



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q: What are “Main Modifications” to the Local Plan?

A: Main Modifications are changes to the emerging Local Plan 2021-2040 that have been put forward by the appointed Planning Inspectors, following the examination hearings.

These are changes to the Local Plan that are necessary, in order to make it “sound” and allow for the Plan to pass examination and then be adopted by the Borough Council.

Q: Why are we consulting upon the Main Modifications Part 2 now?

A: The Local Plan 2021-2040 was submitted to the Government, in March 2022. Shortly after submission, two Planning Inspectors were appointed to carry out an independent examination of the Plan.

Consultation upon the Main Modifications Part 1 took place from 7 August – 2 October 2024, inclusive. The subsequent Part 2 consultation relates to the Gypsy and Traveller Proposed Site allocations and Policies, for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople and for Caravans, Park Homes and Houseboats. This follows examination hearings that took place on 3rd of September 2024, regarding proposed Local Plan site allocations and the draft development management policy for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople, developed in response to the [Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment, June 2023](#).

Following the September 2024 hearings, the Inspectors gave the Borough Council the go-ahead to consult on the Main Modifications (Part 2).

Q: Why is the Borough Council now putting forward proposals to allocate land, to accommodate Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople?

A: The Borough Council was required to undertake a specific Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA), which was published in June 2023. This report identified a future need for approximately 100 Gypsy and Traveller pitches over the remaining Local Plan period. Of this, there is a need for over 72 pitches within the first 5 years of this period (2023-2028). The GTAA also identified a need for 5 additional plots for Travelling Showpeople within the first 5 years.

These matters were discussed at the examination hearings on 3rd of September 2024 and informed the Main Modifications Part 2 consultation.

Q: How will the consultation be run?

A: The consultation will run in the same way as the previous Main Modifications Part 1 consultation. This will take place over 6-weeks (17th October – 29th November 2024, inclusive).

The Main Modifications Part 2 are proposed to replace development management policies for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople in the submission (March 2022) version of the Local Plan (Policy LP28), together with the addition of site-specific allocations to meet identified need. This is necessary to bring the Plan up to the necessary standard to pass examination.

Interested parties and respondents (including statutory and non-statutory consultees and interested individuals) are invited to comment upon whether the Main Modifications (Part 2) to the Local Plan meet the tests of soundness:

- Legally compliant?
- Complies with the Duty to cooperate?
- Positively prepared (i.e. seeks to meet the area's objectively assessed needs)?
- Justified (an appropriate strategy, taking into account the reasonable alternatives, and based on proportionate evidence)?
- Effective (i.e. deliverable over the plan period)?
- Consistent with national policy ([National Planning Policy Framework \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk))?

To be accepted, representations will need to relate to specific Main Modifications and not other Local Plan-related matters or issues.

The following will be published for consultation:

1. Schedule of Main Modifications Part 2 (GTT);
2. Schedule of Main Modifications to Policies Map (GTT);
3. Sustainability Appraisal and Habitat Regulations Assessment updates.

The consultation relates to the Schedule of Main Modifications Part 2. However, where minor modifications (e.g. factual/ grammatical corrections or updates), or presentational issues are identified regarding the Policies Map (e.g. cartography), the consultation also provides an opportunity to highlight these and allow for corrections or amendments to be made.

The consultation is underpinned by updates to the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA). Both the SA and HRA are statutory requirements for the Local Plan.

Q: This consultation relates to the Main Modifications Part 2 – what other consultations (Main Modifications Part 2 etc) are going to take place?

A: The Main Modifications Part 2 consultation relates to site allocations and development management policies for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling

Showpeople. It is the final stage of the Local Plan examination process and follows the final hearing sessions that took place in September 2024.

Q: Who will be consulted?

A: In accordance with the Statement of Community Involvement, all statutory consultees and interested parties will be consulted, subject to the requirements of the 2018 Data Protection Act.

Q: How and when can I respond to the consultation?

A: The consultation will commence on 17th October 2024, running for 6 weeks (closing date, 29th November 2024). Details will be set out on the Local Plan examination web page:

- https://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/info/20079/planning_policy_and_local_plan/951/local_plan_review_2016-2036_examination).

To assist the consultation, there will be a representation form. Once the consultation is open (17th October), respondents will be able to submit representations by way of an online version of this form. This should be used, to ensure we can capture the information required to allow us to process your response. Please note that representations must be received within the 6-weeks period to be considered.

Representations should relate to the tests of soundness (above). Please note that responses will need to be received by the close of consultation (**11:59pm, 29th November 2024**), to be accepted.

Q: What happens to representations?

A: Following the close of consultation (29th November 2024), valid (duly made) representations will be collated and forwarded onto the Planning Inspectors for their consideration.

It is emphasised that the Local Plan examination is directed and led at all stages by the appointed Planning Inspectors.

Q: What are the next stages in the process?

A: The Inspectors will consider any representations received and use these to inform their final report on the Local Plan 2021-2040. The timetable for the next stages is set out in the Local Development Scheme ([A10 - Local Development Scheme \(updated April 2024\)](#)).

- November/ December 2024 – Submission of Main Modifications Part 2 responses (regarding site allocations and policies for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople) to Inspectors;
- January 2025 – Receipt of Inspectors' final report;
- February 2025 – Adoption of Local Plan 2021-2040 by the Borough Council.