

Kirklees Local Plan Scoping Consultation

How to become involved in shaping the content of the Local Plan

August 2026

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1 Scoping Consultation

1.1 The purpose of the consultation

We previously asked you to get involved in shaping the update of the Kirklees Local Plan in November 2024 to February 2025. The focus of this consultation was to seek views on the key challenges and opportunities for Kirklees and how the Local Plan can help to address these.

Since then, a new statutory plan-making system has been enacted¹ and Kirklees Cabinet 24th March 2026: <https://democracy.kirklees.gov.uk>, formally approved to start a full update of the Kirklees Local Plan under the new system.

We have new requirements to start the preparation of a Local Plan including a scoping consultation which is the first stage of consultation under the new plan-making system.

We want your views on matters relevant to the preparation of the local plan including what the plan should contain and how we should engage with you in the preparation of the plan².

To help provide some context, for the scoping consultation we have identified some of the key considerations which we have reviewed which will shape the Local Plan update moving forward and these are outlined at section 2 and 3:

- New requirements for plan-making.
- Emerging national and regional policy.
- Council Plan and Council strategy priorities.
- Feedback from previous early engagement.
- Baseline data.
- Update on the evidence to support a robust and up to date Local Plan and;
- An assessment of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats for Kirklees.

At this stage, the council is not proposing specific development sites or detailed policies. You will be consulted on this as part of a draft Plan consultation proposed for June 2027.

Some of the above, including national and regional planning policy, form fixed points which we will need to align our future Local Plan with. However, this consultation provides the opportunity for you to share your thoughts on local issues and priorities which we need to consider as part of a planning framework for Kirklees. Your thoughts will help to shape not only the content of the Local Plan but help us prepare revised planning policies and consider how new development should be accommodated to meet the future needs of the district such as housing and employment.

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

² The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations March 2026 (Regulation 20: Scoping consultation: Local Plan

Section 4 sets out a draft vision and objectives for the Local Plan. We want your views on whether this reflects local priorities and whether it reflects your vision of what Kirklees should look like in 2043.

Whilst seeking comments from stakeholders new to the process we also welcome those who have commented before to help shape the Local Plan content. This is your opportunity to build on comments previously submitted in the light of changing national policy, the updated Council Plan and emerging new evidence.

With your help we can focus the vision and objectives on what matters most to residents, businesses and stakeholders.

The consultation will help us understand how you wish to be involved in the ongoing Plan-making process. This is important to us, and we are keen to hear how we can communicate and engage with all interested parties for future consultations.

Please take the opportunity to read the document, there are 13 questions we are seeking your response on.

1.2 Details of how to get involved

The scoping consultation runs from **13th August until 11th September 2026**.

How to comment on-line

Our preferred method of responding to the scoping consultation questions is through the council's online consultation platform <http://kirklees.gov.uk/consultplanningpolicy>.

The system has the facility for you to feedback comments directly to us on-line without the need to print or go to a central location to view the documents. It also has the advantage that once registered you will receive automatic notifications of future consultations, and you can choose which types of documents you wish to be consulted on.

If you have responded to previous Local Plan consultations through this method, you will have an account registered already. Please contact us at: local.development@kirklees.gov.uk if you do not know your username.

How to comment by email or post

Comments forms and guidance notes are also available to download via our website at: <https://www.kirklees.gov.uk/beta/planning-policy/emerging-kirklees-local-plan.aspx> and should be sent to:

E-mail to: local.development@kirklees.gov.uk

Post to:

Planning Policy Group
PO Box 1720
Huddersfield
HD1 9EL

If you have any queries about the consultation or using the consultation platform, please contact local.development@kirklees.gov.uk

Keeping in touch

Please provide your name and contact details (we cannot accept anonymous comments):

Name:

Email address (preferred) or home address:

We will add your details and comments to our consultation system. Are you interested in receiving any further information from us? Please tick all those that apply.

- ☐ Yes All Planning Policy Consultations and Communications
- ☐ Yes Dewsbury Town Centre
- ☐ Yes Huddersfield Town Centre
- ☐ Yes Supplementary Planning Documents
- ☐ Yes Future Local Plan Consultations and Updates
- ☐ Yes Future reviews of the Community Infrastructure Levy
- ☐ Yes Adoption of Neighbourhood Plans
- ☐ Yes Do not wish to receive any further communication from the Planning Policy team

1.3 Next steps after the consultation closes

Following the close of the consultation period, we will analyse all the comments received and publish a summary of the main issues raised and how we will take those forward in the preparation of a draft Local Plan which we will consult on further. We aim to publish the summary in October 2026.

This is the first of three consultations, and we will be consulting with you again on the draft plan known as proposed local plan content and evidence³ in June 2027 and a further draft plan known as the proposed local plan⁴ in April 2028. We will look at comments received on how we engage with you on future consultations and publish an Engagement Strategy in advance of these consultations.

³ The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026 (Regulation 23)

⁴ The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026 (Regulation 27)

2 About the Local Plan

2.1 What is a Local Plan

The Kirklees Local Plan is a key planning document which will set out a long-term vision and framework for how our district should grow and change in the future. It sets out how much development is needed including housing and employment and identifies areas that will be protected from development such as wildlife habitats or safeguarded for future uses such as mineral extraction or to deliver infrastructure schemes. It also sets out a policy framework against which planning applications will be determined.

Some things fall outside of the scope of the Local Plan because they are controlled by other regulations or policies such as building regulations, licensing matters. However, development will need to comply with all relevant regulations or policies as well as the Local Plan. The Local Plan should also not replicate, restate or modify national planning policy.

We need your help, to understand more about local issues and priorities so that we can shape a vision and strategy for the planning of Kirklees and to understand local issues which may require Local Plan policies.

2.2 Why are we preparing an update of the Local Plan

Kirklees has an existing Local Plan which was adopted in February 2019, but it is a legal requirement to review a Local Plan within 5 years from the date of adoption. An update of the Local Plan started in November 2023.

Since this time, Government has consulted on a range of planning reforms aimed at ensuring that every area has an up-to-date Local Plan that delivers homes, jobs, infrastructure and environmental improvements while making plan preparation faster, simpler and more consistent across England.

To support this process, new plan-making regulations were introduced on 25th March 2026, and we are now progressing the Local Plan under the new system. It means we must review some of our previous work, but we feel that this will ensure that we will have a robust and up to date plan to guide planning decisions which reflects the national planning position and local circumstances.

2.3 New Plan-making system

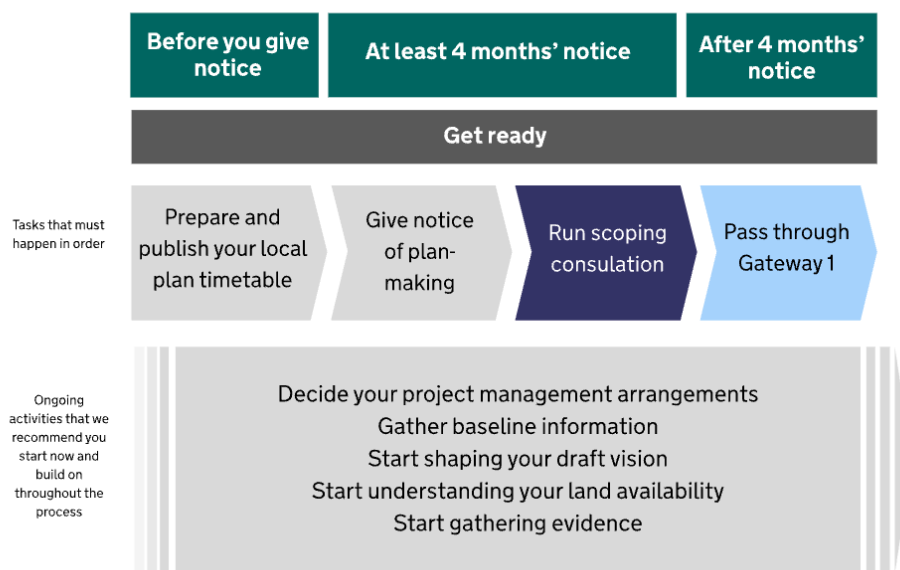
The new plan-making system⁵ introduces a “getting ready stage” prior to starting a mandatory 30-month Local Plan timetable. This preparatory stage focuses on putting the right foundations in place to ensure that the plan can be prepared efficiently and effectively.

As part of the “getting ready” stage, we must:

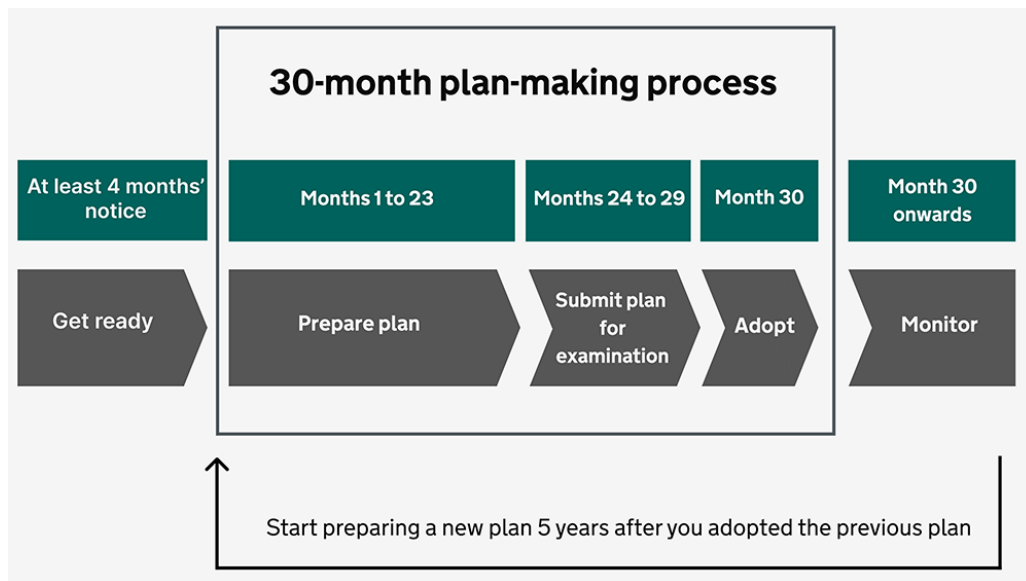
- Formally commence the Local Plan process by publishing a notice of intention to commence: <https://www.kirklees.gov.uk/beta/planning-policy/notice-of-intention-to-commence-local-plan-preparation.aspx>
- Set out a clear timetable for preparing the Local Plan: <https://www.kirklees.gov.uk/beta/planning-policy/local-plan-timetable.aspx>
- Carry out scoping consultation.
- Begin developing the vision and objectives for the area.

Once this work is completed, we must prepare and publish a self-assessment summary known as gateway 1 which demonstrates our readiness for local plan preparation.

Before the 30-month process starts



⁵ MHCLG 30-month local plan process: an overview



Our Local Plan Timetable sets out the key milestones to achieve the 30-month process:

- June 2027: Draft Plan (proposed Local Plan content and evidence)
- April 2028: Proposed Local Plan
- October 2028: Independent examination
- April 2029: Plan adoption

The Local Plan Timetable can be viewed at: <https://www.kirklees.gov.uk/beta/planning-policy/local-plan-timetable.aspx>

3 Key Considerations in shaping the Local Plan content

The first step in updating the Local Plan is to look at the key considerations which set the context for the Plan. This will help to shape the vision and objectives as well as the content of the Plan.

3.1 The requirements of national planning policy

When we are preparing a Local Plan, we must consider national planning policy and other relevant national planning guidance, and we will need to demonstrate that our Local Plan is consistent with it.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) is the Government's primary planning policy tool for England. It provides the overarching principles and policy requirements to guide how local plans are prepared and how planning decisions are made.

The government published a consultation on the Draft National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and other changes to the planning system in December 2025. At the current time, a finalised version of the NPPF has not been published. Some of the significant changes which will impact the content of the Local Plan are outlined below.

3.1.1 Introduction of national planning policies

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) consultation proposes the introduction of 133 plan-making and decision-making policies which all local authorities should apply. The purpose is to create a more rules-based, simpler and more efficient planning system. The national policies should not be repeated in Local Plans, and the focus of the Local Plan would be on determining policies to support its spatial strategy (where, how and in what proportions development is distributed), policies to support the delivery of site allocations including place shaping, design and infrastructure and locally distinctive priorities.

We need your help in determining the locally distinctive priorities.

3.1.2 Sequence of development

When we consult on the draft Plan in June 2027, we will seek your views on the council's spatial strategy and site allocations. However, in advance of this, we have set out the Government's approach to the sequence of development. The draft NPPF sets out a settlement-first approach to growth, directing development to the most sustainable and deliverable locations first, within existing urban areas and settlements and making effective use of previously developed land before considering the release of Green Belt land. Local authorities need to demonstrate that they have fully considered appropriate densification and intensification to make efficient use of land and infrastructure.

Where it can be demonstrated that development needs cannot be fully met within settlements, consideration will be given to the expansion of existing settlements through planned and sustainable extensions that can be supported by infrastructure and services.

A significant feature of the Government's reforms is the introduction of grey belt policy. Grey belt is defined as "land in the Green Belt comprising previously developed land and/or any other land that, in either case, does not strongly contribute to any of purposes (a), (b), or (d)".

The relevant Green Belt purposes are:

- a) To check the unrestricted sprawl of large built-up areas.
- b) To prevent neighbouring towns merging into one another; and
- d) To preserve the setting and special character of historic towns.

Where development needs cannot be fully met within settlements, Local Plans may need to review Green Belt boundaries and identify land for development. NPPF allows for the consideration of grey belt land in sustainable locations before the release of Green Belt land that does not meet the definition of grey belt.

3.1.3 Determining local housing need

When we consider the spatial strategy, we will need to consider the amount of development to be identified in the Local Plan. This is known as the housing requirement.

To meet the housing requirement, we need to assess local housing need. The Government has introduced a standard method which all local planning authorities must use to assess local housing need⁶.

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 homes expected to be planned for.

The most recent calculation for Kirklees is 1,917 dwellings per year equating to approximately 36,423 dwellings over the plan period up to 2043 based on existing housing stock of 191,001 and an affordability ratio of 6.34. This figure is reviewed annually.

We cannot change our housing need figure. The role of the Local Plan will be to identify a strategy and policies to identify sufficient land and sites, directing growth to sustainable locations and ensuring the right mix of homes are delivered over the plan period.

3.1.4 Determining job growth

The NPPF sets out a requirement for the Local Plan to meet the needs of a modern economy, including identifying suitable locations for uses such as laboratories, gigafactories, data centres, digital infrastructure, freight and logistics.

⁶ [Housing and economic needs assessment - GOV.UK](#) (Paragraph: 002 Reference ID: 2a-002-20241212)

The Kirklees Inclusive Economy Strategy 2025-2030 sets an ambition to create 27,800 additional jobs by 2043. We know from our Inclusive Economy Strategy and conversations with businesses, the Local Plan needs to plan for:

New employment allocations

- The current supply of employment land in the district is insufficient to provide for needs over the plan period to 2043 so we will need to allocate new employment sites in the Local Plan.

A balanced geographic distribution of a range of site sizes including:

- Strategic employment allocations to provide improved opportunities to compete for and secure inward investment and to contribute towards West Yorkshire growth aspirations and for key employment sectors including health and life sciences, advanced manufacturing and engineering.
- Small, medium and large sites to meet the needs of existing businesses and to provide opportunities for new businesses.

Market attractive and deliverable sites supporting the needs of both indigenous businesses and inward investment opportunities ensuring both local and strategic ambitions can be effectively delivered.

3.1.5 Refocused topic areas

The proposed NPPF provides updated guidance on the following:

- a) Supporting critical and growth minerals.
The draft NPPF seeks to ensure that adequate provision is made for mineral extraction, recognising its economic importance. In parallel, and in view of the government's mission to achieve clean power by 2030, there are requirements to restrict further the extraction of coal.
- b) Better addressing climate change.
There is increased focus on how planning decisions can take a proactive approach to both mitigation and adaptation in relation to climate change.
- c) Conserving and enhancing the natural environment.
New policies include mandatory measures for biodiversity net gain and protections for critical habitats, alongside a chapter dedicated to clean energy and water management have been introduced. Additionally, changes have been made, including the need to reflect Local Nature Recovery Strategies, to recognise landscape character and conserve and enhance existing natural features, to incorporate measures to protect specified species and to provide guidance on sites of local importance for nature.
- d) Taking a more positive approach to the use of heritage assets.
The draft NPPF seeks to introduce a clearer and more positive approach which can better support suitable heritage-related development. The Government is also proposing some changes to policies on planning procedures. Some revisions are also being proposed to policies for decision-making to reinforce the importance of taking a positive, proportionate and timely approach to dealing with applications.

3.2 Regional Spatial Strategy

The Government has set out a statutory requirement for Mayoral Combined Authorities with devolved planning powers, to produce a Spatial Development Strategy (SDS)⁷. West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA) will produce a SDS for West Yorkshire.

Why is this important to the Local Plan? The introduction of a SDS is important because it changes what the Local Plan needs to cover and at what geographic scale planning issues are addressed.

The role of the SDS will be to set a positive vision for future growth and change at a sub-regional scale and provide a clear spatial framework for investment and growth, including strategic employment locations, regional transport corridors and strategic green infrastructure priorities. The Local Plan then provides the more detailed local policies and site allocations or designations to protect land to implement the SDS.

We will continue to work with WYCA and our West Yorkshire adjoining local authorities to shape the SDS and ensure that our emerging Local Plans align with the SDS.

3.3 Kirklees Council Plan and partnership strategies and priorities

To help shape our Local Plan priorities, vision and objectives, we have reviewed the Council's plan and strategies. These plans and strategies have been prepared with internal and external stakeholders and have already been consulted on so play an important role in identifying the Kirklees context.

3.3.1 Kirklees Council Plan 2026/27 to 2028/29

<https://www.kirklees.gov.uk/beta/council-plan/index.aspx> sets out a vision:

"For Kirklees to be a district which combines a strong, sustainable economy with a great quality of life – leading to thriving communities, growing businesses, high prosperity and low inequality where people enjoy better health throughout their lives.

The Council Plan links to four Partnership Strategies: The Environment Strategy, Inclusive Economy Strategy, Kirklees Health and Well-being Strategy and Inclusive Communities Framework.

3.3.2 Environment Strategy

<https://www.kirklees.gov.uk/beta/environment-strategy/index.aspx>

"We are committed to making the environment a priority in all decision-making, whether big or small, to create a flourishing and sustainable Kirklees. We want to harness the power of the natural environment to enhance the lives of the people who live, work and study in Kirklees, fostering healthy, happy and better-connected communities".

The strategy is structured by four core themes:

⁷ Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025

- Closing the loop – taking radical action on circularity and resources.
- Nurturing nature – green spaces, nature recovery and biodiversity.
- Bringing it home – Good homes and sustainable neighbourhoods.
- Kirklees on the move – Better, green transport options for all.

3.3.3 Inclusive Economy Strategy 2025-2030

<https://www.kirklees.gov.uk/beta/inclusive-economy-strategy/index.aspx>

Vision for an inclusive economy in 2030:

- We aspire to have a resilient and inclusive economy, in which everyone can take part and benefit from growth. We aim to equip all our residents to fulfil their potential.
- We will take advantage of investments in our towns and villages and strong connections to surrounding cities and beyond to make Kirklees one of the best places to live, work and do business in the North of England, acknowledged for our exceptional quality of life.
- We will be known for our strengths in advanced manufacturing, precision engineering, textiles, and health and life sciences - and as the supply chain for the nation.
- We will contribute positively to achieving net zero and the transition to a low carbon economy and protect and enhance our natural environment as a vital economic asset.

The vision is supported by three objectives to achieve progress towards a more inclusive economy in Kirklees:

- supporting our people to have the skills they need and to access jobs where those skills will be put to good use, including helping those residents who are furthest from the labour market to re-enter and remain in work
- supporting businesses, including social enterprises to start up, grow and invest so they create more good jobs, improve their productivity and increase wage levels whilst contributing to wider inclusive growth aims
- investing in our diverse places and the physical and digital connections between them to increase access to job opportunities for Kirklees residents, widen the talent pool for local businesses and ensure that Kirklees remains a fantastic place to live, work and do business.

3.3.4 Health and Well-being Strategy 2022-2027

<https://www.kirklees.gov.uk/beta/delivering-services/health-and-wellbeing-strategy.aspx>

This is currently being reviewed.

Vision

People who live, work or study in Kirklees live their best lives with good health and well-being, free from inequality, stigma, discrimination and barriers, so they can do and enjoy the things that matter to them.

Priorities:

Mental well-being: Our ambition is that everyone in Kirklees achieves good mental well-being and has a good quality of life with purpose and fulfilment throughout their lives.

Healthy places: Our ambition is that the physical and social infrastructure and environment support people of all ages, who live work or study in Kirklees to maximise their health opportunities and to make the healthy choice and the easy choice.

Connected care and support: Our ambition is that organisations and professionals across the health and care system work together to ensure people are able to access the right care/support for their needs, when they need it, making the best use of all available resources.

3.3.5 Kirklees Inclusive Communities Framework (ICF)

The ICF is a commitment to work better with communities. The framework can be used with a wide range of plans and strategies across lots of different organisations and sets out how we want to work with people and has a toolkit that helps organisations review and improve how they work with communities.

3.4 Other council strategies and Plans

We will consider other Council Strategies where relevant to the Local Plan.

3.4.1 Kirklees Transport Strategy 2025

Vision

Our vision is for travel in Kirklees to be sustainable, healthy and accessible to all, creating safe, thriving places and connected communities.

The development of our Kirklees Transport Strategy builds on the West Yorkshire Mayoral and Combined Authority (WYCA) ambitions to improve transport in our wider city region. The ambitions in the document link closely to the commitment in our Climate Change Action Plan to produce a district-wide transport strategy to help meet ambitious Council targets to achieve Net Zero by 2038.

3.4.2 Kirklees Climate Change Action Plan 2022 (CCAP)

This is currently being reviewed.

Vision

A net zero and climate ready Kirklees by 2038

The CCAP sets out the council's approach as to how Kirklees can achieve its ambition to be Net Zero and Climate Ready by 2038. In its creation, the council engaged with a diverse range of individuals and organisations from across the district. There is a reliance on national level policy and a UK wide transition to Net Zero and becoming climate ready to truly see a comprehensive impact on both our emissions and our resilience to the impacts of climate change to achieve our vision.

3.4.3 Kirklees Housing Strategy

This is currently being updated. The Housing Strategy will identify housing challenges and priorities, while the Local Plan will provide the planning framework to address the issues. When the Housing Strategy is available, we will use it to inform our spatial strategy and policies.

3.5 Baseline data

We have commissioned a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to consider and report upon the significant environmental and sustainability issues and effects of emerging Local Plan and its policies, including reasonable alternatives. A Scoping Report has been produced to provide the context for the assessment and determine the scope of the SEA for the new Local Plan. It contains baseline data over the following topic areas:

- Population, health and well-being
- Economy and employment
- Transport and accessibility
- Air, land and water
- Contaminated land
- Waste
- Water
- Flood risk
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation
- Green blue infrastructure
- Biodiversity
- Historic environment
- Landscape and Townscape

A copy of the Kirklees Local Plan SEA Scoping Report can be viewed on the council's website. Please note that this is currently subject to consultation with the Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England and neighbouring local planning authorities so is subject to change.

The Kirklees Observatory [Data Observatory for Kirklees – Welcome to the Kirklees Observatory](#) also contains a range of baseline data to shape the Local Plan content and includes data such as:

Population

Population as of 2024: 447,847

Population by broad age group for Kirklees (2024)

- Age 0-15: 20%
- Age 16 -64: 62%
- Age 65+: 18%

Change in population in Kirklees from 1991 to 2021 (Census summary: ONS)

- Total population 1991: 373,128
- Total population 2001: 388,562
- Total population 2011: 422,458
- Total population 2021: 433,300

Housing

Dwelling counts by type (2025): Valuation Office

- Number of bungalows as a % of total properties: 9%
- Number of flats/maisonettes as a % of total properties: 14%
- Number of terraced houses as a % of total properties: 35%
- Number of semi-detached as a % of total properties: 25%
- Number of detached houses as a % of total properties: 15%

Ownership and tenure by type: Census 2021 ONS

- Owns outright: 35%
- Owns with a mortgage or loan: 30.5%
- Shared ownership: 0.4%
- Social rented: 14.8%
- Private rented: 19.1%

Household size: Census 2021: ONS

- 1 person: 31%
- 2 people: 32.9%
- 3 people: 15.1%
- 4 people: 12.5%
- 5 people+: 8.4%

Employment

Full and part-time employment for Kirklees (2025)

- Full-time aged 16-64: 77%
- Part-time aged 16-64 23%

3.6 Evidence to inform the Local Plan

To inform the new Local Plan we have commissioned the following evidence:

Strategic Housing Market Assessment

This is a key piece of evidence used to provide up-dated evidence and an understanding of overall housing need within the district, including the type, size and tenure of homes required and the needs of different groups within the community. It assesses demographic trends, household growth, affordability, housing demand, and provides recommendations to inform planning policy and housing strategy.

Traveller Needs Assessment (TANA)

The TANA provides an audit of the Gypsy & Traveller community in the district and an assessment of their accommodation requirements and accommodation related issues. The report was informed by existing primary data, stakeholder consultation and direct engagement with the Traveller community across Kirklees. It provides recommendations for the level of pitch/yard (permanent and transit) provision in 5-year periods to the end of the plan period along with recommendations regarding quality and type of provision.

Retail and Leisure Capacity Study

The Retail & Leisure Capacity study was commissioned to update previous evidence on retail and leisure capacity to assess the current performance of town, district and local centres and to identify the future capacity for additional retail and leisure floorspace in Kirklees. The study was informed by national planning policy guidance and trends, as well as locally collected evidence including a household survey and an audit of existing and proposed leisure and retail provision.

Green Belt Parcel Analysis

This study has been commissioned to undertake an assessment of the Green Belt within the district in the form of a Green Belt Parcel Analysis. The assessment identifies how Green Belt land performs against the five Green Belt purposes set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and National Planning Practice Guidance (PPG). This analysis is then used to identify 'grey belt' land in line with national guidance.

The five purposes of the green belt are:

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

Minerals Evidence Base

This study will provide an updated position on the minerals supply in Kirklees including available reserves along with details on the existing and planned supply of minerals in the district. It will also provide an updated position regarding the identification and assessment of minerals sites, the extraction of oil and gas in Kirklees, safeguarding minerals resources and infrastructure and minerals restoration.

Waste Needs Assessment

To provide an updated position on waste arisings in the district, the tonnages of waste being managed in Kirklees along with details on the sites handling waste (e.g. capacity) and waste flows between Kirklees and other waste planning authorities. This will help us to identify capacity gaps, how they can be managed and to identify waste infrastructure requirements.

Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) Level 1

To understand flood risk from all sources, including rivers, surface water, groundwater, sewers and reservoirs. It will be used across the district to inform plan making and ensure that new development is directed to areas at lowest risk of flooding wherever possible, flood risk is not increased elsewhere because of development, development remains safe for its lifetime and opportunities are identified to reduce flood risk and improve resilience.

The SFRA helps determine:

- Which sites are suitable for allocation.
- Whether the Sequential Test can be passed.
- Whether certain sites require further assessment through a Level 2 SFRA.
- The need for flood risk and drainage policies.

Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) Level 2 (not commissioned yet)

A Level 2 SFRA is a more detailed assessment undertaken for specific sites that may be allocated for development despite being affected by flood risk constraints.

Where a Level 1 SFRA provides a strategic overview of flood risk across the whole authority area, a Level 2 SFRA focuses on individual sites and examines whether development can be made safe for its lifetime without increasing flood risk elsewhere. It is typically used where potential allocations are in Flood Zones 2 or 3, are affected by other significant flood hazards, or may require the Exception Test.

Employment Land Study

To understand the current and future needs of the district's economy to identify the quantity, type and location of land required for industry, warehousing/distribution and offices over the plan period. The study will review the existing supply of employment land and premises and identify if there is a surplus or shortfall over the plan period. This will help to inform the allocation and protection of employment sites within the Local Plan.

Transport Modelling

To assess the impact that the proposed allocations in the Local Plan will have on the transport network in Kirklees before identifying the necessary mitigations that will be required to support the sites in the Local Plan. The commission will also assess the impact of planned growth in the Local Plan on air quality in the district and support work on the Cooper Bridge scheme.

Infrastructure Delivery Plan/Viability

An Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) identifies the infrastructure needed to support planned growth and development in an area and sets out how, when, and by whom that infrastructure will be delivered.

The main purposes of an IDP are to:

- Support the Local Plan by demonstrating that proposed housing, employment and other development can be accommodated with the necessary infrastructure.
- Identify infrastructure requirements arising from planned growth, including:
 - Transport and highways
 - Education facilities
 - Health services
 - Utilities (water, electricity, gas, broadband)
 - Flood and drainage infrastructure
 - Green infrastructure, open space and recreation
 - Community and emergency services
- Assess infrastructure capacity and funding gaps, highlighting where existing provision is sufficient and where investment is required.
- Coordinate infrastructure providers, bringing together local authorities, utility companies, NHS bodies, education providers, transport authorities and other stakeholders.
- Inform developer contributions, helping to justify the use of Section 106 agreements, the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), or other funding mechanisms.
- Establish delivery priorities and timing, ensuring infrastructure is delivered alongside development and not retrospectively.
- Demonstrate plan deliverability and viability during local plan preparation and examination.

Open Space Study (in-house)

To assess the quantity, quality, value, accessibility and distribution of the current supply of open spaces and outdoor recreation facilities within the district to identify deficiencies and opportunities for new provision.

Playing Pitch Strategy

To assess the current and future needs for outdoor playing pitches and ancillary facilities. It assesses the quantity and quality of the supply and the demand for different sports (grass football, artificial grass pitches, rugby union, rugby league, cricket and hockey) and provides an assessment of capacity for each site and playing pitch. Additionally, it provides a framework and action plan for future provision and management of sports pitches to serve existing and new communities across Kirklees.

Castle Hill Setting Study (Addendum)

To provide an updated assessment of the potential impact of new development options around Castle Hill. It will also be used to help inform the development of Local Plan policies and the assessment of site options for the updated Local Plan period (2024-2043) and as a tool to assess the impact of planning proposals.

Settlement Appraisal/hierarchy (in-house)

The purpose of the settlement hierarchy is to:

- Assess the role, function and sustainability of settlements across Kirklees.
- Analyse settlements based on population, services, and accessibility/connectivity.
- Evaluate the relative sustainability of settlements against the above criteria and establishes a settlement hierarchy comprising of five tiers.

Urban Capacity Study (in-house)

The Urban Capacity Study assesses the extent to which future development needs can be accommodated within Kirklees existing built-up areas (i.e. not green belt land) before consideration is given to the release of Green Belt. In line with the NPPF, the study identifies potential opportunities to accommodate housing growth to make efficient use of land, the re-use of previously developed land and sustainable patterns of development on suitable non-Green Belt sites, ensuring that all reasonable opportunities within the built-up areas have been fully explored.

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

SEA is a statutory requirement and forms part of the Local Plan process. SEA is an assessment process designed to consider and report upon the significant sustainability issues and effects of emerging plans and policies, including their reasonable alternatives. SEA iteratively informs the plan-making process by helping to refine the contents of such documents, so that they maximise the benefits of sustainable development and avoid, or at least minimise, the potential for adverse effects. Scoping is the first stage in the SEA process. A Scoping report has been produced to provide the context for and determine the scope of the SEA of the new Local Plan. There will be further stages of SEA to assess the Local Plan as it progresses.

Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA)

A Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) is a legal requirement for Local Plans under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). The purpose of the HRA is to determine whether the Local Plan could have adverse effects on internationally important nature conservation sites ("Habitats Sites").

The HRA must consider effects on:

- Special Areas of Conservation (SACs).
- Special Protection Areas (SPAs).
- Ramsar sites (treated as Habitats Sites through government policy).
- Other sites afforded equivalent protection under the Regulations and policy framework.

Local Nature Recovery Strategy (regional)

The emerging requirement in the NPPF is that Local Plans should take account of Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRSs) when shaping spatial strategies, site allocations and environmental policies. The LNRS identifies priorities for nature recovery, maps existing habitats and ecological networks and identifies opportunities for habitat creation, restoration and enhancement. West Yorkshire Combined Authority are co-ordinating this work with West Yorkshire Authorities.

Local Energy Action Plan (regional)

- Supports delivery of Kirklees Council's Climate Change Action Plan by identifying the energy interventions and infrastructure needed to help achieve the Council's net zero and climate-ready ambitions.

- Provides a spatial evidence base that assesses local energy demand, infrastructure requirements and decarbonisation opportunities across Kirklees.
- Informs the development of Local Plan policies by identifying the energy infrastructure, renewable energy opportunities and decarbonisation measures needed to support sustainable growth and the transition to net zero.

Question 1: Evidence

Do you think we have used the right information and evidence to help update the Local Plan?

☐ Yes

☐ No

If no, please tell us what information or studies are missing and why you think they are important.

3.7 Outcomes of previous early engagement

We undertook scoping consultation in November 2024 to February 2025. The following is a summary of the outcomes.

We asked you what you think should be the top 5 priorities for the Local Plan.

You said:

- Protecting open space for recreation, sport and amenity value (429) 65%
- Conserving and enhancing the natural and historic environment (423) 65%
- Regeneration and revitalising town centres (421) 64%
- Water management and flood protection (266) 41%
- Delivering a sufficient supply and mix of homes which are affordable and deliverable (263) 40%

We asked you what do you think is special about your area?

You said:

- Beautiful countryside and scenery, green spaces and views. Ease of access to the countryside and walks.
- Strong sense of local history, culture and community.
- Village character and identity
- Good connections and access to services and facilities
- Opportunities for small businesses and creating jobs

We asked what do you think are the main opportunities and challenges we face in planning for our area over the next 20-30 years.

You said:

- Build more housing. Focus housing on towns and villages to make it more viable, maximising the use of brownfield land and avoiding Green Belt.
- Using empty shops and buildings in the town centre for housing
- Re-design dual carriageway through the centre of Huddersfield
- Invest in road infrastructure and repairs
- Re-use disused and neglected industrial areas
- Establish and grow local businesses and activities to support employment
- Improvements to public transport including Trans Pennine Upgrade and buses
- Allocate sites for logistics, strategically located, well connected, close to motorway junctions.
- Heat Network zoning to reduce heat poverty
- Improvements to infrastructure and services
- Protect and enhance green spaces
- Capitalise on business and tourism opportunities
- Invest in our town centres
- Ensure Kirklees is an enabler for future economic and sustainable development

Housing

We asked where would you like to see new housing in Kirklees over the next 20-30 years

You said:

- Increased opportunities for town centre living (438) 69%
- Around public transport connections e.g. railway stations, bus routes (375) 55%
- Within or on the edge of existing towns (306) 48%
- Distributed proportionately across all towns and villages (195) 31%
- Other (115) 18%
- Creation of a new settlement (111) 17%

We asked what types of homes are most needed in Kirklees

You said:

- Affordable housing (451) 70%
- Homes for the elderly including retirement housing, housing with care and care homes (341) 49%

- Family housing (270) 42%
- Town centre housing (205) 32%
- Rented housing (141) 22%

We asked what priority should be placed on increasing the number and range of affordable homes to rent or buy (5 being very important to 1 being not important at all)

You said:

- Very important (309) 48%
- Important (112) 17%
- (144) 22%
- (34) 5%
- Not important at all (46) 7%

Design

We asked what design elements do you think the Local Plan should focus on to contribute to the development of well-deigned buildings and places.

You said:

- Development that reflects the character, history and is sympathetic to an area (479) 74%
- Protection and creation of natural habitats and wildlife areas (436) 67%
- Energy efficiency and green energy e.g. solar panels, air sources, heat pumps, wind turbines EV charging points (325) 49%
- Safe walking and cycling, local facilities and services (255)
- Parking provision, including cycle parking (244) 38%
- Integration of green infrastructure and open space (208) 32%
- Housing density levels that provide appropriate amounts of housing on a site (202) 31%
- Mix of uses that create safe, inclusive and welcoming environments (154) 24%
- Internal floorspace standards in homes to meet lifestyle needs (100) 15%
- Building heights (82) 13%
- Water storage and recycling facilities (78) 12%

Infrastructure

We asked how important is it to you that the Council seeks to ensure that new development and local communities are supported by effective and timely investment in supporting infrastructure? (5 being very important to 1 being not important at all)

You said

- Very important (493) 76%
- Important (90) 14%
- 3 (46) 7%
- 2 (4) 1%
- Not important at all (12) 2%

Building a strong, competitive economy

We asked how important is it to you that the Council seeks to develop a clear economic vision and strategy for Kirklees building on its core strengths and opportunities? (5 being very important to 1 being not important at all)

You said:

- Very important (218) 34%
- 4 (134) 21%
- 3 (179) 28%
- 2 (55) 9%
- Not important at all (57) 9%

We asked how important is it to you that the Council seeks to provide an appropriate amount of land to support job growth, the expansion of existing businesses and the growth of new businesses within the district? (5 being very important, 1 being not important at all)

You said:

- Very important (218) 34%
- 4 (147) 23%
- 3 (179) 28%
- 2 (55) 9%
- Not at all important (57) 9%

We asked what type of employment land; to support job growth, do you think the Local Plan should focus on. (Tick all that apply).

You said:

- Town centre, office development (347) 55%
- A range of small and medium sized site (288) 46%
- Policies to support the rural economy and rural diversification (288) 46%
- Smaller sites to allow the growth and expansion of existing businesses (260) 41%
- Continued focus on protecting Priority Employment Areas (259) 41%
- Large sites, located close to transport networks which are easy to get to and aimed at encouraging inward investment (253) 40%
- Support broadband to encourage more homeworking (195) 31%
- Other – please specify (42) 7%

We asked how important is it to you that the Council focuses on improving workforce skills to increase well-being and prosperity? (5 being very important, 1 being not important at all)

You said:

- 5 Very important (330) 52%
- 4 (154) 24%
- 3 (107) 17%
- 2 (19) 3%
- 1 Not important at all (25) 4%

Promoting healthy and safe communities

We asked to what extent do you agree that achieving 'healthy, safe and strong and inclusive communities' should be an area of focus for the Local Plan (5 being strongly agree, 1 Strongly disagree)

You said:

- 5 Strongly agree (360) 56%
- 4 (135) 21%
- 3 (97) 15%
- 2 (27) 5%
- 1 Strongly disagree (25) 4%

We asked how important it is to you that the Local Plan supports the provision of opportunities to grow food locally and enable healthier food choices (5 being very important, 1 being not important at all)

You said:

- 5 Very important (367) 57%
- 4 (138) 21%
- 3 (97) 15%
- 2 (23) 4%
- 1 Not important at all (22) 4%

Transport

We asked about the priorities for transport.

You said:

- Better, more frequent public transport.
- More investment in safe walking and cycling routes.
- Better road infrastructure

We asked how important is to you that the council seeks to deliver a net-zero carbon transport system by 2038.

You said:

- Very important (209) 32%
- Somewhat important (176) 27%
- Neither important nor not important (135) 21%
- Not important at all (129) 20%

We asked what do you think should be the Local Plan priorities in relation to climate change? Tick all that apply.

You said:

- More green space and tree planting (493) 76%
- Protection from flood risk (476) 74%
- Safeguarding agricultural land for food production (473) 74%

- Energy efficiency in new buildings both residential and non-residential (443) 69%
- Renewable energy generation (334) 52%
- Materials and design – sustainable buildings (330) 51%
- Sustainable transport infrastructure (316) 49%
- Energy storage 38%
- Specific policies to support Huddersfield District Heat Network (95) 15%

We asked how do you feel about the potential of more wind turbines being used in the district?

You said:

- I feel okay (227) 35%
- I feel very happy about this (209) 32%
- I'm not happy about this 12%
- I don't know (73) 11%
- I feel very unhappy (66) 10%

We asked how important is it to you that the Council seeks to reduce carbon emissions from existing buildings through retrofitting and requiring net zero carbon with high standards of energy and sustainability in all new developments? (5 being very important, 1 being not important at all)

- You said:
- 5 Very important (206) 32%
- 4 (177) 28%
- 3 (144) 23%
- 2 (45) 7%
- 1 Not important at all (69) 11%

Question 2: Previous early engagement priorities

Do you think the priorities identified through our earlier engagement are still the right priorities for Kirklees?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

Please explain your answer.

3.8 Strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT analysis)

Government guidance suggests undertaking a SWOT analysis at the start of Local Plan preparation. A SWOT analysis helps identify Kirklees key strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. It provides an evidence-based summary of the main issues the Local Plan needs to address and helps shape the Plan's vision, objectives and future growth strategy. It also provides an opportunity for communities and stakeholders to tell us whether we have correctly identified the factors that will influence the future of Kirklees.

Kirklees Strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT analysis)	
Internal	
Strengths	Weaknesses
Strategic Location Central position within Leeds City Region connecting Leeds, Bradford, Wakefield and Greater Manchester, with strong east–west and north–south links. Housing A diverse housing offer and the ability to deliver a range of housing types in a range of areas from urban regeneration sites to rural village opportunities. Transport Links Excellent transport links/connectivity with M62, M1, A1 access and rail connections to Leeds, Manchester and Sheffield Education Strong education provision, with the University of Huddersfield and colleges such as Greenhead. Retail and Leisure Popular areas to visit including Holmfirth and the wider Holme Valley and the Colne Valley. Economic Growth & Investment A diverse economy supporting advanced manufacturing, textiles, health innovation, digital and creative sectors, with scope for inward investment aligned to regional priorities. Regeneration and Investment Significant regeneration underway, including Huddersfield town centre cultural heart and Dewsbury transformation and Holmfirth and	Typography Limits where and how development can realistically take place. Legacy of industrial land use Resulting in complex brownfield sites with contamination, remediation and viability challenges. Uneven economic performance across the district Resulting in areas of low viability. Transport capacity and connectivity constraints, particularly east–west movement and access to employment locations. Town centre decline, including vacancy, reduced footfall and changing retail and leisure patterns. Ageing housing stock, with limited availability of modern, energy-efficient and adaptable homes. Lack of affordable homes and some weaker housing markets. Deliverability risks, including developer capacity, market confidence and reliance on public sector intervention for regeneration. Balancing growth with environmental and heritage constraints, particularly in rural areas and sensitive landscapes and heritage, e.g. Castle Hill

Kirklees Strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT analysis)	
recent investment of Huddersfield University Health Campus Inclusive Growth & Skills Opportunity to support West Yorkshire's inclusive growth agenda by boosting jobs, skills, town centre renewal and reducing inequalities. Natural & Cultural Assets Diverse and attractive landscapes and proximity to the Peak District National Park contributing to the uniqueness of Kirklees and its places. Significant historic assets providing opportunities for sustainable tourism, place-making and quality-of-life improvements. Supporting Regional Objectives Playing a key role in delivering West Yorkshire ambitions for sustainable growth, decarbonisation, improved connectivity and economic resilience. Valued mineral working infrastructure and reserves High quality building stone reserves, such as Yorkshire Sandstone in the District for which there is a nationwide demand. Waste There is sufficient consented capacity to manage waste arising in the district.	Potential locations with infrastructure capacity constraints - transport, education, health Ageing demographic profile Need to plan for housing and services to support. Skills and labour shortages, affecting construction, regeneration delivery and longer-term economic growth. Aggregate minerals Kirklees is dependent on imports of sand & gravel and crushed rock from other areas. Flood Risk With major rivers flowing through the district and its physical geography, the area of Kirklees is prone to flooding with limits development and increases costs. Deprivation and health inequalities in parts of the district
External	
Opportunities	Threats
Transformational Transport Investment Opportunities arising from the TransPennine Route Upgrade, Northern Powerhouse Rail and Penistone Line. Improved connectivity and accessibility through bus franchising and the Weaver Network. Ongoing partnership working with WYCA and local authority partners to deliver West Yorkshire Mass Transit into Kirklees, improving connectivity, accessibility and development potential and the support regeneration in the communities.	Infrastructure constraints, particularly transport capacity, utilities and health provision, limiting the ability to accommodate planned growth. Changing climate and impacts on our communities through extreme weather, flooding, over-heating Viability and delivery challenges, including rising construction costs, market uncertainty and funding gaps affecting housing and regeneration schemes.

Kirklees Strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT analysis)

Strong focus on regeneration through a committed programme of ambitions and investment in the council's blueprint programme and potential for further cultural linked regeneration of town centres.

Strategic alignment with the West Yorkshire Local Growth Plan, unlocking funding and supporting economic diversification.

Growing demand for homes of different tenures and sizes, supporting delivery of affordable, family and specialist housing.

Net zero and climate resilience agenda, enabling higher-quality, greener development and investment in low-carbon infrastructure.

Support for indigenous economic growth, particularly Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and local businesses, strengthening Kirklees' economic resilience.

Opportunity to attract inward investment, through strategic employment sites close to motorway junctions and key transport corridors.

Place-making and design-led development, improving quality of life, health outcomes and the attractiveness of towns and centres and the wider public realm in general.

Minerals restoration Opportunities to secure high-quality restoration projects that maintain, if not enhance the natural environment. Opportunities for further minerals extraction in the district.

Insufficient brownfield/previously developed land opportunities with potentially complex ownership, remediation costs and viability issues slowing brownfield delivery within this Plan period.

Skills shortages in the construction and planning sectors, impacting delivery timescales and local economic growth.

Demographic change, including an ageing population and changing household needs, creating pressure for different types of housing and services.

Economic uncertainty, affecting inward investment, employment land take-up and long-term regeneration ambitions.

Policy and funding uncertainty, including changes to national planning policy, infrastructure funding mechanisms and devolution arrangements.

Community and stakeholder opposition to development, particularly where growth is perceived to impact landscape character, infrastructure or local services.

Environmental and heritage constraints, limiting development opportunities in certain locations and adding complexity to scheme design and delivery.

Mineral resources could be unnecessarily sterilised by surface developments.

Waste capacity could be lost to inappropriate developments that result in the loss of facilities and/or hinder their operation.

Competition from nearby cities, such as Leeds and Wakefield regarding taking away investment from Kirklees.

Question 3: Strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats

Have we identified the main issues and opportunities that will shape the future of Kirklees?

☐ Yes

☐ No

If no, please tell us what you think is missing, incorrect or should be changed, and why.

Question 4: Local issues and policies

Having considered the factors in Section 3, are there any issues in Kirklees or your local area that you think need their own Local Plan policies?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Please describe the issue and explain why a local policy would be useful.

4 Draft vision and objectives/measurable outcomes

All Local Plans must have a vision⁸ setting out how Kirklees should change over the period of the plan and to reflect longer-term ambitions stretching beyond the plan period.

We believe the vision and objectives should:

- Set out key aims for the Kirklees district over the plan period up to 2043.
- Be ambitious, aspirational but realistic on what the Local Plan policies can achieve. The Local Plan must align with national planning policy and must not include policies which are covered in other legislative frameworks such as building control regulations or environmental protection.
- Be specific to Kirklees recognising the diverse nature of our district, its place and landscapes.
- Provide a holistic framework which sets clear direction for the spatial strategy and policy development.
- Provide a framework for delivery and monitoring.
- Reflect priorities identified through early engagement.
- Be aligned with other key corporate strategies and plans.

Your views on shaping the vision and objectives are important to us. In section 3, we set out some key considerations to help identify the potential content of the Local Plan. We have used this to set out a draft vision and objectives which we welcome feedback on. We will continue to update this vision as we move through the Local Plan process and continue to engage with you on the Plan content, as we develop a draft Plan for consultation.

4.1 Proposed Kirklees Local Plan Vision 2024-2043

By 2043, Kirklees will be a thriving, sustainable and inclusive place where people can access the homes they need, in the right locations, supported by good jobs, strong communities, quality infrastructure and a healthy natural environment. Growth will help regenerate our towns, support local services and create attractive places where people choose to live, work and invest.

Climate change adaptations and mitigation

Planning for climate change adaptations and mitigation will underpin all development. Kirklees will play a full role in working towards a net-zero Kirklees by 2038, creating resilient places through sustainable development, reducing carbon emissions, low-carbon energy and transport, blue and green infrastructure and climate-ready buildings, while avoiding development in areas at risk of flooding. Our actions will support a circular economy and ensure that waste disposal is minimised by focussing on reducing, re-using and recycling.

Sustainable Travel

Travel in Kirklees will be sustainable, healthy and accessible to all, creating safe, thriving places and connected communities. As part of a well-connected West Yorkshire, Kirklees will benefit from improved bus, rail, and highway networks and active travel improvements (walking, wheeling and cycling). Development opportunities will be linked to opportunities to encourage

⁸ [Preparing a local plan vision - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/preparing-a-local-plan-vision)

more people to use sustainable modes such as bus and rail for medium and longer distance trips. We will work hard to maximise the benefits of schemes such as the TransPennine Route Upgrade and Northern Powerhouse Rail for our residents and businesses beyond the transport corridors themselves, with a continued focus on joint working to progress plans for local rail (including the Penistone Line), bus and mass transit. Bus franchising will support bus travel. Residents and businesses will enjoy better accessibility within and beyond the area through the implementation of major improvements to the highway network including Cooper Bridge and other key highway corridors.

Effective and efficient use of land

The focus of development will be on making the best use of existing land and buildings and intensification and densification where appropriate. We will focus development within our most sustainable settlements which have access to facilities and transport hubs with local, active travel connections and will align with the council's settlement and travel hierarchies. We will have made progress/completed key sites at Dewsbury Riverside, and Bradley Park and continued to work with partners to deliver our housing need including increased opportunities for town centre living schemes. Recognising that not all our development needs can be met in this way, the delivery of new development will not have been at the cost of the local character and distinctiveness of Kirklees and its places.

Role and function of settlements

The role and function of our towns and settlements and access to services will be embedded into our consideration of planned housing, employment and leisure opportunities. Regenerating our towns whilst safeguarding and reinforcing those elements that make them distinctive will be a priority.

Towns and villages will be revitalised as vibrant, distinctive places to live, work and visit, driven by the Kirklees Blueprint programme (Huddersfield, Dewsbury, Batley, Cleckheaton, Heckmondwike, Holmfirth and Marsden) and its focus on modernising our town centres and bringing new uses into town centres. We will have delivered opportunities for culturally led regeneration schemes, expanded high-quality town-centre living opportunities, higher density housing development within and on the edges of town centres, making our places safer, more family friendly, greener and more accessible to all, creating more reasons to live in and visit these localities.

Economic growth

We will deliver inclusive economic growth which capitalises on our locational advantage and other economic strengths including logistics/distribution activity whilst ensuring all our residents can benefit from growth. A well-balanced network of employment sites across the district will enable strong indigenous growth (local growth) for small and medium-sized enterprises, while strategically located, sustainable sites - including some near motorway junctions - will attract inward investment and support key sectors such as advanced manufacturing, health innovation/life sciences and the knowledge economy.

The need to support a diverse, rural economy through business growth, diversification and improved connectivity, while protecting the character of the countryside.

We will continue to capitalise on our strengths in advanced manufacturing, precision engineering, textiles and health and life sciences. The transformation of Gasworks Street, Huddersfield into a new employment hub next to the University of Huddersfield's National Health innovation Campus provides the opportunities for businesses to co-locate with world-

class research and development expertise. Additional Investment Zone funding provides further opportunities to drive skilled job creation, strengthening the Station to Stadium Enterprise Corridor and the wider West Yorkshire Innovation Zone. We will take advantage of investments in our towns and villages and strong connections to surrounding cities and beyond to make Kirklees one of the best places to live, work and do business in the North of England, acknowledged for our exceptional quality of life.

Meeting defined, housing needs

Kirklees will deliver a wide choice of high-quality homes, meeting the needs of all communities and adaptable to individual's different life stages, including accessible homes, energy efficient, affordable housing and social rent.

Kirklees residents will have access to a range of housing types and tenures recognising the needs of different groups. This includes diversifying the range of older persons accommodation including sheltered/retirement and Extra Care leasehold and co-housing, residential care, strengthening policies to enable people to live in their own homes for longer with appropriate support and adaptation and all new affordable and market dwellings to be built to defined accessibility standards. There will be a broader mix of affordable dwelling sizes including social/affordable rent, affordable home ownership and opportunities for custom and self-build.

Natural, Built and historic environment

The natural, built and historic environment will be maintained and enhanced through high quality, inclusive design and safe environments, opportunities for play and sport, the protection and enhancement of green infrastructure, enhancement of distinctive and contrasting landscapes, tree and woodland protection, opportunities for local food growing, the enhancement of biodiversity and geodiversity and the protection and enhancement of heritage assets.

Design

With a strong focus on design, healthy places, protected landscapes, blue and green spaces, heritage assets and enhanced biodiversity, the Plan will ensure Kirklees development is of a high quality and design, enhancing the quality of our places and its local distinctiveness.

Minerals and Waste

We will facilitate the sustainable supply and use of minerals and will manage waste sustainably in accordance with the waste hierarchy. We will identify and safeguard important waste facilities and mineral resources, whilst maintaining a careful balance between meeting future needs while protecting and enhancing the environment and strengthening the economy.

Question 5: Vision

Do you agree with our vision for the future of Kirklees up to 2043?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Please tell us what you think should be added, changed or removed.

Question 6: Vision

Do you think our vision reflects the main issues and opportunities facing Kirklees?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Please tell us what you think should be added, changed or removed.

Question 7: Vision

Have we identified the right places for future growth in Kirklees?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Please tell us your reasons.

Question 8: Vision

Are there any places in Kirklees that you think should receive more attention within the vision or be better protected?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Please tell us which places and why.

Question 9: Vision

Does the vision give a clear picture of what Kirklees should be like by 2043?

☐ Yes

☐ No

If no, please tell us what you think should be changed.

4.2 Proposed Kirklees Local Plan Objectives

To support the proposed vision, we have developed ten objectives which we are inviting comments on.

1. Support the growth and diversification of the economy, to increase skill levels and employment opportunities including the provision of high-quality communication infrastructure.
2. Strengthen the role of town centres, particularly Huddersfield, Dewsbury and Batley, to support their vitality and viability.
3. Improve transport links within and between Kirklees towns and with neighbouring towns and cities, giving priority to public transport, and to cycling and walking, and providing an efficient highway network which supports the district's economy.
4. Provide new homes which meet the housing needs of the community offering a range of size, tenure and affordability, support existing communities and access to employment, public transport, shops and services ensuring that the scale and type of development does not compromise the quality and local distinctiveness of our places.
5. Tackle inequality and give all residents the opportunity of a healthy lifestyle, free from crime and to achieve their potential in work and education.
6. Protect and improve green infrastructure to support health and well-being, giving residents access to good quality open spaces, sport and recreation opportunities, and to support habitats, allowing wildlife to flourish.
7. Promote development that helps to reduce and mitigate climate change, and development which is adapted so that the potential impact from climate change is reduced and to help the transition towards a low carbon economy.

8. Protect and enhance the characteristics of the built, natural and historic environment, and local distinctiveness which contribute to the character of Kirklees, including the South Pennine Moors, Moorland fringe and the area's industrial heritage.
9. Promote the re-use of existing buildings, the use of brownfield land, increased densities and intensification to meet development needs and support the regeneration of areas.
10. Facilitate the sustainable use and management of minerals and waste:
Minerals – Ensure a steady, adequate and sustainable supply of minerals through a range of measures including the safeguarding of resources and infrastructure and ensuring that mineral operations have a minimal impact on the local environment and communities and provide a beneficial after use.
Waste – Move waste up the waste hierarchy, safeguard existing waste management capacity from inappropriate development and ensure that new facilities are appropriately located and that the impacts are mitigated.

Question 10: Objectives

Do you think these are the right objectives to achieve the vision for Kirklees?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Please explain your answer.

Question 11: Services, facilities and infrastructure

What services, facilities or infrastructure are needed to help deliver the vision and goals for Kirklees? *For example, roads, public transport, schools, health services, parks, flood defences, broadband or utilities.*

4.3 Measurable outcomes

The Local Plan should also contain measurable outcomes, to set out what the Local Plan is expected to achieve and how success will be assessed over time. They translate the Plan's vision and objectives into clear, specific and trackable results.

These outcomes should:

- Be **focused on key priorities**, such as housing delivery, economic growth, climate change, environmental quality and infrastructure provision
- Include **quantifiable targets or indicators** (for example, number of homes delivered, reductions in carbon emissions, or access to green space)
- Be **realistic and deliverable**, reflecting local circumstances and evidence
- Enable **monitoring and reporting**, so progress can be tracked and the Plan reviewed if needed

Measurable outcomes will form part of the framework for monitoring the Local Plan, helping to ensure it delivers sustainable development and responds effectively to change over time.

Following the Scoping Consultation feedback, we will identify measurable outcomes as part of the draft Plan consultation.

5 Effective engagement - How can we involve you better?

We have a Statement of Community Involvement <https://www.kirklees.gov.uk/beta/planning-policy/statement-community-involvement.aspx>. This sets out how and when the council will engage and undertake consultation on planning policy documents and how the community can become involved.

This currently sets out a range of methods to promote and support engagement including the use of our website, our consultation platform <http://kirklees.gov.uk/consultplanningpolicy> which hosts consultation events and allows stakeholders to sign up to be notified of the start of consultation events, digital versions of Kirklees Together, use of social media and the production of a Local Plan Newsletter.

We understand that in-person engagement can help encourage getting involved and a chance for discussion so the SCI outlines opportunities for running workshops and public meetings and working with councillors, Parish and Town Councils to raise awareness with wider networks. We also seek to provide printed materials where relevant, including posters, leaflets and notices in our libraries.

Under the new plan making system, there is not a requirement for a Statement of Community Involvement⁹ however, government guidance¹⁰ defines that we must have a “well-defined community engagement strategy, clearly outlining the purpose, target audience and objectives”.

We want to make sure that you can be fully involved in the preparation of the Local Plan and invite you to comment on how we communicate and engage with you throughout this process. Your thoughts on how we can reduce the barriers faced by groups or individuals from becoming involved in plan-making are also welcomed. Our aim is to ensure that we can develop inclusive and easy to use methods to increase awareness and participation.

⁹ Levelling-up and Regeneration Act Schedule 7

¹⁰ [Engaging the public when preparing a local plan - GOV.UK](#)

Question 12: Future Engagement

How would you like to hear about future Local Plan consultations and updates? Please tell us the best ways to keep you informed and involved.

6 Any other comments

Question 13: Any other comments

Is there anything else you think we should consider when preparing the Local Plan? Please tell us your thoughts and explain why they are important.

For any additional information on the Kirklees Scoping Consultation, please contact:
local.development@kirklees.gov.uk