North Norfolk Local Plan: Gateway 1 Self-Assessment Readiness Checker

LPA name:	North Norfolk District Council
Version number	1.2
Date:	29.10.2026
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Area	Activity	We have made the recommended progress	We have started but have a bit more work to do to make the recommended progress	We may not have started or have significant work to do to make the recommended progress	Notes
Legal requirements you must have met before proceeding	Preparing and publishing a timetable in line with the data standard, publishing a notice of intention to commence and undertaking the scoping consultation	☑ We have complied with these legal requirements.	☐	☐ We have not met some or all of these legal requirements.	The new Local Plan Timetable was first published on 30th June 2026. A copy of the current timetable, alongside its data standard version can be found via the Council's website at https://www.north-norfolk.gov.uk/tasks/planning-services/planning-policy/local-plan-timetable/. Similarly, the Council's Notice of Intention to Commence Local Preparation was published on the 30th June 2026, and is available via https://www.north-norfolk.gov.uk/tasks/planning-services/planning-policy/notice-of-intention-to-commence-local-plan-preparation/. A Notice of Scoping Consultation was published on 20 July 2026. The Scoping Consultation ran between 20th July and 31 August 2026. Details of the Scoping Consultation and Notice of Scoping Consultation are available via https://www.north-norfolk.gov.uk/tasks/planning-services/planning-policy/scoping-consultation/. Responses to the Scoping Consultation are currently being carefully considered and will be made available later in Autumn 2026.
Preparing and publishing a local plan timetable	Considering the expected time it will take to adopt the plan	☑ The timetable shows how we will prepare and adopt a plan within 30 months.	☐ The timetable shows how we will prepare and adopt a plan within 30 months but there are significant risks to this.	☐ The timetable shows that preparing and adopting a plan will take substantially longer than 30 months.	The new Local Plan Timetable was first published on 30th June 2026. A copy of the current timetable, alongside its data standard version can be found via the Council's website at https://www.north-norfolk.gov.uk/tasks/planning-services/planning-policy/local-plan-timetable/. The timetable includes key milestones for preparing the local plan in 30 months, following the passing of the Gateway 1 self-assessment on 30 October 2026.
Establishing project management and governance arrangements	Establishing appropriate project management, governance and resourcing to support the timetable	☑ We have a robust approach to manage, govern, resource and finance the preparation of the plan that supports the delivery of the local plan timetable.	☐ We have considered our approach to manage, govern, resource and finance the preparation of the plan, but there are some gaps or an approach is not yet signed off.	☐ We have key unresolved questions for how we willl manage, govern, resource or finance the preparation of the plan.	A Project Initiation Document (PID) has been prepared alongside the Gateway 1 Self-Assessement Summary. The PID sets out the management framework and approach for preparing and delivering the new Local Plan. The PID defines the plan's scope and timeline, governance and decision-making arrangements, staff resource and management, evidence, stakheolder engagement approach, budget overview, and risks and mitigation. The Council's has recently established the new Local Plan & Conservation Task Group (a sub-committee of its Cabinet), with decision-making responsibilities to streamline the Local Plan decision-making process.
	Testing and agreeing project management and governance internally	☑ All relevant teams and decision makers have been involved in designing, and signing-off the approach.	☐ Relevant teams and decisions makers have been involved in designing and testing our approach, but it is not yet signed off.	☐ We still need to involve other relevant teams and decision makers.	The Project Initiation Document has been informed by prior engagement with the Council's Leadership Team, Democratic Services, Finance, Legal Services and Corporate Project Team. Political and Corporate Sign off / approval of the Project Initiation Document has been sought prior to passing through Gateway 1. This was via the Council's Local Plan & Conservation Task Group, and the Assistant Director of Planning (as Senior Responsible Officer for the new Local Plan project).
	Establishing risk monitoring, management and mitigation	☑ We have identified potential risks and have effective processes in place to monitor, manage and mitigate them.	☐ We have identified potential risks and are working to establish processes to monitor, manage and mitigate them.	☐ We're still identifying risks or are yet to consider how we will monitor, manage and mitigate them.	The Project Initiation Document identifies a number of risks to the preparationof the local plan, their likeihood and severity. It aslo identifies how these risks will be mitigated.
Consulting and engaging on the plan	Preparing an engagement strategy	☑ We have a positive strategy for engaging the community and other key stakeholders in the preparation of the plan, which has been prepared with regard to government guidance.	☐ We have made some progress in preparing an engagement strategy.	☐ We need to start preparing an engagement strategy.	We have prepared an engagement strategy for engaging the community and other key stakeholders in the preparation of the local plan. The engagement strategy has had regard to national policy and guidance and has been informed by feedback gained through the Local Plan Scoping Consultation undertaken during the summer of 2026.
	Establishing processes for consultation and engagement	☑ We have clear processes in place to maximise diversity in participation, utilising both digital-first and traditional methods.	☐ We have scoped out digital-first and traditional methods for engaging with different audiences, but our processes are not yet fully formed.	☐ We haven't explored what engagement methods we could use.	The Council will prioritise a digital first approach for consultation and engagement, primarily utilising the Council's digital consultation platform (Objective) whilst exploring other digital-mapping based applications. Consultation and engagement will also include a mix of digital and traditional approaches, including face-to-face events, in-person workshops and stakeholder events/exhibitions - in recongnition of the local needs and demongraphics of the district.
	Agreeing the engagement strategy internally	☑ We have sought feedback on and agreed the engagement strategy with key decision makers.	☐ We have sought feedback on the engagement strategy with key decision makers, but it's not yet signed off.	☐ We still need to seek feedback on our engagement approach with key decision makers.	Feedback on the engagement strategy and sign off was sought from the Council's Local Plan and Conservation Task Group prior to passing through Gateway 1.
	Defining the scope of the plan	☐ We understand the proposed scope of the local plan. We know the main areas or locally specific subject matters it will address. This is based on data from the existing local plan, as well as information gathering, baselining and early engagement to date. Scoping work aligns with the work we have carried out on our SEA (if SEA is required).	☑ Scoping work is underway. We have reviewed monitoring information for the previous local plan, but still have work to do on information gathering, baselining and early engagement. The scoping work aligns or partially aligns with the work we have carried out on our SEA (if SEA is required).	☐ We're only in the early stages of scoping and haven't considered how this relates to the SEA.	Scoping work to define the content of the new Local Plan is currently ongoing, and anticipated to be concluded by the Autumn 2026. This will inform the Proposed Local Plan Content and Evidence consultation which will be published in early 2027. In undertaking Scoping, the Council has been able to draw upon the scope of the recently adopted Local Plan, its supporting evidence and feedback received from the recent Local Plan Scoping Consultlation.

Scoping the anticipated content of the plan	Drafting a vision for the plan	☐ We have used early baselining and engagement activities to begin drafting a vision.	☑ Using our baselining work and analysis of feedback from the scoping consultation we have started to develop some ideas about what the vision might focus on.	☐ We need to start drafting a vision.	Scoping work to draft a potential new Local Plan Vision is currently ongoing, and anticipated to be conclued later in the Autumn 2026. This will inform the Proposed Local Plan Content and Evidence consultation which will be published in early 2027. In undertaken work to begin drafting a vision, the Council has been able to draw upon the current adopted Local Plan vision, main aims and objectives, and by drawing on the baseline evidence that informed the Local Plan Scoping Consultation. Initial suggestions on the potential key priorities of the Local Plan were consulted on as part of the Local Plan Scoping Consultation and ongoing analysis of the new Local Plan SWOT will help to shape the scope of the new Local Plan vision.
	Considering how we will monitor progress towards the vision	☐ We have started to identify measurable outcomes to monitor our progress towards the vision.	☐ We have considered how we might monitor progress towards our vision, but haven't identified specific measurable outcomes yet.	☑ We haven't considered how we will monitor progress towards our vision.	Initial consideration has been given to potential measurable outcomes however these will need to be flow from further work on developing a draft vision, which is anticipated to be concluded later in the Autumn 2026. The Council will have regard to the existing monitoring framework in the current Local Plan as part of this scoping process.
	Gathering evidence to inform the new plan	☑ We have mostly identified and scoped our evidence needs and have a plan for how we will deliver this.	☐ We have identified some of our evidence needs but still have work to do to scope the work and identify how we will deliver this.	☐ We need to start identifying our evidence needs and how we will deliver this.	The Project Initiation Document identifies key evidence that will be used to inform the preparation of the local plan. This includes who is responsible for preparing the evidence, who key stakeholders are and dependencies with other evidence documents. A small number of initial evidence bases are nearing finalisation whilst others will be commenced soon.
	Calculating a housing requirement	☐ We have calculated a housing requirement for the plan area using the Government's recommended standard method and started to identify the needs for homes of different sizes, types and tenures, including affordable homes.	☑ We have calculated a housing requirement for the plan area using the Government's standard method. We haven't started to identify the need for homes of different sizes, types and tenures and affordable homes yet.	☐ We haven't calculated a housing requirement using the Government's standard method.	We have used the Government's standard method to calcuate the new housing requirement for the area. This is currently calculated as 955 homes per annum, but may change to reflect the level of affordability. A local housing needs assessment is currently out to tender and expected to commence in early November. This assessment will identify the needs for homes of different sizes, types and tenures, including affordable homes and future Gypsy and Traveller needs.
	Exploring our high-level options and policies	☐ We have started to consider high-level and conceptual spatial options to deliver the identified development need, and begun to identify the potential scope of locally specific policies.	☑ We have identified the high-level capacity and constraints for development but have not started to develop spatial options to deliver the development need or scoped out locally specific policies	☐ We haven't done any work on high-level spatial options or locally specific policies.	The Council has a broad understanding of the potential scope of locally specific policies following a comparative review of the current Local Plan against the most recently published NPPF. The scope of locally specific policies will be consulted on as part of the Proposed Local Plan Content and Evidence consultation which will be published in early Spring 2027. Work to identify high-level capacity and constraints for development is already underway. This has drawn on the very recent evidence base which informed the existing Local Plan and is also being supplemented by new capacity evidence jointly commissioned across the Norfolk Authorities. This includes a Housing Capacity Study, New Settlements Study, Economic Needs Assessment, Water Cycle Study and SFRA.It is anticipated that high-level conceptional spatial options will be prepared towards Xmas 2026 in tandem with site assessment work that is currently underway.
Progressing the Strategic Environmental Assessment	Identifying other plans/programmes that have a relationship with the local plan	☐ We have identified other relevant plans and programmes and their relationship to the local plan to establish how the plan or programme is affected by those plans or programmes.	☑ We have identified other relevant plans and programmes but have not yet analysed how the local plan is affected by those plans or programmes.	☐ We have not yet identified other relevant plans or programmes that affect the local plan.	An external consultant is expected to be appointed imminently to undertake the SEA. A key early deliverable will be the preparation and consultation on the SEA Scoping Report that will identify other plans/programmes that have a relationship with the local plan, collecting baseline information, and identify environmental protection objectives to inform plan preparation. Given the recent adoption of the existing Local Plan and supporting evidence base through the previous Sustainability Appraisal, we already have a firm understanding of the likely relevant plans/programmes that will need to be considered through the SEA Scoping process, and will immediately inform the preparation of the SEA Scoping Report once a consultant is appointed.
	Collecting baseline information for the SEA	☐ We have identified baseline information showing the existing environmental characteristics of the area and their likely evolution without implementation of a new plan, as well as data on historic and likely future trends. It provides the basis against which we can assess the likely effects of our different options.	☑ We have identified baseline information on the existing environmental characteristics of the area. We have not used this information to establish trends or used it to test the environmental effects of our options.	☐ We are in the early stages of (or haven't yet started) assembling baseline information to inform our strategic environmental assessment.	An external consultant is expected to be appointed imminently to undertake the SEA. A key early deliverable will be the preparation and consultation on the SEA Scoping Report that will identify other plans/programmes that have a relationship with the local plan, collecting baseline information, and identify environmental protection objectives to inform plan preparation. Given the recent adoption of the existing Local Plan and supporting evidence base through the previous Sustainability Appraisal, we already have a firm understanding of basliene information on existing environmental characteristics of the area that will need to be considered through the SEA Scoping process, and will immediately inform the preparation of the SEA Scoping Report once a consultant is appointed.
	Identify environmental protection objectives to inform plan preparation	☐ We have identified the relevant environmental protection objectives, established at international, community or national level, and environmental considerations that will be taken into account during the preparation of the plan and recorded in the environmental report.	☑ We are in the process of identifying relevant environmental protection objectives that will be taken into account when preparing the plan.	☐ We have not identified any environmental protection objectives.	An external consultant is expected to be appointed imminently to undertake the SEA. A key early deliverable will be thepreparation and consultation on the SEA Scoping Report that will identify other plans/programmes that have a relationship with the local plan, collecting baseline information, and identify environmental protection objectives to inform plan preparation. Given the recent adoption of the existing Local Plan and supporting evidence base through the previous Sustainability Appraisal, we already have a firm understanding of relevant enviornmental protection objectives that will need to be considered through the SEA Scoping process, and will immediately inform the preparation of the SEA Scoping Report once a consultant is appointed.
	Developing the scope of the SEA	☐ We have begun to identify the scope and level of detail of the information we intend to include in the environmental report. We have started to set out this information in a suitable document, such as a draft, emerging environmental report or scoping document. We are on track to consult on the scope of the SEA at the consultation on proposed plan content and evidence.	☐ We're still working out what the scope and/or level of detail to include in the environmental report. We're making progress on setting out this information in an appropriate document, but we're not ready to consult on the scope of the SEA.	☑ We have not decided on the scope of the SEA or the level of detail we should include in the environmental report.	An external consultant is expected to be appointed imminently to undertake the SEA. A key early deliverable will be the preparation and and consultation on the SEA Scoping Report that will identify other plans/programmes that have a relationship with the local plan, collecting baseline information, and identify environmental protection objectives to inform the plan preparation. Although the Council already has a firm understanding on the scope of this information (due to recently work on the current Local Plan and Sustainability Appraisal) the Council will need to await the appointment of the SEA consultant before coming to a informed view on the scope of the SEA and the level of detail that could be included in the environmental report. Work to expedite this area will be a key focus on the Council's Planning Policy Team once a suitably qualified consultant is appointed, and it is anticipated the SEA Scoping Report will be consulted with the statutory SEA bodies later in 2026.

	Developing SEA objectives	☐ We have started to develop SEA objectives which will help assess the environmental performance of the local plan.	☐ We have begun to identify the key themes likely to be important when developing SEA objectives to use to assess the environmental performance of the local plan.	☑ We have not yet begun on developing SEA objectives to assess the environmenta performance of the plan against.	An external consultant is expected to be appointed imminently to undertake the SEA. A key early deliverable will be the preparation and and consultation on the SEA Scoping Report that will identify other plans/programmes that have a relationship with the local plan, collecting baseline information, and identify environmental protection objectives to inform the plan preparation. Although the Council already has a firm understanding on the scope of this information (due to recently work on the current Local Plan and Sustainability Appraisal) the Council will need to await the appointment of the SEA consultant before coming to a informed view on developing the SEA objectives/framework to assess the performance of the plan against it. Work to expedite this area will be a key focus on the Council's Planning Policy Team once a suitably qualified consultant is appointed, and it is anticipated the SEA Scoping Report will be consulted with the statutory SEA bodies later in 2026.