

The Council adopted the latest Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) on 27 February 2019 to be effective from 28 February 2019, with a review date set for 2024.

The Council considers that the introduction of The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) (Coronavirus) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 do not necessitate a need to modify the SCI as we are still able to involve the community in accordance with its existing provisions.

The Local Plan Examination in Public

The Local Plan Examination is currently paused pending further actions. The Inspectors are keen that participants are kept up to date and able to view and comment on the completed actions. Further details of the timing and format of this consultation will be announced in due course.

Implications of COVID-19 and consultation arrangements

The Council expects consultation arrangements to continue as much as possible as normal and as set out in the Council's Statement of Community Involvement (2019).

The Council will:

- Continue to place documents on the Council's website www.rossendale.gov.uk/localplan
- Send notifications via email to everyone listed on the Council's Local Plan database who has expressed an interest in being kept up to date on the Local Plan.
- Include clear links to the documents and any response forms in the email.
- Use social media and press releases where appropriate to keep people informed.
- Anyone with queries on the process itself or on the consultation documents can email Forward Planning or phone the Planning Officers in the Forward Planning team.
- Make paper copies of documents available at the One Stop Shop to be viewed on an appointment basis as and when the One Stop Shop is open.

Please note:

It is unlikely that the Council will place documents in the libraries as they are not currently all open.

Consultation periods may be extended where agreed with the Inspectors.

Current Government guidance is reinforcing the importance of uploading documents the website and using other digital communications.

The Government has amended legislation (in place until 31 December 2020) so the Council will:

- no longer have to make documents available at its principal office or any other such place that the Council considers appropriate (for example libraries).
- not have to provide hard copies.

Measures for people without access to the Internet

While the One Stop Shop at Futures Park, Bacup, OL13 0BB remains open, interested parties will be able to book appointments to view consultation documents, subject to the imposition of appropriate safeguards to protect the health of the public and Council staff. Appointments can be made by phoning 01706 217777 or emailing forwardplanning@rossendalebc.gov.uk

For anyone on the Local Plan database who does not have an email address or access to the internet the Council will continue to post letters via Royal Mail.

Paper copies of response forms can be collected from the One Stop Shop and returned to the Forward Planning Team. Alternatively respondents can continue to respond via a letter.

Anyone who has difficulties with these arrangements should contact the Forward Planning team explaining their requirements and where possible alternative arrangements will be made in accordance with the latest Government guidance at the time on limiting the spread of Covid-19.

Meetings

At this stage it is not expected that many meetings with large numbers of attendees will be required. Meetings with larger numbers of participants are likely to take place over the telephone or as virtual meetings with the Council or the Planning Inspectorate to host as appropriate.

Meetings of smaller groups may be possible face to face (depending on the Government arrangements in place at the time) but the preference where possible will be for telephone conferencing or virtual meetings.

The Forward Planning Team Contact Details

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Council Switchboard - 01706 217777

Further Information

Further information about the Rossendale Local Plan Examination can be found on the webpage at www.rossendale.gov.uk/localplan

For information on the Government's approach to consultation on the Local Plan please see:

[The Town and Country Planning \(Local Planning\) \(England\) \(Coronavirus\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020](#)

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/plan-making#covid19>

Guidance from the Planning Inspectorate

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-plans>

Updated 7 August 2020