Local Plan 2030
Planning for the future

What is the Local Plan 2030?

The Local Plan 2030 sets out how much growth and development there will be in Bedford borough until 2030 in order to meet local needs. It plans for the additional houses and facilities required to support new communities and provide jobs and services such as schools, transport and shops.

The local plan was first published for consultation in January 2018. In response to the comments that were made, the plan has been amended and your views are once again invited. This second public consultation period will end on 30th October 2018 at 5pm.

Please Note
If you sent a representation during the January to March 2018 consultation your comments are still valid; you don’t need to resubmit them. However you can add to those comments or make a new submission on another part of the plan if you would like to. If you haven’t commented on the local plan before, please take this opportunity to get involved. We welcome representations on any part of the draft plan 2030.
What has changed?

The main change is the removal of the Colworth Garden Village allocation because the promoters of the scheme haven’t been able to show how noise from nearby Santa Pod Raceway can be dealt with and key questions about the proposed new railway station remain unanswered. Parts of the plan that are affected by the removal of the garden village allocation have also been updated.

Other changes include:

- altering the end date of the plan from 2035 to 2030
- adding growth in Sharnbrook, one of the borough’s Key Service Centres, which had previously not been justified because of the close proximity of the garden village proposal
- adding growth in Willington because earlier concerns about school capacity have been resolved
- making a small number of other amendments so that comments on them can be invited and considered before moving on to the next stage in the plan’s preparation.

At this stage we have not corrected all of the factual errors or inaccuracies that have been brought to our attention. A list of these will be put together once the second consultation has finished and where appropriate they will be taken into account at the next stage of the plan’s preparation and before the plan is finalised.

The local plan proposes growth in the following locations. In some cases, our estimates show that because larger and more complex (usually brownfield) sites will start later, they will carry on delivering housing after 2030.
The local plan also includes policies that will help the Council respond to planning applications. They will help to –

- ensure that new development respects local distinctiveness and delivers good quality places to live
- protect the natural and historic environment, protect resources and address the effects of climate change
- ensure the provision of affordable and other types of housing to meet specific needs
- guide future employment and shopping proposals
- ensure that sufficient infrastructure is in place.

How do I find out more?

The draft plan, together with supporting documents and information about the grounds on which you should make representations, is available to view at local libraries, the Customer Service Centre in Horne Lane, Bedford and online at:

[www.bedford.gov.uk/localplan2030](http://www.bedford.gov.uk/localplan2030)

How do I comment?

Your comments on the plan are invited. This is an important stage for the local plan as the Government’s Planning Inspectorate will be conducting an Examination of the plan’s soundness and your responses will be considered by the appointed Inspector. Please remember that if you made a response to the draft local plan consultation between January and March 2018 it will be carried forward; there is no need to resubmit your comments.

Your comments on the amended plan can be returned by:
- completing the online response form (available on the website)
- emailing a WORD version of the response form (available on the website) to: planningforthefuture@bedford.gov.uk
- completing a paper version of the response form and posting it (with a stamp) to: Local Plan 2030, Planning Policy Team, Bedford Borough Council, Borough Hall, Bedford MK42 9AP

All responses should be made on the official form where possible and returned by 5pm on 30 October 2018.