



Report to: Cabinet Meeting: 9 June 2026
 Portfolio Holder: Councillor Claire Penny, Sustainable Economic Development
 Director Lead: Matt Lamb, Director - Planning & Growth
 Lead Officer: Matthew Norton Business Manager – Planning Policy & Infrastructure

Report Summary	
Type of Report	Open Report / Key Decision
Report Title	Newark & Sherwood Local Plan – Scoping Consultation
Purpose of Report	To set before Cabinet the progress towards developing the Scoping Consultation, including proposed content and seek approval for delegated authority to carry out consultation in July 2026.
Recommendations	That Cabinet: a) note the report; b) approve the scoping consultation proposals contained in Appendix 1 to the report; and c) delegate authority to the Portfolio Holder for Sustainable Economic Development to agree the final Scoping Consultation document in consultation with the Planning Policy Board ready for consultation in July 2026.
Alternative Options Considered	It was considered that the Scoping Consultation could be delayed, however this will have knock on consequences to the agreed timetable. Furthermore, additional government funding requires the Council to progress through Gateway 1 by the end of October 2026, which would be difficult if the scoping consultation was pushed into August and September 2026.
Reason for Recommendations	To allow the Scoping Consultation in line with the agreed Newark & Sherwood Local Plan timetable.

1.0 **Background**

1.1 The District Council has published its intention to commence plan making. Before we enter the formal 30-month plan making process we have to carry out a scoping consultation. Regulation 20(1) of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026 are brief in their requirements they state that:

The authority must—

(a) invite each of the bodies specified in paragraph (2) to make representations to the local planning authority about—

(i) such matters relevant to the preparation of the local plan as the authority or body consider appropriate, including what the plan should contain, and

(ii) how the authority should engage with them in the preparation of the local plan.

1.2 This process is not a traditional consultation as we have previously undertaken as part of plan production, it is in effect an initiation document or an invitation to participate. Therefore, it is not intended to prepare detailed options for consultation but a broad document to consider what we might include in the local plan. As its an invitation to participate it's really important that we set out our approach to consultation and seek people's views on this.

2.0 **Proposed Approach to the Scoping Consultation**

2.1 The scoping consultation will be in two parts. Part one will be a 'District Profile' this will set out our baseline understanding of the district, highlighting current issues and consideration of what issues what there might be. Part 2 is a discussion of the various elements of the Plan and the proposed consultation approach. The framework for the consultation is set out in the table below:

Section	Topic Area
Introduction	Introduction
District Profile	Population & Demographics (Health)
	Housing
	Economy
	Communities; including Retail, Town Centres, Community Facilities, Rural Areas
	Environment; including Climate Change, Flooding, Blue/Green Infrastructure, Biodiversity, Heritage
	Infrastructure & Transport
Context and Evidence Base	Context – Other plans and programmes
	Existing Evidence Base
	Updated and New Evidence Base
What will be in the Plan	Vision & Objectives
	Spatial Strategy
	Area & Site-Specific Policies
	Allocations for new developments
	Development Management Policies
Appraising the Plan	Scoping out the Strategic Environmental Assessment
	Habitat Regulation Assessment
	The role of Sustainability Appraisal, Equalities Impact Assessment and Health Impact Assessment
Consultation Approach	Digital Consultation
	Engaging the whole community

- 2.2 Officers are busy preparing the various elements of the district profile with the aim that it will be interactive with maps, diagrams and charts that consultees can explore to understand various issues. This report focusses on the two key elements of the consultation the contents of the Local Plan in relation to the Vision & Objectives and Spatial Strategy and the Consultation Approach. These elements are attached at **Appendix 1** for consideration.
- 2.3 Planning Policy Board endorsed the approach set out in Paragraph 2.2 at its 27 May meeting and as part of the discussion highlighted the need for Councillors to be advocates for the new Local Plan. The Board thought it would be important for Councillors to have support and training in the new plan making system to assist in this. The Board also highlight the important role of Parish Councils and the need to engage with them as set out in the proposed consultation strategy.
- 2.4 It has not been possible to prepare a final scoping consultation document for approval at this Cabinet Meeting. In order to meet the agreed Local Plan timetable and prepare a scoping consultation in time for a July consultation it is proposed that delegated authority for the Portfolio Holder to agree the final scoping consultation in consultation with Planning Policy Board.

3.0 **Implications**

In writing this report and in putting forward recommendations, officers have considered the following implications: Data Protection; Digital & Cyber Security; Equality & Diversity; Financial; Human Resources; Human Rights; Legal; Safeguarding & Sustainability and where appropriate they have made reference to these implications and added suitable expert comment where appropriate.

Implications Considered			
Yes – relevant and included / NA – not applicable			
Financial	Yes	Equality & Diversity	n/a
Human Resources	n/a	Human Rights	n/a
Legal	Yes	Data Protection	n/a
Digital & Cyber Security	n/a	Safeguarding	n/a
Sustainability	n/a	Crime & Disorder	n/a
LGR	n/a	Tenant Consultation	n/a

Financial Implications - FIN26-27/4148

- 3.1 This report has no financial implications.

Legal Implications - LEG2627/5101

- 3.2 The legal basis for the requirements of the scoping consultation are outlined in this report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

[Newark & Sherwood Local Plan Timetable](#)

