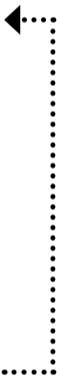


Required plan-making steps and tasks

Notes

Required plan-making steps and tasks		Notes
	Write and first publish local plan timetable	To be published on the website in text form, not solely by uploading a pdf, and provided to the government's Planning Data Platform Must be published no later than the same day notice is given To be updated regularly (at least monthly) and to include a timetable for any supplementary plans being drafted
1 - 4+	Publish notice of intention to commence local plan preparation	Marks the start of the notice period and the last day on which the timetable should be published Latest publication date for the notice is the start date of the scoping consultation
	Preparation leading to consultation on plan scope (the 'scoping consultation')	Invites representations on what the contents of the local plan should be and how further engagement should be carried out No minimum statutory consultation period for this stage – guidance says consultation should last at least 21 days Must be completed before the publication of a 'self-assessment summary'
	Gateway 1: Complete and publish self-assessment summary of readiness to prepare a plan	Sets out an authority's readiness to begin local plan preparation Categories of information to be included are specified in regulations and guidance (template and a readiness checker) Publishing the Gateway 1 assessment marks the start of the 30-month process Should be passed through no later than five years after the last plan was published Assessment summary is not assessed by a Planning Inspectorate appointed person Summary should not be revised as the plan progresses
Months / timescale 1 - 23	Preparation culminating in consultation on plan content and evidence, including the draft vision ('consultation on proposed local plan content and evidence')	Minimum consultation length of six weeks Summary of the scoping consultation must be published before this consultation commences Summary of the plan content and evidence consultation must be published before Gateway 2
	Gateway 2: Observations and advice sought from a gateway assessor appointed by the Planning Inspectorate	Assessor provides observations and advice on progress towards preparing a sound plan, Gateway 3 prescribed requirements, and any further work required The documentation an authority needs to submit to the assessor is not prescribed by legislation, to provide flexibility on the level of advice being sought, depending on the complexity of the plan The authority must publish the observations and advice as soon as practicably possible after receiving them Should normally take between four and six weeks
	Further preparation culminating in the proposed local plan consultation period ('consultation on the proposed local plan')	Minimum consultation length of eight weeks The documents to be consulted on are specified in legislation When a plan is being prepared within an area with an operative spatial development strategy, there is also a requirement to consult with the SDS body on conformity Summary of the consultation must be published before Gateway 3 Map of proposed local plan policies must be included in the consultation on the proposed local plan
	Gateway 3: Observations and advice sought from a gateway assessor regarding meeting of prescribed requirements	Inspector assesses whether the prescribed requirements of the proposed local plan are met, and that the authority is ready to proceed to examination If any of the requirements are not met, the LPA must repeat Gateway 3 as soon as reasonably practicable LPA may also repeat a consultation stage if necessary, but not Gateway 2 Assessor observations and advice must be published – and published again if Gateway 3 is repeated Should take four weeks, or up to six by exception
24 - 29	Submission of local plan to Secretary of State for examination	Examination intended to last five months, subject to any pause period for further work to be undertaken, the maximum length of pause is 6 months Authority must make available the date, time and place of the examination hearing at least six weeks before its opening Examiner's recommendations and reasons following examination will be published
30	LPA considers adopting the plan ('plan adoption')	
By 31	Publish policies map that shows all development plan policies	Policy map which meets requirements of legislation Differs to map of proposed local plan policies published earlier: brings together local plan policies with the rest of the policies in the development plan Must be published as soon as reasonably practicable after adoption – guidance asks for publication within a month of adoption
31+	Monitoring	
Later months or during plan preparation	Potential inclusion of minerals and waste plan (where applicable) or supplementary plan dates within timetable	



Notice Period
Gateway
30 Month Preparation
Post adoption

- Ongoing process during plan preparation and supplementary plan preparation
- Ongoing post adoption process
- Gateway 3 must be repeated if gateway assessor finds requirements not met

Potential further dates to insert:

- Advice at Gateway 3 stage, where stage has been repeated
- Date(s) of further additional consultations
- Examination pause
- Date of withdrawal
- Date of revocation

For supplementary plans, insert dates / potential dates of:

- Intention to commence
- Consultation period
- Submission for examination
- Adoption

Read our blog on Local plan timetables



Sources:

- [s15B of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act, 2004, as inserted by the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023](#)
- [Part 2 of the Town and Country Planning \(Local Planning\) \(England\) Regulations 2026](#)
- [Guidance collection: Create or update a local plan using the new system](#)