plan preparation, including Gateways 2 and 3 All
Active Travel England	Active travel infrastructure Walking and cycling provision Vision-led transport planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical meetings • Specific consultee 	Content Evidence Policy All

Stakeholder	Potential interest in the Local Plan	Engagement methods	Stage
Environment Agency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flood risk and environmental protection • Flooding, water quality • Climate adaptation • Strategic Environmental Assessment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical meetings • Specific Consultee 	Evidence All
Natural England	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity and protected sites • Nature recovery • Habitats • Landscape • Strategic Environmental Assessment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical meetings • Specific Consultee 	All
Historic England	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heritage assets • Conservation • Archaeology • Policy • Strategic Environmental Assessment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical meetings • Specific consultee 	All
National Highways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic road network • Transport Modelling input • Transport impacts and Infrastructure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical meetings • Specific consultee 	Evidence All
Network Rail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rail infrastructure • Station and rail corridor impacts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical engagement • Specific Consultee 	All
NHS West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthcare provision • Health infrastructure requirements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical engagement 	All

Stakeholder	Potential interest in the Local Plan	Engagement methods	Stage
Yorkshire Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water and wastewater infrastructure • Capacity, drainage, resilience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical engagement 	All
Electricity and gas providers	Infrastructure/grid capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical engagement 	Content and evidence All
Homes England	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing delivery and regeneration • Housing growth • Brownfield Land • Funding opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic meetings • Specific Consultee 	All
Coal Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ground stability • Former mining impacts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific consultee 	All
Forestry Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Woodland and tree cover • Woodland creation and protection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific Consultee 	All
Internal council services	Service planning and corporate priorities Plan users <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education • Highways • Environment protection • Climate • Regeneration • Public Health • Housing Growth • Business and Skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Officer working groups • Service meetings 	Scoping Evidence Policy development Technical Assessments on site allocations Consultation capacity

The stakeholder matrix will be reviewed following each statutory consultation stage and updated where necessary to reflect emerging evidence, new stakeholder organisations, changes to consultation requirements, lessons learned from previous engagement activity and feedback received during Local Plan preparation.

7 Member engagement and governance arrangements

We will engage with our elected members throughout the process. This will include:

- Creating a dedicated Member SharePoint site and programme of Member briefings to share Local Plan evidence and Plan updates.
- Briefings on draft spatial strategy, site allocations and local plan policies throughout the plan-making process.

Formal decision-making on the Local Plan rests with Cabinet and Council. However, Cabinet has approved delegated authority for the Executive Director of Place, in conjunction with the Regeneration, Highways and Transport portfolio to take decisions at specified milestones of the plan-making process: Agenda for Cabinet on Tuesday 24th March 2026, 1.30 pm | Kirklees Council. This will support the progress of the Local Plan to meet the 30-month timetable.

8 Monitoring and review

We will monitor the effectiveness of engagement throughout Local Plan preparation.

Monitoring will review the following:

- Participation numbers.
- Geographic spread.
- Age profile.
- Equality characteristics (where provided).
- Stakeholder representation.
- Accessibility requests.
- Engagement method effectiveness.

Following each consultation stage, the Council will publish a consultation summary setting out who participated, the issues raised, how representations have been considered, and any resulting changes to the Plan.

Findings will be reviewed by the Planning Policy Team with Corporate Communications and Digital Services and used to refine future engagement activities, promotion of activities and presentation of documents.

Lessons learned from each stage will be used to refine future engagement activities and ensure consultation remains effective, proportionate and inclusive

The Head of Planning and Development will act as sponsor for the Engagement Strategy and be responsible for ensuring that engagement activity is delivered in accordance with this strategy.

Day-to-day delivery will be undertaken by the Planning Policy Team supported by Corporate Communications and other council services where appropriate.

The Local Plan Project Board will review engagement activity, consultation outcomes, risks and performance measures at key milestones throughout plan preparation. "Engagement monitoring reports will be prepared following each statutory consultation stage and considered by the Local Plan Programme Board."

Formal decision-making on the Local Plan rests with Cabinet and Council. However, Cabinet has approved delegated authority for the Executive Director of Place, in conjunction with the Regeneration, Highways and Transport portfolio to take decisions at specified milestones of the plan-making process: [Agenda for Cabinet on Tuesday 24th March 2026, 1.30 pm | Kirklees Council](#). This includes the publication of the Local Plan Engagement Strategy.

8.1 Monitoring success criteria

Table 3 Monitoring success criteria

Objective	Performance Measure
Raise awareness	Number of website visits and document downloads recorded during each consultation period.
Inclusive participation	Evidence of participation from seldom-heard groups and protected characteristic groups reflecting the diversity of Kirklees (where information is voluntarily provided).
Geographic coverage	Responses received by postcode
Stakeholder engagement	Number of individuals/groups and responses recorded on the Planning Policy Consultation Portal
Transparency	Consultation summaries published within 8 weeks
Plan improvement	Consultation summaries demonstrate how representations have influenced the spatial strategy, site allocations, policies or supporting evidence.