Stevenage Borough Council

Notice of Intention to Prepare a New Local Plan

Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004

Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026

Under the new planning system:

https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2026/186/contents/made

We are required to publish a notice of intention to commence Local Plan preparation. This is to provide communities and other stakeholders with advance notice of plan-making so they understand when and how they can get involved in preparing the new Local Plan.

Stevenage Borough Council hereby gives notice of its intention to prepare a new Local Plan for the Borough of Stevenage.

Date of publication: 26 November 2026

In accordance with Regulation 19 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026, Stevenage Borough Council gives notice that it is preparing a new Local Plan that will cover the administrative area of Stevenage.

The plan shall be referred to as the Stevenage Borough Local Plan.

Stevenage Borough Local Plan

The new Local Plan will provide the statutory planning framework to guide future growth, regeneration, environmental protection and infrastructure delivery across Stevenage. It will set out a long-term vision and planning strategy for the Borough and will ultimately replace the adopted Stevenage Local Plan (2011–2031).

The preparation of the new Local Plan follows the introduction of the new plan-making system under the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026, which require local planning authorities to prepare and adopt plans within a defined timetable.

Why are we preparing a new Local Plan?

Stevenage has experienced significant change since the adoption of its current Local Plan. The new Local Plan will help ensure that planning policies remain up to date and are able to respond to:

- Future housing needs.
- Employment and economic growth.
- Infrastructure requirements.
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- Sustainable transport and active travel.
- Town centre regeneration.
- Health and wellbeing.
- Biodiversity and environmental enhancement.
- Design quality and placemaking.

The Council wants the new Local Plan to reflect the needs and aspirations of residents, businesses, community groups and stakeholders.

Area Covered by the Plan

The new Local Plan will cover the whole administrative area of Stevenage Borough Council (please see the map at the bottom of this notice).

Timetable

The Council has prepared a Local Plan timetable setting out the key stages in preparing the Plan, including:

- Evidence gathering and technical studies.
- Public consultation on the content and evidence supporting the Plan.
- Consultation on the Proposed Local Plan.
- Independent Examination.
- Adoption.

You can view the new Local Plan Timetable at the following link: (LINK TO TIMETABLE)

We expect to start the 30-month plan preparation process on **31 March 2027**.

The timetable will be published on the Council's website and updated as necessary throughout the plan-making process. Similar timetable arrangements are required under the new plan-making regulations and have been adopted by neighbouring authorities preparing new plans.

Sustainability Appraisal

The Council will undertake a Sustainability Appraisal incorporating the requirements of Strategic Environmental Assessment throughout the preparation of the Local Plan. This process will assess the environmental, social and economic effects of the Plan and any reasonable alternatives. Such assessment is a key component of the new plan-making process.

Community Engagement

The Council is committed to engaging local communities and stakeholders throughout the preparation of the Local Plan.

Opportunities to participate will include:

- Online consultations.
- Public exhibitions and drop-in events.
- Workshops and stakeholder meetings.
- Engagement with residents' associations, businesses and community organisations.
- Targeted engagement with young people and seldom-heard groups.

A Community Engagement Strategy will explain how people can become involved and how their views will be considered in preparing the Plan.

How to Keep Up to Date

Information about the preparation of the Local Plan, consultation events and supporting evidence will be available on the Council's website.

Residents and stakeholders are encouraged to:

- Register for Local Plan updates.
- Participate in consultation events.

- Submit comments during consultation periods.
- Follow the Council's communication channels for updates.

Further Information

You can view the Notice at our Council Offices, Daneshill House, Danestrete, Stevenage, Hertfordshire SG1 1HN during office hours (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm).

For further information regarding the preparation of the new Local Plan, please contact:

Planning Policy Team
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Daneshill House
Danestrete
Stevenage
SG1 1HN

Email: planning.policySBC@stevenage.gov.uk

Website: www.stevenage.gov.uk



Stevenage BOROUGH COUNCIL

Map of Stevenage Borough Council

June 2026

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