

# Planning Board Update: Call for Sites for the New Local Plan

## Strategic Context

The existing Local Plan covers 2013 to 2028. Following review of the Core Strategy and wider changes introduced through the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023 and associated planning reforms, the Council will not progress the Core Strategy Partial Update and will instead prepare a new Local Plan.

The new Local Plan will need to identify sufficient land to meet development needs into the 2040s. The Call for Sites is therefore a key enabling step ahead of the formal plan-making stages expected to commence later in 2026.

## Key Process Points

The Call for Sites opens on 22 June 2026 and will run for 10 weeks until 28 August 2026.

This is an early-stage information-gathering exercise to identify potential sites across the borough for a wide range of land uses. It does not allocate land, confirm suitability for development, or grant planning permission. All submissions will be assessed at a later stage and further information may be requested to understand suitability, scale, deliverability and site constraints.

Submissions will be made through the Council's consultation platform (Citizenspace). The Planning Policy team can provide support with completing the form. They can be contacted by email at [localplan@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:localplan@rotherham.gov.uk) to arrange assistance via telephone, Microsoft Teams, or in person at the Riverside House Library.

## Scope of Sites Sought

The Council is seeking a broad range of potential sites, including housing, employment and commercial uses, retail and leisure, environmental uses, infrastructure and community facilities, renewable energy, waste management and minerals.

Sites may be submitted by any interested party, including landowners, developers, public bodies and members of the public. Previously promoted sites must be re-submitted to ensure the Council holds current and consistent information.

Residential sites should generally be at least 0.25 hectares or capable of delivering five or more dwellings, although some smaller specialist housing opportunities may also be relevant.

Employment, commercial and retail sites should generally be capable of delivering 500 square metres or more of floorspace.

## **Engagement and Transparency**

The call for sites will be publicised through the Council's website, Local Plan consultee database, press releases, ward newsletters, and social media.

SLT has been informed in June meeting and Members has been informed by a briefing note before the start of the call for sites.

Submitted sites will be published on an online map at a later stage of the plan-making process, with only key site details made public. Personal data will be managed in line with data protection requirements.

There will be three stages of public consultation during the formal 30-month plan-making period. Public feedback on site options and the emerging strategy is currently anticipated at the second consultation stage in mid-2027 in accordance with the approved Local Development Scheme.

For further information, please email to [localplan@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:localplan@rotherham.gov.uk)