

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Council
2026

15th July

Bromsgrove District Local Plan – Scoping Report Consultation

Relevant Cabinet Member	Councillor Sue Baxter
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Assistant Director	Ruth Bamford
Report Author Mike Dunphy	Job Title: Strategic Planning and Conservation Manager email: m.dunphy@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk Contact Tel: 01527 881325
Wards Affected	All
Ward Councillor(s) consulted	N/A
Relevant Council Priority	Economic Development Environment Housing Infrastructure
Non-Key Decision	
If you have any questions about this report, please contact the report author in advance of the meeting.	

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

Council is asked to RESOLVE that

1. The Bromsgrove District Local Plan Scoping Report at Appendix A is approved for consultation from the 24th July to the 4th September 2026 inclusive.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Government has introduced a new system for plan making in the UK. For Bromsgrove District Council this means that a new plan needs to be prepared under the new system. The previous progress made on the Bromsgrove District Local Plan (that was being prepared under the old system), most notably the information obtained from consultation on the Draft Development Strategy over the Summer and Autumn of 2025, will be rolled forward into the new plan making system. This work will be used to help inform the decisions taken as the Council prepares the new draft plan.
- 2.2 The Government introduced new regulations in March 2026 setting out various formal stages that plans prepared under the new system have to go through. The new system, together with emerging changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), are intended to streamline plan-making to allow for quicker adoption of Local Plans,

therefore increasing the delivery of new sustainable development, including housing and economic development, across the country.

- 2.3 The purpose of this report is to seek approval to undertake consultation on the Bromsgrove District Local Plan – Scoping Report.

3. OPERATIONAL ISSUES

- 3.1 At the Council meeting held on the 20th May, the Notice of Intention to Commence Local Plan Preparation and The Local Plan timetable were both approved. The accompanying report for that meeting also included outline details of the Bromsgrove District Local Plan – Scoping Report. A copy of the Scoping Report is provided at appendix A.

- 3.2 The approved Local Plan Timetable is set out below:

Local plan event	Start date	End date
1) Publish local plan timetable under regulation 8	29 th June 2026	
2) Publish notice of intention to commence local plan preparation under regulation 19(1)	29 th June 2026	
3) Publish notice of scoping consultation under regulation 20(1)(b)	See event 4 Below	
4) Scoping consultation under regulation 20	6 week period during July/August/September 2026TBC	
5) Gateway 1: Publish Gateway 1 self-assessment summary under regulation 21(3)	October 2026	
6) Publish summary of scoping consultation under regulation 22	October 2026	
7) Publish notice of local plan content and evidence consultation under regulation 23(1)(a)	June 2027	
8) Consultation on the proposed local plan content and evidence (not less than six weeks) under regulation 23	June 2027	July/August 2027
9) Publish summary of consultation on the proposed local plan content and evidence under regulation 24	October 2027	
10) Gateway 2: observations and advice will be sought under section 15CA(3)	October 2027	

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Local plan event	Start date	End date
of the Act in accordance with regulation 26		
11) Publish Gateway 2 observations and advice in accordance with section 15CA(5) of the Act and regulation 26(5)	November/December 2027	
12) Publish notice of proposed local plan consultation under regulation 27(1)(a)	March 2028	
13) Consultation on the proposed local plan (not less than eight weeks) under regulation 27	March 2028	April/May 2028
14) Publish summary of consultation on the proposed local plan under regulation 30	August/September 2028	
15) Gateway 3: observations and advice will be sought under section 15CA(3) of the Act in accordance with regulation 31	August/September 2028	
16) Publish Gateway 3 observations and advice in accordance with section 15CA(5) of the Act and regulation 31(5)	September/October 2028	
17) Submit the proposed local plan for independent examination under section 15D(1) of the Act	October 2028	
18) Publish the examiner's recommendations and reasons in accordance with section 15D(13) of the Act and regulation 37.	TBC	
19) Adoption of the local plan under section 15EA of the Act	April 2029	

3.3 As can be seen the approved timetable requires at item 4, 'a Scoping consultation under regulation 20' for a '6-week period during July/August/September 2026 TBC'. It can now be confirmed that this consultation has been scheduled for the 6-week period beginning on the 24th July and ending on the 4th September.

3.4 Neither the Regulations nor the guidance that the Government has published set out precisely what a Scoping Consultation must entail. The guidance is repeated below:

“This consultation stage provides the local community and other key stakeholders with the opportunity to have their say at the very start of the plan-making process. You must ask for views on:

- what to include in the local plan*
- how to approach future local plan engagement*
- any other matters that you want to consult on*

You must run your scoping consultation after you have given notice of intention to commence plan-making. This consultation should last for at least 21 days and must finish before you publish your Gateway 1 self-assessment summary. You should use the feedback from the scoping consultation to inform your community engagement strategy. For this consultation, you must invite representations from the:

- general consultation bodies you consider appropriate*
- specific consultation bodies you consider may have an interest in the preparation of the local plan*

You do not have to invite anyone else, but anyone can make representations at this stage.”

3.5 The Regulations only require the scoping document to address the following issues:

- What the Council should include in a Local Plan,
- How you would like the Council to consult you during the preparation of the Local Plan.

As can be seen, the Scoping Consultation is envisaged to be a high level consultation. It is not intended to set a spatial strategy or contain details on any future policy or site allocations. As set out above, the Council has already undertaken extensive consultation last year. The Scoping Report makes it clear, that people who have already responded to the Draft Development Strategy consultation do not need to resubmit their representations, they will still be taken into account in the preparation of the plan under the new system. It is also stressed that there will be further opportunities to comment on detailed policies and possible site allocations as the new plan progresses, as per the stages outlined below.

3.6 As can be seen from above, the purpose of the scoping document is to seek stakeholder views at the outset of the plan-making process. This includes, but is not limited to, local residents, parish councils, infrastructure providers, statutory agencies, local businesses,

developers and agents. As the Council has already sought the views via a number of local plan consultations under the old plan making system, the scoping document has been drafted to ensure the views relevant to the scope of the plan that have already been expressed are reflected in the document.

- 3.7 The timetable above indicates that the Council will consult on the draft plan in the summer of 2027, and a final plan March 2028. It is at as these opportunities where further details will be available such as the possible sites chosen for development and the associated policies and infrastructure requirements.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Local Plan process has a budget of £823k, financed as follows:
- 4.2 An initial £645k has been identified in reserves from 2026/27 onwards to fund the evidence base development, Examination in Public costs and any associated legal fees.
- 4.3 Funding of £70k has been awarded by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) to progress the Green Belt Assessment. An additional £108k has been awarded by MHCLG to help progress the Local Plan. To release the £108k the following requirements must be met by the Council:
- Publish a Notice of Intention to commence Local Plan preparation by 30th June 2026; and
 - Publish Gateway 1 self-assessment by 31st October 2026.
- 4.4 The total available budget is £823k is proposed to be spent as per the table below.

Evidence base costs BDC	£420k
Legal Fees	£125k
Examination costs	£100k
MHCLG Green Belt Review	£70k
MHCLG Plan Making	£108k
Total Local Plan Spend	£823k

- 4.5 Staffing resource comes from existing posts within the establishment supplemented by three additional posts There is currently one vacancy

within the establishment and this, and additional posts, are currently in the process being recruited to.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The new plan making system is now set out in the following regulations The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026.

6. OTHER - IMPLICATIONS

Local Government Reorganisation

- 6.1 In June 2025, MHCLG wrote to Chief Executives of the Worcestershire Councils with an update on Local Government Reorganisation. Included within that letter is the following statement:

'The Government also recognises that developing proposals could distract councils from their essential day-to-day activities. However, residents and businesses depend on councils to deliver crucial services and to continue the efforts needed to establish successful new unitary councils. This is particularly important for advancing local plans to allocate land for new homes. As mentioned in the invitation letters, the Government expects local planning councils to work towards adopting an up-to-date local plan as soon as possible. Local Government Reorganisation should not hinder this vital work, nor should the introduction of the new legal framework for local plan-making later this year or our strategic planning reforms. Significant financial support has already been provided to eligible councils to aid in plan-making, and we encourage councils to utilise additional support available through the Local Government Association's Planning Advisory Service.'

- 6.2 The position expressed above remains unchanged, plan-making must continue irrespective of the Local Government Reorganisation work.

Relevant Council Priority

- 6.3 The Bromsgrove District Local Plan is relevant to the following Council priorities:
1. Economic Development
 2. Housing
 3. Environment

4. Infrastructure

Climate Change Implications

- 6.4 The Bromsgrove District Local Plan will have significant implications for climate change, shaping the location and nature of new housing, employment, and infrastructure development.

Community Impact Implications

- 6.6 The approval Bromsgrove District Local Plan – Scoping Report will provide the communities across Bromsgrove District with valuable next stepson how the Bromsgrove District Local Plan will be progressed. The final adopted local plan will have policies and allocations which address high quality design, provide for safer communities and help to address wider health and wellbeing by providing communities facilities and accessible open space.

Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 6.7 The consultation process is open to all to comment.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 7.1 The Bromsgrove District Local Plan progress is being monitored via the Council's Corporate Risk Register.
- 7.2 The risk of not progressing a new Local Plan has been discussed at length in many forums. Whilst the Council does not have to begin plan-making under the new system until December 2026, there is no need to delay the initial processes under the new system until then. MHCLG has made it very clear that it expects plan-making to continue at pace and will not be afraid to intervene if plan-making does not progress.
- 7.3 Plan-making is strongly encouraged without delay. It suggests that the Council is committed to plan-making. Whilst simply progressing the earlier stages of plan-making does not give the control an adopted Local Plan gives, progressing a Local Plan as identified by this report does help to provide evidence that the plan is progressing and shows a pathway to adopting a plan. This is useful information to use in other settings such as development management.
- 7.4 In addition, should the scoping consultation not take place as described in this report, then the additional funding secured will have to be returned to the Government.

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8. APPENDICES and BACKGROUND PAPERS

Appendix A Bromsgrove District Local Plan – Scoping Report

9. REPORT SIGN OFF

Department	Name and Job Title	Date
Portfolio Holder	Councillor Sue Baxter	26.06.26
Lead Director / Assistant Director	Guy Revans /Ruth Bamford	01.07.26
Financial Services	James Walton	06.07.26
Legal Services	Claire Felton	01.07.26