Public Document Pack

additional papers 2

Council

Mon 29 Jun
2026
7.00 pm

Oakenshaw Community Centre
Castleditch Lane
Redditch
B98 7YB

Redditch Borough Council
Working together for our communities

If you have any queries on this Agenda please contact
Jess Bayley-Hill

Town Hall, Walter Stranz Square, Redditch, B98 8AH
Tel: (01527) 64252 (Ext. 3072)
e.mail: jess.bayley-hill@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk

Redditch Borough Council
Working together for our communities

Council

Monday, 29th June, 2026

7.00 pm

Oakenshaw Community Centre

Agenda

Membership:

Cllrs:

Susan Eacock (Mayor)
James Aston (Deputy Mayor)
Joe Baker
Juliet Barker Smith
Roger Bennett
William Boyd
Brandon Clayton
Matthew Dormer
James Fardoe
Simon Farmer
Andrew Fry
Bill Hartnett
Sharon Harvey
Joanna Kane
Wanda King
Nicola Lloyd
David Meredith
Gemma Monaco
Ashley Monk
Nic Pioli
Rita Rogers
Gary Slim
Jen Snape
Jane Spilsbury
Monica Stringfellow
Craig Warhurst
Ian Woodall

9. Redditch Borough Local Plan - Notice of Intention to Commence Local Plan Preparation, Local Plan Timetable and Scoping Consultation (Pages 5 - 58)

Updated copies of the report and appendices are attached to this supplementary pack and will be referred to at the meeting.

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Agenda Item 9

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Council

29th June 2026

Borough of Redditch Local Plan – Notice of Intention to Commence Local Plan Preparation, Local Plan Timetable and Scoping Consultation

Relevant Cabinet Member	Councillor Matt Dormer
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Assistant Director	Ruth Bamford
Report Author Mike Dunphy	Job Title: Strategic Planning and Conservation Manager email: m.dunphy@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk Contact Tel: 01527 81325
Wards Affected	All
Ward Councillor(s) consulted	N/A
Relevant Council Priority	1. Economy, Regeneration & Prosperity 2. Green, Clean & Safe 3. Community & Housing
Non-Key Decision	
If you have any questions about this report, please contact the report author in advance of the meeting.	

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

Council is asked to RESOLVE that

1. The Notice of Intention to Commence Local Plan Preparation, attached at Appendix A, be approved.

2.The Local Plan timetable attached at Appendix B, be approved.

3. The Local Plan Scoping Report at Appendix C, be approved

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 Nationally there has been a change and there is a new system for plan making in the UK. For Redditch Borough Council this means that a new plan needs to be prepared under the new system. The previous progress made on the Borough of Redditch Local Plan (that was being prepared under the old system), most notably the information obtained from consultation on the Issues and Options over the Summer of 2025, will be rolled forward into the new plan making system. This work will be used to help inform the decisions taken as the Council prepares a new draft plan.

2.2 Towards the end of last year work with respect to the above national changes in the planning regulations progressed, and in March 2026 the

Government formally introduced the new 30+4 plan making system. This system, in conjunction with changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), are intended to streamline plan-making to allow for quicker adoption of Local Plans, therefore increasing the delivery of housing and economic development across the country.

2.3 The purpose of this report is to outline the initial processes required to begin plan preparation under the new system, allowing the progression of the new Borough of Redditch Local Plan to adoption as quickly as possible.

3. OPERATIONAL ISSUES

Notice of Intention to Commence Local Plan Preparation

3.1 Appendix A contains a Notice of Intention to Commence Local Plan Preparation (the Notice). As can be seen, this notice contains the information required by the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026 (the regulations). Publication of this notice is a requirement to begin the 4 month 'scoping' element of the new process before the 30-month process formally begins. This notice is a procedural step and well defined in the regulations. The Notice needs to be agreed before December 2026. The Council has received funding dependant on the Notice being published before the end of June 2026.

Local Plan Timetable

3.2 Appendix B contains a new timetable for the completion of the Borough of Redditch Local Plan under the new 30+4 process. This timetable has been reproduced in a simplified table below. The requirement for the publication of a Local Plan timetable and its contents is set out in the regulations.

Local plan event	Start date	End date
1) Publish local plan timetable under regulation 8	29th June 2026	
2) Publish notice of intention to commence local plan preparation under regulation 19(1)	29th June 2026	
3) Publish notice of scoping consultation under regulation 20(1)(b)	3rd July 2026	

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Council

29th June 2026

4) Scoping consultation under regulation 20	3rd July – 14th August 2026	
5) Gateway 1: Publish Gateway 1 self-assessment summary under regulation 21(3)	October 2026	
6) Publish summary of scoping consultation under regulation 22	October 2026	
7) Publish notice of local plan content and evidence consultation under regulation 23(1)(a)	June 2027	
8) Consultation on the proposed local plan content and evidence (not less than six weeks) under regulation 23	June 2027	July/August 2027
9) Publish summary of consultation on the proposed local plan content and evidence under regulation 24	October 2027	
10) Gateway 2: observations and advice will be sought under section 15CA(3) of the Act in accordance with regulation 26	October 2027	
11) Publish Gateway 2 observations and advice in accordance with section 15CA(5) of the Act and regulation 26(5)	November/December 2027	
12) Publish notice of proposed local plan consultation under regulation 27(1)(a)	March 2028	
13) Consultation on the proposed local plan (not less than eight weeks) under regulation 27	March 2028	April/May 2028
14) Publish summary of consultation on the proposed local plan under regulation 30	August/September 2028	
15) Gateway 3: observations and advice will be sought under section 15CA(3) of the Act in accordance with regulation 31	August/September 2028	
16) Publish Gateway 3 observations and advice in accordance with section 15CA(5) of the Act and regulation 31(5)	September/October 2028	
17) Submit the proposed local plan for independent examination under section 15D(1) of the Act	October 2028	

18) Publish the examiner's recommendations and reasons in accordance with section 15D(13) of the Act and regulation 37.	TBC
19) Adoption of the local plan under section 15EA of the Act	April 2029

3.3 As can be seen from the timetable above, the intention is to publish the notice and the timetable formally after the Council meeting, this provides for a robust timetable to be set, shows the Council's commitment to plan making in line with the governments aspirations, and will also allow for £108k of additional funding to be secured. The Scoping consultation will follow a few days later with consultation commencing on the 3rd July. The details of this report has previously been presented to the Planning Advisory Panel.

Scoping Consultation

3.4 The proposed Scoping report can be seen at Appendix C. As opposed to the detailed guidance and regulations on the notice and the timetable, the requirements of exactly what a scoping consultation is are not set out explicitly. The guidance is repeated below:

"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. You must ask for views on:

- *what to include in the local plan*
- *how to approach future local plan engagement*
- *any other matters that you want to consult on*

You must run your scoping consultation after you have given notice of intention to commence plan-making. This consultation should last for at least 21 days and must finish before you publish your Gateway 1 self-assessment summary. You should use the feedback from the scoping consultation to inform your community engagement strategy.
For this consultation, you must invite representations from the:

- *general consultation bodies you consider appropriate*
- *specific consultation bodies you consider may have an interest in the preparation of the local plan*

You do not have to invite anyone else, but anyone can make representations at this stage."

3.5 The limited regulations only require the scoping document to addresses the following issues:

- What the Council should include in a Local Plan,
- How you would like the Council to consult you during the preparation of the Local Plan.

As such as can be seen at appendix C, the scoping document does not contain or set a spatial strategy or contain details on any future policy or site allocations. The scoping document makes it clear, that people who have already responded to the issues and options do not need to repeat their comments unless they have more to add, previous comments will still be taken into account in the preparation of the plan under the new system. It will also be stressed that there will be further opportunities to comment on detailed policies and possible site allocations as the new plan progresses, as per the stages outlined below.

3.6 As can be seen from above, the purpose of the scoping document is to seek stakeholder views at the outset of the plan-making process. This includes, but is not limited to, local residents, parish councils, infrastructure providers, statutory agencies, local businesses, developers and agents. As the Council has already sought the views via the issues and options local plan consultation, the scoping document will be drafted to ensure the views relevant to the scope of the plan that have already been expressed are reflected in the document.

3.7 It is proposed that the Scoping consultation will be undertaken between 3rd July – 14th August. The Council website will host all of the relevant information, as well as the documents being placed in key places such as the libraries. A comms strategy is also being developed to make sure the information is shared widely. Responses will be able to be received via the survey on the Councils website and also via email and letters

Future Local Plan Stages

3.8 The 'plan content and evidence' stage (local plan event number 8 in the table above) of the system has been widely interpreted by the planning profession as being the first significant draft of the Local Plan. The timetable indicates that the Council will consult on the draft plan in the summer of 2027. This will allow for all the responses from the previous issues and options consultation, the additional evidence such

as the revised Green Belt review to be fed into this draft plan, and help develop a draft infrastructure plan to be published alongside it as part of the consultation. Following this consultation there will be a gateway assessment carried out by an assessor appointed by the planning inspectorate, which will consider issues the plan may be facing at this stage, and if necessary, suggest ways in which any issues may be overcome.

3.9 The 'proposed local plan' stage (event 13 in the table above) is in effect the submission plan which the Council would like to present to the inspector. This stage has been timetabled for Spring 2028. This is to allow for enough time to respond to the previous stages, and also for a third gateway check on the plan to be carried out by the planning inspectorate prior to formal submission.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The Local Plan process has a budget of £1,063,000, financed as follows:

4.2 An initial £885k has been identified in reserves from 2026/27 onwards to fund the evidence base development, Examination in Public costs and any associated legal fees.

4.3 Funding of £70k has been awarded by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) to progress the Green Belt Assessment. An additional £108k has been awarded by MHCLG to help progress the Local Plan. To release the £108k the following requirements must be met by the Council:

- Publish a Notice of Intention to commence Local Plan preparation by 30th June 2026; and
- Publish Gateway 1 self-assessment by 31st October 2026.

4.4 The total available budget is £823k is proposed to be spent as per the table below.

Evidence base costs RBC	£660k
Legal Fees	£125k
Examination costs	£100k
MHCLG Green Belt Review	£70k
MHCLG Plan Making	£108k

Total Local Plan Spend	£1,063,000

4.5 Staffing resource comes from existing posts within the establishment supplemented by three additional posts There is currently one vacancy within the establishment, and additional posts, are currently in the process being recruited to.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The new plan making system is now set out in the following regulations The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026.

6. OTHER - IMPLICATIONS

Local Government Reorganisation

6.1 In June 2025, MHCLG wrote to Chief Executives of the Worcestershire Councils with an update on Local Government Reorganisation. Included within that letter is the following statement:

'The Government also recognises that developing proposals could distract councils from their essential day-to-day activities. However, residents and businesses depend on councils to deliver crucial services and to continue the efforts needed to establish successful new unitary councils. This is particularly important for advancing local plans to allocate land for new homes. As mentioned in the invitation letters, the Government expects local planning councils to work towards adopting an up-to-date local plan as soon as possible. Local Government Reorganisation should not hinder this vital work, nor should the introduction of the new legal framework for local plan-making later this year or our strategic planning reforms. Significant financial support has already been provided to eligible councils to aid in plan-making, and we encourage councils to utilise additional support available through the Local Government Association's Planning Advisory Service.'

6.2 The position expressed above remains unchanged, plan-making must continue irrespective of the Local Government Reorganisation work.

Relevant Council Priority

6.3 The Borough of Redditch Local Plan is relevant to the following Council priorities:

1. Economy, Regeneration & Prosperity

2. Green, Clean & Safe

3. Community & Housing

Climate Change Implications

6.4 The Redditch Borough Local Plan will have significant implications for climate change, shaping the location and nature of new housing, employment, and infrastructure development.

Community Impact Implications

6.6 The approval of the Notice of Intention to Commence Local Plan Preparation and Local Plan Timetable will provide the communities across Redditch Borough with a valuable update on how the Borough of Redditch Local Plan will be progressed. The final adopted local plan will have policies and allocations which address high quality design, provide for safer communities and help to address wider health and wellbeing by providing communities facilities and accessible open space.

Equalities and Diversity Implications

6.7 The consultation process is open to all to comment.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

7.1 The risk of not progressing a new Local Plan has been discussed at length in many forums. Whilst the Council does not have to begin plan-making under the new system until December 2026, there is no need to delay the initial processes under the new system until then. MHCLG has made it very clear that it expects plan-making to continue at pace and will not be afraid to intervene if plan-making does not progress.

7.2 Plan-making is strongly encouraged without delay. It suggests that the Council is committed to plan-making. Whilst simply progressing the earlier stages of plan-making does not give the control an adopted Local Plan gives, progressing a Local Plan as identified by this report does help to provide evidence that the plan is progressing and shows a pathway to adopting a plan. This is useful information to use in other settings such as development management.

7.3 In addition, should the notice and timetable publication and the scoping consultation not take place as described in this report, then the additional funding secured will have to be returned to the Government.

8. APPENDICES and BACKGROUND PAPERS

Appendix A Notice of Intention to Commence Local Plan Preparation
Appendix B Local Plan Timetable
Appendix C Local Plan Scoping Report.

9. REPORT SIGN OFF

Department	Name and Job Title	Date
Portfolio Holder	Councillor Matt Dormer	16.06.26
Lead Director / Assistant Director	Guy Revans /Ruth Bamford	16.06.26
Financial Services	James Walton	16.06.26
Legal Services	Claire Felton	16.06.26
Policy Team (if equalities implications apply)		

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Redditch Borough Council – Draft Notice to Commence

1 Borough of Redditch Local Plan – Notice of intention to commence local plan preparation

Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026 – Part 4, Regulation 19

1.1 Redditch Borough Council hereby gives notice on 29th June 2026 of its intention to commence local plan preparation on the 'Redditch Borough Local Plan' (the title by which the local planning authority will refer to the local plan) in accordance with Regulation 19 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026.

1.2 This notice provides the public and other stakeholders advance notice of plan-making and details so that they understand when and how they can get involved in preparing the Local Plan.

1.3 The Borough of Redditch Local Plan will be produced as a new style local plan under the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023. The Plan will be prepared in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026, which came into force on 25th March 2026, and the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended). In addition, the Plan will respond to the changes to the planning system through the proposed updates to the NPPF, published for consultation in December 2025.

1.4 In light of preparing the Local Plan under the new plan-making system, the Plan will be prepared and adopted within 30 months once it passes through Gateway 1. In line with the Regulations, the Council will allow a minimum of 4 months from the date of this Notice before formally commencing the 30-month plan preparation process and pass through Gateway 1. It is anticipated that formal commencement of the 30-month plan preparation process will begin in October 2026.

1.5 The Borough of Redditch Local Plan will only cover local plan matters. It will not cover minerals and waste as Worcestershire County Council is responsible for the preparation of planning policy for minerals and waste development in Worcestershire.

1.6 The work to-date on the emerging Borough of Redditch Local Plan, including the work and comments received from the Issues and Options consultation between 22nd May and 3rd July 2025, will feed into the preparation of the Plan under the new plan-making system. Although the Council has carried out a regulation 18 statutory consultation under the legacy plan-making system, the legal requirements of the new system requires the Council to follow the requirements of the new system from start to finish. This does not mean that we cannot use the work already undertaken in the legacy plan-making system.

1.7 The geographical area of the Borough of Redditch Local Plan will cover the entirety of the administrative area of Redditch Borough Council only (ONS Code – E07000236), as shown in Figure 1 below. The Council is not proposing to prepare a joint local plan with another local planning authority.

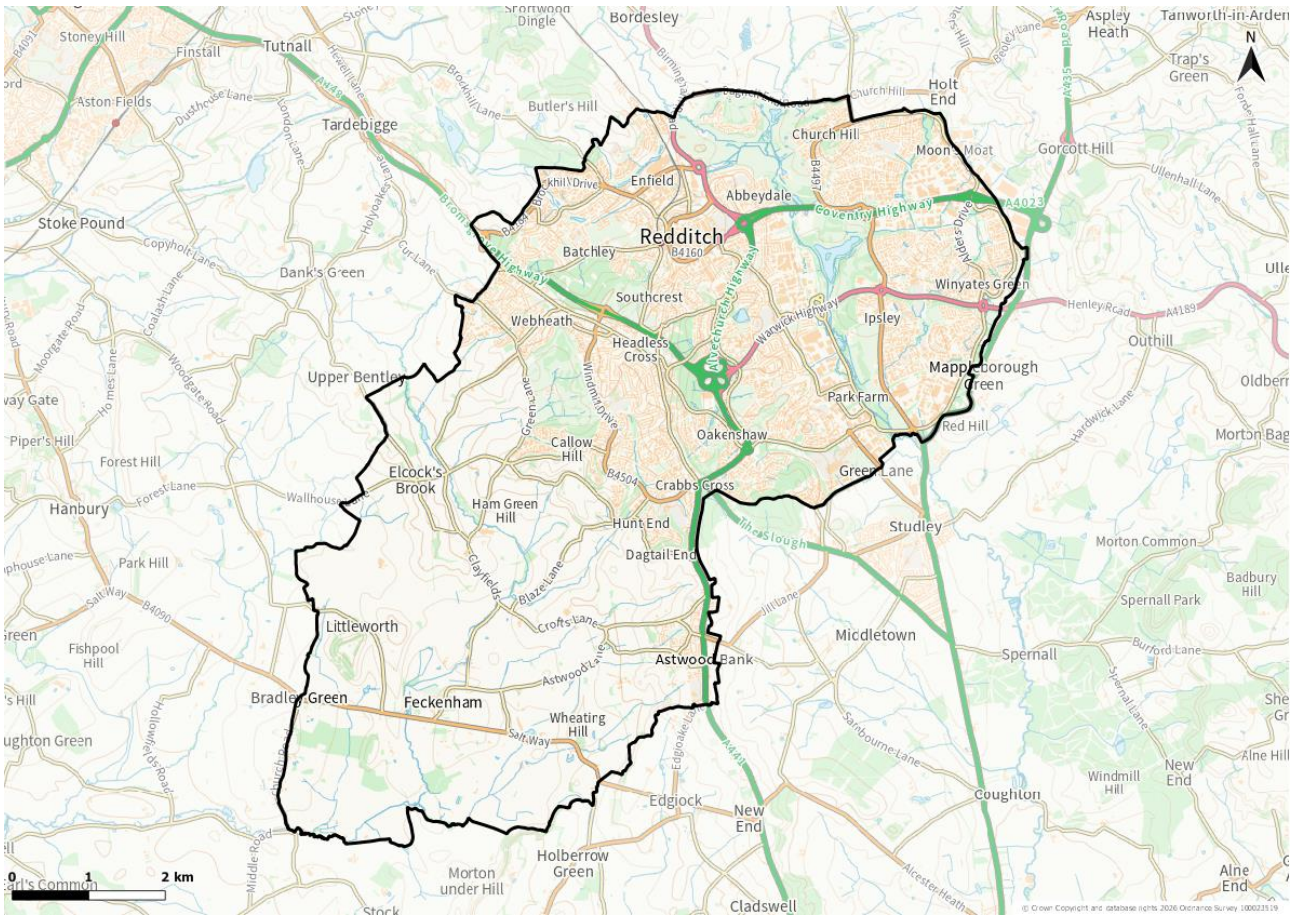

Figure 1: Redditch Borough Council Boundary

1.8 The published Local Plan timetable for the preparation of the Local Plan can be found on our website, which includes details of where to inspect it at the Council's Customer Services Centre at 5 George Walk, Kingfisher Shopping Centre/Town Hall, Walter Stranz Square* and in Borough libraries during respective opening hours – INSERT WEBLINK.

2 Finding out more

2.1 You can find out more about the emerging Local Plan on our website at – INSERT WEBLINK.

2.2 The Notice to Commence is available for inspection at the Council's Customer Services Centre at 5 George Walk, Kingfisher Shopping Centre during office hours until the necessary works at the Town Hall, Walter Stranz Square are complete*. It will then be made available for inspection during office hours at the Town Hall, Walter Stranz Square. Additionally, the Notice to Commence is available for inspection at libraries across the Borough (Redditch Library and Woodrow Library) during their respective opening hours. Details and opening times of the libraries can be found online at – https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/council-services/libraries/find-library?field_district=647&field_type_of_library=All

**The specific date of the movement of the notice of intention to commence local plan preparation from 5 George Walk to the Town Hall, Walter Stranz Square will be subject to the completion of necessary works at the Town Hall*

2.3 If you have any questions or would like further information, you can contact the Council's Strategic Planning team in the following ways:

By email: Redditchplan@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk

By telephone: 01527 64252

By post: Strategic Planning, Redditch Borough Council, Town Hall, Walter Stranz Square, Redditch, B98 8AH.

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Redditch Borough Council – Draft Local Plan Timetable

1 Introduction

1.1 The Local Plan timetable sets out the anticipated key milestone dates for the preparation and adoption of the new Borough of Redditch Local Plan to be prepared by Redditch Borough Council. The timetable outlines the opportunities for public and stakeholder engagement. The Local Plan timetable has been prepared in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026 and the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended).

1.2 The Local Plan timetable came into effect on 29th June 2026 and replaces the Council's Local Development Scheme published in February 2025. The Council published its notice of intention to commence local plan preparation in accordance with regulation 19(1) of the above regulations on 29th June 2026, details of which is available on our website – INSERT WEBLINK.

1.3 The Borough of Redditch Local Plan will only cover local plan matters. It will not cover minerals and waste as Worcestershire County Council is responsible for the preparation of planning policy for minerals and waste development in Worcestershire.

1.4 The work to-date on the emerging Borough of Redditch Local Plan, including the work and comments received from the Issues and Options consultation between 22nd May and 3rd July 2025, will feed into the preparation of the Plan under the new plan-making system. Although the Council has carried out a regulation 18 statutory consultation under the legacy plan-making system, the legal requirements of the new system requires the Council to follow the requirements of the new system from start to finish. This does not mean that we cannot use the work already undertaken on the legacy plan-making system.

2 Scope of the Redditch Borough Local Plan

2.1 The Borough of Redditch Local Plan No.4 (2011–2030) was formally adopted by Redditch Borough Council in January 2017. This follows an independent examination in public and receipt of the Inspector's Report into the examination of the Plan, concluding that the Plan was judged to have been found 'sound'.

2.2 The Council is now in the process of reviewing and replacing the Borough of Redditch Local Plan No.4 (2011–2030) which will set out a vision and strategy for where new housing, employment and other development alongside supporting infrastructure will take place up to the end of the plan period (2044). The Plan will also contain local policies that are not covered by the national decision-making policies to be contained in the forthcoming National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). Together, these policies will be used to determine planning applications, guiding what can be built, where, and how. The scope and content of the Local Plan will be reviewed following the scoping consultation and the subsequent local plan content and evidence base consultation.

2.3 The emerging Borough of Redditch Local Plan will be produced as a new style local plan under the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023. The Plan will be prepared in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026, which came into force on 25th March 2026, and the Planning and Compulsory

Purchase Act 2004 (as amended). In addition, the Plan will respond to the changes to the planning system through the proposed updates to the NPPF, published for consultation in December 2025. In light of preparing the Local Plan under the new plan-making system, the Plan will be prepared and adopted within 30 months once it passes through Gateway 1.

2.4 The geographical area of the Borough of Redditch Local Plan will cover the entirety of the administrative area of Redditch Borough Council only (ONS Code – E07000236), as detailed in the notice of intention to commence local plan preparation – INSERT WEBLINK. The Council is not proposing to prepare a joint local plan with another local planning authority.

2.5 When the Council confirms whether it will be preparing any supplementary plans, these will be included in an update to the Local Plan timetable. For each supplementary plan, the subject matter and geographical area, site or sites that each of those supplementary plans is to relate to will be confirmed.

2.6 The Council must ensure that for every part of its area, the development plan includes requirements with respect to design that relates to development, or development of a particular description, which the authority considers should be met for planning permission for the development to be granted. The Council will ensure that the development plan includes requirements with respect to design to meet section 15F of the Act.

3 Timetable for the preparation of the new Redditch Borough Local Plan

3.1 An overview of the new plan-making process is provided in Figure 1 below.

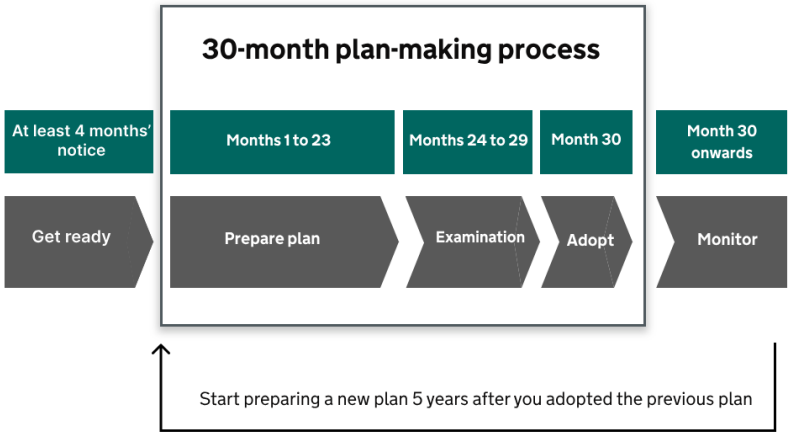

Figure 1: Illustration of the main stages and timings in the 30-month process (Source: GOV.UK https://www.gov.uk/guidance/30-month-local-plan-process-an-overview)

3.2 The first stage is to publish the local plan timetable and notice of commencement of plan-making. The notice is a minimum 4 months' notice before formally preparing the Local Plan and the start of the 30-month period to adopt the Local Plan. The commencement of the 30-month period starts when the Council passes through Gateway 1 (publication of the self-assessment summary).

3.3 The new local plan-making system allows for three consultations; a scoping consultation (before the 30-month formal process begins); proposed local plan content and evidence consultation; and finally, the proposed local plan consultation (prior to submission of the proposed local plan for independent examination).

3.4 The anticipated key milestone dates for the preparation and adoption of the Borough of Redditch Local Plan are shown in Table 1 below. The timetable will be updated as soon as is reasonably practicable once the relevant event has occurred or consultation has commenced.

Table 1: Local Plan timetable for the Redditch Borough Local Plan

Local plan event	Start date	End date
1) Publish local plan timetable under regulation 8	29th June 2026	
2) Publish notice of intention to commence local plan preparation under regulation 19(1)	29th June 2026	
3) Publish notice of scoping consultation under regulation 20(1)(b)	3rd July 2026	
4) Scoping consultation under regulation 20	3rd July – 14th August 2026	
5) Gateway 1: Publish Gateway 1 self-assessment summary under regulation 21(3)	October 2026	
6) Publish summary of scoping consultation under regulation 22	October 2026	
7) Publish notice of local plan content and evidence consultation under regulation 23(1)(a)	June 2027	
8) Consultation on the proposed local plan content and evidence (not less than six weeks) under regulation 23	June 2027	July/August 2027
9) Publish summary of consultation on the proposed local plan content and evidence under regulation 24	October 2027	
10) Gateway 2: observations and advice will be sought under section 15CA(3) of the Act in accordance with regulation 26	October 2027	
11) Publish Gateway 2 observations and advice in accordance with section 15CA(5) of the Act and regulation 26(5)	November/December 2027	
12) Publish notice of proposed local plan consultation under regulation 27(1)(a)	March 2028	
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15) Gateway 3: observations and advice will be sought under section 15CA(3) of the Act in accordance with regulation 31	August/September 2028	
16) Publish Gateway 3 observations and advice in accordance with section 15CA(5) of the Act and regulation 31(5)	September/October 2028	
17) Submit the proposed local plan for independent examination under section 15D(1) of the Act	October 2028	
18) Publish the examiner's recommendations and reasons in	TBC	

accordance with section 15D(13) of the Act and regulation 37.	
19) Adoption of the local plan under section 15EA of the Act	April 2029

*Reference to a specific regulation means the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026
**Reference to "the Act" means the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended)

4 Monitoring and updating of the Local Plan timetable

4.1 The Council will review the Local Plan timetable monthly from the date it came into effect and update it as necessary and as soon as is reasonably practicable when any changes are required.

4.2 The Council will also update the Local Plan timetable, as necessary and as soon as is reasonably practicable, including if any of the following events happen:

- Any further consultations that the Council decides to hold or if further observations and advice will be sought at Gateway 3 as necessary.
- Any key examination related events as necessary (main modifications consultation or pause of examination).
- If the Local Plan is withdrawn under section 15E of the Act or revoked under section 15G of the Act.
- Details of any supplementary plans that the Council decides to prepare.

4.3 A schedule of the amendments to the Local Plan timetable are recorded in Table 2 below.

Table 2: Schedule of amendments to the Local Plan timetable

Amendment No.	Date	Schedule of amendments

5 Finding out more

5.1 You can find out more about the emerging Local Plan on our website at – INSERT WEBLINK.

5.2 The Local Plan timetable is available for inspection at the Council's Customer Services Centre at 5 George Walk, Kingfisher Shopping Centre during office hours until the necessary works at the Town Hall, Walter Stranz Square are complete*. It will then be made available for inspection during office hours at the Town Hall, Walter Stranz Square. Additionally, the Local Plan timetable is available for inspection at libraries across the Borough (Redditch Library and Woodrow Library) during their respective opening hours. Details and opening times of the libraries can be found online at – https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/council-services/libraries/find-library?field_district=647&field_type_of_library=All

**The specific date of the movement of the Local Plan timetable from 5 George Walk to the Town Hall, Walter Stranz Square will be subject to the completion of necessary works at the Town Hall*

5.3 If you have any questions or would like further information, you can contact the Council's Strategic Planning team in the following ways:

By email: Redditchplan@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk

By telephone: 01527 64252

By post: Strategic Planning, Redditch Borough Council, Town Hall, Walter Stranz Square, Redditch, B98 8AH.

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Borough of Redditch Local Plan – Scoping Document (July 2026)

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Foreword

Early last summer we undertook a six-week consultation period to listen to you and gather your views on the Issues and Options across Redditch. The consultation document set out what we thought the issues were in Redditch Borough and what we would need to put into a Local Plan to address them. The purpose of the consultation was to check in with residents, businesses, statutory consultees and other stakeholders to ensure we were on the right lines with our thought process. We received some useful comments from you, which were invaluable which will inform our Local Plan as it evolves through the plan-making process.

Since that time, rather than progress the Local Plan, we need to revisit some of the work we've undertaken to ensure we can align ourselves with the Government's new plan-making process. We have to ask specific questions of you in order to proceed through the new system, which has formed the focus of this document.

Whilst this document covers some of the same matters that we consulted on last year, it is imperative that we robustly align to the new system and to meet the timetabled requirements of the new system. The comments you took time to send us last year are still pertinent but you may wish to comment again in case you feel that your thoughts or any issues have changed over the past 12 months.

Thank you for joining us on this stage of our local plan-making journey and we invite you to read on further and welcome your input on the questions within this document, which will help us to fully comply with our transition from the old plan-making process into the new.

Section 1 - Introduction, overview of plan-making to date and how to respond

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 Redditch Borough Council is in the process of reviewing and replacing the adopted Borough of Redditch Local Plan No.4 (2011–2030, adopted January 2017). The Council has held one consultation to date relating to the new Borough of Redditch Local Plan. An Issues and Options consultation along with a Call for Sites exercise was undertaken between 22nd May and 3rd July 2025.

1.1.2 The forthcoming Borough of Redditch Local Plan will be developed as a new-style local plan in line with the Levelling-up Regeneration Act 2023. It will be prepared in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026, which came into effect on 25th March 2026, and the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended). The Local Plan will also reflect the forthcoming proposed changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). As the Local Plan is being produced under the new plan-making system, it will be prepared and adopted within 30 months once it passes through Gateway 1.

1.1.3 It is recognised that the Council has undertaken a Regulation 18 Issues and Options consultation under the legacy plan-making system. The work to date, including the responses received, will influence the preparation of the Local Plan under the new plan-making system. The requirements of the new system requires the Council to follow the new regulations from start to finish. However, this does not preclude the use of work already completed under the previous, legacy plan-making system. Responses to this consultation should be limited to the purposes of this scoping consultation and the questions set out in this document. This consultation does not address site-specific matters.

1.1.4 The scoping consultation marks the first consultation in preparing the Local Plan under the new plan-making system. At this stage, the Council is required to invite representations on matters relevant to the preparation of the Local Plan, including what the Local Plan should contain, and the methods by which stakeholders should be engaged in its development. The scoping consultation is open for comments from Friday 3rd July to 5pm on Friday 14th August 2026 (consultation responses received after the deadline will not be considered).

1.1.5 The scoping consultation follows the publication of the Local Plan timetable and the notice of intention to commence local plan preparation on 29th June 2026, both of which are available to view on the Council's website – INSERT WEBLINK.

1.2 Purpose of a local plan and why we need a new local plan

1.2.1 The Local Plan's purpose is to establish a clear, plan-based framework to guide how land is used and developed in Redditch Borough over a typical period of 15–20 years. Its main objectives are as follows:

- Sets the vision and strategy for development
- Allocates land for development
- Helps guide decision-making
- Promotes sustainable development and sets the approach to protecting and enhancing the environment
- Provides certainty for communities and developers
- Enables infrastructure delivery and coordination

1.2.2 The Borough of Redditch Local Plan will only cover local plan matters. It will not plan for minerals and waste. Worcestershire County Council is responsible for the preparation of planning policy for minerals and waste development in Worcestershire.

1.2.3 The adopted Borough of Redditch Local Plan No.4 is nearing the end of its Plan period (2030). Since we adopted the Local Plan, the NPPF has stipulated that local plans should be reviewed at least once every five years. The review should take into account changing circumstances affecting the area and relevant changes in national policy. If the area's local housing need figure has changed significantly it is expected that the relevant strategic policies in the local plan will need updating (NPPF, paragraph 34). Given the Council's Plan is nearing the end of its Plan period and significant changes in national policy, including the revised standard method for calculating local housing need, a review of the adopted Local Plan is not appropriate. It is also a requirement that Plans look ahead for a minimum of 15 years from adoption, therefore we need to consider development requirements beyond the 2030 Plan period. Therefore, the Council is preparing a new Local Plan rather than just reviewing the adopted Local Plan.

1.3 Overview of new plan-making system

1.3.1 A key Government ambition is to accelerate the adoption of local plans to achieve universal national plan coverage, ensuring they play a positive role in delivering the Government's "Plan for Change" target of building 1.5 million new homes in England by the end of the current Parliament.

1.3.2 In March 2026, the Government introduced new plan-making regulations – the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026 – to implement the reforms set out in the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023. These regulations are intended to create a faster, more streamlined, and increasingly digital plan-making system. Under the regulations, local planning authorities are required to adopt a local plan within 30 months of passing through Gateway 1 (publication of the self-assessment summary).

1.3.3 An overview of the new-plan making process is provided in Figures 1 and 2 below.

Figure 1: Illustration of the main stages and timings in the 30-month process (Source: GOV.UK https://www.gov.uk/guidance/30-month-local-plan-process-an-overview)

Figure 2: Overview of the new local plan-making process (Source: GOV.UK https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/plan-making-regulations-explainer/plan-making-regulations-explainer)

1.3.4 Before the formal 30-month process begins, there is a preparatory 'getting ready' phase. This lasts for a minimum of four months and requires local planning authorities to publish a local plan timetable, publish a notice of intention to commence local plan preparation and carry out a scoping consultation (further details

of which are provided in section 1.7). Authorities then prepare and publish their Gateway 1 self-assessment summary.

1.3.5 The publication of the Gateway 1 self-assessment summary marks the start of the formal 30-month period during which the local plan is prepared, independently examined and ultimately adopted. Within the new plan-making framework, there are two further consultation stages: the proposed local plan content and evidence consultation, followed by the proposed local plan consultation which takes place prior to submission for independent examination.

1.3.6 The new system also includes two further Gateway stages, during which the local plan is reviewed during its preparation by a Planning Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State. At Gateway 2, following the proposed local plan content and evidence consultation, observations and advice is sought to ensure the plan is progressing appropriately. At Gateway 3, following the proposed local plan consultation and prior to independent examination, observations and advice is sought to confirm the plan is ready for submission for independent examination. If at examination the local plan is found to be “sound” and recommended for adoption, the local planning authority may proceed to adopt it.

1.4 Overview of plan-making to date

1.4.1 As part of our review of the adopted Borough of Redditch Local Plan No.4, we undertook an Issues and Options consultation and Call for Sites exercise between 22nd May and 3rd July 2025. The purpose of the Issues and Options consultation was to gather comments on the draft issues and options for the Local Plan to address. Views were sought on a range of topics including:

- Vision and key issues for Redditch
- Possible growth options
- Housing
- Economy and employment land
- Town centre and local centres
- Infrastructure
- Natural and historic environments
- Climate change
- Design coding

1.4.2 At the same time, we put out a Call for Sites request for developers and landowners to submit potential development sites, for a variety of uses, to us that they wish to be considered for allocation in the emerging Local Plan.

1.4.3 The responses received to the consultation are vital and will help shape the Local Plan at later stages.

1.5 Overview of Spatial Development Strategies

1.5.1 The English Devolution White Paper, published in December 2024, sets out the Government's intention to reinstate mandatory strategic planning through the preparation of sub-regional Spatial Development Strategies (SDSs) across England. The Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025 includes provisions placing a duty on strategic planning authorities – such as strategic planning boards, combined authorities, combined county authorities, upper-tier county councils, and unitary authorities – to prepare a SDS for their area. For clarity, Redditch Borough Council is not a strategic planning authority.

1.5.2 SDSs are high-level spatial plans looking at least 20 years ahead. They will set the framework for local plans and may apportion housing need and other uses to individual local planning authorities in the sub-region, distribute housing across broad locations, specify infrastructure provision (e.g. transport, utilities and social infrastructure) of strategic importance for supporting development, mitigating/adapting to climate change and promoting the economic, social and environmental well-being of that area. SDSs can also identify the general extent of Green Belt boundaries and identify broad locations for nature conservation and habitat enhancement. It is not a large-scale local plan; it cannot be site-specific or allocate sites. The site-specific role is for local plans which must be in general conformity with the SDS.

1.5.3 Secondary legislation is needed to bring the strategic planning system into operation and is expected to be laid before Parliament ahead of the summer recess. This will trigger the formal duty to prepare an SDS.

1.5.4 SDS geographies will not be formally determined until the relevant secondary legislation has been laid before Parliament. Between 12th February and 26th March 2026, the Government consulted on potential areas for preparing SDSs. No specific SDS geography was proposed for Worcestershire; instead, the consultation invited suggestions on the appropriate geography. Consequently, the geography and timescale for the SDS affecting Redditch borough remains unclear at this time. However, this uncertainty must not hinder progress on preparing the Local Plan.

1.6 Overview of anticipated forthcoming changes to the NPPF

1.6.1 On 16th December 2025, the Government published a consultation on a revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). Building on earlier reforms and wider changes to the planning system, the proposals represent a more substantial and definitive update to national planning policy. The Government intends to introduce national decision-making policies, resulting in a more rules-based approach within

the Framework. These proposed changes aim to make planning policy clearer and easier to apply, support the preparation of faster and more streamlined local plans, and provide stronger direction for decision-making to facilitate appropriate housing and employment development.

1.6.2 The revised NPPF proposes substantial structural changes, introducing separate sets of policies for plan-making and decision-making. The objectives are to ensure that national planning policy is clear, accessible, and easy to understand; to establish a consistent suite of national policies that are not duplicated or varied in local plans, thereby speeding up plan preparation and avoiding differing standards across the country; and to create a more rules-based and certain policy framework to support timely and consistent decision-making.

1.6.3 The NPPF retains individual chapters covering specific topics (see section 5 for further detail). It also introduces substantive reforms aimed at delivering more homes in appropriate locations and strengthening support for commercial development. These include a permanent presumption in favour of suitably located development, a focus on building homes around rail stations, encouraging greater urban and suburban densification, supporting small and medium-sized sites, boosting local and regional economies, and protecting and enhancing the natural environment.

1.6.4 The final revised NPPF is expected be published in the summer (2026).

1.7 Purpose of the scoping consultation and how to respond

1.7.1 The purpose of the scoping consultation is to allow consultation bodies, the public and other stakeholders the opportunity to have their say as to what the Local Plan should contain and what the consultation and engagement strategy should be as we progress the Local Plan through future consultations to adoption, in accordance with Regulation 20 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026.

1.7.2 At this scoping stage, we are seeking views on the key priorities and challenges facing the Borough; the vision for the Local Plan; the potential scope of locally specific topic-based policies; the evidence base needed to support the Local Plan; and the proposed consultation and engagement strategy. The following sections explore these matters in more detail. **Some of the sections include questions, highlighted in green boxes, to help guide your responses and enable the Council to gather meaningful feedback as the Local Plan progresses. Please respond only to the questions provided.**

1.7.3 The scoping consultation is concerned with establishing the scope and parameters of the Local Plan, rather than considering specific proposals such as the identification of

development sites or the drafting of planning policies. Opportunities to comment on these matters will be provided through future consultation stages.

1.7.4 Responses, including the request to be notified at a specified time*, must be submitted in writing by **5pm on Friday 14th August 2026** in one of the following ways:

- Online – Smart Survey link from our website
- By email – Redditchplan@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk
- By post – Strategic Planning, Redditch Borough Council, Town Hall, Walter Stranz Square, Redditch, B98 8AH.

Consultation responses received after the deadline will not be considered.

INSERT LINK TO PRIVACY NOTICE

*Responses may be accompanied by a request to be notified at a specified address when one or more of the following steps occur:

Table 1: Stages where stakeholders can be notified if requested

i.	Consultation on proposed Local Plan content and evidence (Regulation 23).
ii.	Publication of observations or advice received on the Local Plan from a person appointed by the Secretary of State (Section 15CA of the Act).
iii.	Consultation on the proposed Local Plan submission documents (Regulation 27).
iv.	Submission of the proposed Local Plan to the Secretary of State for independent examination (Section 15D of the Act).
v.	Publication of the date, time, and place of the examination hearing and the name of the examiner (Regulation 35).
vi.	Decision of the examiner that the examination is to be paused for further work to be carried out (Sections 15D and 15DA of the Act).
vii.	Publication of the document and any evidence which is sent to the examiner (Section 15DA of the Act).
viii.	Publication of the recommendations and reasons of the examiner received (Section 15D or Section 15DA of the Act).

ix.	Adoption or approval of the Local Plan (Part 2 of the Act).

If you have requested to be notified when one or more of the above steps occur, or you previously signed up to be included on our consultation database and no longer wish to be notified, please contact the Strategic Planning team by email at Redditchplan@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk.

Section 2 - Borough profile

2.1 Borough overview

2.1.1 Redditch Borough is located in North Worcestershire, around 15 miles south of Birmingham. The Borough consists of Redditch's urban area in the north, alongside the villages of Astwood Bank and Feckenham as well as several hamlets in the south. The Borough covers an area of 5,435 hectares (13,430 acres). Redditch's urban areacontains approximately 93% of the population and accounts for 57% of the Borough's land including Arrow Valley Country Park which runs north/south through the town. Redditch is surrounded by the West Midlands Green Belt, and the Borough is situated towards the southern edge of the wider Green Belt boundary. Approximately 33% of the land within the Borough is designated Green Belt, which extends from the south of the town to the B4090. Around 10% of the Borough south of the B4090 is designated as Open Countryside. The Borough is spanned by multiple dual carriageways as well as bus and rail connections into Birmingham City Centre.

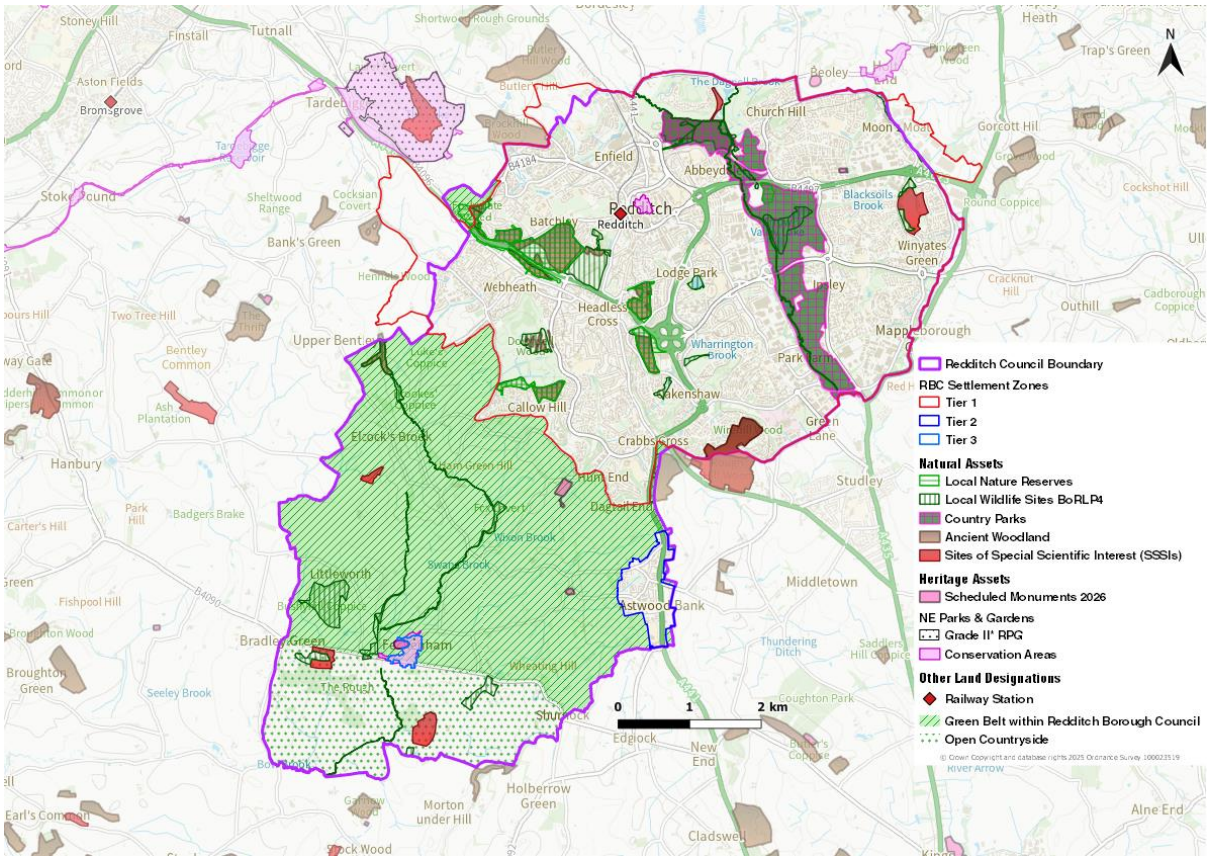

Figure 3: Redditch Borough overview map showing settlements and a selection of planning constraints

2.2 Social characteristics

2.2.1 Between the last two censuses (held in 2011 and 2021), the population of Redditch increased by 3.4%, from around 84,200 in 2011 to around 87,000 in 2021[1]. The number of residents as of the latest ONS population estimates is 87,847 people[2]. As of the 2021 census[3], 62.2% of people are aged between 16 and 64, compared to 61.8% for the West Midlands and 62.8% nationally. 18.6% of residents are aged 65 and over, in line with both the national (18.6%) and West Midlands (18.8%) figures.

Index of Multiple Deprivation

2.2.2 The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD)[4] provides a means of assessing Redditch Borough's relative deprivation across several domains (Health, Living Environment, Employment, Income, Education, Crime and barriers to services) in comparison to other Authorities in England. The IMD assigns scores and ranks to Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) census divisions. A rank of 1 indicates the most deprived areas and a rank of 10 the least deprived. When the scores of LSOAs within Redditch are combined, the Borough is shown to rank in the middle of England's 296 Local Authority Divisions at rank 148, suggesting an average level of deprivation across the combined domains.

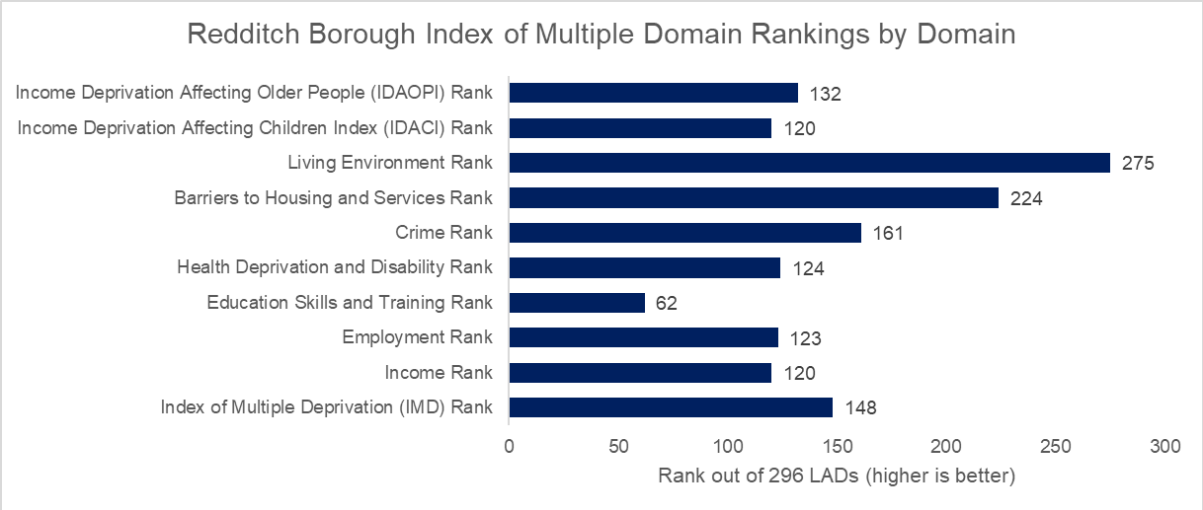

Figure 4: Redditch Borough Index of Multiple Deprivation Ranks

2.2.3 Whilst the overall rank shown in figure 4 is useful for showing how Redditch Borough compares to other Local Authorities, the decile individual LSOAs fall in to can show the relative affluence of areas across the Borough. As shown in figure 5, Redditch contains 4 LSOAs within the most deprived decile, and 10 within the least deprived nationally. Whilst the majority of Redditch's LSOAs rank above 5, the IMD map highlights pockets of relative deprivation spread around Redditch town.

[1] Nomis - 2021 Census Area Profile - Redditch Local Authority
[2] Labour Market Profile - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics
[3] Age - Census Maps, ONS
[4] English indices of deprivation 2025: statistical release - GOV.UK

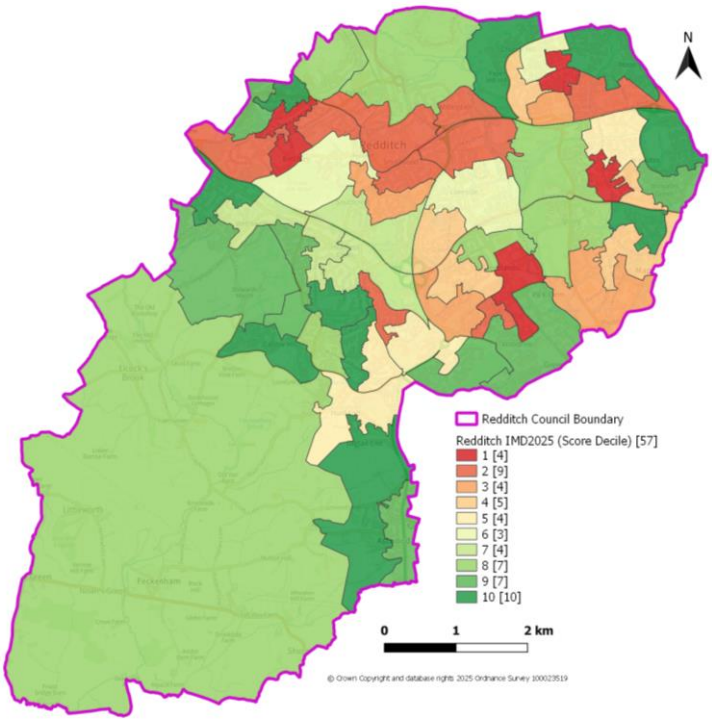

Figure 5: Spatial overview of Redditch Borough Index of Multiple Deprivation Ranks by census LSOA.

2.3 Economic characteristics

2.3.1 As of the latest census, 62.2% of residents aged between 16 and over are economically active (excluding full-time students), comprising 59.2% in employment and 2.7 short term unemployed. 21.7% are retired 4% long-term sick or disabled, 4.3% are looking after home or family, 3.5% are students and 2.7% are otherwise economically inactive. Of those in employment 72.9% work full-time (31 or more hours)[5].

2.3.2 Median annual earnings of people who work within the Borough is £30,780[6] compared with the median annual earnings for residents of Redditch Borough, which is £29,113[7], a difference of 5.4%. This would suggest that the Borough's resident population earn lower salaries than the national median (£32,890), and the West Midlands (£31,345).

Travel

2.3.3 As of census 2021, of those 16 and over in employment, 23.1% work mainly from home, 42.6% travel less than 10km, 19.8% travel between 10km and 30km and 2.8% travel greater than 30km. The most common method of travel to work is by car with 57.4% driving and 5.8% as a passenger, 0.6% travel by train and 3.1% by bus. 6.3% walk to work and 1.4% cycle[8].

[5] Nomis - 2021 Census Area Profile - Redditch Local Authority
[6] Nomis - Query Tool - annual survey of hours and earnings - workplace analysis
[7] Nomis - Query Tool - annual survey of hours and earnings - resident analysis
[8] Nomis - 2021 Census Area Profile - Redditch Local Authority

Housing

2.3.4 The latest census (2021)[9] records 36,378 households within Redditch Borough, of which 30.9% are owned outright, 34.3% mortgaged, loan or shared ownership, 20.2% social rent and 14.6% private rent. The average house price in Redditch Borough was £243,000 as of March 2026, slightly lower than the average for the West Midlands (246,000). First-time buyers in the Borough paid £207,000 on average in March 2026. The average monthly rent stood at £900, lower than the average for the West Midlands average of £964.The dwelling type mix of existing stock is 31.4% semi-detached with an average price of £252,000, 31.4% are detached with an average price of £395,000, 25.8% terraced at an average price of £202,000, and 13% are flats or tenements at an average price of £114,000. Of the remaining 2.3%, 1.4% are part of a converted or shared house, including bedsits.

2.4 Environmental characteristics

Natural Environment and Landscape

2.4.1 The Borough is split into the urban area of Redditch in the north, accounting for approximately 50% of the area and the majority of the population; and the rural area to the south.. The rural area consists predominantly of Green Belt land, but also open countryside.

2.4.2 A feature of Redditch's post-war character is that Redditch town itself has a significant amount of open space with 732.18 hectares across the Borough, including the regionally significant Arrow Valley Country Park (364 hectares) which runs through the centre of the town, and Morton Stanley Park (38 hectares).

2.4.3 Redditch Borough features 6 Sites of Special Scientific Importance (SSSIs), 24 Local Wildlife Sites and over 87 hectares of land designated as Local Nature Reserves (LNRs).

Historic Environment

2.4.4 Redditch was formerly a market town until 1964 when it was designated as a New Town; a status it maintained up until 1985. During this period the Redditch Development Corporation led the significant growth of Redditch, predominantly to the east of the town. As identified at the start of this document, Redditch's twentieth century development has become one of the towns defining features.

2.4.5 Redditch Borough contains 2 conservation areas, 164 listed buildings (153 Grade II, 10 Grade II* and 1 Grade I) and 8 Scheduled Ancient Monuments and over 500 other heritage assets, including locally listed heritage assets. The two Conservation Areas are Feckenham Conservation Area and Church Green Conservation Area. The former is known for its traditional cottages, narrow lanes, and green spaces that reflect its medieval origins, while the latter is centred around St. Stephen's Church, located in the Town Centre.

[9] Nomis - 2021 Census Area Profile - Redditch Local Authority

Section 3 - Key priorities/challenges

3.1 Overview

3.1.1 This section identifies key priorities and challenges to inform the content of the Borough of Redditch Local Plan.

3.1.2 The current Borough of Redditch Local Plan No.4 (BORLP) priorities and challenges are based around seven key themes, which were identified through the evidence base which supports the current Local Plan. These are provided as an example of key priorities and challenges.

3.2 Adopted Local Plan Challenges

3.2.1 The current BORLP adopted in 2017, identified the challenges listed below:

3.2.2 Sustainable places to live which meet our needs:

- Population projections indicate significant new demand for housing over the Plan period due to natural growth and migration
- Land availability is scarce, particularly Previously Developed Land
- Cooperate with our neighbours to locate a significant amount of Redditch's unmet requirements in adjoining Districts

3.2.3 Creating and sustaining a green environment:

- Redditch is located within a highly sensitive landscape with the town's growth now nearing its natural limits
- Redditch has a lot of distinctive green features which define Redditch as unique such as open spaces and Green Infrastructure network which needs to be protected
- Locating growth in places to limit out-commuting, make best use of existing highway infrastructure and promote sustainable transport options

3.2.4 Creating a Borough where businesses can thrive:

- Dealing with high rates of vacancy and B1 office units not fit for purpose
- Need to focus on catering for internal employer demand for business types

3.2.5 Improving the vitality and viability of Redditch Town Centre and District Centres:

- There are areas in Redditch Town Centre that are in decline and need regeneration

- Some District Centres suffer from safety, safety perception issues and other issues relating to the poor quality of the physical environment

3.2.6 Protecting and enhancing Redditch's historic environment:

- Redditch has a rich needle-making heritage and historic buildings of local importance to protect

3.2.7 Creating safe and attractive places to live and work:

- Some areas of Redditch suffer from a poor perception of crime and anti-social behaviour.
- The implementation of improved design or designing out crime can help reverse this perception

3.2.8 Promoting Redditch's community well-being:

- Health of Redditch residents needs to be improved

3.3 Key priorities and challenges from the Redditch Issues and Options consultation

3.3.1 The Redditch Issues and Options consultation in summer 2025 identified a more up-to-date range of issues for Redditch.

3.3.2 **Housing:**

- Meeting demand for Redditch's growing population
- Sustainable locations for new development and regenerating older housing stock
- Redeveloping brownfield sites
- Boundary extension options for expansion within the Borough
- Shortage of affordable housing and family housing
- Shortage of elderly accommodation/retirement villages to meet demand from Redditch's ageing population
- Reduce the council housing waiting list by creating more social housing

3.3.3 **Economy:**

- Regeneration of the Town Centre and District Centres
- Dealing with high vacancy rates in the Town Centre
- Creating more leisure and cultural events to grow the visitor economy
- Attracting investment and growing the economy

- Responding to employment needs in the Borough
- Ensuring the Local Plan is aligned with relevant strategies such as the emerging National Industrial Strategy
- Encouraging investment in emerging technology and green industries
- Working with businesses, education providers and the forthcoming Digital Manufacturing and Innovation Centre to provide the right size and location of employment land

3.3.4 **Infrastructure:**

- Improving public transport, walking and cycling which will improve overall health of the Borough
- Improve access around the Borough to attractions and green space

3.3.5 **Natural Environment:**

- Promote healthy lifestyles
- Recognising environmental issues such as flooding and wildlife
- Ensuring sustainability across the Borough
- Making the most of heritage assets and improving the visitor experience

3.3.6 **Climate Change:**

- Reducing carbon emissions through new technology
- Measures to adapt to aspects of climate change e.g. coping with increased rainfall
- Energy efficiency in new developments

3.4 New priorities and challenges

3.4.1 The adopted Priorities and Challenges have been updated to reflect the Issues and Options consultation objectives. This provides a list of priorities and challenges that is considered up-to-date.

3.4.2 **Housing**

- Accommodating housing growth in sustainable locations, including the potential for local centre/estate regeneration and potential cross-boundary allocations
- Making effective use of previously developed land (PDL)
- Addressing shortages in affordable and specialist housing, including accommodation for older people

3.4.3 **Economy**

- Allocating sufficient land to attract inward investment and support business growth to retain companies in the Borough as they grow
- Aligning the Local Plan with national and regional economic strategies, including making provision for key sectors such as advanced manufacturing

3.4.4 **Town Centre and Local Centres**

- Revitalising Redditch Town Centre and Local Centres through clear regeneration policies. Align Local Plan policies with other town centre initiatives
- Policies promoting a more mixed-use town centre, including leisure, community and residential uses
- Addressing underused spaces and overall environmental quality

3.4.5 **Infrastructure**

- Improving public transport (especially bus services) and active travel (walking and cycling)
- Enhancing access to key destinations, including employment areas, town centres and green spaces through the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Improvement Plan (LCWIP)
- Ensuring new development is adequately served by new or upgraded infrastructure

3.4.6 **Design**

- Ensure high-quality design throughout new housing development, the town centre and local centres through design coding
- Designing safer places by reducing crime and anti-social behaviour through good urban design

3.4.7 **Environment**

- Protecting and enhancing the Borough's green spaces. Improving access to green spaces and integrating them into healthy, attractive communities
- Conserving and promoting historic assets and local heritage, including Redditch's post-war identity where appropriate
- Enhancing biodiversity and responding to environmental constraints such as flood risk and ecological sensitivity

3.4.8 **Health**

- Promoting healthier lifestyles through access to green space and community facilities

Question 1: Are these Priorities correct, please let us know if there is anything we have missed?

Section 4 - Vision and objectives

4.1 What is a Local Plan vision?

4.1.1 The vision for Redditch will underpin the Local Plan describing how Redditch should grow, change and what it will look like by 2044. Additionally, it has a role to address the challenges above and will play a leading role in delivering some of the Council's wider priorities, whilst offering a supporting and guiding role for others. The Council Plan 2025-28 identifies the following aspirations for Redditch Borough:

- A happy and safe place to live, work and grow up through the provision of decent homes, crime prevention, reducing anti-social behaviour and improving community engagement.
- A welcoming place for everyone, with something to offer all - children, young people, older people and families. A place where people take pride in our communities and heritage.
- A prosperous place where businesses thrive, so that everyone can achieve their hopes and aspirations for the future.
- A green and healthy place, preserving our open spaces and working in partnership to address health indicators such as levels of obesity, drug and alcohol addiction.

4.2 Feedback on the comments received from the Issues and Options consultation relating to the Local Plan vision.

4.2.1 The Issues and Options consultation identified an emerging vision for the Local Plan, as set out below:

"*Redditch to become a greener, safer place with pride in its heritage. Redditch will have more decent, energy efficient homes and employment space to allow businesses to thrive and create highly skilled jobs. Redditch will draw upon its post-war heritage to adapt to the challenge of climate change with new active travel routes, enhanced green infrastructure/natural environment and energy efficient development.*"

4.2.2 Residents and other stakeholders were asked if they had a vision for the future of Redditch. There was strong support for a more sustainable and greener Redditch which included the protection and enhancement of existing green spaces and parks and a more environmentally sustainable town. There was a desire for an infrastructure led approach to growth, with improvements to transport, connectivity and local services. Town Centre Regeneration was seen as a priority delivering more affordable and well-designed housing and reinforcing Redditch's distinctive New Town character. Community wellbeing, inclusivity and local pride were key priorities, alongside the need for greater economic opportunity.

4.2.3 It is therefore our understanding that the majority of respondents supported a vision for Redditch that prioritises infrastructure-led growth, environmental protection, town centre regeneration, improved connectivity, and the delivery of affordable, well-designed homes, while safeguarding the Borough's distinctive New Town character and supporting strong, inclusive communities.

4.3 Developing a vision for Redditch Borough

4.3.1 The aim of developing a specific vision for the Redditch Borough Local Plan aligns with the latest National guidance for Local Plan vision statements. Specifically:

a. A Local Plan vision should 'set out key aims and objectives for your area over the next 15 years or longer'.

b. 'be ambitious but also reflect what the local plan can realistically achieve through its policies'.

c. The vision must identify no more than 10 measurable outcomes to help monitor progress towards the stated objectives.

Potential aims & objectives

4.3.2 The following suggestions for aims and objectives are based upon the feedback received from the Issues and Options consultation. We are interested in your views on these and any additional objectives you think the Borough should aim to achieve. We are also interested in your views on measurable outcomes for the Local Plan.

Provide the infrastructure required to support Redditch and its future growth

Ensure that all new development in Redditch is phased and aligned with the timely provision of infrastructure, including transport, education, healthcare, utilities and community facilities.

Prioritise brownfield first and urban regeneration

Maximise the use of previously developed land, vacant units and underused spaces, particularly within the urban area and Town Centre, before considering release of undeveloped land.

Promote a Greener, more environmentally resilient Redditch

Protect, enhance and expand Redditch's network of green corridors, parks and open spaces, delivering measurable biodiversity improvements and embedding climate resilience in all development.

Improve sustainability and connectivity

Strengthening public transport and deliver safe and attractive walking and cycling networks.

Deliver affordable and appropriate housing

Deliver the right mix of homes (size, type and tenure), with a strong focus on affordability and provision for different life stages, including older persons and accessible/lifetime homes.

Revitalising Redditch Town Centre

Transform Redditch Town Centre into a vibrant, mixed-use destination that supports retail, leisure, cultural, residential and employment uses.

Reinforcing Redditch's New Town Identity

Protect and enhance Redditch's distinctive New Town structure, including neighbourhoods with local centres and create a strong sense of place and community identity.

Supporting a Resilient Economy and Job Opportunities

Strengthen Redditch's economy by supporting existing employment areas, encouraging new and emerging sectors and linking economic growth with Town Centre regeneration.

Create healthy, safe and inclusive communities

Promote well-being and inclusion by ensuring there is access to community facilities, leisure and green spaces.

Deliver high-quality, sustainable design within all developments

Ensure all development achieves high standards of design, reflecting local character and incorporating sustainable construction and energy-efficient measures.

4.4 Local Plan period

4.4.1 Based on the current Local Plan timetable, this Local Plan is to set out the vision for growth and development of the Borough to 2044. New national legislation requires that local plans are reviewed regularly within this period to ensure that the policies within remain relevant and up to date.

Question 2: Is our understanding from the Issues and Options consultation regarding the vision still correct? We would be interested to hear additional themes that the Local Plan vision should contain.

Question 3: What are your views on the proposed aims and objectives, and are there any that should be changed, removed or added?

Section 5: Local Plan topic-based content

5.1 Potential scope of locally specific topic-based policies

5.1.1 The NPPF sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these should be applied. It provides a framework within which locally-prepared plans can provide for housing and other development in a sustainable manner. It is also a material consideration in the determination of planning applications.

5.1.2 The current NPPF (December 2024, amended February 2025) has 17 chapters covering the following topic areas:

- Sustainable development
- Plan-making
- Decision-making
- Housing
- Economy
- Town centres
- Healthy and safe communities
- Transport
- Communications
- Effective use of land
- Design
- Green Belt
- Climate change, flooding and coastal change
- Natural environment
- Historic environment
- Minerals

5.1.3 In December 2025, the Government consulted on a revised NPPF[10], as outlined in Section 1. The final version is expected to be published in summer 2026. A key proposed change is the introduction of national decision-making policies. This more rules-based approach is intended to promote greater consistency and timeliness in planning decisions across local planning authorities in England. The draft Framework includes policies across the following areas:

- Sustainable development
- Climate change
- Housing
- Economy
- Town centres
- Communications
- Energy and water
- Minerals

[10] National Planning Policy Framework: proposed reforms and other changes to the planning system - GOV.UK

- Effective use of land
- Green Belt
- Design
- Transport
- Healthy communities
- Pollution, public protection and security
- Flood risk and coastal change
- Natural environment
- Historic environment

5.1.4 The draft NPPF makes clear that local plans should not duplicate, substantively restate or modify the content of national decision-making policies, unless directed by other policies in the Framework.

5.1.5 Many of the topic areas proposed to be covered by national decision-making policies in the revised Framework have historically been addressed within local plans. As the draft Framework advises that such policies should not be duplicated, the role and content of local plans may change. However, as the final version of the NPPF has yet to be published, the definitive form and scope of these policies remain uncertain. Redditch Borough Council will review the final NPPF once issued, and this will be reflected in the next local plan content and evidence consultation.

5.1.6 New-style local plans will be more concise and streamlined compared to those prepared under the previous plan-making system. Drawing on a robust evidence base and informed by consultation feedback, the Borough of Redditch Local Plan is expected to comprise the following:

- Vision and measurable outcomes.
- Spatial strategy with policies for the amount of development to be provided, land allocations and designations (including land to be protected or enhanced for specific purposes).
- Infrastructure provision and contributions to support the delivery of the Local Plan.
- Other local topic-based policies.

5.1.7 Notwithstanding any forthcoming changes to the NPPF, the Borough of Redditch Local Plan may include policies covering the following thematic areas (not exhaustive):

- Housing – e.g. housing requirement, housing allocations, housing size, type and tenure, gypsies, travellers and travelling showpeople.
- Economy – e.g. employment land requirement, employment allocations, protection of existing employment areas, rural economy, town centre, local centres.
- Environment and climate change – e.g. natural environment, historic environment, Green Belt, climate change, energy, water, flood risk, air quality.

- Transport – e.g. sustainable development, active travel, highway impact/safety and mitigation, parking standards.
- Health and wellbeing – e.g. open space, sport and recreational facilities, green infrastructure, services and facilities, health, hot food takeaways.
- Design.
- Site allocation policies.

5.1.8 Following the completion of the scoping consultation, consideration of the feedback received, and publication of the revised NPPF, the Council will review which policies should be included in the Borough of Redditch Local Plan. Opportunities to provide comments will be available at the subsequent local plan content and evidence consultation stage, as well as during the proposed local plan consultation.

Question 4: Do you agree with the indicative content of the Borough of Redditch Local Plan and is there anything you would change or add?

Question 5: Do you agree with the topic-based policies that the Borough of Redditch Local Plan could contain and is there anything you would change or add?

Section 6: Local Plan evidence base

6.1 Likely evidence base to support the Local Plan

6.1.1 Given the stage Redditch Borough Council is in with the completion of the Issues and Options consultation last summer and commencing preparation of the Local Plan under the new plan-making system, the Council currently has a limited evidence base in place. Some evidence base documents to support the emerging Local Plan may require updating/additional work. Additionally, the Council needs to identify what new evidence is required.

6.1.2 Table 2 below sets out the evidence base compiled to date, the evidence currently being prepared, and evidence that may require updating or new evidence. The evidence prepared to date is available on our website – INSERT WEBLINK. New or revised evidence will be published once finalised or alongside the next consultation stage. As the Local Plan progresses, additional evidence may also need to be prepared or commissioned.

Table 2: Evidence to support the Local Plan

Evidence Documents	Status
Prepared (including evidence prepared that may require updating/additional work)	
Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report	To be reviewed, the Sustainability Appraisal (including SEA) is to be published at each required plan-making stage
Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment (HEDNA)	Complete, but requires updating
Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy	Complete, to be updated as necessary
Currently being prepared	
Green Belt and Grey Belt Assessment	Commissioned
New evidence required	
Site Assessment and Site Selection Methodology	To be prepared
Housing Land Supply Evidence	To be commissioned/prepared
Settlement Hierarchy Review	To be prepared
Green Belt Exceptional Circumstances Paper	To be prepared
Landscape Sensitivity Assessment	To be commissioned/prepared

Strategic Transport Assessment	Ongoing throughout the preparation of the Local Plan
Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showperson Accommodation Assessment (GTAA)	To be commissioned/prepared
Open Space Study	To be commissioned/prepared
Level 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment	To be commissioned/prepared
Level 2 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment	To be commissioned/prepared
Viability Assessment	To be commissioned/prepared
Infrastructure Delivery Plan	To be commissioned/prepared
Town Centres, Local Centres and Retail Assessment	To be commissioned/prepared
Water Cycle Strategy	To be commissioned/prepared
Climate Change and Energy Assessment	To be commissioned/prepared
Health Impact Assessment	To be commissioned/prepared
Habitats Regulations Assessment	To be commissioned/prepared
Green Infrastructure, Ecology and Biodiversity Assessment	To be commissioned/prepared
Heritage Impact Assessment	To be commissioned/prepared

6.2 Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) requirements

6.2.1 The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (as amended) (Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Regulations) normally apply to local plans. In summary, the SEA assesses the likely significant environmental effects of a local plan alongside reasonable alternatives. Its purpose is to guide and shape plan-making, preventing or reducing adverse environmental impacts and enhancing opportunities for positive outcomes. The process takes place during the preparation of the plan.

6.2.2 Through powers contained in the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023, a new domestic framework for environmental assessment is being developed. The SEA process will be replaced by Environmental Outcomes Reports. The Government is expected to introduce Environmental Outcomes Reports by the end of 2027. Until Environmental Outcomes Reports are introduced the current SEA regulations apply. The transitional approach from SEAs to Environmental Outcomes Reports is not yet known.

6.2.3 A sustainability appraisal considers the local plan's wider economic and social effects (and can also consider potential environmental impacts) to promote sustainable development. A sustainability appraisal should also meet the requirements of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (as amended). A SEA is not required if the sustainability appraisal meets all of the requirements of the aforementioned regulations and considers environmental impacts. Guidance released by the Government in relation to the new plan-making system only makes reference to SEAs and therefore it is our understanding that the requirement to carry out a sustainability appraisal has is likely to be removed. More detailed SEA guidance is expected in due course.

6.2.4 Redditch Borough Council has prepared a SEA Screening Statement, which can be viewed on our website (INSERT WEBLINK) and alongside hard-copy versions of this scoping document across the Borough (see section 8). The SEA Screening Statement concludes that the Borough of Redditch Local Plan has the potential to have a significant effect on the natural environment and will require a SEA is undertaken. It is anticipated that the scope of the SEA will be consulted on at the proposed local plan content and evidence consultation stage.

Question 6: Do you agree with the evidence base to support the Local Plan (table 2) and is there any other evidence you feel we need to inform our Local Plan?

Section 7: Consultation and engagement strategy

7.1 Consultation principles

7.1.1 The consultation principles will guide future consultation methods. These principles are informed by methods used during the 2025 Issues and Options consultation.

7.1.2 **User-friendly content:** All digital and printed material will use graphics and maps where possible. A clear, concise and 'jargon free' approach will help consultees understanding of proposals as much as possible.

7.1.3 **Well-informed consultation responses:** Using clear communication as a starting point, Council Officers will assist consultees wherever possible through explaining key planning concepts and assisting with the use of digital consultation tools. Council Officers will make clear what are material planning considerations and what are not. The Council believes this will help to ensure that both the Council and consultees get the most out of consultations.

7.1.4 **Detail-led consultation:** The Council will ensure that consultation text and questions focus on site-specific details, as well as identifying high level matters. The purpose of this is to ensure the capacity of key infrastructure such as specific road junctions, individual schools and GP surgeries are fully assessed against development proposals.

7.1.5 **Redditch-wide consultation:** Every Redditch resident should have easy access to consultation events near them where they can discuss development proposals with Council Officers. Consultation events will be held in (a) central locations such as the Kingfisher and the market (b) across as many district centres as possible and (c) in the rural areas of the Borough.

7.1.6 **Preventing digital exclusion:** Government requirements for digital-first consultation will be complemented by a clear focus on assisting those without digital access or who would prefer to respond to consultations on paper. Those who want to use digital consultation methods will be supported through a dedicated consultation inbox, phone line and events.

7.1.7 **Ensure feedback demonstrates how comments have been considered:** Feedback to consultation responses will seek to address consultees comments, suggestions and concerns. Any changes to the Local Plan as a result of consultation will be demonstrated through a clear 'you said, we did' approach in a consultation summary document for each consultation (scoping consultation, proposed Local Plan content and evidence consultation and the proposed Local Plan consultation). These summary documents will identify who was invited to make representations, how they

were invited to make representations, summarise the key issues raised and identify how the Council has taken those representations into account.

7.2 Consultation methods

7.2.1 The below consultation methods reflect the above identified principles. These methods will guide future consultations.

7.2.2 Digital-first consultation

- Emails to consultation bodies and those residents and groups registered on our consultation database
- Council website, with pages guiding consultees to key information and the use of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
- Social media platforms
- Use of online consultation platforms, questionnaires and surveys e.g. Commonplace
- Use of videos to explain proposals

7.2.3 Physical Materials

- Printed consultation documents available at the Council's offices and libraries across the Borough
- Printed letters, leaflets and posters
- Notices in local papers and local magazines

7.2.4 Events

- 'Drop-in' public consultation sessions in accessible locations across Redditch: in the town centre, in disrtict centres across Redditch and rural areas
- Focus groups (including targeted stakeholder groups such as Parish Councils, Local businesses and employers, community and physical infrastructure providers)
- School and college engagement sessions

7.2.5 Promoting consultations

- Council press releases
- Targeted publicity in specific areas e.g. noticeboards in rural areas
- Utilising local networks to promote consultations – Councillors, parish councils, stakeholders, and internal Council networks to promote consultations

7.2.6 Improving Accessibility and Participation

- Ensuring consultation documents are clear, concise and user-friendly
- Providing more detailed, optional supplementary questions to enable deeper engagement e.g. on design
- Ensure consultation methods prevent digital exclusion

Question 7: Do you agree with the consultation principles identified? What else would you suggest?

Question 8: Do you agree with the potential consultation methods identified? What else would you suggest?

Question 9: Do you consider there is anything else relevant to consultation that has not been mentioned?

Section 8: Next steps and further information

8.1 Next steps

8.1.1 Once this consultation closes at 5pm on Friday 14th August 2026, all responses will be reviewed, and a report of the findings will be prepared and published on our website. This feedback, together with responses from the Issues and Options consultation, will inform the preparation of the Local Plan. It will also ensure that future consultations engage with you in the most effective way.

8.1.2 There will be two further opportunities to help shape the Local Plan. The next consultation is the Local Plan content and evidence consultation which is anticipated to be held in June 2027 for a minimum of 6 weeks. The final consultation is expected to be held in March 2028 for a minimum of 8 weeks which is a consultation on the full draft Local Plan before it is submitted for independent examination.

8.2 Further information

8.2.1 The Council's website includes all information on the Local Plan; including the Local Plan timetable, notice of intention to commence local plan preparation, scoping consultation details, evidence base, details of the previous Issues and Options consultation, and the privacy notice – INSERT WEBLINK. This will be kept up to date throughout the preparation of the Local Plan, and any updates will be published there.

8.2.2 This scoping document, SEA Screening Statement, Local Plan timetable and notice of intention to commence local plan preparation are available for inspection at the Council's Customer Services Centre at 5 George Walk, Kingfisher Shopping Centre during office hours until the necessary works at the Town Hall, Walter Stranz Square are complete*. They will then be made available for inspection during office hours at the Town Hall, Walter Stranz Square. Additionally, the aforementioned documents are available for inspection at libraries across the Borough (Redditch Library and Woodrow Library) during their respective opening hours. Details and opening times of the libraries can be found online at – https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/council-services/libraries/find-library?field_district=647&field_type_of_library=All

**The specific date of the movement of the documents from 5 George Walk to the Town Hall, Walter Stranz Square will be subject to the completion of necessary works at the Town Hall*

8.2.3 Please see Section 1.7 of this document about how to respond to the consultation. If you have any queries, please contact the Strategic Planning team:

By email: Redditchplan@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk

By telephone: 01527 64252

By post: Strategic Planning, Redditch Borough Council, Town Hall, Walter Stranz Square, Redditch, B98 8AH.

8.2.4 If you need this information in another language/format please call 01527 548284 or email equalities@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk.