



## Frequently Asked Questions

September 2018

### **1. What is the Local Plan?**

The Local Plan is an important document which sets out where and how new development will be built in the period up to 2033. It is a requirement that every local authority has a local plan; failing to adopt one could lead the Government to intervene and do the job for us.

The Local Plan identifies where new housing, employment and retail development will be located and which important green spaces will be protected. It includes policies on:

- design and place making
- affordable housing
- economic and retail development
- Mansfield Town Centre
- open space, playing pitches, parks and allotments
- biodiversity and wildlife
- community facilities
- local infrastructure
- roads and public transport
- renewable energy and flooding

Once the Local Plan is adopted by the council planning applications will be assessed against the policies it contains.

### **2. What is the Publication Draft?**

The Publication Draft is the current version of the Local Plan. It has been prepared following a number of previous stages of public consultation and is based on a wide range of technical evidence. This version of the Local Plan is available for six weeks to allow people to make formal comments on it. This will likely be the last chance people have to make comments on the entire Local Plan.

### **3. Where can I see the documents?**

The document can be seen online at  
<http://www.mansfield.gov.uk/localplanpublication>

Copies can also be found in local libraries, Warsop Town Hall and the Civic Centre.

## **4. What type of comments can I make?**

Formal comments can be made on any part of the Local Plan but must address whether it is: legal, sound and meets the Duty to Cooperate. These are what the Local Plan will be tested against.

A plan is legal when the various legal requirements which set out how a Local Plan should be prepared have been met. This generally relates to the process by which the plan has been prepared; this would include meeting consultation requirements and preparing certain supporting documents.

A plan is sound when its content is:

- positively prepared – meets as much of the development needed as it is reasonable to do so;
- justified – the most reasonable strategy when considering the alternatives and the evidence
- effective – likely to be deliverable on the ground
- consistent with national policy – delivers sustainable development in the way set out by national government.

A plan has met the duty to cooperate when there have been ongoing and meaningful discussions with neighbouring councils and other relevant organisations (such as Nottinghamshire County Council).

## **5. How can I make comments?**

Comments can be made online <http://mansfield-consult.objective.co.uk/portal/>

Paper copies of the form will be provided on request.

All comments must be received at the Civic Centre by Thursday 1 November 2018.

## **6. What happens after comments have been made?**

After 1 November 2018 all the comments will be reviewed to see if modifications to the Local Plan should be made. A list of these modifications, all the comments made and all the supporting evidence will be sent to the Government.

An independent planning inspector will then examine the Local Plan to establish whether it is legal, sound and meets the duty to cooperate. The examination process includes public hearing sessions where people who made formal comments may be invited by the inspector to speak.

The inspector will then make recommendations as to whether there is a need to modify the Local Plan. This could include the need to hold additional public consultation on the proposed modifications; this consultation would be restricted just

to the proposed modifications and not to other matters. The inspector will then prepare a report confirming whether the Local Plan can be formally adopted or not.

## **7. Where can I find out more information?**

Further details can be found online or from contacting the Planning Policy team.

Website	<a href="http://www.mansfield.gov.uk/localplanpublication">http://www.mansfield.gov.uk/localplanpublication</a> <a href="http://mansfield-consult.objective.co.uk/portal/">http://mansfield-consult.objective.co.uk/portal/</a> <a href="https://portal.mansfield.gov.uk/portal/">https://portal.mansfield.gov.uk/portal/</a>
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