Dorset Council Local Plan

Indicative Local Plan Timetable

1. Introduction

The Dorset Council Local Plan timetable will come into effect on 31 July 2026, at the point it is published on the Local Plan website. It will replace the Local Plan timetable shown in the Local Development Scheme (March 2025). All other timetables and schedules in the Local Development Scheme (March 2025) are valid until reviewed.

Once adopted, the Dorset Council Local Plan will cover the whole of the Dorset Council area. It will include policies and allocations to guide the development of land in Dorset except for strategic waste infrastructure and minerals developments. Minerals developments and strategic waste facilities will be addressed through separate Minerals and Waste plans.

2. The Timetable

The Governments expectation is that local plans should be prepared within a 30-month timetable. This will be a significant challenge and is not something that has been achieved before. It is a requirement of the plan-making system to publish a timetable setting out the dates for each of the key stages within the process of preparing a local plan.

Dorset Council is required to review this timetable on a monthly basis and update it as and when necessary and when each stage in the plan-making process is reached. The Local Plan timetable will therefore change over time. This indicative timetable sets out the intended dates for key early stages in the plan-making process.

Stage	Expected Date	Actual Date
Publication of Local Plan Timetable	31-Jul-2026	31-Jul-2026
Publish notice of Intention to Commence Local Plan Preparation	31-Jul-2026	31-Jul-2026
Publish notice of Scoping Consultation – start of consultation (including consultation with the statutory consultation bodies on the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report)	21-Sep-2026	21-Sep-2026
Date by which Scoping Consultation comments must be received – close of consultation	26-Oct-2026	26-Oct-2026
Gateway 1: Self-assessment	30-Nov-2026	
Publish summary of Scoping Consultation	01-Mar-2027	
Publish notice of Local Plan Content and Evidence Consultation – start of consultation	01-Mar-2027	
Date by which Local Plan Content and Evidence Consultation comments must be received – close of consultation	11-Apr-2027	
Gateway 2: Seek observations and advice from Planning Inspectorate	07-Jul-2027	
Publish notice of Proposed Local Plan Consultation – start of consultation	10-Jan-2028	
Date by which Proposed Local Plan Consultation comments must be received	05-Mar-2028	
Gateway 3: Seek advice from Planning Inspectorate on whether prescribed requirements have been met	15-May-2028	
Submit Local Plan for Examination	03-Jul-2028	
Adopt Local Plan	26-Feb-2029	