

Scoping Consultation Contents

October 2026



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About this document

This document has been produced for the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan Scoping Consultation which will take place between 12 October and 3 December 2026. It sets out the proposed consultation contents to allow for a downloadable version of the material in the consultation.

Aligned to Government plans to digitise the planning system, this consultation will be primarily run on a digital platform at the [Central Lincolnshire Planning Hub](#). This document is available for download and will be printed with hard copies available at the main district council receptions to ensure access for all.

This consultation, known as the 'Scoping Consultation', is intended by Government to obtain views on the potential scope of the Local Plan and to inform decisions on the process to be followed.

Maps are included within this document to provide context, however, more detailed maps and an [interactive map](#) is available during the consultation to assist with responding.

The consultation is broken up into ten sections with questions in a survey for each section. In this document, all questions are included in the related section.

Whilst respondents are encouraged to submit their responses through the online surveys, alongside this document, an editable version of the entire survey will be provided for download and use offline.

Each survey will start with some basic questions about the respondent for internal monitoring of the breadth and coverage of the consultation and to allow follow up on any points that may be needed. In the online survey some questions will only appear if other questions are answered in a specific way, to shorten the survey wherever possible. Questions marked with an asterisk are a required response. These questions are as follows:

About You
Your name*
Who is this response being submitted for?*
☐ A personal response
☐ On behalf of an organisation
☐ By an agent for a client/client organisation
Your organisation
Please provide the name of your organisation if applicable
If you are submitting on behalf of a client or client organisation please provide their name
What is your email address*
@
Your postcode*
Please provide your postcode or, if the response is on behalf of an organisation, the organisation's post code

The following questions are included for internal analysis only, to help ensure all parts of our communities have been reached in the consultation. You do not have to answer these questions, and we understand that some of this information is personal and sensitive in nature.

The information gathered will not be linked back to you as an individual, therefore please be assured that the information you provide will be kept completely confidential and held in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018.

You can [view the privacy policy here](#).

What is your gender?

What is your age?

The Equality Act 2010 defines a disability as having a physical or mental impairment that has a 'substantial' and 'long-term' negative effect on your ability to do normal daily activities. Based on this, do you consider yourself to have a disability?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Prefer not to say

Which of these best describes your ethnic group?

- ☐ White
- ☐ Mixed or multiple ethnic groups
- ☐ Asian or Asian British
- ☐ Black, Black British, Caribbean or African
- ☐ Prefer not to answer
- ☐ Other (please specify)

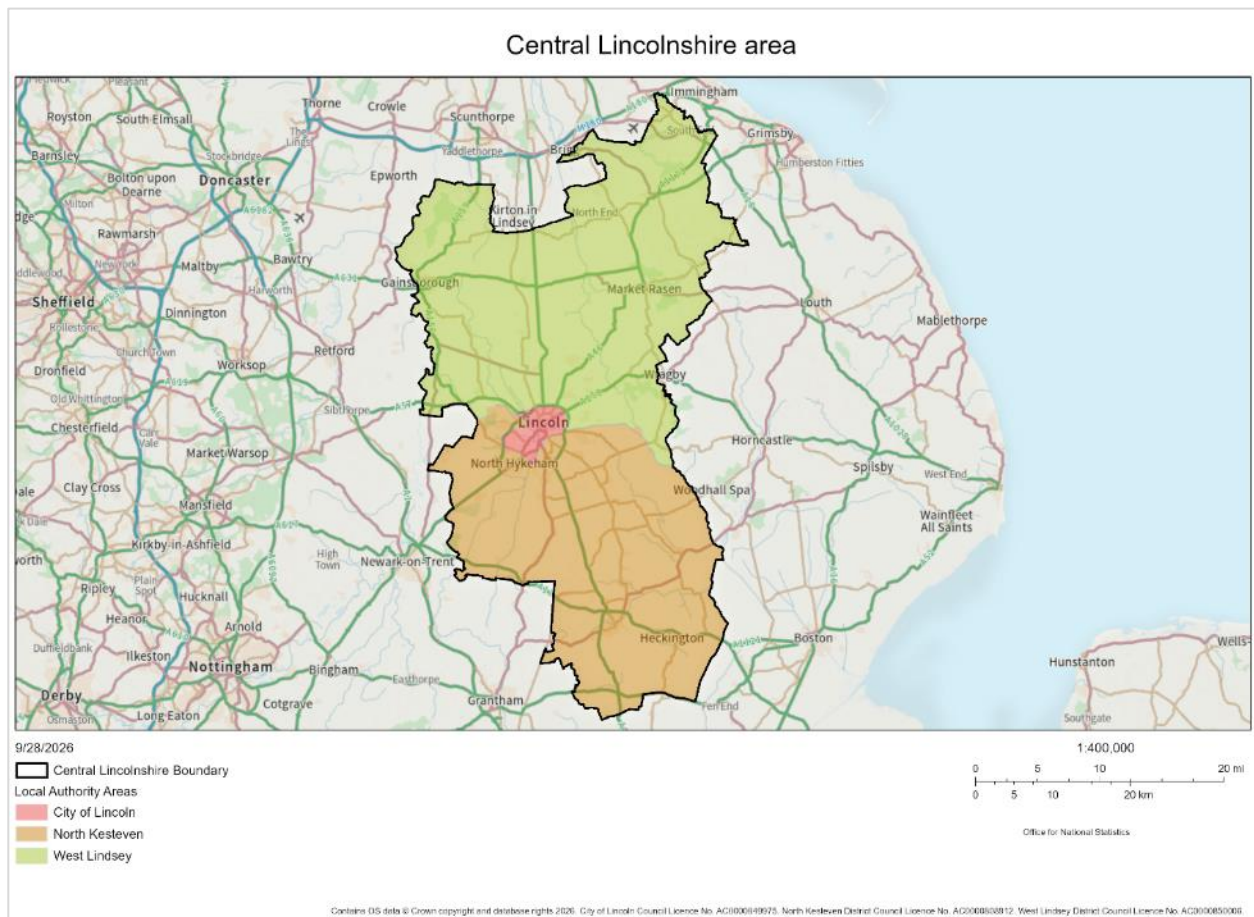
Section 1: Plan-making and process

Topic: Introduction to local plans

Introduction

The Central Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee is commencing a review of the Local Plan for the area covering City of Lincoln, North Kesteven and West Lindsey. This plan will, once adopted, replace the current, 2023 Central Lincolnshire Local Plan.

The Central Lincolnshire area is shown on the map below with the current individual district boundaries.



What is a local plan?

A local plan explains how an area should grow and change in the future. It sets out what the needs for housing and employment are and how these needs will be met. It also identifies how important social and environmental issues will be dealt with.

A local plan sets out how much development is needed and where new development should go – directing development to the most suitable and sustainable places. It also protects and enhances the built and natural environment and supports regeneration and economic growth.

The local plan is used to make decisions on planning applications that are submitted in the area, and to identify and allocate sites that will help meet the growth needs of Central Lincolnshire.

Local plans, along with other policies in neighbourhood plans and the County's Minerals and Waste Plan, form what is known as the development plan – this development plan is the basis for decisions on planning applications and every application is considered against relevant policies to assess whether they adhere to them or not.

The Government is also adding a new level of decision-making policies in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) covering a variety of issues that are common across the whole country. The intention of these new policies is that local plans will no longer need to include policies on these topics.

The preparation of a plan gives local people a chance to get involved. It lets them influence what their communities will look like and what considerations will be applied to new development that comes forward through planning applications.

Why do we need a local plan?

All local planning authorities are required to have an up-to-date local plan and keep it up to date by reviewing it every five years.

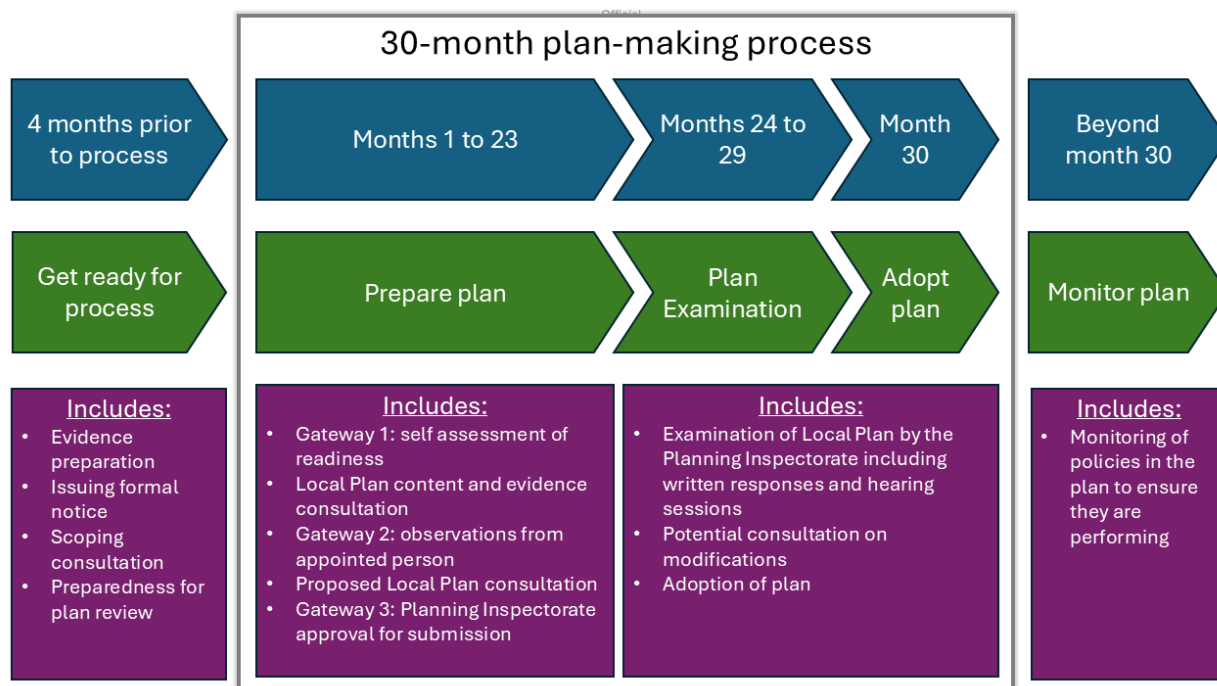
Having an up-to-date local plan means that the framework for growth and development in the area remains responsive to needs and ensures that a sustainable pattern of growth continues to be achieved. It can also help boost investment in the area by identifying and reacting to opportunities and providing certainty over what development will be acceptable and where.

Not having an up-to-date local plan can result in a number of negative impacts – perhaps most importantly is not maintaining an adequate supply of land for housing. If this happens, unplanned growth can occur through speculative applications and appeals, potentially in unsustainable locations without the necessary supporting infrastructure.

The Government requires that all areas contribute to the national target to deliver 300,000 homes per year and sets individual requirements for each authority to meet their share. Maintaining an up-to-date local plan means that the area and people within it are in the best possible position to manage how the area will grow.

What is the process?

The Government has introduced a new process for plan-making, set around a 30-month timetable. This process is detailed in the graphic below which sets out the following stages:



Prior to the 30-month timetable starting, at least 4 months formal notice must be given where Local Authorities are expected to prepare for the process through evidence gathering, to undertake an initial scoping consultation and generally to prepare for the plan review.

When the formal 30-month timetable commences, months 1 to 23 include a number of activities, many of which have to take place in a specific order. These include:

- Gateway 1 which is a self-assessment of readiness for plan making.
- A public consultation on the proposed Local Plan contents and evidence.
- Gateway 2 which is where someone appointed by the Secretary of State provides observations on the plan.
- A public consultation on the Local Plan that is proposed to be submitted for examination.
- Gateway 3 which is where the Planning Inspectorate provides a view as to whether the Local Plan is ready for submission or whether additional work is needed.
- Months 24 to 29 of the 30-month process are when the plan is submitted by the Local Authority and is examined by the Planning Inspectorate. This examination in public typically includes opportunity to submit written comments and a number of hearing sessions. There are normally a number of modifications proposed in a plan from an examination and, if there are, these will form part of an additional public consultation.
- Month 30 of the process is where the plan is adopted.

Once the plan is adopted the Local Planning Authority must monitor the policies in the plan to ensure they are functioning effectively. This monitoring may also be used to identify when the next review of a plan will be needed.

What does this process look like for the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan review?

Local Planning Authorities must keep an up-to-date local plan timetable. This timetable should be reviewed periodically to ensure that the process is running smoothly and should be updated where needed to give an accurate picture of what will happen and when.

The latest Local Plan Review timetable has been published and is available at <https://www.central-lincs.org.uk/local-plan-review>.

The timetable is replicated in the graphic below which sets out the key stages of the process and when they are expected to occur.



In October-December 2026 the Central Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee issued the formal notice of commencement of plan review giving at least four months notice, as required. This also triggered the first public consultation, known as the 'Scoping Consultation' which is this consultation.

In March 2027 it is expected that the Committee will complete Gateway 1 which is a self-assessment of readiness for the plan-making process and formally kicks off the 30-month timetable.

Following additional work on the evidence and the plan itself, it is expected that there will be the next formal stage of public consultation in September to November 2027. This consultation will primarily seek views on the plan contents and evidence behind the plan.

In January 2028 it is expected that the plan will go through Gateway 2 where an external assessor, appointed by the Secretary of State will provide observations on the plan and the process to ensure it is progressing well.

The proposed plan will then be prepared and will be subject to a public consultation, expected to take place between June and August 2028. This is the version of the Local Plan that is intended to be submitted for examination.

Before the plan is submitted for examination, it must be checked by the Planning Inspectorate to ensure it is ready to be examined. This Gateway 3 stage is expected to take place in October and November 2028.

The examination of the plan by the Planning Inspectorate is expected to take approximately 6 months between January and July 2029.

Assuming the plan is successful at examination, it will be adopted as the new Local Plan for the Central Lincolnshire area. This is expected to happen in September 2029.

Work does not stop once the plan is adopted. At this point monitoring of the plan must take place to ensure policies are working well and that allocations made in the plan are coming forward as expected. This monitoring is important to ensure that the plan is effective and may also identify when a plan review needs to commence.

Throughout the process there will be a total of three formal stages of public consultation (including this one) before the plan is submitted for examination, providing plenty of opportunity to engage. There will likely also be additional consultation to deal with specific matters throughout the process. See Engagement section below for more details of how this will be managed.

How does Local Government Reorganisation fit in?

The Government's publication, *Rewiring the State*, sets out an ambition to shift power, funding and accountability away from the national Government and towards local leaders, so that decisions about growth, public services and communities can be taken closer to the places they affect. This reflects a wider move towards stronger place-based leadership, more integrated public services and clearer democratic accountability.

These reforms include what is known as Local Government Reorganisation, where the current two tier local government in our area (District Councils and the County Council each having specific roles in local government) would move to becoming single tier authorities covering an area, where all local government functions will be undertaken by the Unitary Authority for the area.

In July 2026 Government announced that for Lincolnshire, there would be four authorities, with two new authorities (proposed to be known as Lincoln and Lincolnshire) being responsible for parts of Central Lincolnshire.

However, in an announcement on 7 September 2026, the Minister for Local Government, Devolution and Regional Growth confirmed that the Government is undertaking a review of the Local Government Reorganisation programme.

This means that the decision taken in July regarding Local Government Reorganisation in Lincolnshire will be reviewed and councils have been asked to cease work on implementing the decision.

The review of Local Government Reorganisation decisions does not change the need to keep the Local Plan up to date or to continue preparing a sound planning framework for Central Lincolnshire.

For plan-making, the important point is that the review of the Local Plan should continue. An up-to-date Local Plan provides certainty for communities, infrastructure providers, landowners, developers and investors. It also helps ensure that decisions about new homes, jobs, infrastructure and environmental protection continue to be guided by an up-to-date planning framework while wider governance arrangements are being reviewed.

In Central Lincolnshire, this means continuing the review of the Local Plan for the area covered by the City of Lincoln, North Kesteven and West Lindsey, through the established Central Lincolnshire plan-making arrangements. The Local Plan review can continue to provide a clear basis for future decisions before any changes to local government structures are re-considered, confirmed or implemented.

Topic: Evidence

Local plans must be supported by a large amount of robust evidence to justify the approach taken to policies and allocations in the plan. This process has been ongoing with many pieces of evidence in the pipeline.

One important component of the scoping consultation is to check on the proposed evidence base and see if there are any suggestions for other areas where evidence will likely be needed. Below is a list of evidence that has been or is being developed:

- Housing Needs Assessment
- Economic Needs Assessment
- Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (HELAA) and subsequent site allocations evidence
- Strategic Environmental Assessment
- Habitats Regulations Assessment
- Strategic Flood Risk Assessment
- Infrastructure Delivery Plan
- Green Infrastructure Strategy
- Playing Pitch Strategy
- Built Sports Facilities Strategy
- Whole Plan Viability Assessment
- Water Cycle Study
- Spatial Strategy evidence
- Climate Change evidence
- Settlement Hierarchy evidence

Question/s:

- Is there any additional evidence that you believe should be compiled to support the plan?
☐Yes ☐No ☐Don't know (tick one only)
- If yes, please provide details of what this evidence is and why you think it is needed.

Topic: Digital Local Plans

The Government is moving towards a fully digital planning system and plan-making process with a drive for innovation and efficiencies and to make the process more accessible. This means moving away from both hard copy documents and reliance on PDF documents for the evidence and the plan itself.

Whilst this goal is supported in principle, and work is ongoing to ensure that processes are digital-first, it is recognised that not everyone has access to, or the same capabilities, when it comes to technology. To ensure that the plan and evidence is readily available and accessible, it is intended to take the following approach to local plan documents:

The Local Plan:

- We will create a digital and interactive local plan where policies can be read alongside a map showing areas of relevance for what you are reading. This will be available at all stages of consultation where a plan is provided for comments and once the plan is adopted.
- We will also look to make PDF copies of the plan and the policies map available to download at each stage of consultation. This will be the secondary option for viewing the plan and so formatting may be kept simple when compared to former local plans. This will be available at all stages of consultation where a plan is provided for comments and once the plan is adopted.
- We will make hard copies of key documents available at the receptions of the local planning authorities within Central Lincolnshire available for viewing at consultation stages, and once the plan is adopted. Requests for personal hard copies will be

considered at consultation stages and, once adopted, copies of the plan will be available for purchase on an at-cost basis.

Evidence:

- Most evidence tends to be lengthy and complex as is needed to ensure it is suitably robust. These will continue to be provided as a PDF due to the nature of the documents.
- We will make executive summaries available in digital and, where possible, interactive versions complete with key data to ensure that evidence is more accessible to the public.

Question/s:

- Do you agree with the proposed approach for digital local plans and evidence?
☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't know (tick one only)
- If no, please provide details of why and what you suggest we should adjust.

Topic: Engagement

Engaging with the public, landowners, developers, community groups, elected bodies and others with an interest in local planning in the area is a key component of reviewing a local plan. It is important that this is effective so that people get ample opportunity to comment on the matters that will affect the area.

As well as this stage of consultation, there will be two additional formal stages of public consultation on the plan, its contents and the evidence behind it. These stages are as follows:

- **Scoping Consultation** (the current stage) – which provides an opportunity for communities and stakeholders to comment on both the approach to engagement and the matters that should be considered in the preparation of the Local Plan.
- **Consultation on Proposed Local Plan Content and Evidence** – a minimum six-week consultation on the emerging plan content, evidence base and draft vision for the future development of the area.
- **Consultation on the Proposed Local Plan** – a minimum eight-week consultation on the proposed Local Plan and supporting documents, allowing interested parties to comment on the Council's preferred approach before the Plan is submitted for examination.

In addition to public stages of consultation which will provide opportunity for everyone to comment and contribute there will also be additional engagements where landowners/developers, parish councils and other specific bodies or communities may be approached for comment on specific matters – the need for these will be shaped by the emerging contents of the plan.

Engagement will be designed to be accessible and inclusive, enabling a wide range of individuals and organisations to contribute to identifying issues, opportunities and priorities for the area. Efforts will be made to ensure that materials are clear for all, helping to ensure a transparent and meaningful plan-making process. Making sure that consultation material is accessible and effective for all necessary audiences (as shown in the diagram below) and for the eventual examination by the Planning Inspectorate can be challenging, given the different starting points that each group comes from. The proposed process will seek to ensure that all groups have fair opportunity to engage.



To help ensure that engagement on this plan review is successful and accessible for all, an engagement strategy is being developed for the plan review. At this stage views are being sought on the likely approach for engaging throughout the plan review. The proposed approach is as follows:

- **Digital-first** – as part of the drive by Government to make plan-making digital, all consultations will be focused around digital platforms. Every effort will be made to ensure that this is easy to use and navigate and to ensure that they are fit for purpose, recognising that each stage of consultation will need to be different due to the content and purpose. This does not mean that consultations will only be available online. Downloadable and hard copies of documents will be made reasonably available, and comments will be accepted outside of the online platforms being used. However, the strong preference is for online tools to be used by respondents wherever possible.
- **Communicating the consultations** – a substantial mailing list is maintained by the Local Plans Team to communicate about important stages of the plan review. This will form the starting point of consultations and people will be able to sign up to receive notifications throughout the process. Beyond this, publicity notices will be published for each consultation on Council websites and to be picked up by the local press. For the formal stages of consultation Councils and Parish Councils will be asked to help spread the word to communities through placing posters on local notice boards and any other means available.
- **Who will be involved** – at the formal stages of consultation, responses from anyone are welcomed and efforts will be made to ensure that documents are as accessible as possible for all. Focused engagements may have a focus on specific localities, communities, or groups or people, and decisions will be made as to the most appropriate means to engage in each case.
- **Engaging with statutory consultees and neighbouring authorities** – legislation requires that effective engagement is achieved with specific statutory consultees and neighbouring authorities on matters that may be of relevance to them. An ongoing dialogue throughout the process of the plan review is often the most effective means for achieving this. This will usually take the form of online engagement but may also include in person discussions where needed. Attempts will be made to reach agreement on any strategic and cross-boundary issues as needed and will look to sign organisations up to

one or multiple statements of common ground to identify the level of agreement or any areas of disagreement.

Question/s:

- Do you support the proposed approach for engaging on the Local Plan?
☐Yes ☐No ☐Don't know (tick one only)
- If no, please provide details of what you would change in order to be effective.

Section 2: Vision and priorities

Topic: Local plan baseline

To prepare the new Local Plan, a good understanding is needed of the area today and how it may change in the future. This helps identify the key issues, challenges and opportunities facing different communities across Central Lincolnshire and ensures that planning policies are based on robust evidence.

A [baseline report has been prepared](#) to provide information about the social, economic and environmental characteristics of Central Lincolnshire. The report includes information on:

- Population, health and wellbeing including information on demographics, general health, and levels of deprivation
- Housing, including housing delivery, types of homes, tenure and affordable homes
- Economy and employment, including qualifications, jobs, earnings and key industries
- Transport and connectivity, including travel patterns, car ownership and access to services
- Environment and climate, including biodiversity, landscape character, heritage assets, flood risk, greenhouse gas emissions and air quality.

The report is supported by an interactive map that allows users to navigate around Central Lincolnshire to view this data and compare different areas.

Question/s:

- Having reviewed the Baseline Report and interactive map, do you think they provide a good picture of Central Lincolnshire today?
☐Yes ☐No ☐Don't know (tick one only)
- Are there any important issues, trends or challenges facing Central Lincolnshire that you think are missing from the Baseline Report? (*please specify*)

Topic: Local plan priorities

Local plans should be based on a good knowledge of the key issues in an area with much of this information being set out in the Local Plan baseline section above. Once the issues are established, they can feed into what the plan will seek to deliver and generally prioritise.

The baseline data gathered and additional analysis has contributed to a SWOT analysis of Central Lincolnshire:

Strengths	Weaknesses
• Rich and significant historic environment in many settlements • Range of types and sizes of settlements provides good variety and choice • Mix of housing types, sizes and tenures available in many locations for varied needs • Housing more affordable than in many other locations	• Housing market and home values varied and weak in some locations impacting delivery • Ageing population impacting housing and services needed • Relatively small presence of national builders can narrow supply • Infrequency and limited network of public transport to other regions reduces connectivity

• Direct links to London and elsewhere via train • Urban areas and some nearby villages well connected to services and centres • Availability of relatively unconstrained land to allocate sites • Close working with regional and local builders enhances place-making in development • Strong employment available in agri-food, manufacturing, defence industry, health and care, and visitor economy sectors • Lincoln serves as a significant tourist destination as do the wider areas of Central Lincolnshire, drawing in visitors from across the country • Agriculture important to nation • Important area for defence industry linked to growth of RAF bases and high numbers of skilled working age veterans • Access to open spaces and countryside for many • Attractive and varied landscape, including the Lincolnshire Wolds National Landscape • Varied and high quality biodiversity value both on designated sites and elsewhere. • Good air quality with no Air Quality Management Areas. • University of Lincoln, Lincoln Bishop University, and Lincoln college provide strong further education presence in and near to Lincoln • High quality school options	• Challenging connectivity by road to major settlements in other areas • Rural areas often poorly connected to centres and services by public transport • Expanse of area results in substantial travel distances for many • Some urban areas with limited access to open spaces and countryside • Traffic and level crossings in some areas impacting quality of life • Availability of some housing (including types and tenures) in some locations not meeting market and other needs • Increased difficulty of delivering small scale affordable housing to support rural communities • Challenging to secure registered providers to deliver and manage affordable homes • Challenging to deliver supported housing • Lower productivity and wages than in other parts of the UK • Labour available for some roles not readily available in some areas, requiring travel to work from other areas • Infrastructure delivery hindered by rurality and viability • Utilities challenges resulting from historic lack of investment • Some areas of deprivation, particularly in Lincoln and Gainsborough, but also in some rural areas • Areas of subpar digital infrastructure
Opportunities	Threats
• Allocate a range of sites to deliver a variety of homes sustainably • Allocate employment sites to grow economy and locate them near to potential workforce • Identify innovative ways to find solutions on sites for energy, water management and more • Enhance public transport and active travel options for communities • Improve connectivity by public transport and car to wider areas,	• Increased flood risk through the changing climate • Increased temperatures and overheating from the changing climate • Retail pressures for city and town centres • Some over-reliance on limited sectors for economy • Increase in traffic impacting key junctions

improving services, range of destinations and frequency of services • Improve existing road network including on the A46, the A15 and through a new crossing in Gainsborough • Enhance health and wellbeing through place making and good design • Maximise opportunities presented by STEP and clean energy supercluster to west of Central Lincolnshire • Investment in MOD establishments and linked positive impacts on economy • Secure a sustainable future for the former RAF Scampton • Bring the former Bass Maltings site in Sleaford back into use • Drive investment in growing industries such as agritech, logistics, datacentres and defence industry • Improve urban areas through regeneration, renewal and densification if appropriate in some locations • Enable the city and town centres to maximise their success as destinations relative to their regional or local roles • Strengthen sustainability of existing services and deliver new services through development • Varied heritage identity helping to create valued places • Engage with utilities providers to secure investment • Deliver improvements to blue and green infrastructure and the natural environment, enhancing access to nature for all through nature-based solutions and to help address impact of the changing climate	• Clean energy supercluster may result in unknown impacts to housing, travel and more • Risk of continued habitat loss and fragmentation from development • Ability to mitigate growth of renewable energy developments having an impact on local character and food supply leading to concerns about 'urbanising' the countryside • Lack of investment in utilities infrastructure • Increased housing target and pressure on land for development • Changes to use of s106 in relation to funding housing for MOD • Loss of Best and Most Versatile agricultural land
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From this analysis, a series of draft priorities for the plan have been developed to guide what might be addressed in the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan. It is important to note that the plan may not be able to address all priorities, but it provides a basis to work from. The draft priorities are set out in the eight categories below:

1. Deliver the right homes in the right places

- Meet identified housing need in full, through allocations and policies in the plan.
- Allocate a diverse and balanced range of deliverable housing sites (type, size, tenure, location).

- Address gaps in housing provision (e.g. affordable, specialist, rural needs) and increase overall affordable housing provision across the area.
- Maximise development opportunities in and close to sustainable urban locations and centres (such as through residential dwellings above shops and densification where it is appropriate).
- Deliver well-designed homes where people want to live, are sustainable, and are fit for their needs.

2. Align delivery of jobs and growth in sustainable locations

- Allocate employment land in locations close to workforce and transport links.
- Support growth in key sectors including agri-tech, logistics, defence, advanced manufacturing, data infrastructure, and science and innovation.
- Create an environment for SMEs to succeed.
- Maximise opportunities arising from the clean energy supercluster, growth at RAF bases, and the RAF Scampton redevelopment.
- Provide the conditions to support Lincoln City Centre, Gainsborough and Sleaford and other town centres to thrive as destinations.
- Support innovation and knowledge-led economic growth.
- Promote tourism opportunities to enhance the draw to the area.

3. Improve connectivity and transport choices

- Support enhancement of public transport frequency and coverage, especially in rural areas.
- Deliver integrated active travel networks linking homes, jobs, and services.
- Address key congestion points, including level crossings, river crossings and constrained junctions.
- Promote sustainable and active travel behaviour in both new and existing communities.
- Seek to enhance public transport connectivity to the wider region.
- Seek to maximise opportunities to enhance EV charging infrastructure for all road users.

4. Regenerate and strengthen urban areas and centres

- Drive town centre regeneration to respond to retail challenges.
- Encourage mixed-use development and densification where appropriate.
- Improve access to green space in urban areas lacking provision.
- Enhance the vitality and attractiveness of Lincoln, our towns and villages.
- Encourage renewal and repurposing of vacant premises, including opportunities for heritage-led interventions.

5. Maximise environmental sustainability and climate resilience

- Avoid and mitigate flood risk.
- Address impacts relating to a changing climate, including overheating and ensure resilience in our communities.
- Plan for maintaining adequate water supply for communities, business and agriculture, including the provision of a new reservoir.
- Protect high-quality agricultural land while balancing development needs.
- Expand and enhance green infrastructure networks, access to nature, and ensure green infrastructure is a key feature in our urban areas and new developments.
- Promote low-carbon, energy efficient development.
- Promote clean energy generation in suitable locations.

6. Support sustainable rural communities

- Improve connectivity of rural settlements to services and employment.
- Strengthen the role of villages in accommodating proportionate growth including both housing and jobs.
- Support local services and facilities to maintain rural vitality, including delivery of small-scale affordable housing.
- Reduce the need for long-distance travel.

- Support farmers to thrive through modern and sustainable farming techniques and appropriate diversification.

7. Enhance strong place identity and quality of place in all areas

- Protect and enhance the historic environment in our settlements and the rural areas.
- Ensure developments are responsive to their context and contribute positively.
- Leverage the tourism draw of the area including its heritage offer.
- Safeguard and promote our quality landscape character.
- Ensure development contributes positively to our distinctive and attractive communities.
- Ensure design of schemes delivers communities that are safe and feel safe for all.
- Ensure existing and new communities promote good health and reduce health inequalities.
- Support social equality and foster community cohesion across the area.

8. Ensure infrastructure provides for growth

- Coordinate development with transport, utilities, and community infrastructure.
- Address impacts of increased traffic and pressure on services arising from new development.
- Deliver benefits for current and future communities from major growth.
- Plan for and inform strategic infrastructure and utilities investment early.
- Build stronger links between the education sector and local industry.
- Consider opportunities for development to contribute to utilities infrastructure and flood defences.

Question/s:

- Do you agree with the contents of the SWOT analysis?
☐Yes ☐No ☐Don't know (tick one only)
- If no, please provide details of what you would change and justification for this.

- Do you agree with the proposed priorities for the new local plan?

Priority	Yes	No	Don't know
1. Deliver the right homes in the right places			
2. Align delivery of jobs and growth in sustainable locations			
3. Improve connectivity and transport choices			
4. Regenerate and strengthen urban areas and centres			
5. Maximise environmental sustainability and climate resilience			
6. Support sustainable rural communities			
7. Enhance strong place identity and quality of place in all areas			
8. Ensure infrastructure provides for growth			

- If no, please provide details of what you would change and justification for this.

Topic: Vision

Changes in national Government Policy now place a requirement for a vision to be an important part of the local plan.

The purpose of a vision is to set out how an area should change over the period of the plan and it should:

- set out key aims and objectives for the area over the next 15 years or longer;

- be ambitious but also reflect what the local plan can realistically achieve through its policies; and
- be specific to our area, our challenges and our opportunities.

A vision sets the direction for change and identifies what our area will be like at the end of the plan period. It can provide a framework for the spatial strategy and policy development throughout the process of producing the plan.

The vision of the current Local Plan adopted in 2023 has the following vision:

Central Lincolnshire will be a location of positive growth. Its city, market towns and many of its villages will see new homes built, new jobs created and improved infrastructure developed. Our settlements, big and small, will be attractive, prosperous and welcoming places to live, set within our attractive landscape of Wolds, rolling hills and fenland.

Between 2018 and 2040, Central Lincolnshire will grow by 29,150 new homes, meeting the housing needs of all our communities.

But this growth will not be at a cost to the environment as new homes will be efficient and located in the right places to reduce travel by car, and renewable energy will be generated to heat and power our homes, moving Central Lincolnshire towards a carbon net-zero region.

Echoing the vision of the Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership, the economy of Central Lincolnshire will be diverse and resilient, and continue to make an effective contribution to the UK economy. The local economy will provide real opportunities for people to live, work, invest and visit.

Existing businesses will be encouraged to expand, whilst our agricultural land (much of it high quality) will be protected and associated businesses supported. New businesses in key industries such as agri-food, renewable technologies and the visitor economy will have located here.

Skills and education attainment will continue to improve, assisted by the growing reputation of Lincoln's universities and colleges, helping a shift towards a higher skilled, higher paid economic base.

Growth in homes and jobs will be closely linked, with new infrastructure such as schools, roads, health facilities and open space provision planned and provided at the same time as the new buildings.

Growth will be focused at Lincoln, Sleaford and Gainsborough. But market towns and villages will not be left behind, with appropriate and sensitive development being permitted to ensure they remain sustainable, thriving local communities.

The natural and historic environments, and their assets, will be conserved and enhanced, with new development taking into account the surroundings of the area in which it would be situated. Enhancement of the natural environment and the ecosystem services it provides will create mutual benefits for the nature, people and economy of Central Lincolnshire and help to achieve the vision of this Local Plan.

Echoing the vision set out in the Lincoln Growth Strategy, Lincoln will evolve into a beautifully engineered world class historic city becoming internationally renowned for its enterprise, heritage and educational excellence, whilst demonstrating that being a competitive city does not equal compromising on people values or culture.

Through growth, current issues such as health inequalities, community deprivation, infrastructure deficit and low skills, all of which are currently found in pockets of Lincoln,

Gainsborough and some rural areas, will be tackled and addressed. Growth will attract investment, businesses and new residents to the area.

Overall, Central Lincolnshire will be a prosperous and desirable place to live, work and visit.

The vision for the new local plan has yet to be developed – this process will use information from the evidence base and from feedback from this consultation. As it is for a Local Plan covering a large area over a 15-year period, it will have to be strategic in nature and therefore not covering too much detail. However, it should be locally specific, so it is important that it reflects our local area.

Question/s:

- Are there any elements of the current vision that you think should or should not be carried into the new plan vision and if so, why?
- What do you think are the key things or topics in our local area that should be included in the vision?
- Are there any locally specific elements that relate only to certain locations that are so important that should be specifically mentioned in the vision? Please provide reasons for your suggestions.
- Do you have any general comments you wish to make on the potential contents or approach of the Local Plan?

Section 3: Spatial Strategy

Topic: Approach for the spatial strategy

What is a spatial strategy?

The spatial strategy is the overarching blueprint for a plan that sets out where new homes, jobs, shops, infrastructure and roads should go and how land should be used over the plan period.

It is set at a high level which then feeds into the policies in the plan and directly informs where sites should be allocated, putting the priorities and the vision into action.

The spatial strategy also sets out the roles of settlements (known as a settlement hierarchy) and potentially attributes the amount of development that is expected to come forward in areas, as well as setting high level policies to guide or even prevent development in some areas where this is necessary.

Current spatial strategy

The spatial strategy in recent local plans in Central Lincolnshire has followed an approach of focusing development in and around Lincoln and also in the towns, with some development also being located at villages to help ensure there is a diverse supply and that rural communities can sustain their services.

The 2023 Central Lincolnshire Local Plan sought to achieve 64% of the growth in the area around Lincoln (known as the Lincoln Strategy Area which is based on travel to work patterns) to reflect the population of that area. The Lincoln Strategy Area can be seen below in blue within the wider Central Lincolnshire boundary in black:



It then sought to assign 12% of the overall growth envisaged to each of Gainsborough and Sleaford, with a remaining 12% earmarked for the remainder of Central Lincolnshire.

The spatial strategy has also seen inclusion of eight Sustainable Urban Extensions – four around Lincoln, two at Gainsborough and two at Sleaford – as a means to deliver growth over a long period, creating new communities with new infrastructure.

This spatial strategy has generally proven to be successful with delivery closely following the assigned percentages.

New local plan spatial strategy

When a local plan is reviewed the spatial strategy must be checked to see whether it is performing well and to consider whether any opportunities should be accounted for. The spatial strategy will be informed by the evidence being developed, but deliverable aspirations can also form part of it.

Whilst decisions are yet to be made on the spatial strategy (as the outputs of key pieces of evidence are awaited), this consultation offers a valuable opportunity to test with the public and the development industry what could be considered for it. There are many options for how a spatial strategy might look in the new local plan, including:

1. **Continue current spatial strategy approach** – focus for development at urban areas, with some development happening in village locations, prioritising those within the Lincoln Strategy Area.
2. **Deliver new settlements as part of the strategy** – as part of the wider strategy, identify a new settlement or settlements to help meet needs, whilst delivering new infrastructure to support the new community.
3. **Focus on carbon reduction** – selecting locations where the need to travel by car will be lowest to reduce carbon emissions from new development.
4. **Disperse more growth across a wider area** – identifying more sites in more smaller settlements so that the impacts of growth are more spread, but equally, smaller sites will have less potential to deliver new infrastructure.
5. **Co-locate housing and job growth in new areas** – focusing new jobs and homes in the same location so that to maximise potential to reduce travel to work.
6. **Focus growth on transport corridors** – utilising existing rail, road and active travel networks or new networks so that movement is prioritised reducing the need to travel by car or making it easier to do so, without unduly impacting on existing infrastructure.

There could also be many more options that could be considered and your views are being sought on what may be included in the spatial strategy.

Question/s:

- Are there any options in the list that you think should be pursued in the spatial strategy? (Select all that apply)

Option	Yes	No	Unsure
Continue current spatial strategy			
Deliver new settlements			
Focus on carbon reduction			
Disperse more growth across a wider area			
Co-locate housing and job growth			
Focus growth on transport corridors			

- Please provide any further justification for your selections above.

- Do you have a suggestion for an alternative approach in the spatial strategy options listed above, if so, please describe it?

- Are there any parts of Central Lincolnshire that you think requires a bespoke approach in the spatial strategy to take account of local circumstances? If so, please specify where this is and what approach you would recommend.

- Do you agree that market capacity and deliverability should be considered when creating the spatial strategy?
☐Yes ☐No ☐Don't know (tick one only)
- If a new settlement or settlements were to be included, is there a specific approach to choosing a location or deciding how big it should be that you would recommend?

Topic: Settlement hierarchy

Settlement Hierarchy

The settlement hierarchy is proposed to broadly follow the same approach as the current adopted plan with Lincoln Urban Area as the top tier, the Main Towns of Gainsborough and Sleaford as the second, the Market Towns of Market Rasen and Caistor as the third and then village hierarchy levels below this.

The village hierarchy levels are established by the number of homes in each one, using address data to form the baseline count of dwellings across Central Lincolnshire from the Local Land Property Gazetteer (LLPG). Baseline totals were taken from the data in September 2025. For further details regarding how the baseline was established please see [Settlement Hierarchy and Boundary Methodology Report](#).

The thresholds for the settlement hierarchy are proposed to stay the same as the current plan and are set out as follows:

Category	Settlement thresholds
Large village	750 dwellings or more
Medium village	250 – 749 dwellings
Small village	50 – 249 dwellings
Hamlet	15 – 49 dwellings
Countryside	Less than 15 dwellings

This review results in a small number of changes to the current settlement hierarchy which are set out below:

District	Settlement name	Dwelling Numbers	Current settlement hierarchy (2023)	Proposed settlement hierarchy
NKDC	Aunsby	47	Small Village	Hamlet
WLDC	Brattleby	50	Hamlet	Small Village
WLDC	East Ferry	48	Small Village	Hamlet
NKDC	Heckington Fen	14	Hamlet	Countryside
WLDC	Ingleby	12	Hamlet	Countryside
NKDC	Martin	268	Small Village	Medium Village
NKDC	Rowston	47	Small Village	Hamlet
NKDC	South Hykeham Village	52	Hamlet	Small Village

WLDC	Sudbrooke	816	Medium Village	Large Village
NKDC	Swarby	31	Small Village	Hamlet
WLDC	Waddingham	249	Medium Village	Small Village
NKDC	Walcott	254	Small Village	Medium Village

These increases are typically due to new development occurring which moves a settlement up in the hierarchy. However, there are some cases where a settlement moves down in the hierarchy. Reasons for this include where there has been a dwelling decrease (such as through demolition or through combining multiple homes into a single dwelling) or where, through scrutiny of the LLPG data, we have discovered that historic address points that no longer exist were previously included. More information can be found in the [Settlement Hierarchy and Boundary Methodology Report](#).

Question/s:

- Do you agree with the proposed approach set out in the methodology for the settlement hierarchy?
☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't know (tick one only)
- If no, please provide details
- Do you agree with the proposed changes to specific settlements in the hierarchy listed?
☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't know (tick one only)
- If no, please provide details

Topic: Settlement Boundaries

The current local plan uses the term 'developed footprint' which is defined in the Local Plan Glossary. However, due to recent changes within the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) it is considered preferable to draw settlement boundaries in Central Lincolnshire to provide clarity for both residents and developers. The revised NPPF sets out the principle of what development can happen in settlements and should be approved under national policies S3 and S4 – this is quite a permissive policy providing a generally positive position for proposals within settlements. The glossary of the NPPF specifically omits hamlets from being considered as a settlement for these purposes.

In order to establish new mapped boundaries for settlements, a clear methodology is needed to ensure it is applied consistently. The developed footprint definition from the local plan has largely formed part of the methodology for settlement boundaries with some changes also made to ensure that it will be consistent with the new national policy in the NPPF. This draft methodology is set out below:

Settlement boundaries will include the following:

- Most existing built development, including the curtilage of buildings where this closely relates to the character of the built form and has enclosing features.
- Brownfield land including the curtilage of employment uses which is within or adjacent to the built area of the settlement.
- Permanent Park Home sites which are within or adjacent to the built area of the settlement and are of a scale that is not dominating over the settlement. (See paragraph 2.16).
- Site allocations for residential development proposed in the emerging Local Plan¹.

¹ This will result in changes to the boundaries when allocations are finalised.

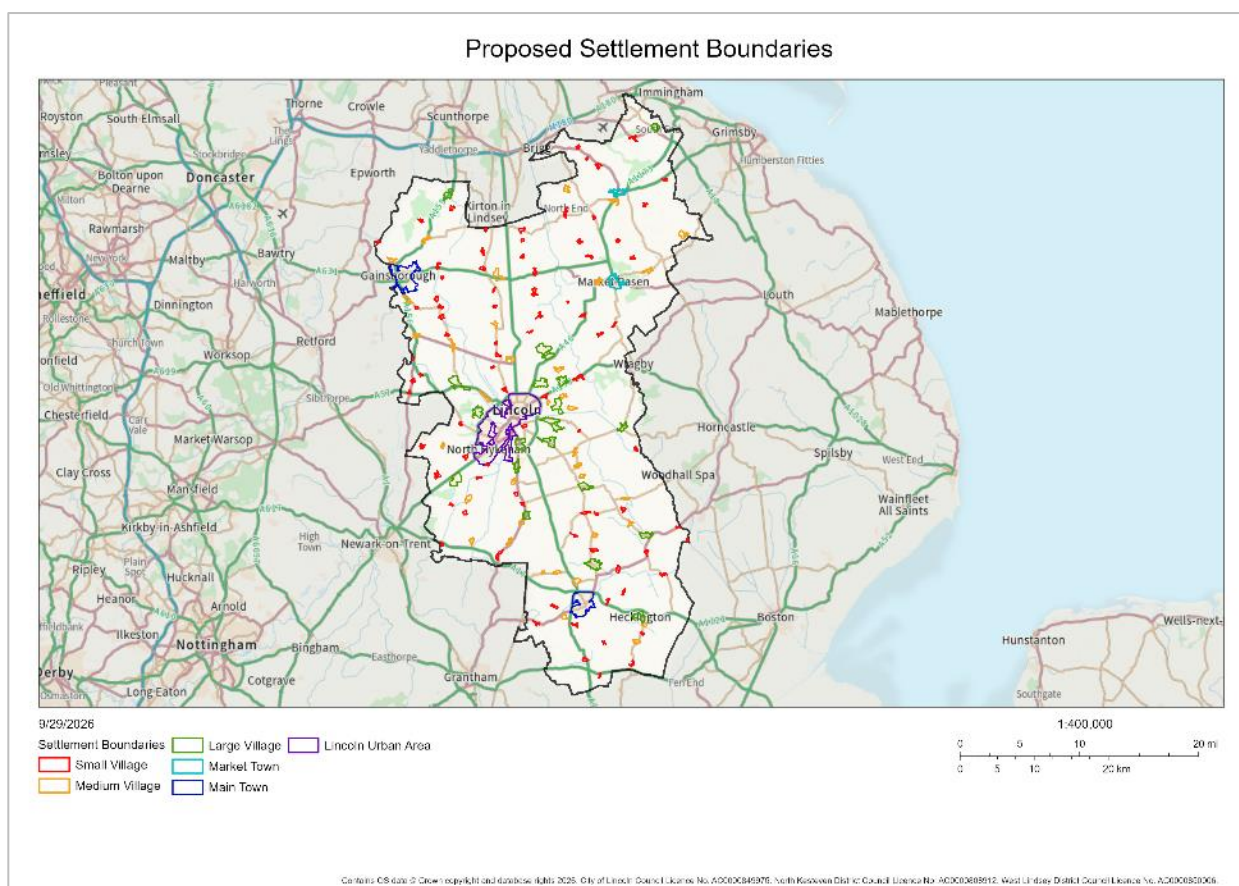
- e) At the time of defining settlement boundaries, unimplemented or part implemented planning permissions for residential development.
- f) Where a made neighbourhood plan includes a settlement boundary or curtilage these have been used unless new development or site allocations have superseded them.
- g) Agricultural buildings may be included only if they relate more closely through scale and character to the built area of the village than the countryside.

Settlement boundaries will exclude:

- a) individual buildings or groups of dispersed buildings which are clearly detached from the continuous built up area of the settlement;
- b) gardens, paddocks and other undeveloped land within the curtilage of buildings on the edge of the settlement where land relates more to the surrounding countryside than to the built up area of the settlement;
- c) agricultural, horticultural, forestry, equestrian buildings and associated land on the edge of the settlement where it does not closely relate to the settlement character; and
- d) outdoor sports and recreation facilities and other formal open spaces on the edge of the settlement.

Boundaries have been drawn for Small, Medium, Large Villages, Market Towns, Main Towns and Lincoln Urban Area only and they exclude Hamlets.

The proposed boundaries can be seen on the map below:



For further information about both the settlement hierarchy and settlement boundaries [click here to review the methodology report](#).

To view a detailed, interactive map of the proposed settlement boundaries, [please click here](#). Alternatively, more detailed maps are available as [PDF documents here](#)

Question/s:

- Do you agree with the proposed methodology for establishing settlement boundaries?
☐Yes ☐No ☐Don't know (tick one only)

- If no, please provide details.

- If you have any specific observation you wish to note on a proposed boundary, please provide details of the settlement and precise location below. The online consultation includes an [interactive map tool](#) to provide comments directly on the boundaries of settlements.

Section 4: Housing and site allocations

Topic: Housing requirement

Local plans must clearly set out what the housing needs of an area are and seek to meet that need. It must also consider whether any unmet need from neighbouring areas may be capable of being met in the plan.

Government sets out a standard method for calculating housing need, based on the baseline number of homes in the area and the affordability of homes against average income. This calculation is updated twice each year when statistical releases are published on dwelling numbers and housing affordability and, for Central Lincolnshire at the point of this consultation, was 1,575 dwellings per year. This standard method is the minimum need that local plans should seek to meet.

Beyond this, councils should consider whether any additional factors warrant higher levels of housing provision, such as the funding of specific infrastructure, increasing affordable housing need, or to helping meet growth ambitions.

Housing supply in Central Lincolnshire has been relatively consistent since the first local plan was adopted in 2017. Through allocated sites and policies that allow other sites to come forward in sustainable locations, a good supply has come forward from market developers and affordable housing providers, as well as people looking to build their own home.

A Housing Needs Assessment has been commissioned to investigate local housing need and the needs for specific types, sizes and tenures of housing as well as the need for specialist housing. An Economic Needs Assessment has also been commissioned to help understand the number of jobs coming forward for which housing will also be required. The interplay between these two documents will help to illustrate the impacts of delivering the minimum housing requirement as well as any implications for alternative levels of housing delivery.

The 2023 Central Lincolnshire Local Plan included a housing need set at the nationally derived minimum level, but then sought to allocate sites to deliver additional homes to help provide choice and to boost economic growth. This approach has worked well with the overall number of dwellings being delivered being above the minimum.

Whilst the outputs from the Housing Needs Assessment and Economic Needs Assessment are yet to be received, at this early stage it is proposed to follow a similar approach to the 2023 Local Plan, where the housing requirement is set at the minimum level set by the national standard method, but potentially allocating sites to deliver additional homes should growth ambitions indicate this is necessary.

Question/s:

- Do you agree with the proposed approach to the housing requirement?
☐Yes ☐No ☐Don't know (tick one only)
- If no, please provide details for your response.
- Are there any specific types, sizes, or tenure of housing that you think are needed? If so, please provide details.
- Are you aware of any unmet need from neighbouring areas that may need to be considered in the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan?

Topic: Site allocations methodology

With the Government seeking to significantly boost the supply of homes nationally and recognising the importance of a sufficient amount and variety of land coming forward in the locations where it is needed, the Local Plan must identify how it will deliver the amount of housing needed in the plan area over the plan period.

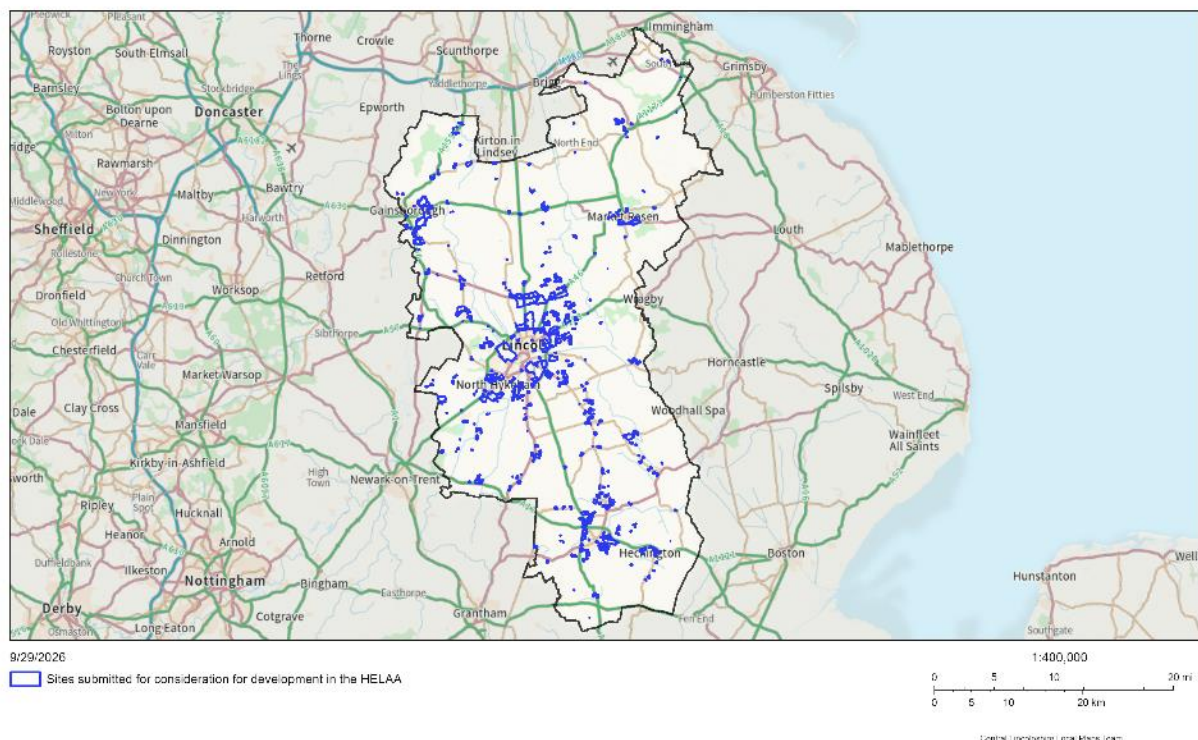
National guidance for site allocations states that 'plan-makers will need to assess a range of different site sizes from small-scale sites to opportunities for large-scale developments such as village and town extensions and new settlements where appropriate'. It also suggests that a threshold of sites capable of delivering 5 or more dwellings or economic development on sites of 0.25ha (or 500m² of floor space) may be appropriate.

A key driver for the new plan is the need for more homes. The current Local Plan requires at least 29,150 new homes to be delivered over the plan period (based on the previous standard method figure of 1,102 homes per year). Following changes to the national standard method introduced in December 2024, the annual housing need has increased to 1,575 homes per year as at summer 2026.

To meet the housing need, additional land for future development must be identified through the new local plan. This involves selecting suitable sites, setting out how much development each site could accommodate. It also requires the identification of any site-specific requirements needed to make development acceptable. These requirements might include road access, infrastructure improvements, or environmental and other constraints that would need to be addressed as part of a future planning application.

The process of identifying sites to meet future need commenced through a 'Call for Sites' exercise carried out between late 2025 and early 2026. These sites can be viewed in the Housing and Employment Land Availability Assessment (HELAA).

Sites submitted for consideration for development in the Call for Sites



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To view the sites in detail, please view the [Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment](#).

The HELAA includes an initial desktop assessment of the sites to identify any constraints. Each site has been assessed in terms of suitability, availability and achievability based on this desktop review.

The Local Plan will need to identify a robust and transparent approach to selecting sites for allocation. The site allocations methodology explains how potential sites will be assessed, compared and then prioritised, including consideration of suitability, availability, achievability, infrastructure requirements, environmental constraints, deliverability and consistency with the spatial strategy. Establishing a clear methodology at an early stage will help ensure that decisions on site allocations are evidence-led, consistent and capable of withstanding scrutiny through examination.

The approach for assessing sites is set out in detail in the [site assessment methodology document](#).

One part of the methodology relates to the theoretical calculation of capacity of sites being allocated. It proposes using assumptions to estimate site capacity across different location types. While every site will have its own constraints and opportunities, and the correct approach to delivering a site is through a design-led approach, applying standard density assumptions helps provide a realistic assessment of development potential through the plan-making process in advance of detailed schemes being worked up.

The assumptions follow a two-stage process – first looking at the amount of a site that can typically come forward for housing development based on its size (taking into account the amount of a site that will likely be needed for open space, roads and other on site infrastructure – in simple terms, the larger the site, the more land is needed for things other than housing). Second, looking at the location type (within an urban or suburban or village location) to assess the density of development that will typically take place that will be suited to the local character.

Testing of densities against real life applications was undertaken in support of the 2023 Local Plan, and this provided a robust basis for that plan. Additional testing has been undertaken to supplement it for this plan review. It found that density assumptions continue to generally work well, although suburban areas were slightly lower than the estimates used in the 2023 Local Plan and so have been revised down to reflect what is being achieved. The capacity assumptions are replicated from the methodology document below for ease of reference:

Stage 1: Developable Area of Sites:

Site Size	Percentage of the site developable
Less than 0.4 hectares	100%
0.4 – 2 hectares	85%
2 – 10 hectares	75%
10 hectares or larger	60%

Stage 2: Density assumptions:

Settlement Hierarchy Category	Density Assumption (dwellings per hectare)
Lincoln City Centre	90 dph
Town centres	50 dph
Suburbs of main urban areas ¹	30 dph
Large Villages	25 dph
Medium and Small Villages	20 dph

Applying the capacity assumptions:

Site size (hectares)	x	percentage of site assumed available (e.g. 85%)	x	density assumption (e.g. 30dph)	=	capacity of site
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Applying standard assumptions for land available for housing provides a consistent basis for assessing sites at an early stage, with the opportunity for refinement as more detailed information becomes available.

Question/s:

- Do you agree with the proposed assumptions used to calculate the developable area of potential allocation sites?
☐Yes ☐No ☐Don't know (tick one only)
- If no, please provide details and justification.
- Do you agree that the proposed housing density assumptions provide a realistic estimate of how many homes could be delivered on potential allocation sites?
☐Yes ☐No ☐Don't know (tick one only)
- If no, please provide details and justification.
- Do you have any comments on the overall approach set out in the site assessment methodology, including the criteria and stages that will be used to assess and select sites for allocation?

Topic: Existing Allocations

The adopted Central Lincolnshire Local Plan allocated sites for residential development across the settlement hierarchy. These policies include Strategic Urban Extensions (SUEs) and other residential allocations located within different tiers of the settlement hierarchy.

Sites allocated in the Local Plan were selected through a comprehensive site assessment and selection process. The allocated sites comprise a combination of sites with planning permission, new allocations, and a number of allocations carried forward from previous Local Plans.

Most allocated sites are making progress towards delivery, some are expected to come forward later in the plan period (and as such progress would not yet be expected) and some have made no or little progress to date without clear reasons as to why.

As part of the Local Plan review, previous allocations will be considered alongside other sites being put forward for consideration and, where progress has not been made and it is not clear if they will come forward in the plan period, may be proposed for removal as allocations in this plan.

Question/s:

- Do you agree with the proposed approach of de-allocating sites where they have not come forward as envisaged in the adopted 2023 Local Plan?
☐Yes ☐No ☐Don't know (tick one only)
- If no, please provide reasons.

- Are there any specific site allocations within the adopted Central Lincolnshire Local Plan that should be removed as part of the new Local Plan review? Please provide supporting evidence, including information on site suitability, availability, deliverability, or changing circumstances.

Topic: Adaptable/Accessible Homes

An ageing population is likely to increase the need for homes that are accessible, adaptable and capable of meeting residents' changing circumstances over time. Adaptable homes can help people remain independent for longer, reduce the need for costly retrofitting or specialist accommodation, and support wider health and wellbeing objectives. Building Regulations provide a recognised standard for accessible and adaptable dwellings, called M4(2), and a standard that addresses the needs of wheelchair users, called (M4(3).

The new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) requires local plans to meet or exceed local levels of need for this accessible housing, and states that it should be no less than 40% of homes on schemes of 10 or more dwellings. The Local Plan should therefore consider what is needed to ensure that new housing is better able to respond to future demographic change through requiring M4(2) accessible and adaptable housing on all relevant schemes or whether any exemptions exist locally.

The current policy approach in the Adopted Local Plan encourages adaptable design and expects applicants to consider how buildings can respond to future social, economic, technological and environmental requirements. For residential development, this includes supporting homes that can be adapted over time, with reference to Building Regulations M4(2) accessible and adaptable dwellings. However, the policy does not currently require all new homes to meet M4(2), nor does it set a specific proportion of homes to meet M4(2) or M4(3) wheelchair user dwelling standards.

The Housing Needs Assessment will help to identify the level of need for adaptable and accessible homes and one possible option is to introduce a requirement for some homes to meet M4(2) or M4(3) standard. Any such requirement will carry additional costs for developers and so will be tested in the Whole Plan Viability evidence. However, views are welcomed at this early stage as to the suitability of including such a requirement in this local plan.

Question/s:

- Should the Local Plan introduce an area-wide requirement for new residential development to meet accessible and adaptable housing standards, subject to evidence of need, viability and deliverability?
☐Yes ☐No ☐Don't know (tick one only)
- Please provide details where available.

Topic: Nationally Described Space Standards

Local Plans are able to require that new homes meet a set of Nationally Described Space Standards – effectively meaning that homes are larger than are often built at present.

The current Local Plan does not include a specific policy requirement for new homes to meet the Nationally Described Space Standard. The standard sets minimum internal space requirements for new dwellings, based on the number of bedrooms, the number of occupants and the number

of storeys. Introducing the standard could help support good-quality, flexible and functional homes that meet the needs of residents over time. However, any requirement would result in additional costs for developers which would need to be understood through the Whole Plan Viability Assessment evidence. It would also need to be justified by local evidence, including whether there is a problem with undersized homes being delivered, and assessed against potential impacts on viability, affordability, density and housing delivery.

Question/s:

- Do you think that the plan should require new homes to meet the Nationally Described Space Standards?
☐Yes ☐No ☐Don't know (tick one only)
- What would be the likely implications for development viability, site capacity, affordability and housing delivery?

Topic: Custom and Self-build

Local Authorities are required to ensure there are sufficient plots granted for custom and self-build homes. The current policy approach is set out in three parts, a supportive policy for single custom and self-build plots, a supportive policy for multiple plots which also requires key considerations for homes to be set out when the principle of development is agreed, and the third part a percentage-based policy of 5% for 100 dwellings or more for custom and self-build homes. For the third part of the policy, there is also a fallback position in case these plots need to revert to market dwellings.

Very few schemes have come forward to include the percentage of plots, required in part 3 of the policy, since the plan was adopted. This continues to be an important source of plots in the future for custom and self builders and can help diversify housing supply. For developers, it can help improve cashflow on developments. Given that very few schemes of this nature have come forward in recent years, it is important to understand whether it should continue to be included in the local plan.

Question/s:

- Do you think that the current percentage-based policy for custom and self-build homes should be retained in the new plan?
☐Yes ☐No ☐Don't know (tick one only)
- If no, please provide reasons and any evidence.

Topic: Affordable Housing

Delivering housing that is accessible and affordable for those who cannot meet their needs through the open market is an important component of housing supply. It is typically delivered through a proportion of new homes being built on large sites, or through contributions made for new affordable homes being delivered on bespoke sites by registered providers.

Affordable housing comes in a variety of forms and tenures (such as social rent, part-buy part-rent, and more) and an assessment is being undertaken to understand what sizes and tenures are needed and where.

Question/s:

- What affordable housing tenures should be prioritised? Select all that apply

☐ Social rent

☐ Affordable rent (at least 20% less than market value)

☐ Discounted market sales (at least 20% below market value)

☐ Military affordable housing

☐ Other (please specify)

- What barriers are preventing affordable housing delivery and how should planning policy address them?

- How can the Local Plan best support the delivery of affordable housing in rural areas?

Section 5: Jobs, shops and tourism

Topic: Existing employment allocations and employment hierarchy

The existing employment allocations are set out in a hierarchical approach as follows:

1. Strategic Employment Sites (SES)
2. Employment opportunities on Sustainable Urban Extensions (SUEs)
3. Important Established Employment Areas (IEEA) and
4. Local Employment Areas (LEA).

Whilst employment development can take place at any of these tiers it is the top two tiers where most land is available, with IEEA and LEA offering smaller and fewer opportunities due to them being existing.

The same employment allocations have been included in the past two versions of the local plan. However, the plan review offers an important opportunity to test whether these designations remain suitable and relevant or whether a change is needed.

Question/s:

- Do you agree with the tiers of the hierarchy for employment sites?

☐Yes ☐No ☐Don't know (tick one only)

- If no, please provide justification.

- Are there any specific employment sites that you think should no longer be designated for employment use?

☐Yes ☐No ☐Don't know (tick one only)

- If yes, please provide details of the site and justification.

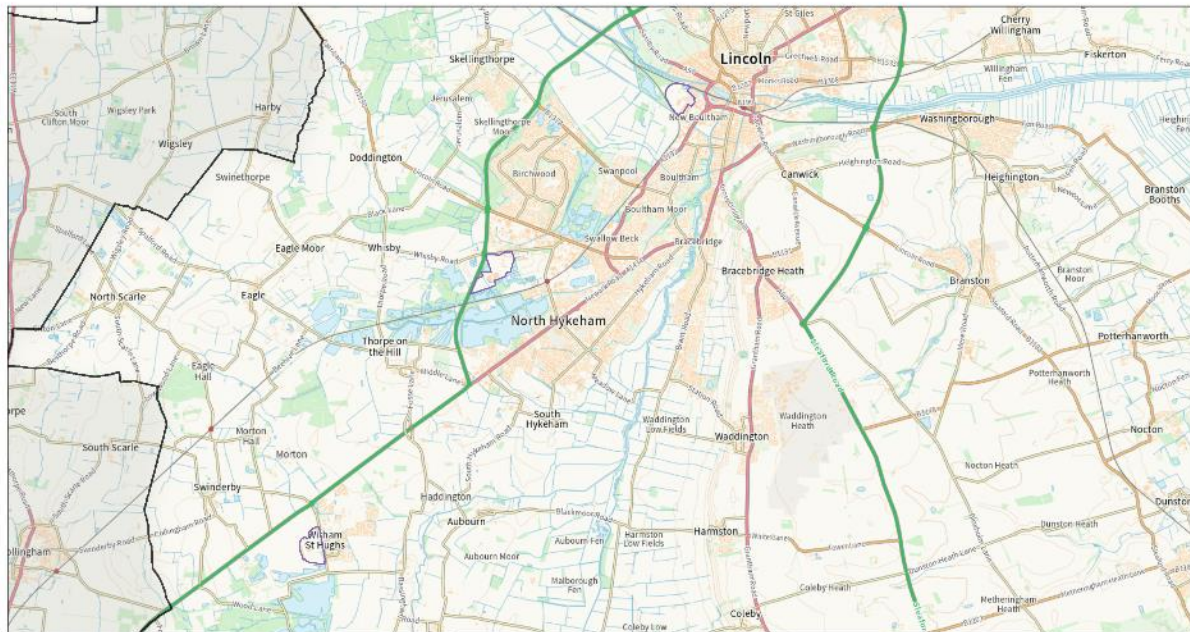
- Are there any specific employment sites that you think should be added as an employment designation? Please provide details of where and justification for its inclusion.

Topic: Strategic Employment Sites

There are six Strategic Employment Sites (SES) across Central Lincolnshire. They are:

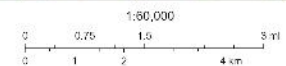
- Teal Park, North Hykeham
- Lincoln Science and Innovation Park, Lincoln
- St Modwen Park, Witham St Hughs
- Somerby Park, Gainsborough
- Sleaford Moor Enterprise Park
- Hemswell Cliff Business Park

Strategic Employment Sites in the Adopted Local Plan - Lincoln area



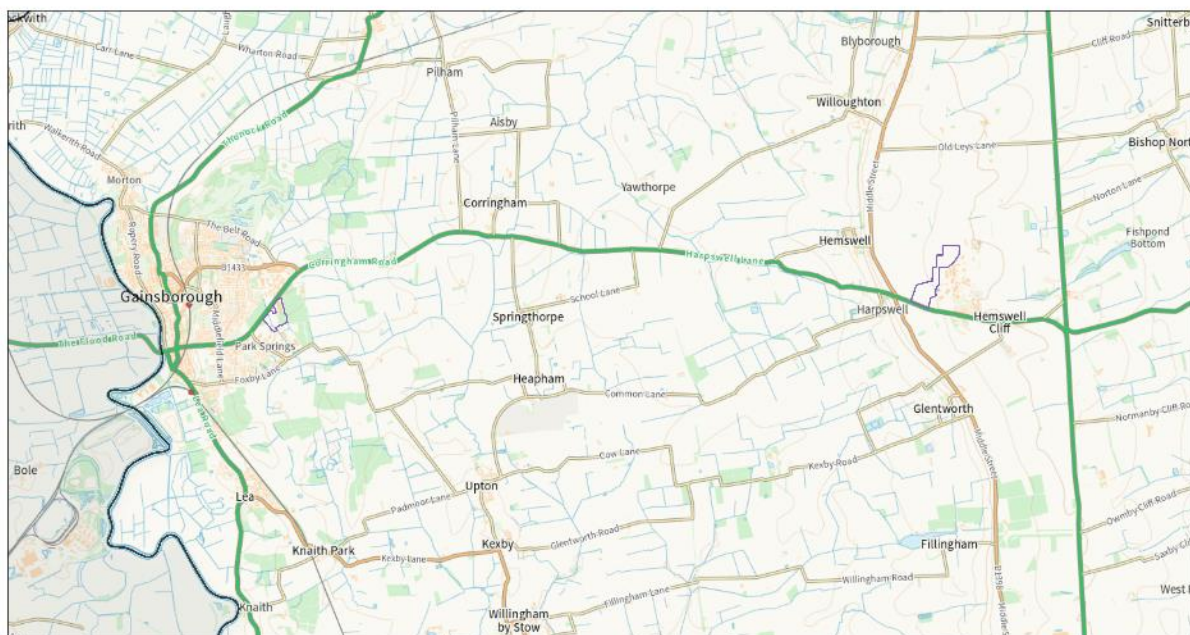
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Strategic Employment Site



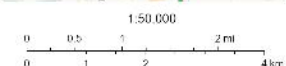
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Strategic Employment Sites in the Adopted Local Plan - Gainsborough and Hemswell Cliff



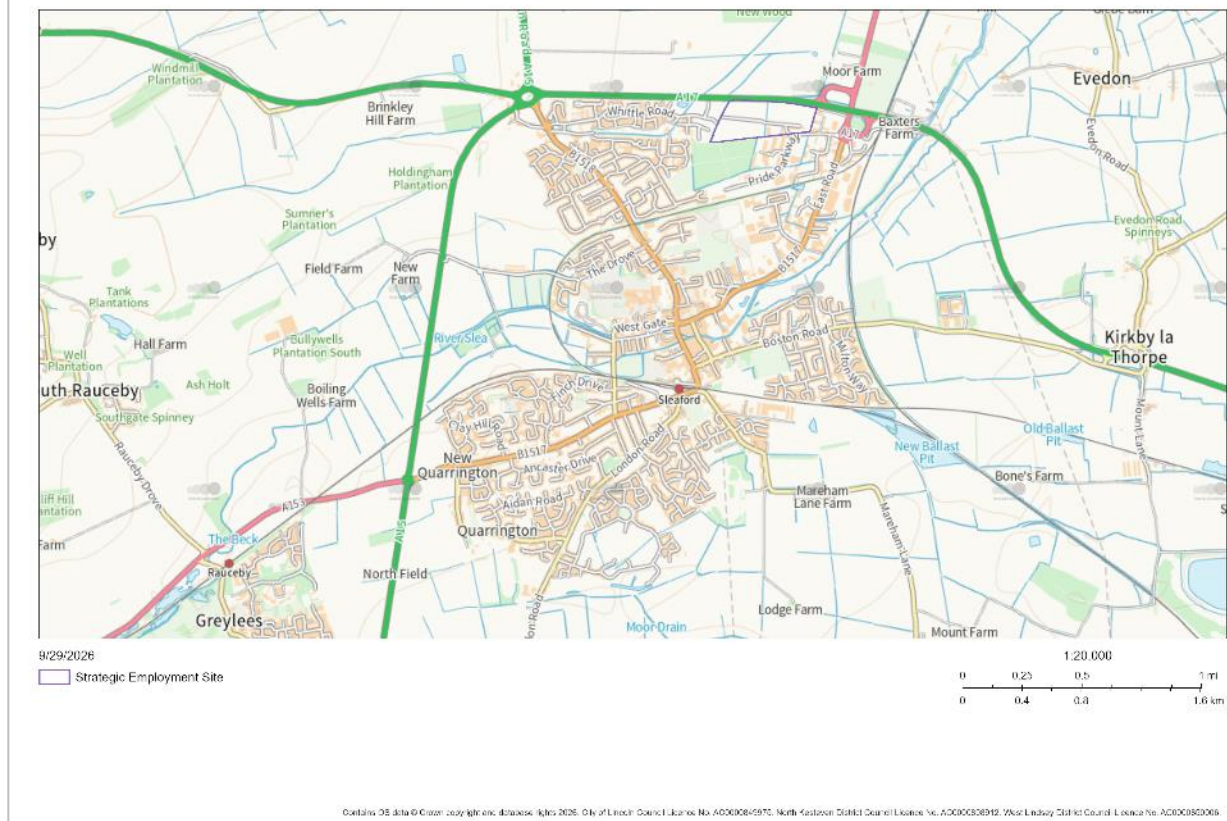
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Strategic Employment Site



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Strategic Employment Sites in the Adopted Local Plan - Sleaford



To view these sites in more detail, please [visit the interactive map](#).

Strategic Employment Sites (SES) across Central Lincolnshire are a key part of ensuring the economic needs of the area are met and have historically provided enough land to meet identified needs and to provide some choice and variety of sites. Whilst development has come forward on these SES, there still remains a substantial amount of land available for development.

As part of this review, it is important to consider whether these SES should continue to be the focus for employment development land or whether a greater variety of sites should be sought to further vary the supply and provide options for investment. There are two main options for how the plan might proceed:

Option 1 is to continue with the current employment allocations for Strategic Employment Sites (SES) unless evidence suggests they are no longer suitable or deliverable. Many of these sites benefit from extant permissions. This approach has been adopted for the last two Local Plans to ensure certainty for the market and providing a significant oversupply of the actual need to provide choice and variety. This option is dependent on the remaining supply being adequate to meet the needs that will be determined through evidence work.

Option 2 is to maintain the current allocations for Strategic Employment Sites unless evidence suggests they are no longer suitable or deliverable and then supplement these with additional sites in locations where evidence indicates that additional floorspace is needed. Whilst the specific locations for new sites is not determined at this stage it could include locations on transport corridors, focusing around additional tiers in the settlement hierarchy (i.e. the Market Towns), or focusing them around the locations where housing growth is also most extensive (i.e. Lincoln Urban Area and the Main Towns).

Whilst decisions will need to await outputs from the Economic Needs Assessment, this consultation provides an opportunity to receive views on how best to ensure that enough land is allocated in the right places to support economic growth in our area.

Question/s:

- Do you support the principle of allocating additional Strategic Employment Sites to ensure needs for floorspace are met and adequate variety of sites are provided for the market?
☐Yes ☐No ☐Don't know (tick one only)
- Are there any specific locations that you think should be considered for inclusion as a new Strategic Employment Site and, if so, why?

- Are there any specific business uses needed that require land and that cannot be delivered on the current Strategic Employment Allocations? Please give details of business type or sector (e.g. specific clusters, freight and logistics, data centres, etc.), any details of specific physical needs of a site and any broad locations or types of locations that may be considered suitable.

Topic: Local Employment Areas

Local Employment Areas are small in nature and often grow over time as businesses expand and change. The current policy approach sets out a definition for defining these employment sites but does not specifically map them. They are defined as:

“Local Employment Areas (LEA) are defined as sites sized 0.5ha or more, at least 2,500sqm of existing floor space and with 3 or more units occupied by separate businesses, within Tiers 1-6 of the Settlement Hierarchy as defined in Policy S1 (Small Villages and above).” (Current Policy S32).

The alternative approach is to map these sites which would give greater certainty for what is considered to be a LEA but is potentially less flexible to take account of local needs identified as part of a planning application.

Question/s:

- Do you agree with the current approach of using a descriptive definition for identifying Local Employment Areas rather than map-based sites?
☐Yes ☐No ☐Don't know (tick one only)
- If no, please provide justification for your response and any supporting evidence.

Topic: Rural employment

Much of Central Lincolnshire is rural with a significant amount of employment in agriculture, horticulture and forestry. This is an important part of our local economy and the local agricultural sector is of national importance.

Linked with these sectors, there is significant growth in the agri-tech industry which looks to modernise farming practices so that they are more efficient and robust, particularly with the challenges being faced as a result of the changing climate.

It is recognised that these sectors often must be located or are best located in areas of the countryside. At present, permitted development rights offer substantial opportunities for agricultural development to take place without need for achieving planning permission from the

local council, but it is recognised that more may be needed to support this industry in the local plan to ensure that these industries can continue to flourish whilst also ensuring that any impacts of growth will not have unwanted impacts on the countryside character or environment.

It is important to note that agriculture and horticulture are not the only businesses operating in rural areas. There is an extensive network of rurally located operations that offer services and job opportunities, and contribute significantly to the vitality of our rural areas. These play a vital role in supporting communities and to the wider economy.

Question/s:

- Should the local plan do more to allow for diversification and technological advances in farming?
☐Yes ☐No ☐Don't know (tick one only)
- If yes, please provide details of what actions you think the local plan should take or what activities should be planned for and provide details of any evidence where available.
- Are there other employment opportunities in rural areas that the plan should seek to enable?

Topic: Retail centres

The Local Plan is required to define a hierarchy of centres to promote their long-term vitality and viability.

Four tiers are identified in the retail hierarchy in the adopted Central Lincolnshire Local Plan which are defined below:

Lincoln City Centre	Largest centre within Central Lincolnshire, having an extensive catchment and a sub-regional role, providing a wide range of town centre uses.
Town Centres	Centres providing a range of facilities and services for a wider catchment area within the main towns and market towns.
District Centres	Centres serving particular areas within the main settlements, typically including a range of services, restaurants, library and usually at least one supermarket.
Local and Village Centres	Centres that serve their locality, typically including a convenience store or a small supermarket and a limited range of other local shops and services such as a pharmacy, sub-Post Office, newsagent, hot food takeaway.

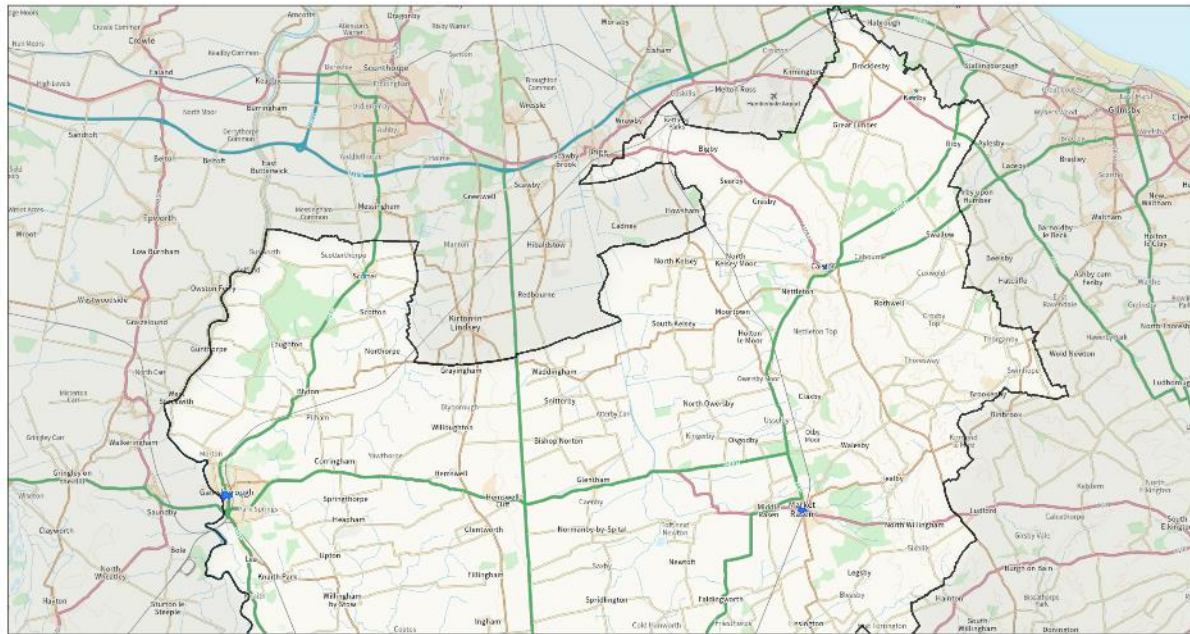
All centres have previously been surveyed and are monitored and a list of these centres is set out below:

Tier 1: Lincoln City Centre
Lincoln City Centre
Tier 2: Town Centres
Gainsborough, Sleaford, Caistor, Market Rasen
Tier 3: District Centres
Birchwood, Lincoln, Nettleham Road, Lincoln, Wragby Road/ The Carlton Centre, Lincoln, The Forum, North Hykeham, Hykeham Green, North Hykeham
Tier 4: Local and Village Centres
Local Centres in urban areas: Brant Road, Lincoln, Burton Road, Lincoln, Junction of Queen Elizabeth Road/ Trelawney Crescent, Lincoln, Junction of Boultham Park Road and Skellingthorpe Road, Lincoln, Junction of Lamb Gardens and Macauley Drive, Lincoln, Junction of Rookery Lane and Newark Road, Lincoln, Junction of Woodhall Drive and Sudbrooke Drive, Lincoln, Manor Farm, North Hykeham, Moorland Avenue, Lincoln, Newark

Road, Bracebridge, Lincoln, Newark Road Crossroads, North Hykeham, Newport, Lincoln, Redwood Drive, Lincoln, Corringham Road, Gainsborough, Heapham Road, Gainsborough, Queensway, Gainsborough, Grantham Road, Sleaford, Lincoln Road, Sleaford

Village Centres: Bardney, Billingham, Bracebridge Heath, Branston Beech Road, Branston Station Road, Burton Waters, Cherry Willingham, Heckington, Keelby village centre, Keelby, Yarborough Road/South Street, Metherringham, Navenby, Nettleham, Ruskington, Saxilby, Scotter, Sturton by Stow, Waddington, Washingborough, Welton village centre, Welton, Ryland Bridge, Witham St Hughs

Retail Centres in Adopted Local Plan

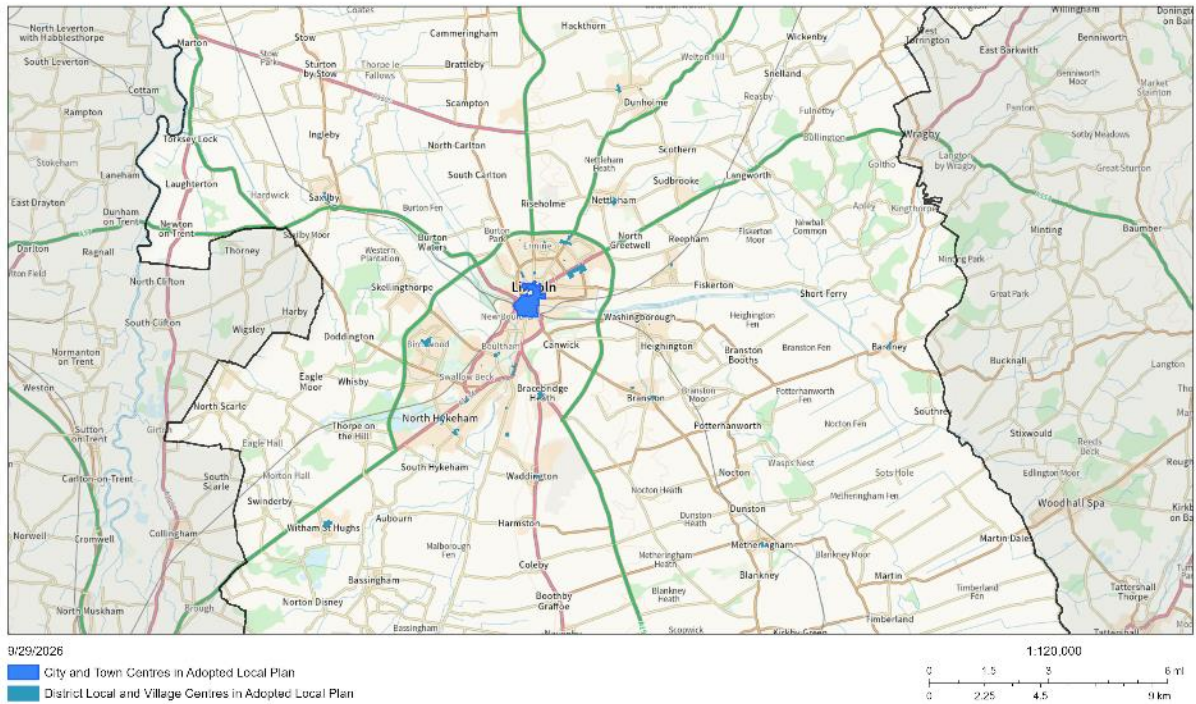


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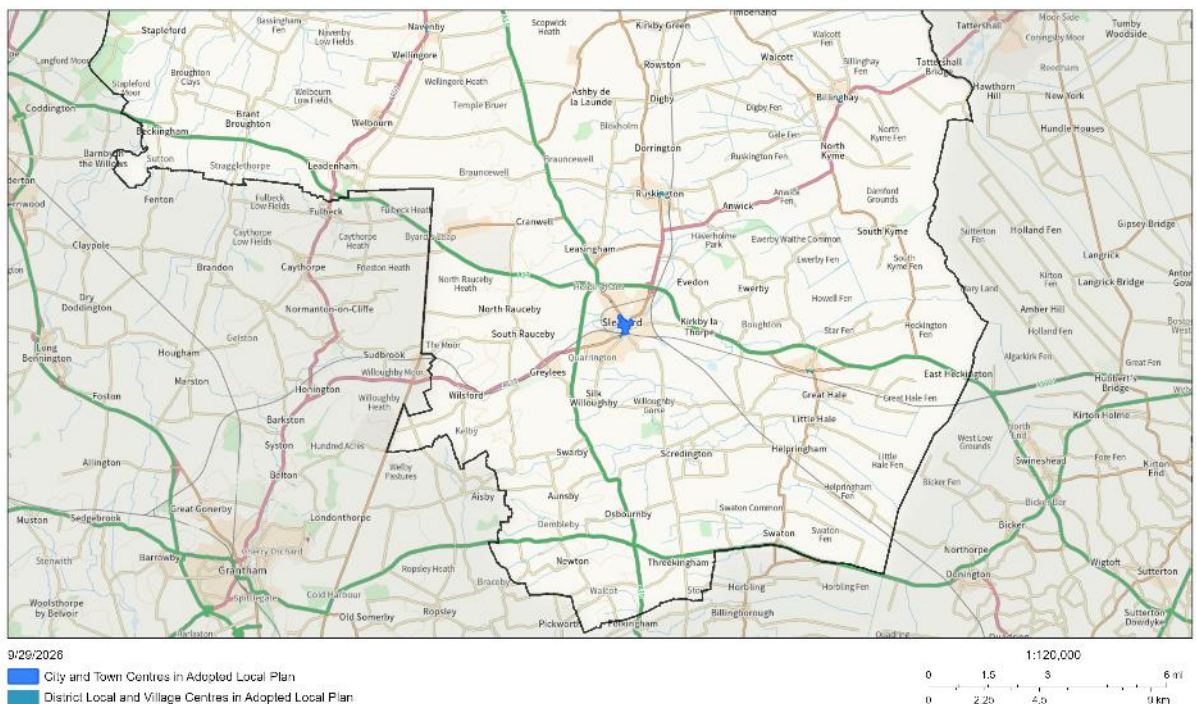
City and Town Centres in Adopted Local Plan
District Local and Village Centres in Adopted Local Plan

1:150,000
0 1.75 3.5 7 mi
0 3 6 12 km

Retail Centres in Adopted Local Plan



Retail Centres in Adopted Local Plan



An interactive map of these centres can be [viewed here](#).

Question/s

- Do you agree that the centres identified in the 2023 Local Plan and listed above should be carried forward unless evidence suggests that this is no longer suitable?
☐Yes ☐No ☐Don't know (tick one only)
- If no, please provide details,
- Is there a centre not listed in the table above which you think should be considered against the hierarchy definitions?
☐Yes ☐No ☐Don't know (tick one only)
- If yes, please provide details.
- Are there any centres where you think a boundary change is needed?
☐Yes ☐No ☐Don't know (tick one only)
- If yes, please provide details of which centre and what changes are needed along with any justification for the change.

Topic: Tourism

Tourism is an important part of our local economy, with many attractions bringing in visitors to our area. Central Lincolnshire has a varied tourism offer, from the historic City of Lincoln to the Lincolnshire Wolds National Landscape, specific attractions such as Market Rasen Racecourse and Doddington Hall, and many other smaller attractions and areas worth visiting.

Tourism is not only important for urban economies but also for the rural economy, allowing for diversification of farms and providing employment in many areas. The 2023 Local Plan includes two policies on tourism – one for urban and one for rural. Both policies support growth in the tourism industry and tourist accommodation provided that any impacts of the scheme will be acceptable. They also seek to retain existing tourism uses where possible.

It is intended to retain the approach for tourist facilities and accommodation, separating out by urban areas, villages and countryside areas from the existing local plan in the new local plan. The need for any specific facilities, or types of facilities or accommodation in particular locations to receive supportive or restrictive policies will also be considered.

Question/s:

- Do you agree with broadly retaining the current approach in the plan?
☐Yes ☐No ☐Don't know (tick one only)
- If no, please provide details.
- Are there any specific tourism facilities that would benefit from specific policy to support or restrict further development? Please specify and explain what is needed.
- Are there any specific types of tourist facility or accommodation that are needed within the area and, if so, where should this be located?

Section 6: Green infrastructure and open spaces

Topic: Local Green Spaces

Local Green Spaces are a national planning designation that enables communities to identify and protect green areas that are particularly important to them. Development within a designated Local Green Space is subject to planning policies that provide a high level of protection.

Local Green Spaces can only be designated through the preparation or review of a Local Plan or a Neighbourhood Plan. As part of the preparation of the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan, communities are invited to nominate green spaces that they believe meet the national criteria for designation as follows:

1. The space is not subject to an existing planning permission for development
2. The space is not allocated, or proposed to be allocated, for development in the Local Plan
3. The space is local in character and is not an extensive tract of land
4. The space is in close proximity to the community it serves
5. The space is demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquillity or richness of its wildlife

If you would like to nominate a site for consideration as a Local Green Space, please complete the form in the survey and provide a map clearly showing the boundary of the area you wish to nominate.

The Local Green Space designation is intended to provide long-term protection for places that are demonstrably special to local communities. It is therefore proposed that the Local Green Spaces designated in the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan 2023 are carried forward into the new Local Plan unless there is evidence to indicate that they no longer meet the national designation criteria.

The existing designated [Local Green Spaces can be viewed here](#).

Question/s:

- Do you agree that the Local Green Spaces designated in the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan 2023 should be carried forward in the new Local Plan, unless there is evidence that they no longer meet the designation criteria?
☐Yes ☐No ☐Don't know (tick one only)
- If no, please identify the Local Green Space(s) concerned and explain why you believe they should not be carried forward.
- Do you have a suggestion/s for additional Local Green Spaces which you think meet the criteria set out above and therefore should be designated? If so, please either submit it through the online form or send a map of your suggestion with a completed survey form.

Topic: Important Open Spaces

Important Open Spaces are areas that have been identified as being valuable to the character, appearance and enjoyment of places across Central Lincolnshire. They are different from Local Green Spaces because they are identified by the Central Lincolnshire authorities rather than being nominated by local communities or parish councils.

These spaces can serve a variety of purposes – some help maintain the character and appearance of a town or village, provide important views, or create a sense of openness, whilst others are used for sport, recreation, play, exercise or informal leisure activities.

Other than retaining the current approach in the adopted local plan, one possible approach being considered for the new Local Plan is to continue identifying Important Open Spaces but potentially group them into two categories:

- **Settlement Character and Visual Amenity Spaces:** spaces that are important to the character, appearance or views of a town, village, or neighbourhood.
- **Sport and Recreation Spaces:** spaces used for sport, recreation, play, exercise or informal leisure activities.

To ensure a consistent approach, only sites that meet the following requirements would be considered:

- Sites over 0.1 hectare
- Sites that are either publicly accessible or visible from publicly accessible locations

Roadside verges, narrow strips of land and screening areas less than 25 metres deep would not normally be considered for designation.

This approach would provide greater clarity about why a space is protected and the role it plays within the local area. Spaces that serve more than one purpose would be placed in the category that best reflects their main function.

Currently, some Important Open Spaces are protected through policy because of the type of open space (e.g. churchyards, recreation grounds and Local Authority-owned allotments) but are not shown on the Local Plan Policies Map. The new Local Plan could show all Important Open Spaces on the Policies Map so that their locations and boundaries are clear.

Existing [Important Open Spaces can be viewed here](#).

Question/s:

- Do you agree that the Local Plan should continue to identify and protect Important Open Spaces?
☐Yes ☐No ☐Don't know (tick one only)
- If no, please provide details and justification.
- Do you agree with the proposed approach of dividing Important Open Spaces into either Settlement Character and Visual Amenity Spaces or Sport and Recreation Spaces depending on their function?
☐Yes ☐No ☐Don't know (tick one only)
- If no, please provide details and justification.
- Do you agree that all designated Important Open Spaces should be shown on the Policies Map?
☐Yes ☐No ☐Don't know (tick one only)
- Is there an open space that you think should be designated as an Important Open Space in the new Local Plan? If yes, please provide details of the site, its location, and why you think it should be designated.
- Are there any Important Open Spaces that you think should not continue to be designated in the new Local Plan? Please provide details of where and why you think they should be removed from this designation.

Topic: Green Infrastructure Strategy

Green infrastructure is the network of green and blue spaces, both public and private, that help wildlife and provide benefits for people. These benefits include opportunities for recreation, better health and wellbeing, helping places cope with the changing climate and creating attractive places to live and work.

Green infrastructure includes parks, gardens, street trees, green roofs and walls, sustainable drainage features, woodlands, wetlands, and areas managed for wildlife. It also includes linear routes and spaces such as roadside verges, field margins, public rights of way, cycle routes, canals, and rivers.

In 2011, a Green Infrastructure Strategy was published for Central Lincolnshire. This strategy now needs to be updated to reflect changes in national planning policy, local circumstances and best practice.

The Central Lincolnshire authorities have commissioned an update to the Green Infrastructure Strategy. The updated strategy will identify the priorities and opportunities for protecting, enhancing and connecting green infrastructure and will help inform the new Local Plan.

The 2011 Green Infrastructure Strategy included the following long-term vision for Central Lincolnshire and views are being sought on whether it is still relevant or whether it should be updated:

By 2026/2031, investment in green infrastructure has shaped the future economic, social and environmental success of Central Lincolnshire by supporting sustainable growth, tackling climate change and improving quality of life.

Central Lincolnshire's local distinctiveness, built heritage and natural assets have been protected and enhanced by careful planning and management, and are a key attraction for both residents and visitors. The area now has an extensive multi-functional network of 'green infrastructure', including the new Witham Country Park near Lincoln, contributing to nature conservation, leisure and climate change mitigation.

Central Lincolnshire is a greener and healthier place to live. Communities in urban and rural areas across the area and beyond are connected by green corridors and access links. New development providing for growth around Lincoln, Gainsborough and Sleaford has been well integrated into a 'green grid' network of greenspaces and access links within and around these settlements.

An increasingly coherent and resilient ecological network of wildlife habitats is helping conserve biodiversity and support the delivery of ecosystem services across Central Lincolnshire.

Question/s:

- Do you agree with the existing vision for Central Lincolnshire's green infrastructure?
☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't know (tick one only)
- If no, what do you think are the most important things that should be included in the new vision for Central Lincolnshire's green infrastructure?
- What should be the main priorities for green infrastructure in Central Lincolnshire over the next 20 years?

Topic: Green Infrastructure and Open Space Standards

As Central Lincolnshire grows, it is important that new development provides enough green spaces for people to enjoy. Green spaces can support physical and mental health, provide places for play, sport and relaxation, help people connect with nature, support wildlife, and make places more attractive to live and work.

National planning policy expects local plans to set standards for the amount and type of open space that new development should provide. This can include play areas, sports facilities, informal recreation spaces and allotments. Setting standards helps ensure that new developments provide enough green space and natural features to meet the needs of existing and future communities. Local Plans should also consider wider green infrastructure, such as trees, waterways, green corridors and other natural features that connect communities and wildlife.

The Central Lincolnshire Local Plan 2023 requires new development to provide open space and sets standards for:

- Allotments
- Amenity spaces
- Children's play areas
- Parks
- Outdoor sports facilities
- Natural greenspaces

As part of preparing the new Local Plan, these standards will be reviewed to make sure they continue to meet local needs and reflect changes in population, lifestyles, health priorities, environmental objectives and national policy.

Since the adoption of the 2023 Local Plan, Natural England has published national [Green Infrastructure standards](#). These standards define what good green infrastructure looks like, and national policy encourages local planning authorities to use them when preparing local plans.

Natural England's Green Infrastructure Standards

Accessible Greenspace Standard

This standard aims to ensure that everyone has access to good-quality green spaces close to where they live. It focuses on the quantity, quality and accessibility of green spaces.

Urban Nature Recovery Standard

This standard promotes the creation, protection and improvement of habitats within towns and villages, helping wildlife to thrive and nature to recover.

Urban Greening Factor

This standard measures the amount of green infrastructure included within a development. It encourages developments to maximise green features such as trees, planting, green roofs, sustainable drainage features and wildlife habitats.

Urban Tree Canopy Standard

This standard encourages the retention of existing trees and the planting of new trees to increase tree cover and its benefits for people and wildlife.

One option for the new Local Plan is to adopt the Natural England Green Infrastructure Standards to replace the current standards in the Local Plan.

Question/s:

- Which types of open space do you think should be prioritised in new developments?
- Are there any types of green space or green infrastructure that are currently lacking in your local area?
- Which of the following Natural England Green Infrastructure Standards should the Local Plan seek to apply? (*Select all that apply*)
 - ☐ Accessible Greenspace Standard
 - ☐ Urban Nature Recovery Standard
 - ☐ Urban Greening Factor Standard
 - ☐ Urban Tree Canopy Standard
 - ☐ All of the above
 - ☐ None of the above
 - ☐ Unsure
- Where should these standards apply?
 - ☐ Across all new development in Central Lincolnshire
 - ☐ Only in larger developments
 - ☐ Only in urban areas
 - ☐ Only in areas with limited access to green infrastructure
 - ☐ Only in areas identified for significant growth
 - ☐ Other (*please specify*)
- Are there any parts of Central Lincolnshire that would particularly benefit from better access to green space, more opportunities for nature recovery, more trees and planting, or other improvements to green infrastructure? Please specify below.

Topic: Green Wedges

Green Wedges are a long-standing local planning policy tool that identifies and protects strategically important areas of open land around and through urban areas that help to shape the direction of growth or prevent the merging of separate settlements, protecting their distinct identity, character and setting. Green Wedges currently meet one or more of the criteria listed below.

Criteria	Explanation
a) Preventing the coalescence or merging of settlements and preserving the separate identity and character of settlements	Green Wedges will safeguard the physical identity of local communities within and around urban areas that face growth pressures by preserving a physical separation between settlements. Green Wedges help to protect and enhance the distinct identity, character and setting of settlements. They also protect important views into and out of settlements.
b) Providing a green lung into urban areas	Green Wedges will provide communities with a direct, continuous link to the open countryside beyond the urban area. Green Wedges also provide multi-functional uses, including: • Open space, sport and recreational facilities;

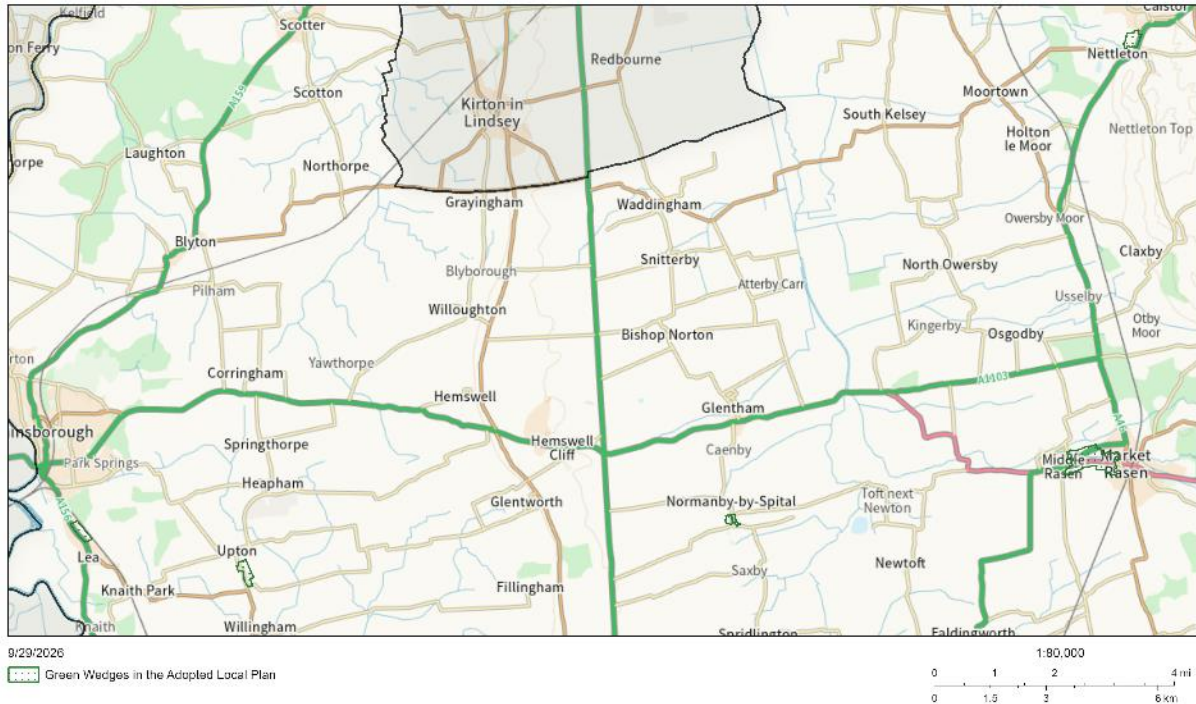
	• Protection/ improvement of sites important for nature conservation and links between them; • Maintaining and strengthening landscape character; • Flood alleviation; • Links to Green Infrastructure • Transport corridors based on footpaths, bridleways and cycle ways; • Air quality management; • Safeguard key views into and out of urban areas
c) A recreational resource	Green Wedges provide a recreational resource, both formal and informal, close to where people live where public access is maximised.
d) Protect and enhance ecological value and linkages	Green Wedges provide opportunities to conserve and enhance wildlife and protect links between wildlife sites to support wildlife corridors.

The currently adopted Green Wedges combine areas that had previously been identified as Green Wedges and Settlement Breaks. They are:

- Canwick to Washingborough
- Waddington to Bracebridge
- Witham Valley
- Hykeham Pits
- Whisby Nature Park
- Skellingthorpe to Birchwood
- Cinder Plot
- Skellingthorpe
- Western Flank
- Burton to Nettleham
- Caistor/ Nettleton (settlement gap)
- Gainsborough/ Lea (settlement gap)
- Market Rasen/ Middle Rasen (settlement gap)
- Cherry Willingham/ Reepham (settlement gap)
- Upton/ Kexby (settlement gap)
- Welton/ Dunholme (settlement gap)
- Owmbly By Spital/ Normanby by Spital (settlement gap)

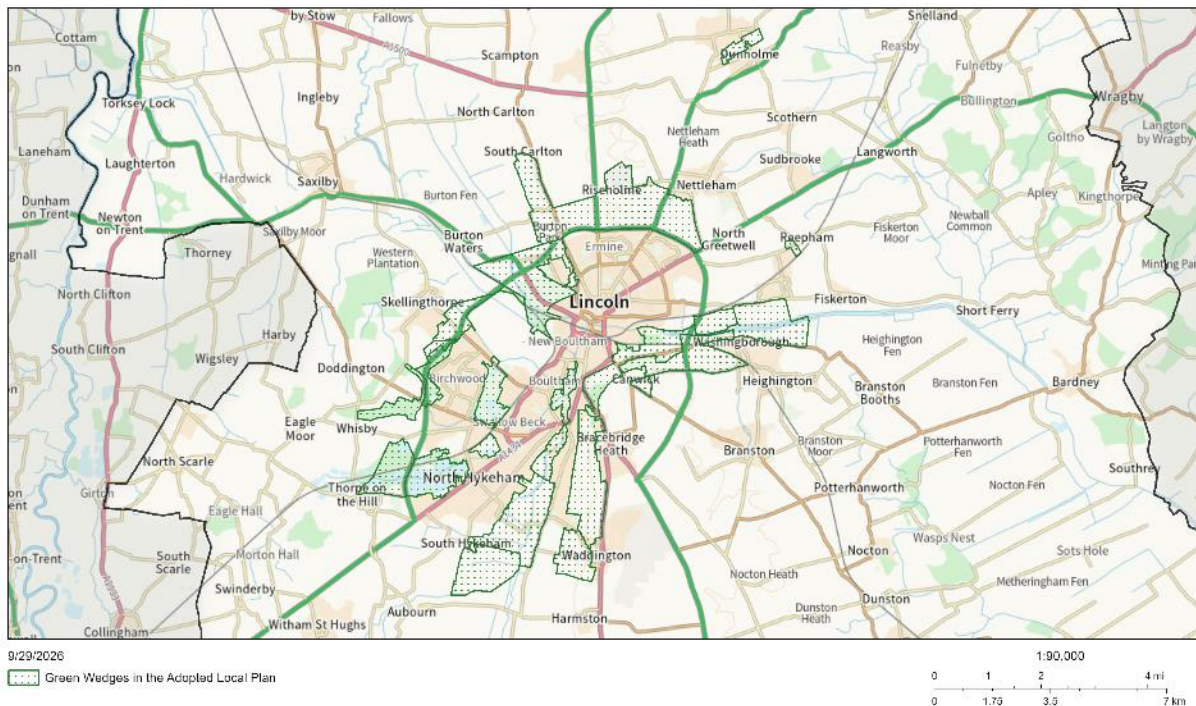
The Green Wedges can be seen on the maps below:

Green Wedges in the Adopted Local Plan



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Green Wedges in the Adopted Local Plan



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The Green Wedges can be seen in more detail on the [interactive map](#).

However, given the largely different reasons for identifying many of the Green Wedges it is suggested that they again be separated into **Green Wedges** which are focused on protecting the strategically important areas of open land around the main settlements, meeting one or more of criteria b., c. and d. listed above; and **Green Gaps** which are focused on protecting and enhancing the distinct identity, character and setting of neighbouring settlements, meeting the requirements of criteria a.

Question/s:

- Do you agree with the proposed approach to separate Green Wedges into Green Wedges and Green Gaps to recognise their distinct functions?
☐Yes ☐No ☐Don't know (tick one only)
- If no, please provide details.
- Are there additional Green Wedges or Green Gaps which you think should be considered for designation?
☐Yes ☐No ☐Don't know (tick one only)
- If yes, please provide details of where and why you think they should be designated.
- Are there any current Green Wedges that you think should be amended?
☐Yes ☐No ☐Don't know (tick one only)
- If yes, please provide details of which green wedge and what changes are needed.

Topic: Playing Pitches

The Council's previous Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) was prepared in 2011 and a new Playing Pitch Strategy has been commissioned to provide an up-to-date evidence base for the protection, enhancement, and future provision of playing pitches across the districts. The updated PPS assesses current and future needs and identifies priorities for investment, ensuring that pitches and associated facilities are planned and delivered in the most effective and sustainable way.

The Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) will form the evidence base for sports pitch provision across the district. The strategy highlights the importance of safeguarding existing playing fields and enhancing their quality and usability through investment in supporting facilities. The preferred approach is to make the best use of existing provision and to secure improvements where required, with new pitches being delivered only where there is evidence of need.

Question/s:

- Do you agree with the proposed approach of safeguarding existing playing fields, improving ancillary facilities, and providing new pitches where required to meet the needs generated by new development or where a demonstrated need for additional provision exists?
☐Yes ☐No ☐Don't know (tick one only)
- If no, please provide details.

Section7: Community, health, leisure and facilities

Topic: Delivering healthy communities in new developments

The places where we live, work and spend our free time can have a significant impact on our health and wellbeing. Planning can help create healthy communities by ensuring that new development supports active lifestyles, social interaction, access to services and facilities, and access to green space and nature.

When deciding which sites to allocate for development, the Local Plan could consider how each proposed site may affect health and wellbeing as part of the Strategic Environmental Assessment process. This could include factors such as access to healthcare, schools, community facilities, walking and cycling routes, open spaces, and opportunities for sport and recreation.

The current Central Lincolnshire Local Plan also requires some development proposals to submit a Health Impact Assessment. A Health Impact Assessment is a tool used to assess how a development may affect the health and wellbeing of existing and future communities. Our experience of implementing this policy suggests that the current approach is not always achieving its intended purpose. As part of preparing the new Local Plan, we are therefore considering whether this requirement should be reviewed and, if so, what form any future requirement should take.

Question/s:

- Do you think health and wellbeing should be considered when assessing site allocations?
☐Yes ☐No ☐Don't know (tick one only)
- Which of the following health and wellbeing factors should be considered when assessing site allocations? (*select all that apply or prioritisation exercise*)
 - ☐Access to healthcare facilities
 - ☐Access to schools and education facilities
 - ☐Walking and cycling opportunities
 - ☐Access to parks, green spaces and nature
 - ☐Access to community facilities
 - ☐Opportunities for sport and recreation
 - ☐Air quality
 - ☐Noise levels
 - ☐Access to healthy food
 - ☐Reducing health inequalities
 - ☐Other (*please specify*)
- Do you think the Local Plan should continue to require Health Impact Assessments for some types of development?
☐Yes ☐No ☐Don't know (tick one only)
- If yes, what types of development should require a Health Impact Assessment?
- Please provide any additional comments on how the Local Plan can help create healthy communities through new development.

Topic: Hot food takeaways

Planning can help create healthier communities by supporting access to a range of food choices, opportunities to grow food locally, and managing the locations where hot food takeaways will be located.

Across Central Lincolnshire, the proportion of adults living with obesity is higher than the national average. In Lincoln, obesity levels among children are also above the England average (2024/25).

The number of hot food takeaway outlets varies across Central Lincolnshire. In 2024, Lincoln had a higher number of fast-food outlets per head of population than the averages for Lincolnshire, the East Midlands and England. North Kesteven and West Lindsey were below the national average.

Local research indicates that concentrations of takeaways coincide with some areas of high deprivation in some areas in Lincoln, Gainsborough, and Sleaford. Research is ongoing to understand the relationship between concentrations of takeaways and local health issues.

National planning policy allows Local Plans to manage where new hot food takeaways are located. This can include considering their proximity to schools and other places used by children and young people. Planning policies can also help address issues that may arise where there are high numbers of takeaways in one area, such as impacts on health, neighbourhood character, traffic, noise, odour, litter and waste.

The new Local Plan could include a policy to manage where new hot food takeaways are located. The aim would be to support healthy communities while ensuring town and local centres continue to provide a mix of shops, services and food outlets.

Possible approaches could include:

- Restrict new hot food takeaways within a specified distance of schools and other places used by children and young people, such as parks, playing fields and community centres. This restriction would not apply within defined town centre boundaries shown on the Local Plan Policies Map.
- Restrict the opening hours of new hot food takeaways.
- Limiting new hot food takeaways in areas where there is already a high concentration of them. This could apply both within or outside of defined town centre boundaries.
- Taking a combination of these approaches.

Any policy would need to be supported by evidence demonstrating that there is a planning issue which requires intervention. Any restrictions would apply only to future planning applications for new hot food takeaway uses.

Question/s:

- Do you think the Local Plan should include a policy to manage where new hot food takeaways can open?
☐Yes ☐No ☐Don't know (tick one only)
- If yes, which option would you support? Select all that apply
 - ☐Restrict new hot food takeaways within a specified distance of schools and other places used by children and young people, such as parks, playing fields and community centres
 - ☐Restrict the opening hours of new hot food takeaways
 - ☐Limiting new hot food takeaways in areas where there is already a high concentration of them
 - ☐Taking a combination of these approaches

☐ Other (*please specify*)

- Please provide any comments, local evidence or examples that should be considered when deciding whether new hot food takeaway restrictions are needed in particular locations.

Section 8: Environment and the changing climate

Topic: Local Nature Recovery Strategy

A Local Nature Recovery Strategy is a plan that identifies the best places to protect, improve and create habitats for wildlife. It helps guide action to support nature, connect habitats, improve access to nature and deliver wider benefits such as cleaner water, reduced flood risk and help communities to adapt to the changing climate.

Local Nature Recovery Strategies were introduced through the Environment Act 2021 and together cover the whole of England. Each strategy is prepared with input from local councils, environmental organisations, landowners, businesses, community groups and local people.

The [Greater Lincolnshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy](#) was published in July 2026. It identifies the most important priorities and opportunities for nature recovery across Greater Lincolnshire, including habitats and species that need protection, areas where new habitats could be created, opportunities to improve connections for wildlife, and ways that new development can support nature.

As part of preparing the new Local Plan, the priorities and opportunities identified in the Greater Lincolnshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy should be reflected in planning policies and decisions about future development.

Question/s:

- Do you agree that the Local Plan should support the priorities identified in the Greater Lincolnshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy?
☐Yes ☐No ☐Don't know (tick one only)
- Which of the following should be the highest priorities for nature recovery in Central Lincolnshire? (*Select up to three*)
 - ☐Protecting existing wildlife habitats
 - ☐Creating new habitats for wildlife
 - ☐Planting more trees and hedgerows
 - ☐Improving rivers, wetlands and watercourses
 - ☐Connecting habitats to help wildlife move through the landscape
 - ☐Improving access to nature and green spaces
 - ☐Helping wildlife adapt to the changing climate
 - ☐Other (*please specify*)
- Are there any habitats, species or natural features in your local area that you think should be protected or enhanced through the Local Plan?

Topic: Changing climate and energy efficiency

The adopted Local Plan was groundbreaking in containing a suite of policies that sought to ensure that new development would be energy efficient and emissions would be reduced and reduce impacts on the changing climate. This has multiple benefits not just in relation to reducing carbon emissions, but also in reducing the cost of running homes and buildings for those using them – this is particularly important given the cost of living and energy security challenges facing the country.

The policies seem to be performing well, with developers having adjusted designs to account for the policies and more local authorities are now seeking to produce plans with similar policies to those in the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan.

The new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) continues to allow local authorities to require energy efficient homes, recognising the importance of ensuring buildings built now will be efficient through their lifetime both for users and the environment. This local plan review offers the opportunity to review the current policies and consider whether any adjustment to the policies are needed and this includes taking into account the increased construction costs being experienced in industry and ensuring that policy requirements maximise the benefits whilst reducing the cost for developers.

In addition to energy efficiency, there is an opportunity to reduce the amount of carbon being expended on constructing new homes in terms of materials and construction activities, known as embodied carbon.

By reducing the amount of embodied carbon in development, it is possible to greatly reduce the emissions resulting from development and this often can be achieved at no or limited additional cost to developers. Evidence being commissioned will look at the potential for ensuring that new buildings have reduced embodied carbon through helping developers to make smart choices.

Question/s:

- Do you agree that this plan should continue to take a proactive approach to making new buildings energy efficient both to ensure carbon emissions are reduced and to reduce running costs for future occupants and users?
☐Yes ☐No ☐Don't know (tick one only)
- If no, please provide details.
- Do you have any specific views on the current energy efficiency policies that you would like to make? For example are any parts particularly challenging or costly, or easy and cost-effective to achieve, should anything be retained or considered for removing and, if so, why?
- Do you agree that this plan should look to include policy requirements relating to reducing embodied carbon?
☐Yes ☐No ☐Don't know (tick one only)
- If no, please provide details.

Section 9: Design

Topic: Design

In 2024, the Central Lincolnshire authorities began preparing a Design Code for the area. A Design Code is a set of guidelines that helps ensure new development is well designed and reflects the character of local places. It can cover matters such as the layout of streets, the design of buildings, landscaping, parking, public spaces, and how developments connect to existing communities.

As part of this work, two rounds of public consultation were carried out. These sought views on a design vision and set of design principles, as well as people's experiences of the places where they live, work, and spend their time.

Since then, national planning policy has changed. Local planning authorities are no longer expected to prepare a single design code covering their entire area. Instead, national policy encourages local authorities to identify the most important design requirements for their area and incorporate them into local plans and other planning documents. These requirements can be applied at different scales, including across Central Lincolnshire as a whole, within particular towns, villages or neighbourhoods, and on specific development sites.

The work undertaken to prepare the Design Code has provided valuable evidence about the features people value in Central Lincolnshire and the design issues that should be considered in future development. You can find out more about the Design Code project and view the evidence gathered during its [preparation here](#).

Rather than preparing a standalone Design Code, key elements from the work could be included in the new Local Plan. This would allow the most important design principles identified through previous consultation and engagement to help shape future development across Central Lincolnshire.

Lincolnshire County Council has recently published [Better Streets for Lincolnshire](#), which provides detailed guidance on the design of streets and highways. As a result, the new Local Plan is unlikely to include detailed street design requirements and will instead focus on other design matters that are important to creating high-quality places.

Design policies should support the implementation of the local plan vision and spatial strategy and respond to place specific issues. They should support placemaking and set clear expectations for design quality. The Local Plan can include design requirements at different scales, from policies that apply across Central Lincolnshire to more detailed requirements for particular places or development sites.

Across Central Lincolnshire, the Local Plan could:

- Set out the overall expectations for good design in new development.
- Identify where masterplans may be needed to guide large or complex developments.
- Include design requirements that respond to issues in particular places, such as protecting important views or local character.
- Identify other ways of improving design quality, such as independent design reviews.

For particular towns, villages, neighbourhoods or growth areas, the Local Plan could:

- Identify where more detailed design guidance or masterplans are needed.
- Help coordinate development across larger areas, especially where land is in different ownerships.
- Refer to existing design guidance and codes where appropriate.

For larger development sites, the Local Plan could require:

- High-quality layouts, green infrastructure, community facilities and transport connections.

- Measures to protect heritage, habitats and the local environment.
- Walking, wheeling and cycling routes that are well connected and easy to use.
- The preparation of masterplans or site-specific design guidance before development takes place.
- Design review processes to help ensure schemes are well designed.

Question/s:

- Which design topics should be prioritised in the Local Plan?

- ☐ Building design and appearance
- ☐ Local character
- ☐ Heritage and historic settings
- ☐ Green spaces and landscaping
- ☐ Public open spaces
- ☐ Trees and biodiversity
- ☐ Safety and security
- ☐ Energy efficiency and climate adaptation
- ☐ Walking, wheeling and cycling connections
- ☐ Other (*please specify*)

- Do you agree that some towns, villages, neighbourhoods or growth areas may require more detailed design requirements to reflect their local character and circumstances?
☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't know (tick one only)
- Do you agree that larger developments should be supported by masterplans, design codes, or other design tools to help coordinate the delivery of homes, infrastructure, green spaces and community facilities?
☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't know (tick one only)

Section 10: SEA Scoping

Topic: Consultation on SEA Scoping

A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is used to assess how the Local Plan could affect the environment. It helps make sure that environmental issues are taken into account as the plan is prepared.

The SEA will consider a range of environmental topics, including biodiversity, the changing climate, flood risk, landscape, heritage and the use of natural resources. It will help identify any significant environmental effects of the Local Plan and ways to avoid, reduce or address any negative impacts.

As the first stage of the process, a SEA Scoping Report has been prepared. The report identifies the main environmental issues affecting Central Lincolnshire, sets out the objectives that will be used to assess the Local Plan, and explains how the assessment will be carried out. The Government has indicated that SEA will eventually be replaced by a new system called Environmental Outcomes Reports. However, this change has not yet taken place, so the current SEA continues to apply.

The full Scoping Report is available to [view here](#), and an Executive Summary, including maps, is [available here](#).

Question/s:

- Do you agree with the proposed approach to the Strategic Environmental Assessment as set out in the Scoping Report?
☐Yes ☐No ☐Don't know (tick one only)
- If no, please provide details.
- Are there any environmental issues, challenges or opportunities that you think should be included in the Scoping Report?
- Do you have any comments on the proposed SEA objectives or the way the assessment will be carried out?
- Please provide any additional comments on the SEA Scoping Report below.

Glossary

Allocation: a site identified in the Local Plan as suitable for a particular type of development, such as housing, employment or community uses.

Curtilage: the land immediately surrounding a building that is closely associated with its use, such as a garden or driveway.

Custom and self-build: these are plots of land that allow people to create a home tailored to their needs and preferences, rather than buying a standard house from a developer.

Deliverability: the likelihood that a development site will be built within a reasonable timescale.

Design-led approach: an approach to development that starts with understanding the character, opportunities and constraints of a place, with design principles shaping the proposal from the outset.

Environmental Outcomes Reports: an assessment that considers how a proposed development is likely to affect the environment and what measures are needed to avoid, reduce or compensate for any negative impacts.

Extant permissions: a planning permission that remains active because it has been materially started and can still be built out.

Health Impact Assessment: a process used to identify how a proposed development, plan or policy could affect people's health and wellbeing, and what can be done to increase positive impacts and reduce negative ones.

Local Land Property Gazetteer (LLPG): a database maintained by a local authority that contains information about every address and property within its area.

M4(2) Accessible and Adaptable Dwellings: homes designed to be easier to access and use for a wide range of people, including older people and some disabled people, and capable of being adapted as residents' needs change.

M4(3) Wheelchair User Dwellings: homes designed to meet the needs of wheelchair users, providing enough space and suitable layouts for wheelchair access and use throughout the home.

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF): a document that outlines the Government's policies for planning in England.

Nature-based solutions: actions that work with natural processes, such as creating wetlands or planting trees, to address environmental challenges while benefiting people and wildlife.

Planning Inspectorate: the organisation that looks at planning appeals, reviews local plans, and assesses applications for major infrastructure projects in England. It also deals with other specialist planning cases and helps ensure planning decisions are made fairly and properly.

Settlement Boundary: a defined line on a map that identifies the main built-up area of a settlement and helps guide where development may be appropriate.

Settlement Hierarchy: a way of classifying settlements according to their size, services, facilities and role within an area, to help determine where growth should be directed.

SME: a small or medium-sized business.

Spatial Strategy: a long term plan setting out where development should happen, where it should be limited, and how different places will grow and change in the future.

Suitability, availability and achievability: the three main tests used to determine whether a site is capable of being developed. They assess whether the site is appropriate, available, and likely to be delivered within the plan period.

Sustainable Urban Extension (SUE): a large-scale development on the edge of an existing town or city, planned as a significant extension to the urban area.

Viability: the ability of a development to be delivered while covering its costs and providing an acceptable return to support investment.