



**Newcastle
Gateshead**
LOCAL PLAN



**NEWCASTLEGATESHEAD
LOCAL PLAN
- SCOPING CONSULTATION**

July 2026

Introduction

This is the first stage of consultation in the preparation of Gateshead and Newcastle Councils' new local plan. This stage follows the publication of the Notice to Commence the NewcastleGateshead Local Plan (NGLP) and the publication of the local plan timetable, both of which have been issued on 30 June 2026.

Gateshead and Newcastle are at the heart of the North East region, with shared ambitions and both Councils agreed in October 2024 to work in partnership to deliver sustainable growth through a joint local plan. Local plans sit at the heart of the planning system, providing the statutory framework for managing growth, guiding investment and shaping sustainable, inclusive places.

The NewcastleGateshead Local Plan (NGLP) will be a strategic planning framework to help meet our joint ambitions including for sustainable growth and healthy communities. While working in partnership, this plan will reflect the distinct character, needs and priorities of Gateshead and Newcastle.

The NGLP relates to the whole administrative area of Gateshead Council and Newcastle City Council and would cover the period 2030-2045.

Why is this Scoping Consultation being carried out?

The purpose of the scoping consultation is to provide early engagement in the plan-making process by seeking views from the local community and stakeholders as to what to include in the local plan and how to approach future local plan engagement.

We want to hear what you think about the main issues that will affect Gateshead and Newcastle in the future. This includes how we plan for more homes, make sure there are supporting infrastructure including enough roads, schools and services, look after buildings and green spaces, support jobs and the local economy, help deal with climate change and resilience, and help create places that are healthy, attractive and good to live in.

This document explains the issues the Councils think are important for preparing the local plan, as required by planning regulations. The consultation will run from 9am on 1st July until 5pm on 29th July 2026. Information on how to give your views is included at the end of this document and on the local plan webpage: newcastlegatesheadplan.org



Why is a new Local Plan being developed?

Both Councils have a statutory duty to prepare a local plan as set out in planning regulations. The NGLP will establish how land within our area will be used and developed, setting out priorities including for housing, employment and infrastructure. When planning for housing, the government's standard approach is used as the starting point for determining how many homes an area needs.

Our new local plan policies should avoid inconsistency with national development management policies and align generally with the spatial development strategy relevant to our region.

Once adopted, the local plan will form part of both Council's development plan and it will guide planning decisions on applications across Gateshead and Newcastle. The Councils will be required to keep the local plan up to date and subject to a review at least every five years.

A key test for the local plan is housing land supply and housing delivery. The government has made amendments to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) in particular introducing new policy regarding development needs, affordable housing and economic growth and set out proposed national development management policies to be used when determining planning applications. Joint working will help both Councils to consider how we can address these changes, including plan for the homes our area needs, in a way that reflects local priorities, infrastructure and community views.

This is a new local plan, which once adopted, will replace both local authorities existing local plans (Core Strategy and Urban Core Plan, Development and Allocations Plan and Making Spaces for Growing Places). This new local plan will set where development happens, what it looks like, and how it is supported by transport and infrastructure up to 2045.

What is the process of preparing a Local Plan?

As part of the early stages of preparing the new local plan, we are running this Scoping Consultation alongside a "Call for Sites". This is to find out what people think the plan should include, how local communities and organisations would like to be involved, and what land might be available for future development.

As part of preparing a new local plan, we will be gathering new evidence which will be used to support the plan. This includes studies to better understand how many homes and what type, for example affordable housing, and how many jobs will be needed in the future and where these should be located.

After this scoping stage, there will be two formal consultation stages:

- Consultation on proposed local plan content and evidence (expected February 2027): this will look at the draft vision and objectives for the plan, the overall development strategy, and a summary of the evidence collected so far.
- Consultation on the full draft local plan (expected January 2028): this will be a chance to comment on the full draft plan before it is submitted for independent examination.

Full details of the timetable for preparing the new local plan are included in the NGLP local plan timetable, which is available on the local plan webpage: newcastlegatesheadplan.org. This timetable will be kept up to date as the plan progresses.

Summary of Plan Scope – key considerations

The local plan will cover the administrative boundaries of Gateshead and Newcastle upon Tyne.

The local plan will be a strategic planning framework to help the Councils' address their corporate priorities. Newcastle's priorities are to tackle poverty and inequalities, improve health outcomes, investing in the local economy and helping to address climate change. For Gateshead, to create a place where everyone thrives, with vibrant communities, where residents feel supported and live fulfilled lives, businesses can grow and our environmental impact is minimised.

The key aims of the local plan are to deliver an up-to-date local plan for Gateshead and Newcastle. The local plan will help to meet housing, infrastructure and economic needs in a coordinated and sustainable way.

The new local plan will guide development until 2045. The scope of the plan will help address key challenges covering the following areas:

Health, Wellbeing and Equality

People's health and life chances are not the same across the area. Where we live, how easy it is to get around, access to green space, good housing, and local services all affect physical and mental wellbeing. There is an opportunity through the local plan to help support healthier lifestyles and to narrow these gaps. There is a challenge to make sure future development supports better health and helps reduce inequalities for different communities and age groups.

Sustainable Growth and Land Use

The area needs to grow, but growth must be handled carefully. There is pressure on land, and new development can sometimes feel out of place or with limited transport choices. Brownfield and underused sites offer opportunities, but they can be difficult to bring forward. There is a need to make better use of land that has previously been developed, ensure new buildings fit their surroundings, and create places that make walking and cycling easier and more appealing.

Communities and Housing

There is a need for more homes, but not just more of the same. People at different stages of life require different types of housing, including affordable and accessible homes. Homes should also be in the right places and infrastructure must come with development. Some neighbourhoods lack easy access to everyday needs like shops, schools, green spaces, healthcare, and good transport, which can affect quality of life. Poor design in new development can also make it harder for people to feel connected or safe.



Employment and Inclusive Economic Growth

While the local economy continues to change and grow, not everyone benefits equally. Some people struggle to access good quality jobs because of where they live, how they travel, or a lack of opportunities nearby. There is a challenge to make sure new development supports a range of jobs and helps to improve access to employment across Gateshead and Newcastle.

Transport and Movement

There is a need to rethink how places are planned to improve transport choices. Walking, wheeling, cycling, and public transport are not always the easiest or fastest options. New development does not always connect well with existing routes or services. There is a need to rethink how places are planned to improve transport choices so getting around is simpler, safer, and more attractive.

Climate Change and Environmental Resilience

Climate change is already affecting communities and will continue to do so. At the moment, not all development does enough to cut carbon emissions, deal with flood risk, or provide green spaces. There is a clear challenge to ensure new development supports renewable and low carbon energy, making buildings more efficient helping to reduce energy costs, improve local environments, and help create places that are greener, healthier, and better able to cope with future climate impacts for example flooding.

Regional Role and Strategic Assets

As the economic heart of the North East, Gateshead and Newcastle will keep working closely with partners across the region. We will also look after special places like the River Tyne and the Derwent Valley, recognising how important they are for nature, culture, tourism, local jobs, and people's health and wellbeing.

Relationship to other relevant plans at the local and regional level

Every local area must adopt a plan to meet their housing need. We will plan for the homes our area needs, in a way that reflects local priorities, infrastructure and community views.

The Councils' existing local plans comprise of the Core Strategy and Urban Core Plan (CSUCP) for Gateshead and Newcastle upon Tyne, Newcastle's Development and Allocations Plan (DAP) and Gateshead's Making Spaces for Growing Places (MSGP). Newcastle also has a Neighbourhood Plan – the Dinnington Parish Neighbourhood Plan (DNP) adopted on the 2 June 2025. Gateshead Council has submitted the MetroGreen Area Action Plan (AAP) for examination which once adopted, will form part of Gateshead's existing local plan. Newcastle City Council are proposing to prepare a supplementary plan (SP) for the Forth Yards area of Newcastle to promote mixed use development.

Regional Planning

The Regional Framework is also a key focus. The North East Mayoral Strategic Authority will be required to develop and implement a spatial development strategy (SDS). This will be a statutory plan for the area which includes the seven North East Local Authority areas and will involve cooperation between the strategic authority and local authorities to address regional concerns.



How to get involved in the Local Plan process?

We are keen to ensure your voice is heard throughout the progression of the local plan. Gateshead and Newcastle Councils have worked together on a robust communications and engagement plan. This communications and engagement plan is designed to effectively inform and engage the public, stakeholders, and relevant parties about a proposed local plan for development within a specific area, outlining how information will be shared, what key messages to convey, and which channels to use throughout the planning process, ensuring transparency and opportunities for feedback.

As part of the scoping consultation, we want your views as to how we communicate and engage with the local community, residents and interested parties. Your feedback will help us improve how we communicate and engage with people. We would like to hear your views on what works best, whether there are other ways we should engage, and how we can make sure everyone has a fair chance to take part in the local plan process.

What happens next?

After the scoping consultation ends, all feedback will be reviewed and we will show how feedback has influenced the plan and decisions as the local plan progresses. This will help us ensure we are responding to the views of our communities right from the start of the process of preparing the NewcastleGateshead Local Plan and that we are engaging with you in the most effective ways.

As set out above, there will be two more formal consultations where you can help shape the plan. The first is expected in February 2027 and will focus on the plan's overall vision, its main objectives, where development might take place, and a summary of the evidence we have gathered so far. The second is expected in early 2028 and will ask for your views on the full draft plan before it is sent for independent examination.

You can find all information about the local plan consultation process on our consultation web page: <https://ng-local-plan.commonplace.is> This page will be kept up to date while we work on the new local plan.

How can I take part in the scoping consultation?

We would like to hear your views on what the NewcastleGateshead Local Plan should include and the main issues it should focus on. We also want your thoughts on how we communicate and engage with you throughout the process. You can access our online consultation and provide feedback here:

<https://ng-local-plan.commonplace.is>

Representations can also be made by:

- **Email to:** LDF@Gateshead.gov.uk
- **Post to:** Planning Policy, Newcastle Civic Centre, Barras Bridge, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 8QH or Spatial Planning and Environment Team, Gateshead Civic Centre, Regent Street, Gateshead, NE8 1HH.
- **Hand delivery to the Reception at the Council's main offices:**
 - o Gateshead Civic Centre, Regent Street, Gateshead, NE8 1HH.
 - o Newcastle Civic Centre, Barras Bridge, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 8QH.