



Rosendale Local Plan Draft Engagement Strategy

June 2026

Forward Planning Team



A High Quality Environment

Contents

1.0	Introduction	3
1.1	Background	3
1.2	What is a Local Plan Engagement Strategy?	4
1.3	The Local Plan and Supporting Documents	4
	Table 1: Data, Supporting Documents and Sources of Information	5
2.0	Identifying Key Stakeholders	7
3.0	When will we consult?	9
4.0	How will we consult?	9
	Table 2: Engagement and Notification at Key Stages of the Local Plan Process	10
	Table 3: Examples of methods to be used to publicise Local Plan Consultations	20
5.0	Conclusion	25

Responsible Service	Forward Planning	Version/Status	V2
Responsible Author		Date Agreed/ Agreed At	
Date last Amended		Due for Review	

Rossendale Borough Council is committed to encouraging equality, diversity and inclusion to eliminate unlawful discrimination. To support this other format of this document are available upon request. Please contact PeopleandPolicy@rossendalebc.gov.uk.

Rossendale Local Plan Consultation and Engagement Strategy

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background

Rossendale Borough Council (RBC) has commenced work on preparing a new Local Plan for the Borough to replace the existing Rossendale Local Plan 2019 to 2036, which was adopted on 15 December 2021. The new Rossendale Local Plan will contain locally relevant planning policies and site allocations for new housing and other development and will be used to guide decisions on planning applications in Rossendale.

The Government has introduced a new system for creating and updating a local plan¹. The regulations to implement the new system came into force on 25 March 2026 and are set out in **The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026**². The new system requires a much shorter timescale for plan-making (only 30 months when the previous Local Plan was prepared over about 5 years) with set periods and timescales of formal public consultation before passing through a series of defined 'Gateways' or stages.

In addition, the Government published a revised draft National Planning Policy Framework³ (NPPF) in November 2025 which introduced significant changes to the preparation and content of Local Plans. Key principles include:

- an increased emphasis on planning for climate change (mitigation and adaptation)
- limiting planning policies to locally relevant matters
- avoiding duplication with national planning policies and
- supporting the delivery of a sufficient quantity and type of housing and other development in the right places and at the right time.

The updated NPPF is expected to be published in summer 2026.

Rossendale Borough Council remains committed to ensuring all stakeholders (general consultation bodies and specific consultation bodies, as defined in the 2026 Regulations⁴, and also discussed in Section 2, as well as local residents, businesses and anyone with an interest in the Local Plan) have opportunities for engaging with the Local Plan process at all stages and having their voices heard. This Engagement Strategy sets out how and when the Council intends to undertake public consultations, and how any submitted responses will be used to inform the scope, general content and detail of our new Local Plan. It replaces the Statement of Community Involvement 2024 (SCI) insofar as it relates to the Local Plan and supporting documents.

The Draft Engagement Strategy will be updated taking into consideration any responses to the Scoping Consultation in June/July 2026, and it may be reviewed from time to time as work on the new Local Plan progresses.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/create-or-update-a-local-plan-using-the-new-system>

² <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2026/186/contents/made>

³ [National Planning Policy Framework: proposed reforms and other changes to the planning system - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/national-planning-policy-framework-proposed-reforms-and-other-changes-to-the-planning-system)

⁴ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2026/186/contents/made>

1.2 What is a Local Plan Engagement Strategy?

Rossendale Borough Council has to publish a strategy for engaging the community and other key stakeholders in the preparation of the Local Plan before passing through Gateway 1, having regard to government guidance.

The Engagement Strategy should identify key stakeholders and briefly describe the engagement approach, clearly outlining the purpose, target audience and objectives at each stage. The Strategy will be summarised in the project initiation document (PID) which helps the Council to organise and plan early preparatory work for the Local Plan.

The Strategy has been prepared having regard to the guidance set out in **Engaging the public when preparing a local plan**⁵. During the preparation of the Local Plan, Rossendale Borough Council must carry out:

- Scoping consultation
- Consultation on proposed local plan content and evidence and
- Consultation on the proposed local plan.

The Council will publish summaries of each consultations, setting out matters including:

- A summary of the feedback received in response to the consultation (the Council may use AI tools to help summarise the key issues raised) and
- An explanation of how the Council has considered the feedback from the consultation.

From time to time the Council may also undertake informal consultation during the plan preparation process, such as the Call for Sites. Dates will be included in the live timetable

At each stage the Local Plan Steering Group of RBC Councillors will be invited to advise on the proposed consultation process to help ensure local stakeholders are given every opportunity to respond with their views and concerns. The Forward Planning team will also work closely with other officers at the Council (such as in the Communities and Communications Teams) to help ensure consultations are well publicised and all stakeholders are provided with suitable and accessible opportunities for engaging with the plan process.

1.3 The Local Plan and Supporting Documents

Rossendale's Local Plan will set out the spatial vision and planning policies for the Borough. The Rossendale Local Plan will be the new Local Plan for the Borough, replacing the Rossendale Local Plan 2019 to 2036, which was adopted on 15 December 2021.

The data required, supporting documents and sources are set out in Table 1. The [Evidence Base](#) will be updated as required, as work on the Local Plan progresses. Consultees will be invited to comment on requirements for Evidence Base documents as part of the Scoping Consultation.

⁵ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/engaging-the-public-when-preparing-a-local-plan>

Table 1: Data, Supporting Documents and Sources of Information

Data and Information required	Supporting Documents	Sources
Population change overall, in different age groups, and household size	<u>Draft Baseline Report</u>	<u>Overall population change - Nomis</u> <u>Population change in different age groups - Nomis</u> <u>Population change in household size - Nomis</u>
Levels of deprivation across the area	<u>Draft Baseline Report</u>	<u>English indices of deprivation - GOV.UK</u>
Economic change – number of jobs and workforce job change	<u>Draft Baseline Report</u>	<u>Economic change - Nomis</u>
Progress to deliver existing housing and employment allocations	<u>Annual Authority Monitoring Report (AMR)</u>	LPA monitoring
Overall housing delivery compared to the adopted housing requirement	<u>Annual Authority Monitoring Report (AMR)</u> <u>Five Year Housing Land Supply</u> <u>Housing Action Plan</u>	LPA monitoring
Affordable housing delivery compared to previously assessed need (that informed the adopted plan)	<u>Annual Authority Monitoring Report (AMR)</u>	LPA monitoring
Specialist housing delivery - including elderly, student, build to rent, and co-living housing	<u>Annual Authority Monitoring Report (AMR)</u>	LPA monitoring
Gypsy and Traveller plot delivery	<u>Annual Authority Monitoring Report (AMR)</u>	LPA monitoring
Change to the median workplace-based housing affordability ratio	<u>Draft Baseline Report</u>	<u>House price to workplace-based earnings ratio - ONS</u>

Key infrastructure delivery - including transport, education, health, utilities, and energy	Annual Authority Monitoring Report (AMR)	LPA monitoring
Transport trends – including travel to work, car ownership	Draft Baseline Report	Travel to work, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics Car or van availability - Office for National Statistics
Transport connectivity	Draft Baseline Report	Connectivity Tool - GOV.UK
Environmental assets and patterns – including flood risk, accessibility to green space, air quality, conservation designations, habitats, effects of climate change	Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Draft Baseline Report Biodiversity Report Local Nature Recovery Strategy Climate Change Strategy and Climate Action Plan	New national flood and coastal erosion risk information - GOV.UK Access to green space in England - GOV.UK Data Archive - DEFRA UK Air - GOV.UK MAGIC Natural England Open Data Geoportal

2.0 Identifying Key Stakeholders

Rossendale Borough Council must invite certain bodies to make representations at each consultation. [Regulation 2 of The Town and Country Planning \(Local Planning\) \(England\) Regulations 2026](#) sets out the general consultation bodies and specific consultation bodies. They are:

“general consultation bodies” means—

- (a) voluntary bodies, some or all of whose activities benefit all or part of the planning authority’s area;
- (b) bodies which represent the interests of persons in the planning authority’s area who share a protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010;
- (c) bodies which represent the interests of persons carrying on business in the planning authority’s area;

“specific consultation bodies” means—

- (a) Active Travel England;
- (b) any person—
 - (i) to whom the electronic communications code applies as a result of a direction given under [section 106 \(3\) \(a\)](#) of the [Communications Act 2003](#), and
 - (ii) who owns or controls electronic communications apparatus situated in the planning authority’s area;
- (c) Canal & River Trust;
- (d) the Civil Aviation Authority;
- (e) the Coal Authority;
- (f) the English Sports Council;
- (g) the Environment Agency;
- (h) the Forestry Commission;
- (i) a highway authority within the meaning in [section 1](#) of the [Highways Act 1980\(31\)](#), any part of whose area is in or adjoins the planning authority’s area (including the Secretary of State, where the Secretary of State is the highways authority);
- (j) the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England;
- (k) the Homes and Communities Agency;
 - (i) if it exercises functions in the planning authority’s area—
 - (ii) an integrated care board established under [Chapter A3](#) of [Part 2](#) of the [National Health Service Act 2006\(34\)](#),
 - (iii) a person to whom a licence has been granted under [section 6 \(1\) \(b\)](#) or [\(c\)](#) of the [Electricity Act 1989\(35\)](#) (licences authorising supply, etc.),
 - (iv) a person to whom a licence has been granted under [section 7 \(2\)](#) of the [Gas Act 1986\(36\)](#) (licensing of public gas transporters),
 - (v) a sewerage undertaker appointed under [section 6 \(1\)](#) of the [Water Industry Act 1991\(37\)](#), and
 - (vi) a water undertaker appointed under [section 6 \(1\)](#) of the [Water Industry Act 1991](#);
- (l) an Integrated Transport Authority for an integrated transport area within the meaning in section 77(1) of the Local Transport Act 2008, which is in or adjoins the planning authority’s area;

- (m) the Marine Management Organisation (*N/A for Rossendale*);
- (n) Natural England;
- (o) a neighbourhood forum any part of whose area is in or adjoins the planning authority's area;
- (p) Network Rail Infrastructure Limited;
- (q) the Office for Nuclear Regulation;
- (r) the Office of Rail and Road;
- (s) where the planning authority are a London borough council or any part of their area adjoins Greater London, Transport for London (*N/A for Rossendale*);
- (t) a relevant consultation body any part of whose area is in or adjoins the planning authority's area;
- (u) where the planning authority are a London borough council, the Mayor of London (*N/A for Rossendale*);
- (v) where the planning authority are not responsible for discharging education functions in their area, the local authority with that responsibility;
- (w) where the planning authority are not the lead local flood authority for their area, that lead local flood authority;
- (x) the responsible authority for a local nature recovery strategy that relates to all or part of the planning authority's area appointed under [section 105 \(2\)](#) of the [Environment Act 2021](#), where that authority is not the planning authority.

Identifying General Consultation Bodies in Rossendale Borough

The following groups are identified as General Consultation Bodies in Rossendale:

- 1) Community Partnerships.** The Council works in partnership with Community Partnerships across the Borough covering the areas of Whitworth, Bacup, Rawtenstall and Haslingden. Membership of the partnerships is made up of representatives of the local community, ward councillors and partners such as the police, health service and Lancashire County Council. The role of the Community Partnerships is to work together to jointly address issues of concern to our communities and they are involved in the preparation of the Local Plan and other supporting documents.
- 2) Whitworth Town Council**
- 3) Local interest groups**
- 4) Local community and amenity groups**
- 5) Organisations representing 'Hard-to-reach groups'**
- 6) Organisations representing local businesses**
- 7) Developers, landowners and agents with known interests in the area**
- 8) Local residents.**

Details of all the organisations and individuals that are consulted by Rossendale Borough Council are held in the Forward Planning consultation database which is kept up-to-date.

Any individual or group can ask the Forward Planning team to add their contact details to the database so they can be kept informed of progress and consulted on emerging documents. This is done through a form on the Council's website which requires anyone asking to be placed on the database to give their formal consent. This form can be found here:

<https://www.rossendale.gov.uk/local-plan/new-rossendale-local-plan/4>

3.0 When will we consult?

Details of how all consultees will know how to find and access information, gain greater understanding of the plan-making process and how their feedback has helped prepare the plan are set out under the key stages of plan making in Table 2: Engagement and Notification at Key Stages of the Local Plan Process, on the next page.

4.0 How will we consult?

A range of consultation methods will be used at different stages of the process. Some examples of how we will consult, the benefits and weaknesses of each method, the resource implications and the documents that we expect to consult on are set out in Table 3. There may also be other methods that prove to be more appropriate over time for particular documents, or for particular sections of the community.

Table 2: Engagement and Notification at Key Stages of the Local Plan Process

Stage of Plan Making	When	What is it?	Who will we consult or notify?	How will we consult or notify?	Publicity & Promotion
Scoping Consultation Regulation 20	6 weeks from 15 June 2026 until 27 July 2026 (after the Council has given notice of intention to commence plan-making in May 2026).	This consultation stage provides the local community and other key stakeholders with the opportunity to have their say at the very start of the plan-making process. We will ask for views on: • what to include in the local plan • how to approach future local plan engagement • any other matters that the Council wishes to consult on. Consultees will be invited to submit a request to be notified at future stages of Local Plan consultation. The feedback from the scoping consultation will be considered and will inform any updates to the Draft Consultation and Engagement Strategy.	We will invite representations from: • the general consultation bodies • the specific consultation bodies which may have an interest in the preparation of the local plan and • local residents and anyone who wishes to make representations at this stage. • Anyone else on the Local Plan consultation database.	We will: Publish Notice of Scoping Consultation on the new Local Plan pages of RBC website. Publish draft Baseline Report, Scoping Consultation questionnaire, and other evidence base documents on new Local Plan pages of RBC website. Send letters/emails to all general and specific consultation bodies and everyone listed on Local Plan database. Hard copies of all documents will be made available at Futures Park and local libraries during normal office hours.	Press releases and social media (publicity strategy to be agreed with Communications Team) Publish information on Local Plan page RBC website Include in RBC Daily message to all staff at start of consultation and a reminder before the end. Add notice to signature in planning officers' emails. We may use additional means where appropriate.

Stage of Plan Making	When	What is it?	Who will we consult or notify?	How will we consult or notify?	Publicity & Promotion
				Promotion at Community Partnership meetings in June 2026 and attend Whitworth Town Council meeting. Attend meetings/ events as appropriate Responses to be invited using online response form or by email or in writing.	
Call for Sites	July / August 2026	Invitation to submit potential sites for assessment for suitability for development or protection.	Developers, landowners and other stakeholders to understand available sites, constraints, viability and suitability for development.	Send letters/emails to all those on Local Plan database. Digital mapping and promote use of online site submission forms.	Press releases and social media (publicity strategy to be agreed with Communications Team) Publish information on Local Plan page RBC website Add notice to email signatures in planning.

Stage of Plan Making	When	What is it?	Who will we consult or notify?	How will we consult or notify?	Publicity & Promotion
Gateway 1: Self-assessment of readiness for local plan preparation Regulation 21	At least 4 months after notice of intention to commence plan making: September / October 2026	The self-assessment summary must set out: - the local plan timetable, - the project management and governance arrangements - the proposed approach to consultation and engagement in preparing the local plan, - the anticipated content of the local plan, and - obligations under Part 2 and Part 3 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.	Not for general public consultation but the self-assessment summary will be reported to Local Plan Steering Group. Email / letter to all those who asked to be kept informed about the Local Plan.	<i>Not for consultation.</i> Publication on Local Plan page of RBC website with links to / from related content and navigation menus. Hard copies of relevant documents to be made available at Futures Park and local libraries during normal opening hours.	Update Local Plan page of RBC website and publish self-assessment summary.
Summary of scoping consultation Regulation 22	After the self-assessment summary is published (or at same time).	A document summarising - general consultation bodies and the specific consultation bodies consulted - the manner of consultation - a summary of the main issues raised - how RBC had regard to those representations The Engagement Strategy will be updated taking into account the responses.	Not for general public consultation but should be reported to Local Plan Steering Group. Email / letter to all those who asked to be kept informed about the Local Plan.	<i>Not for consultation.</i> Publication on Local Plan page of RBC website with links to / from related content and navigation menus. Hard copy to be made available at Futures Park during normal opening hours.	Update Local Plan page of RBC website - publish summary of Scoping Consultation. Provide an update in Valley Voice and Whitworth Valley News.

Stage of Plan Making	When	What is it?	Who will we consult or notify?	How will we consult or notify?	Publicity & Promotion
Proposed local plan content and evidence consultation Regulation 23	Consultation for at least 6 weeks from 15 May 2027 until 30 June 2027.	Consultation on draft vision statement and measurable outcomes, proposed local plan content and evidence. We will invite representations on the following: - the draft vision and proposed measurable outcomes - proposed aims and objectives - proposed spatial strategy approach - summary of the evidence RBC intends to gather and details of any evidence RBC has already gathered - any other matters we want to consult on, which may include initial draft policies, including site allocation policies. A map of the proposed local plan policies will be published. We will also consult on the level of detail and scope of the environmental report (SEA) at the same time as the	We will invite representations from: - the general consultation bodies - the specific consultation bodies that may have an interest in the proposed local plan - residents or people carrying out business in the area - anyone who requested to be notified of this consultation. - Anyone else on the Local Plan consultation database	Publish Notice of Plan Content and Evidence Consultation All Local Plan documents and evidence base documents published on Local Plan pages of RBC website Hard copies of documents available at Futures Park Letters/emails to general and specific consultation bodies Face to Face Promotion at Community Partnership meetings. Face to face consultation events in main settlements / key service centres. Online meetings.	Press releases, updates in Valley Voice and Whitworth Valley News, social media (publicity strategy to be agreed with Communications Team) Provide a YouTube video explaining the proposed Local Plan content and key evidence. Update Local Plan pages of RBC website with all relevant documents and evidence base. Include in RBC Daily message to all staff at start of consultation and a reminder before the end.

Stage of Plan Making	When	What is it?	Who will we consult or notify?	How will we consult or notify?	Publicity & Promotion
		consultation on the proposed plan content and evidence.		Responses will be invited using an online response form or by email or in writing. Use of digital tools to create interactive map of policies and possible site allocations.	Add notice to signature in planning officers' emails.
Publication of summary of consultation on proposed local plan content and evidence	Date specified in proposed local plan content and evidence consultation August 2027 / September 2027	A document summarising: - the general consultation bodies and the specific consultation bodies - the manner by which those invited bodies were asked to make any representations - a summary of the main issues raised in those representations - how RBC has had regard to those representations	Not for general public consultation but should be reported to Local Plan Steering Group. Email / letter to all those who asked to be kept informed about the Local Plan.	<i>Not for consultation.</i> Publish on Local Plan page of RBC website. Hard copy to be made available at Futures Park during normal opening hours.	Update Local Plan page of RBC website. Updates in Valley Voice and Whitworth Valley News.
Gateway 2: observations and advice from an	September 2027 / October 2027 for 4-6 weeks	RBC will seek observations and advice in relation to the proposed local plan from a planning inspector.	Once the observations and advice are provided, RBC will notify each person who requested to be notified and	Not for consultation. All documents sent to the inspector and	Update Local plan page of RBC website.

Stage of Plan Making	When	What is it?	Who will we consult or notify?	How will we consult or notify?	Publicity & Promotion
appointed person Regulation 26			send a copy of the observations or advice to each person identified or referred to in the observations or advice.	observations or advice received will be published on the same day on the Local Plan page of RBC website. Hard copies to be made available at Futures Park and local libraries during normal opening hours. Email / letter to all those who asked to be kept informed about the Local Plan.	
Consult on the proposed local plan Regulation 27	At least 8 weeks from 1 June to 20 July 2028	RBC will make available and invite representations on the following documents: - the proposed local plan - a map of proposed local plan policies - details of the evidence gathered - a summary of the main issues raised at the previous statutory consultations and how we have addressed them.	We will invite representations from: - the general consultation bodies - the specific consultation bodies that may have an interest in the proposed local plan - residents or people carrying out business in the area - anyone who requested to be	Publish notice of proposed local plan consultation Email / letter to all organisations on database. Publish all documents on the Local Plan page of RBC website.	Press releases and social media (publicity strategy to be agreed with Communications Team). Articles in Valley Voice and Whitworth Valley News. Show YouTube video explaining

Stage of Plan Making	When	What is it?	Who will we consult or notify?	How will we consult or notify?	Publicity & Promotion
		We will consult on our SEA environmental report at the same time.	notified of this consultation.	Hard copies to be made available at Futures Park during normal opening hours. Face to Face Promotion at Community Partnership meetings. Face to face consultation events in main settlements / key service centres. Responses will be invited using an online response form or by email or in writing. Interactive map of policies and site allocations	the proposed Local Plan. Updates to Local plan pages of RBC website. Include in RBC Daily message to all staff at start of consultation and a reminder before the end. Add notice to signature in planning officers' emails
Publication of summary of consultation on the proposed Local Plan	August/September 2028	On completion, we will publish a summary of the consultation setting out a summary of the main issues raised and how we have had regard to any responses.	Not for general public consultation but should be reported to Local Plan Steering Group.	Not for consultation. Publication on Local Plan page of RBC website with	Update Local Plan page of RBC website and publish summary of consultation.

Stage of Plan Making	When	What is it?	Who will we consult or notify?	How will we consult or notify?	Publicity & Promotion
Regulation 30		We will then make any updates to the Local Plan and supporting evidence. If changes to the plan require changes to the environmental report, we will also need to consider further consultation where the changes are significant.	Email / letter to all those who asked to be kept informed about the Local Plan.	links to / from related content and navigation menus. Hard copy to be made available at Futures Park during normal opening hours.	Updates in Valley Voice and Whitworth Valley News.
Gateway 3: Prescribed requirements assessment by an appointed person	4 – 6 weeks September / October 2028	We will send the proposed Local Plan and other submission documents to the planning inspector and seek observations and advice.	RBC will, once they are received: • make the observations or advice available on the website and at Futures Park • notify each person who requested to be notified and other appropriate persons appropriate and • send a copy of the observations or advice to each person identified or referred to in the observations or advice.	Not for consultation. Publication on Local Plan page of RBC website with links to / from related content and navigation menus. Hard copy to be made available at Futures Park during normal opening hours. Email / letter to all those who asked to be kept informed about the Local Plan.	Update Local Plan page of RBC website with observations or advice.

Stage of Plan Making	When	What is it?	Who will we consult or notify?	How will we consult or notify?	Publicity & Promotion
Submission to SoS Regulation 34	31 October 2028	Submission of documents and information to the Secretary of State	RBC will notify each person who requested to be notified of the submission and any other persons as the authority consider appropriate.	Email / letter to all requesting to be notified.	RBC will publish on the website a statement confirming the date of submission to the SoS. The website will be updated with all submission documents. Updates in Valley Voice and Whitworth Valley News.
Independent Examination Regulation 35	November 2028 to March 2029	The examination will assess whether the plan is sound – meaning it meets the test of soundness set out in national planning policy.	Public examination invites Public examinations are open for anyone to attend. Anyone who has opted-in to being notified of the public examination information will be provided with details of the examination. They can also take part in the examination hearings if they request to. RBC will also notify appropriate people of the	Email / letter to all requesting to be notified.	The website will be kept up to date as the examination progresses.

Stage of Plan Making	When	What is it?	Who will we consult or notify?	How will we consult or notify?	Publicity & Promotion
			date, time and place of the hearing. These people will only have the right to be heard if they have made representations in relation to the plan. RBC will notify each person who requested of the publication of the recommendations and reasons of the examiner.		
Adoption Regulation 39	April 2029	Full council approval to adopt Local Plan (incorporating the Examiner's recommended modifications where necessary).	RBC will send a copy of the adoption statement to each person who requested to be notified.	Email / letter	Publish adopted Local Plan and Adoption Statement.

Table 3: Examples of methods to be used to publicise Local Plan Consultations

Method	Why Use it?	Benefits	Weaknesses	Resource Implications	Documents that we expect to consult on using this technique
Formal newspaper advertisement	• Good practice. • To publicise by formal notice that documents are available for inspection.	To provide the public with formal notice of commencement of public participation.	May not be the most inclusive method for some hard-to-reach groups e.g. young people. In addition, a significant number of the population do not read papers.	Staff time and cost of placing the notices. Expensive.	• Local Plan Scoping Consultation • Local Plan content and evidence consultation • Local Plan consultation • SEA (Strategic Environmental Assessment)
Letters or emails to statutory bodies and other general consultees	• Regulatory requirement. • Notify all relevant bodies and individuals on the consultation database.	Good for targeting specific groups directly.	Implications on staff time.	Staff time and cost of postage for letters.	• Local Plan Scoping Consultation • Local Plan content and evidence consultation • Local Plan consultation • SEA • Summary of Consultations • All stages where notification is required.
Consultation documents available for inspection at LPA offices (Futures Park) during normal office hours	• Regulatory requirement. • Making documents available for inspection at the Futures Park	To meet the minimum requirements by ensuring that documents are available for inspection.	This method does not actively reach out to certain sections of the community i.e. the housebound or those working or in education during normal office hours.	Cost of printing documents for inspection. Staff time in making sure all documents are up to date.	• Local Plan – all stages • Policies Map – all stages • Sustainability Appraisal • Evidence base documents • Summary of Consultations • Notifications and all documents at each Gateway stage

Method	Why Use it?	Benefits	Weaknesses	Resource Implications	Documents that we expect to consult on using this technique
Web Site Interactive Policies map	- Regulatory requirement. - The webpage will be used to advertise the consultations on the Local Plan, and the opportunity to comment online and download all documents relevant to the specific consultation and Local Plan in general.	Meets regulatory requirements. An excellent source of information for access at home and other locations. It is the preferred media of younger people. Frees up staff time.	Not all stakeholders will have access to the internet.	Staff time in training and then uploading documents and keeping the webpage up-to-date.	Local Plan – Notifications and all documents at each Gateway stage Policies Map SEA Sustainability Appraisal Evidence base documents
Electronic survey forms on Website	- Questions could link directly to the relevant part of the Plan / Policies Map (eg for site allocations) - Allows efficient processing of responses	Very efficient for translating comments into Analysis forms without having to re-type the data	Not all stakeholders have access to the internet	Staff time to set up the survey	Scoping consultation Local Plan content and evidence consultation Local Plan consultation Policies Map Call for sites / linked to mapping
Emails (including formal notification of consultations)	Provides opportunity for people to be informed and signposted to further information.	Quick way of keeping people up-to-date. Reduces the cost of postage. Promotes a two-way flow of information.	Not all stakeholders have access to email. Responses by email will need adding manually to consultation process.	Staff time.	Scoping consultation Local Plan content and evidence consultation Local Plan consultation Policies Map Sustainability Appraisal

Method	Why Use it?	Benefits	Weaknesses	Resource Implications	Documents that we expect to consult on using this technique
					• Evidence Base documents
Other electronic media (e.g. X, Facebook, LinkedIn)	Especially effective for engaging younger sectors of the population and those who don't engage in traditional consultations.	Can provide useful feedback and result in the discussion being passed onto wider contacts.	Can result in abusive tweets or comments and wider general criticisms of Council that are time consuming to answer. Potential for abusive / discriminatory language to be put in public domain, associated with the Council.	Needs staff time to post and monitor responses.	• Scoping consultation • Local Plan content and evidence consultation • Local Plan consultation
Mapping	It enables users to relate mapping to Policy content and is especially useful for younger sectors	It allows users to relate any plans / allocations to their local areas	Potential for people who are not familiar with IT and especially mapping elements	Staff time in producing high quality maps	• Local Plan policies, • Call for sites • Site allocations • Constraints • Evidence base
Local Media (i.e. newspaper articles, free papers and radio) Valley Voice and Whitworth Valley News	Effective method of reaching a wider community audience.	Could help to raise awareness of events and opportunities to become involved. Valley Voice is delivered to all households in Borough and Whitworth Valley news to all households in Whitworth.	Again, local newspapers may not be accessed by many stakeholders, especially hard to reach groups. Local radio covers whole of Lancashire.	Staff time and cost of advertisement.	• Local Plan • Policies Map

Method	Why Use it?	Benefits	Weaknesses	Resource Implications	Documents that we expect to consult on using this technique
Leaflets / Posters	Useful for targeting specific areas and groups with summarised information and signposting.	Effective way of summarising information in a concise 'reader friendly' manner.	Can only provide a limited amount of information.	Staff time in preparation and distribution plus printing costs.	• Local Plan • Policies Map
Public Exhibitions	Provides further opportunity for targeting audiences with summarised information and signposting people to further information.	Provides a method of effectively out reaching to stakeholders.	Displays must be kept up to date in order to provide correct information. May be difficult to engage hard to reach groups. Staff time in preparing and presenting display. Need to identify appropriate space / location for exhibition.	Staff time and cost of exhibition material and potentially exhibition space.	• Local Plan content and evidence consultation • Local Plan consultation • Policies Map
One-to-One meetings with individual stakeholders, statutory consultees, community group representatives, developers and consultants	Provides opportunity for detailed discussions to be undertaken on general or specific issues.	Can help to clarify matters of concern or uncertainty and facilitate agreed consensus. More information can exchange between the Council and selected stakeholders and support obtained for delivery of key elements of the Plan.	Could be resource intensive in terms of staff time.	Staff time.	• Local Plan content and evidence consultation • Local Plan consultation • Policies Map • Site allocations • Evidence base documents • Sustainability Appraisal

Method	Why Use it?	Benefits	Weaknesses	Resource Implications	Documents that we expect to consult on using this technique
Public meetings – face to face and online	Provides further opportunity for people to comment on issues that affect them.	Can help to clarify matters of concern or uncertainty in a direct way. More information can exchange between the Council and selected stakeholders.	Not all stakeholders will raise issues in a public forum. Vocal individuals can adversely dominate meetings. Will need to identify local venues.	Staff time and cost of venue hire if face to face.	• Local Plan • Policies Map
Working groups/ Focus groups and seminars	Effective way to involve community groups and other sectors such as elected members to become involved in the preparation of the Local Plan.	Can help to clarify matters of concern or uncertainty in a direct way. More information can exchange between the Council and selected stakeholders.	May need expert facilitation in order to obtain the best results. Can be difficult to recruit members as it requires time commitment.	Staff time and cost of venue hire.	• Local Plan content and evidence consultation • Local Plan consultation • Policies Map • Evidence base documents
Community Partnerships Whitworth Town Council	Specific groups for presenting and receiving feedback on local issues.	Allows more detailed discussion to take place with regard to specific local areas.	Potential to address importance of strategic themes that affect local areas as well as local issues.	Staff time.	• Local Plan content and evidence consultation • Local Plan consultation • Policies Map

5.0 Conclusion

The Rossendale Local Plan Engagement Strategy sets out how and when Rossendale Borough Council intends to undertake public engagement and consultation, and explains how the submitted responses will be used to inform the scope, general content and detail of our new Local Plan.

The Draft Strategy will be updated following consideration of the responses to the Local Plan Scoping Consultation which will be undertaken for 6 weeks from 15 June 2026 until 27 July 2026.

The Council recognises the legal and practical importance of working together with partners to ensure effective delivery of housing and employment while addressing concerns about infrastructure and the natural environment. We will work with statutory consultees, neighbouring local authorities, and interested parties via a range of methods including emails, letters, phone calls, group discussions and individual meetings during the preparation of the new Local Plan.

In addition, we will endeavour to keep local residents, stakeholders and community groups updated in relation to progress on the Local Plan and we will provide opportunities for meaningful engagement at all stages. We will work with other parts of the Council, external bodies and partner organisations to ensure that as many people as possible are aware of the Rossendale Local Plan, and that they understand how their opinions, concerns and ideas will be used to inform the Local Plan's content within the required legal and national planning policy constraints.



CONTACT DETAILS

Forward Planning team

Rosendale Borough Council, The Business Centre, Futures Park, Bacup, OL13 0BB

01706 217777

Anne Storaah 01706 252418

Nathaele Davies 01706 252415

Louise Kirkup 01706 252412

forwardplanning@rossendalebc.gov.uk

FURTHER INFORMATION

www.rossendale.gov.uk/newlocalplan



A High Quality Environment