

Stroud District Council

Notice of Intention to Commence Preparation of a Local Plan and Formal Declaration

Date of publication: 29 June 2026

1. Introduction

Stroud District Council (“the Council”) hereby gives formal notice that it is commencing the preparation of a new Local Plan for its administrative area in accordance with the **Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026**.

This document constitutes both:

- a **Notice of Intention to Commence Plan Preparation**, and
 - a **formal Declaration of the Council’s commitment** to preparing a Local Plan under the new plan-making system.
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2. Notice of Intention to Commence Plan Preparation

In accordance with the requirements of the 2026 Regulations, the Council confirms that:

- Preparation of a new Local Plan for Stroud District will formally **commence on 29 June 2026**
- The Local Plan will be prepared under the **new plan-making system introduced through the 2026 Regulations**
- The Local Plan will relate to the **whole administrative area of Stroud District Council**

This notice constitutes the formal commencement of plan preparation for the purposes of the Regulations.

3. Purpose and Scope of the Local Plan

The Local Plan will provide the statutory development plan framework for Stroud District over a period of at least 15 years from adoption.

The Plan will address strategic matters including (but not limited to):

- the delivery of housing and meeting identified needs

- economic development and employment provision
- infrastructure requirements (including transport, utilities, health and education)
- climate change mitigation and adaptation
- the protection and enhancement of the natural, built and historic environment

At this stage, the Council confirms that it has **not made any decisions** regarding:

- the spatial strategy for the District
- the distribution of growth
- the identification or allocation of specific development sites

4. Plan-Making Approach

The Council will prepare the Local Plan in accordance with the statutory requirements of the 2026 Regulations and relevant national planning policy.

This will include:

- adherence to the **statutory 30-month plan-making timeframe**
- progression through the **Gateway process (Gateway 1, Gateway 2 and Gateway 3)**
- preparation of a **proportionate, relevant and up-to-date evidence base**, aligned to plan-making needs
- application of a **digital-first approach** to plan production and consultation, where appropriate

The Council will seek to ensure that plan preparation is undertaken in a timely and effective manner to support submission, examination and adoption within the prescribed timeframe.

5. Engagement and Consultation

The Council is committed to undertaking **early, proportionate and effective engagement** in the preparation of the Local Plan.

An initial **scoping consultation** is being undertaken alongside the publication of this notice. This consultation is intended to:

- seek views on the key issues, priorities and challenges facing the District
- inform the scope and direction of the Local Plan

- support the identification and assessment of reasonable alternatives

The Council will continue to engage with local communities, businesses, statutory bodies, infrastructure providers and other stakeholders at appropriate stages throughout the plan-making process.

Participation in any specific engagement activity will not affect the ability of any individual or organisation to make representations at subsequent stages of the process.

6. Local Plan Timetable

The Council will prepare and publish a **Local Plan Timetable** in accordance with the requirements of the Regulations.

The timetable will set out the key stages and milestones for the preparation of the Local Plan and will be made available on the Council's website. It will be kept under review and updated where necessary.

7. Evidence Base

The Local Plan will be informed by an evidence base that is:

- proportionate to the scale and nature of the issues being addressed
- relevant to the preparation of the Plan
- kept up to date as plan-making progresses

Evidence will be prepared on an iterative basis and aligned with the requirements of the plan-making stages.

8. Governance and Decision-Making

The decision to commence preparation of a new Local Plan has been undertaken in accordance with the Council's governance arrangements.

The preparation of the Local Plan will continue to be overseen through the Council's established decision-making processes, including member oversight where appropriate.

9. Declaration

Stroud District Council hereby formally declares that:

- it has commenced preparation of a new Local Plan as of **29 June 2026**
- the Local Plan will be prepared in accordance with the **Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026** and national policy
- plan-making will be undertaken in a manner that is **proportionate, transparent and evidence-led**
- the Council will engage constructively with communities, stakeholders and infrastructure providers throughout the process
- the Local Plan will seek to support the achievement of **sustainable development** and provide a clear and effective framework for the future growth of Stroud District

10. Further Information

Information on the Local Plan, including consultation materials and opportunities to engage, is available at:

[New Local Plan 2026](#)

For enquiries:

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