

Submission Draft Local Plan Consultation

What is the New Local Plan?

The New Local Plan sets out how Colchester could grow and develop up to 2043. It identifies where new homes and jobs could be located, how infrastructure will support growth, how green spaces, heritage and the environment will be protected, and the planning policies used to determine planning applications.

What is this consultation aiming to achieve?

This consultation is on the Submission Draft Local Plan (Regulation 19), the version of the plan the council proposes to submit for independent examination. We are inviting residents, businesses, parish councils and community groups to review the draft plan and comment on whether it is legally compliant and sound. The consultation runs from **28 August to 13 October 2026 (4pm)**.

Regulation 19 Consultation is now open

- **Purpose:** Gather views on the Submission Draft Local Plan before it is submitted for independent examination.
- **Deadline for responses:** 4pm on Tuesday 13 October 2026.

Why it matters

- The Local Plan will guide housing, jobs, transport, infrastructure and green spaces across Colchester until 2043.
- This is the final public consultation before the plan is submitted for independent examination.

How residents can get involved

- Review the Submission Draft Local Plan and supporting documents online, or as paper copies at Colchester Town Hall or in libraries across Colchester.
- Submit comments via the consultation portal (preferred). Support is available for those unable to respond online, with written responses accepted by exception.

What feedback should cover

- Whether the plan is legally compliant.
- Whether the plan is sound, meaning it is:
 - Positively prepared
 - Justified
 - Effective
 - Consistent with national planning policy.

New Local Plan web page

<https://www.colchester.gov.uk/NewLocalPlan>

This page includes full details and links to the virtual exhibition, consultation and supporting evidence base documents.

Virtual exhibition (interactive)

[Link to the virtual exhibition](#)

Consultation Portal (direct link)

This is the preferred method to submit comments on the Submission Draft Local Plan.

[Link to the Consultation Portal](#)