

Local Plan Review



Revised Timetable



Our Local Plan Sub-Committee met last night and agreed a revised timetable for the Local Plan Review.

Now we have been given extra time from central government to submit an updated Local Plan (until December 2026 compared to the previous June 2025), we are able to give residents a further opportunity to share their views with us on what they think the plan should include and whether we have got the priorities right.

This is known as an 'Issues and Options' public consultation which is the next phase and will take place in the New Year. This will share the key issues and challenges facing the district and a set of ideas and solutions to tackle these through planning policies, and ask for residents views on this.

Where are we now and what happens next?



Statutory consultations will follow in 2025 and 2026, known as 'Preferred Options' and 'Pre-Submission', prior to submitting a revised plan to the planning inspectorate for examination and adoption in 2026.

The Local Plan affects every resident, and your input will be an invaluable part of the preparation process for an updated Local Plan. Please do get involved and help shape the district's future together when we launch the consultation in the New Year.

[Read more](#)

Why are we reviewing the Local Plan?



The Local Plan sets out the policies and proposals for guiding development and managing growth in the Braintree district.

It identifies where and how new development should take place in the future as well as protection of the green environment and heritage.

The council's current Local Plan is designed to run until 2033 but has to be reviewed and updated, if necessary, at least every five years. Braintree District Council adopted its current Local Plan in 2021. The review of Braintree District's Local Plan is looking at growth options post 2033 through to 2041.

Government requirements mean councils like Braintree must provide more homes, but its aim is to get the right type of development in the right places with the necessary infrastructure to meet the growing needs of local residents and businesses while protecting the environment.

Evidence base

To ensure the council has a clear understanding of what needs to build and protected, what resources already exist within the district and what the market trends are, it is currently developing a series of evidence base documents to help shape a revised Local Plan.

Residents can provide feedback on the evidence base documents which will be published alongside future consultations on the [council's planning consultation portal](#).

Call for sites

The council conducted a call for sites exercise earlier this year for developers and others to share suggestions for new development or environmental protection.

No decision has been made on sites allocated in the updated Local Plan yet and each site is currently being robustly assessed to see whether they are suitable, available and achievable for development.

Residents will have an opportunity to comment on the planned sites at a future consultation stage in the New Year.

How you can keep updated

Residents can keep updated on the Local Plan Review process, decisions and consultation information by:

- visiting www.braintree.gov.uk/localplanreview
 - following the council on social media
 - signing up to receive email updates from our Planning Policy team [online](#)
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