Folkestone & Hythe District Council Local Plan

Notice of Local Plan Scoping Consultation (Regulation 20)

Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026

Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended by the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Folkestone & Hythe District Council ("the Council"), in accordance with Regulation 20 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026, is undertaking a Local Plan Scoping Consultation.

This consultation follows the Council's Notice of Intention to Prepare a Local Plan published under Regulation 19 and is the first stage of public engagement in the preparation of the Folkestone & Hythe Local Plan.

The Scoping Consultation will commence on the **7th September 2026 and will close at 5.00pm on 16th October 2026**.

The Council is preparing a new Local Plan for the district, to be known as the Folkestone & Hythe Local Plan. The Local Plan will set out the spatial strategy for the district, including the provision of homes, employment, infrastructure and community facilities, and will guide future development across the area.

The Council is now undertaking early engagement on the scope of the Local Plan.

The Council invites comments from residents, businesses, landowners, developers, infrastructure providers, community organisations, statutory consultees and other interested parties on the matters set out in the Local Plan Scoping Consultation Document.

What is this consultation for?

This is an **early scoping consultation**. It is **not** a consultation on draft policies or site allocations.

The purpose of this consultation is to seek views on:

- the **scope and main issues** the new Local Plan should address;
- the **evidence** needed to support the Local Plan; and
- **how the Council should engage with communities, organisations and stakeholders** as the Local Plan is prepared.

This consultation will help ensure that the Local Plan is properly scoped and that community involvement is effective and proportionate before the next stage of plan preparation.

The Local Plan Scoping Consultation Document and supporting information may be viewed on the Council's dedicated website (www.folkestoneandhythelocalplan.co.uk) and in hard copy at the Civic Centre and local libraries during normal opening hours.

The document explains the matters on which the Council is seeking views and sets out the questions to be considered as part of this consultation.

How to make representations

Representations must be submitted **no later than 5.00pm on 16th October 2026**.

You can respond:

- **online** via the dedicated website (www.folkestoneandhythelocalplan.co.uk)
- **by email**: planning.policy@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk
- **by post**: Planning Policy Team, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent CT20 2QY

Please clearly state that your comments relate to the **Local Plan Scoping Consultation**.

Anyone making representations may request to be kept informed of future stages in the preparation of the Local Plan.

Representations received may be published by the Council, with personal information handled in accordance with the Council's data protection obligations.

Next steps

Following this consultation, the Council will consider all representations received and use them to inform the next stage of Local Plan preparation.

The Council has published a Local Plan Timetable (https://www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/planning-policy/local-plan-timetable), which sets out the key stages and dates in the plan-making process.

Further information

If you need this information in an alternative format, or have any queries, please contact: planning.policy@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk