



Kirklees Local Plan Early Engagement Survey

November 2024

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The Kirklees Local Plan Survey

What is a Local Plan

The Purpose of a Local Plan is to set out:

- A vision and strategic objectives for development within Kirklees (particularly for new housing and employment).
- How and where different levels of development will be located (site allocations).
- A suite of planning policies to guide decisions on planning applications.
- Designations showing land to be protected/safeguarded (such as local green spaces, priority employment areas).
- Infrastructure provision to support the delivery of development.
- A monitoring framework to review the plan's success.

We are asking for your views on the preparation of a new Local Plan for Kirklees.

Why are we doing this

This early engagement aims to understand what you think the key challenges and opportunities are for Kirklees. We are seeking the views of residents, businesses and stakeholders from the beginning of the plan making process.

This is the first stage of early engagement, with a second stage planned for April/May 2025 where we will feedback on what you said, and outline our Local Plan vision, strategy and objectives and the scale and distribution of growth for jobs and homes.

What will we do with the results

Your thoughts at this early stage will be invaluable to us in shaping the Local Plan. Over the following pages, this survey sets out a series of questions about issues we would like you to think about. We also want to hear about the issues you think we haven't considered but are important to you in planning the future of Kirklees.

This survey will take about 15 minutes to complete and will close on 28th February 2024.

Let's get started

1. Do you...

- Live in Kirklees
- Work in Kirklees
- Study in Kirklees

Yes	No

Tick relevant answers

2. Please tell us the first part of the postcode where you live leaving no spaces e.g WF12 (this will be 3 or 4 characters) You cannot be identified from this information.

Section 1: Shaping the Local Plan Vision

At the heart of National Planning Policy is a requirement to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development.

This includes providing land for new homes and employment and supporting infrastructure. To do this, plan makers must consider three overarching objectives:

a) an economic objective – to help build a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right type is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth, innovation and improved productivity.

b) a social objective – to support strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by ensuring that a sufficient number and range of homes can be provided to meet current and future needs; and by fostering well-designed, and safe places, with accessible services and open spaces that support health, social and cultural well-being.

c) an environmental objective – to protect and enhance our natural, built and historic environment, including making effective use of land, improving biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy.

When we plan for new housing and jobs, we need to think about economic, social and environmental outcomes in a way that takes account of Kirklees local circumstances including its character, local needs and builds on the strengths and opportunities of the district.

The following questions in this section are seeking your views on the priorities for Kirklees and what you see as special to your area.

This information will help us to shape a vision which is locally distinctive to Kirklees.

3. Please select what you think should be the top 5 priorities

- Building a strong, resilient and sustainable economy and job creation through the provision of land and skills development.
- Delivering a sufficient supply and mix of homes which are affordable and designed to a high quality.
- Regeneration and revitalising town centres.
- Promoting healthy, safe and strong inclusive communities.
- Promoting walking, cycling and public transport opportunities over the use of the private car.
- Supporting broadband and working from home.
- Protecting open space for recreation, sport and amenity value.
- Water management and flood protection.
- Conserving and enhancing the natural and historic environment.
- Provision for waste management.
- Managing minerals extraction and safeguarding areas.
- Provision for more leisure, recreation opportunities.
- Other {Q3.a}

- please specify

4. Please use this space to tell us a bit about your reasons for your chosen priorities

We want you to think about not just the present but what is best for the future of Kirklees – the Local Plan will look ahead 20-30 years providing a long-term plan for development.

5. What do you think is special about your local area?

6. What do you think are the main opportunities we face in planning for our area over the next 20-30 years?

7. What do you think are the main challenges we face in planning for our area over the next 20-30 years?

Section 2: Delivering a sufficient supply of housing and the delivery of affordable and well-designed homes and places

Housing

The Local Plan is required to assess local housing need when preparing a plan and identify sites in a local plan that can deliver required levels of housing. Making sure that the homes we provide meet local housing needs is very important.

The challenge for Kirklees is how to deliver the required number of new homes, and plan for jobs in a sustainable way whilst ensuring that we protect and enhance the qualities which contribute to the character of our districts and places.

We have recently commissioned a Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) which will analyse future housing needs across Kirklees. It will look at the need for different sizes and types of housing, including homes to buy and rent. It will also consider the housing needs of different community groups, such as older people and those with additional needs.

The current Local Plan sets out an annual housing requirement of 1,730 new homes per year, and we will be setting a new housing figure and housing needs policies in the updated Local Plan which will be informed by the SHMA. There is a need to do this as the Local Plan is more than five years old and the council cannot demonstrate a five-year housing land supply.

The requirement in the current Local Plan is that 20% of new homes should be affordable, and a mix (size and tenure) suitable for different household types should be provided in new housing developments. Affordable housing includes homes for sale or rent and is for people whose needs are not met by the private market. The proposed government focus is to provide more affordable homes, including social rented housing.

8. Where would you like to see new housing in Kirklees over the next 20-30 years? (please select your top 3)

- Increased opportunities for town centre living.
- Within or on the edge of existing towns.
- Within or on the edge of existing villages.
- Around public transport connections (e.g. railway stations, bus routes).
- Distributed proportionately across all town centres and villages.
- Creation of a new settlement.
- Other {Q8.a}

- please specify

9. Please select what 3 types of homes are most needed in Kirklees.

- Family housing
- Affordable housing
- Single person housing
- Homes for the elderly, including retirement housing, housing with care and care homes
- Student housing
- Housing for people with disabilities
- Travellers' accommodation
- Rented housing
- Custom and self-build housing
- Homes for homeless people
- Town centre housing
- Village/rural housing
- Other {Q9.a}

- please specify

10. How important is it to increase the number and range of affordable homes to rent or buy? (5 being very important, 1 being not important at all)

<input type="checkbox"/>	5 - very important
<input type="checkbox"/>	4
<input type="checkbox"/>	3
<input type="checkbox"/>	2
<input type="checkbox"/>	1 - not important at all

Design

National planning policy requires planning policies and decisions to ensure that developments deliver well-designed buildings and places.

11. What design elements do you think the Local Plan should focus on to contribute to the development of well-designed buildings and places?

Please select what you think should be the top 5 priorities.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Housing density levels – that provide appropriate amounts of housing on a site.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Development that is sympathetic to local character, history and the landscape.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Protection and creation of natural habitats and wildlife areas.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Building heights.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Parking provision, including cycle parking.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Energy-efficiency and green energy (e.g. solar panels, air source heat pumps, wind turbines, EV charging points).
<input type="checkbox"/>	Safe walking and cycling connections which link to local facilities and services.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Access to public transport
<input type="checkbox"/>	Integration of green infrastructure and open space.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mix of uses that create safe, inclusive and welcoming environments.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Water storage and recycling facilities.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Internal floorspace standards in homes to meet lifestyle needs.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other {Q11.a}

- please specify

Infrastructure

The planning system seeks to achieve development that is sustainable including the provision of homes, commercial development, and supporting infrastructure.

Investment in our infrastructure can help our area become more sustainable through new education facilities, improved opportunities for walking and cycling, road improvements and new or improved open spaces.

12. 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, 1 being not important at all).

<input type="checkbox"/>	5 - very important
<input type="checkbox"/>	4
<input type="checkbox"/>	3
<input type="checkbox"/>	2
<input type="checkbox"/>	1 - not important at all

13. Please use this box to tell us any other thoughts on housing, design or infrastructure.

Section 3: Building a Strong, Competitive Economy

The Local Plan seeks to identify sites of the right size in the right location for local and inward economic investment to meet anticipated needs over the plan period.

It should recognise and address the specific locational requirements of different sectors, including data-driven, creative or high technology industries, the storage and distribution sectors, supply chains, transport innovation and decarbonisation and additional commercial sites should be considered positively when they are of local, regional or national importance, to further support economic growth and resilience.

The council is currently developing its Inclusive Economy Strategy with a focus on aspirations to have a resilient, sustainable and inclusive economy.

We are seeing investment in the area through the TransPennine Route Upgrade, Penistone Line, the new Health Innovation Campus and the Station to Stadium Enterprise Corridor in Huddersfield, the Dewsbury Long Term Plan and investment in town and local centres through the council's town centre programme. This will build on our current strengths in manufacturing and textiles, our thriving university and well-established small and medium enterprises providing business and employment opportunities within the district.

14. 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, 1 being not important at all)

<input type="checkbox"/>	5 - very important
<input type="checkbox"/>	4
<input type="checkbox"/>	3
<input type="checkbox"/>	2
<input type="checkbox"/>	1 - not important at all

15. 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)

- 5 - very important
- 4
- 3
- 2
- 1 - not important at all

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

- Large sites, located close to transport networks, which are easy to get to, aimed at encouraging inward investment and supporting national policy objectives.
- A range of small and medium sites.
- Continued focus on protecting Priority Employment Areas - *Priority Employment Areas are existing areas of land or premises currently in employment use, which are safeguarded as such in the Local Plan, so as not to be lost to other non-employment generating uses.*
- Town centre, office development.
- Support broadband to encourage more home working.
- Policies to support the rural economy and rural diversification.
- Smaller sites to allow the growth and expansion of existing businesses.
- Other {Q16.a}

- please specify

17. 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)

- 5 - very important
- 4
- 3
- 2
- 1 - not important at all

Section 4 Promoting healthy and safe communities

Planning policies should also aim to achieve healthy, inclusive and safe places and buildings which: promote social interaction, are safe and accessible, and enable and support healthy lifestyles, especially where this would address identified local health and well-being needs – for example through the provision of safe and accessible green infrastructure, sports facilities, local shops, access to healthier food, allotments and layouts that encourage walking and cycling.

Our current Local Plan contains a range of policies aimed at achieving these aims but to increase the health impacts of planning policies, we are considering whether health can form a golden thread throughout the plan and in all policy considerations.

18. 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 strongly agree, 1 strongly disagree)

<input type="checkbox"/>	5 - strongly agree
<input type="checkbox"/>	4
<input type="checkbox"/>	3
<input type="checkbox"/>	2
<input type="checkbox"/>	1 - strongly disagree

19. How important is it 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)

<input type="checkbox"/>	5 - very important
<input type="checkbox"/>	4
<input type="checkbox"/>	3
<input type="checkbox"/>	2
<input type="checkbox"/>	1 - not important at all

Section 5: Promoting, walking, cycling and access to public transport

The Government requires the Local Plan to promote sustainable transport. It seeks to focus significant new development in areas which are already or can be made sustainable, through limiting the need to travel and offering a genuine choice of transport modes including opportunities to promote walking, cycling and public transport. This can help to reduce emissions and improve air quality and public health.

The Government's planning reforms considers that relying solely on advances in vehicle technology and increased uptake of electric vehicles will not be enough to address our climate change ambitions and that we need to make positive and sustainable changes to our travel choices, while understanding that different people and businesses have different needs and requirements.

20. We believe the main transport challenges for Kirklees are as below.

How much do you agree or disagree that these are the key transport challenges?

	I strongly disagree	I disagree	I'm not sure	I agree	I strongly agree
Improving general air quality across Kirklees.					
Reducing vehicle emissions.					
Increasing accessibility and frequency of bus services.					
Increasing accessibility and frequency of rail services.					
Identifying opportunities for more dedicated walking and/or cycling facilities.					
Improving the connections between different modes of transport e.g. better connection of walking and cycling to buses and to rail.					
Better connections between rural areas and town centres.					

Increased opportunities for safe routes to schools.

Improving the quality/condition of the roads.

Reducing road congestion.

Increasing safety when travelling by all forms of transport.

21. How much do you agree or disagree with the focus on promoting opportunities for walking, cycling and access to public transport?

- I strongly agree
- I agree
- I'm not sure
- I disagree
- I strongly disagree

22. How important is it to you that the Council seeks to deliver a net-zero carbon transport system by 2038?

- Very important
- Somewhat important
- Neither important nor not important
- Not Important at all

Section 6: Supporting climate change, green energy and the protection of the natural and historic environment

One of the reasons for updating the current Local Plan is to strive for more ambitious policies focussing on climate change. This would support the council in its commitment to reducing carbon emissions such that residents have a good quality of life and wildlife can thrive. Future policies on tackling climate change could require developments to be carbon neutral, comply with energy efficient standards and contribute to mitigating and adapting to climate change.

The council's Climate Change Action Plan identifies actions across a range of topic areas including buildings and transport that potentially could inform new local plan policies.

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

- Protection from flood risk/managing flood risk.
- Energy efficiency in new buildings both residential and non-residential.
- Sustainable building materials and design
- More green spaces and tree planting
- Renewable energy generation
- Energy storage infrastructure
- Specific policies to support Huddersfield District Heat Network
- Sustainable transport
- Safeguarding agricultural land for food production
- Other {Q23.a}

- please specify

Kirklees Council aims to be carbon neutral by 2038. To achieve this, we need to use less non-renewable energy and generate much more renewable energy than we do at present. One way of meeting our targets is to consider wind turbines in those parts of the district where they'll be most efficient and effective.

24. How do you feel about the potential of more wind turbines being used in the district?

- I feel very happy about this
- I feel okay
- I don't know
- I'm not happy about this
- I feel very unhappy

25. Please tell us about why you feel this way

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

- 5 - very important
- 4
- 3
- 2
- 1 - not important at all

Section 7: About you

We want to make sure as many people as possible have a chance to give us feedback. We are collecting some monitoring information. This helps us to find out if there are any people or groups we are not hearing from. We can then work to find more ways to reach out to them.

As per our Privacy Notice, the information you provide will be kept confidential. It will only be used by our departments and services within the Council. If you don't want to answer a question, you can skip it or choose "Prefer not to say".

27. How old are you...
- Under 18
 - 18-25
 - 26-35
 - 36-45
 - 46-55
 - 56-65
 - Over 65
 - Prefer not to say

28. Are you...
- Non Binary/Intersex/Gender Fluid/Agender
 - Female
 - Male
 - Not specified
 - Prefer not to say

29. Is your gender the same as the sex you were registered at birth?
- Yes
 - No
 - Other
 - Prefer not to say

30. What is your sexuality?
- Asexual
 - Bisexual
 - Heterosexual
 - Homosexual
 - Other
 - Prefer not to say

31. What is your ethnic group?

- Asian or Asian British Includes any Asian background, for example, Bangladeshi, Chinese, Indian, Pakistani
- Black, African, Black British or Caribbean Includes any Black background
- Mixed or multiple ethnic groups Includes any mixed background
- White British
- White Other
- Another ethnic group Includes any other ethnic background, for example, Arab
- Prefer not to say

32. What is your religion?

- Buddhist
- Christian (including Church of England, Catholic, Protestant and all other Christian denominations)
- Hindu
- Jewish
- Muslim
- Sikh
- No religion
- Any other religion
- Prefer not to say

33. Would you describe yourself as disabled?

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

34. Do you have any physical or mental health conditions or illness lasting or expected to last 12 months or more?

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

35. Finally, would you like to be contacted regarding future Local Plan consultations?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	No

36. Please provide your e-mail - this will only be used for registering your interest in future Local Plan consultations.

Thank you for completing this survey.

Our preference would be for you to submit your comments via the following link:

<https://online1.snapsurveys.com/localplan> if you are unable to do this, please email your response to local.development@kirklees.gov.uk or contact us for help in completing the survey.