

Central Bedfordshire Council Local Plan



Stakeholder Briefing
16th May 2024

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Policy and Planning Manager

Today's Agenda and purpose of the event

- Welcome and introduction to the team
- Introduction to the new Local Plan
- Opportunity to ask questions



Housekeeping

- Keep microphones muted unless speaking
- Use of the chat and hands up features for commenting
- Recording any questions/comments
- Presentation + short survey will be shared after the session



Please complete our survey

Tell us about:

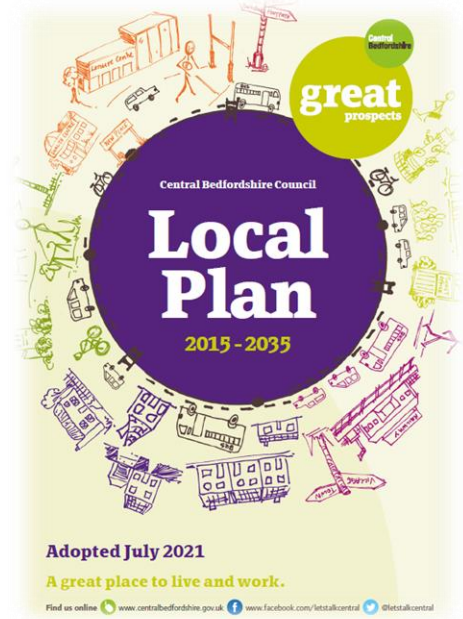
- Any projects or information we need to be aware of
- Your preference for how you would like to be engaged in the Local Plan process

[Snap Surveys \(welcomesyourfeedback.net\)](https://welcomesyourfeedback.net)

Deadline for responses: 31st May 2024

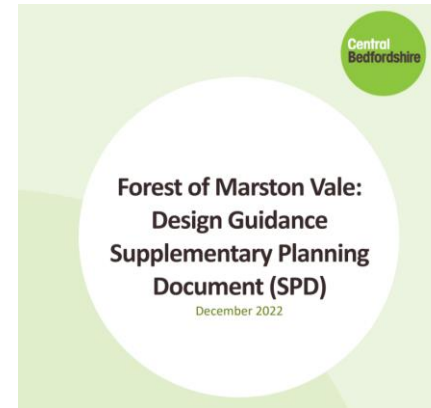
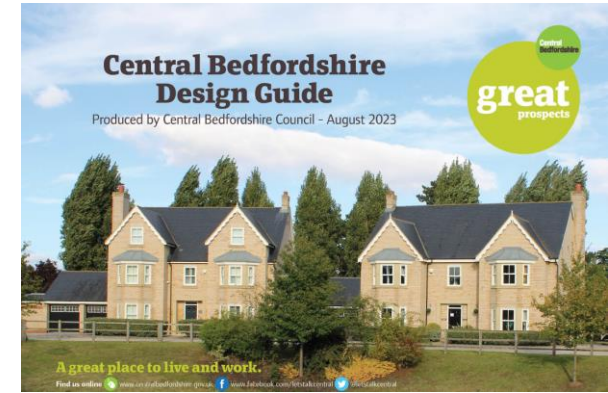
Introduction to the Local Plan

- Sets the vision and framework for the area
- Strategy for the future of the area - homes, jobs, community facilities and infrastructure, as well as safeguarding the environment and enabling adaptation to climate change



Introduction to the Local Plan

- Policy framework for making decisions on planning applications
- Sits alongside Neighbourhood Plans and the Minerals and Waste Local Plan
- Supported by Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs)

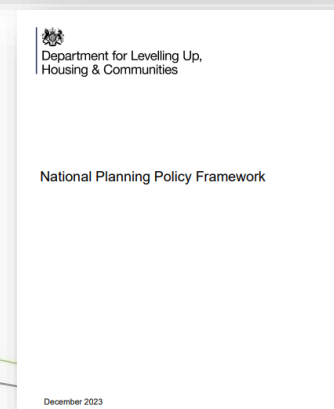


Why do we need a new Local Plan?

- National policy requirement to review every 5 years
- Commitment in the adopted Local Plan to commence a review within 6 months (Policy SP1a)
- The review process commenced in January 2022

Outcome of the Local Plan Review process

- Policy and monitoring review
- Local – new strategies
- Housing need – standard methodology
- National – new policies and impact of planning reforms



Outcome of the Local Plan Review process

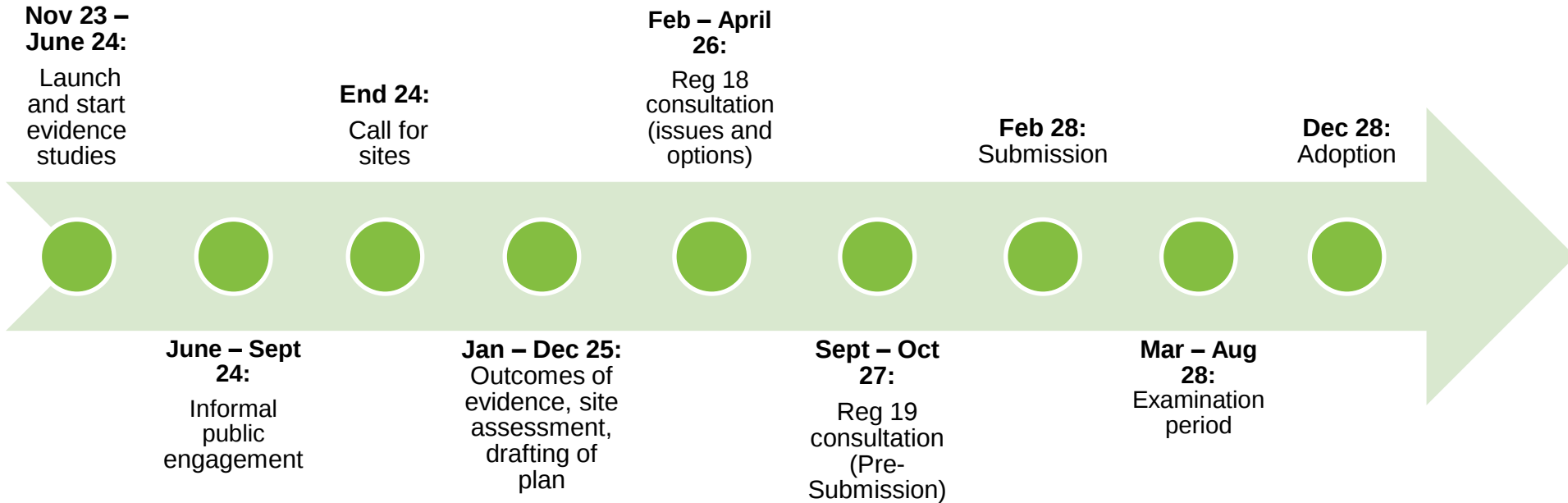
- Plan-making reforms means significant change
- Old-style plans must be submitted by June 2025
- Not possible for CBC if plan is to reflect views of community
- New style plan is required = whole new plan for CBC
- Partial update is not a realistic option

Local Plan Timetable

- New Local Development Scheme (LDS) approved by Council in November 2023
- Timetable allows for:
 - enhanced public engagement
 - time to consider responses and resolve objections
 - ability to react to further changes to national policy and legislation



Local Plan Timetable – Key milestones



Progress so far

- Early engagement
- Scope of evidence required
- Commissioned initial evidence studies
- Engagement and Communications Strategy commissioned
- Public engagement being planned
- Project governance



Evidence Studies - what we know so far

Agricultural Land Assessment
Density/Capacity Assessment
Employment Land Review
Engagement and Communication Strategy*
Green Belt*
Grid Capacity*
Growth Options
Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA)*
Health
Housing Economic Development Needs Assessment (HEDNA)*
Housing Implementation Strategy
Important Countryside Gaps

Landscape Character Assessment*
Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP)
Brownfield Opportunities Topic Paper
Renewable Energy
Retail Study
Sustainability Appraisal*
Settlement Envelopes Review
Settlement Hierarchy
Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA)*
Strategic Land Availability Assessment (SLAA)
Transport*
Viability
Water Cycle Study*
Windfall

Early Engagement

- Internal engagement within CBC
- Duty to Cooperate discussion with neighbouring Local Authorities
- Member engagement – 2x workshops
- Town and Parish Council engagement – 3x workshops

Workshop outcomes – Plan objectives

Common themes:

- Sustainability and health
- Infrastructure to support growth
- The right homes in the right places
- A range of jobs, with emphasis on high tech/green, and bringing in new businesses
- High quality development that reflects local character
- Well-connected places with emphasis on sustainable movement
- Sustainable homes and buildings; use of renewables
- Green spaces, BNG and protection of agricultural land

Workshop outcomes – Engagement and Communication

Common themes:

- Local Plan - recognisable branding
- Selling the Local Plan as a positive tool
- Accessible language
- Feedback loop
- Using appropriate methods of communication and engagement for different groups and areas
- New ways to share information – working with Members and Town and Parish Council's, stakeholders etc

Next steps for the Local Plan

- Continue to progress evidence studies
- Commission Sustainability Appraisal and other technical studies
- Implement project governance
- Finalise Engagement Strategy
- Public engagement
- Engagement on methodologies and sites
- Monitor outcomes of updates to national policy
- Proptech and digital tools
- Consultation database LocalPlan@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Any questions?

