

RESPONSE FORM

Engagement Strategy – Scoping Consultation (May 2026)

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1 Introduction

- 1.1 We are producing a new Local Plan for Luton. As part of this process, we are asking for your views in order to shape the new Local Plan. We have produced a Community Involvement Paper and a shorter Summary Booklet version to help you make your response, an Engagement Strategy seeking your views on how we should engage going forward and a Strategic Environmental Assessment Scoping Report. We are also undertaking a call for sites. Further information is available at www.luton.gov.uk/newlocalplan.
- 1.2 This Response Form may assist you to respond to the consultation document setting out Luton Council's strategy for how we propose to engage with the community and other key stakeholders in the preparation of Luton's new Local Plan. The Engagement Strategy identifies the key matters and priorities for the Local Plan we think at this stage we need to discuss with key bodies and organisations and processes to ensure effective participation including using digital tools.

2 What is the Community Engagement Strategy?

- 2.1 The Community Engagement Strategy explains what the council proposes to focus on for planning in Luton (e.g. identifying a list of key matters and priorities that will shape the development of the town including infrastructure provision) and how it engages with the community and other stakeholders (e.g. residents, community groups, neighbouring authorities, statutory undertakers/utility providers, national agencies and bodies).
- 2.2 It also sets out the methods proposed for undertaking engagement at consultation stages suggesting a number of procedural tables for plan making and for decision making (e.g. determining planning applications).
- 2.3 The Community Engagement Strategy then goes on to list 6 questions inviting views on the proposed approach to the matters summarised above (please see the Consultation Questions section of this response form, provided in order for you to make your response).

3 How can I comment on the Community Engagement Strategy?

- 3.1 The consultation is open from **28 May to 23 July 2026 at 5pm**.
- 3.2 To complete an electronic version of this response form, please visit our planning policy consultation portal at <https://consult.luton.gov.uk/kse/>. This is our preferred method of receiving comments.
- 3.3 Alternatively, if you cannot use the Objective portal, you can download and provide a completed scanned response form which should be emailed to localplan@luton.gov.uk. Or send your printed hard copy response in an envelope to:

Freepost Luton Borough Council

Planning Consultation

- 3.4 You can also drop the form off at the Council Offices at the town hall marked for the attention of the Planning Policy Team, 2nd Floor, Luton Town Hall, George Street, Luton, LU1 2BQ.
- 3.5 Please email us at the address above, or leave a message for us on 07845034931, if you would like to ask for a paper copy of this response form to be sent to you.
- 3.6 Before sending your response, it is important that you review and agree to the Privacy Notice (show at the end of this document) by answering “yes” to the mandatory question in the “Your Details” form (otherwise we cannot process your responses or legally hold your name and address on our database). You must ensure that the “Your Details” form is completed along with the rest of the response form so we know who is responding and that you have reviewed and agreed to the Privacy Notice.
- 3.7 You can also, optionally, choose to be kept updated as work on the new Local Plan for Luton progresses by being added to our consultation database.

4 How we will use your information

- 4.1 Your information will be processed and handled in accordance with the council’s and Planning Service’s specific privacy notices (further below).
- 4.2 When added to the database, except for personal information**, comments submitted via the online portal or otherwise, after processing, may be published in preparing planning policy documents and our new Local Plan.
- 4.3 Information provided, including the names/organisations of those making written submissions, will also be made publicly available.
- 4.4 Submissions cannot be made and will not be accepted anonymously. **Personal information such as addresses, phone numbers and email addresses will not be made publicly available in accordance with the Privacy Notice.
- 4.5 You are expected to review and agree to the Privacy Notice in order to submit comments on planning policy, including the new Local Plan, during consultation stages.

5 Your contact details

Name(Required): James Lawson (James Lawson Planning Ltd) *Agent*
Company/Organisation (Optional): Bedfordshire Fire & Rescue Service
Address (Required): Southfields Road Kempston Bedford
Postcode (Required): [REDACTED]
Telephone (Optional): [REDACTED]
Email (Required): [REDACTED]

Would you like to be notified of future updates of planning policy and plan making stages including the New Local Plan for Luton? Please tick if you wish to be added to our database (Optional).	
Yes ☒	
Please tick all topics that apply below that you are interested in.	
Consultation on proposed Local Plan content and evidence?	☒
Publication of the Planning Inspectorate observations or advice?	☒
Consultation on the proposed Local Plan?	☒
Submission of the proposed Local Plan to the Secretary of State for independent examination?	☒
Information about the independent examination, documents/evidence submitted and opportunity to appear?	☒
Decisions and recommendations of the examiner?	☒
The adoption/approval of the Local Plan?	☒
All of the above?	☒
None of the above?	☐
Other planning policy making?	☒

Please review the Privacy Notice and tick that you agree to it in order for us to publish your site information and legally hold your contact/personal details privately which won't be published (Required).
Yes ☒

6 Characteristics

We are aiming to receive responses from a wide range of people, and would be grateful if you would provide the following information – all questions are optional (and answers will be held in strict confidence):

	Please tick if prefer not to say?
Age:	☒
Date of birth:	
What is your gender?: [REDACTED]	☐
Is the gender you identify with the same as your gender registered at birth? [REDACTED]	☐
What is your ethnicity?: [REDACTED]	☐
Do you consider you have a disability (please specify)?: [REDACTED]	☐
What is your sexual orientation?: [REDACTED]	☐
What is your religion or belief?: [REDACTED]	☐
Are you currently pregnant or on maternity or parental leave?: [REDACTED]	☐
Are you married or in a civil partnership?: [REDACTED]	☐

Consultation questions on the engagement strategy:

Do you have any comments on the overall approach in our engagement strategy?

Please respond below and quote any key matter, priority topic (including paragraph number) or general or specific consultee or methodology of engagement table number, your comment relates to about the Community Engagement Strategy.

BFRS is principally interested in Chapter 5 – Issues & Options for Luton: Sustainable Infrastructure & Funding

Bedfordshire Fire & Rescue Service (BFRS) Bedfordshire Police & the East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust are all essential social infrastructure providers (& Blue Light Partners), who work closely with communities (& together) to provide services & undertake activities which support the creation of safe, strong, cohesive, resilient & sustainable communities.

An increased level of engagement (& higher profile) should be assigned to these bodies in the plan making, Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) & development management processes.

BFRS is operating at capacity & increased emphasis should be placed on employing an adequate level of 'stakeholder engagement' at an early stage, & throughout the plan making/ IDP stages - to scope the infrastructure & facilities required to mitigate & manage the increased impact arising on BFRS operational capacity & resources.

****Planned housing/ population growth is likely to increase from 425 dwellings/ annum to 1,095 dwellings per annum (up by 258%) & early, meaningful stakeholder engagement is necessary.**

The electronic transfer of information, online stakeholder workshops along with adequate notice & timelines for responding to the Council, its Officers & consultants is sought.

Attention is drawn to the BFRS evidence base submission (August 2026) which accompanies the form-based responses.

Do you agree with the key matters we have identified and the bodies which we plan to discuss these with?

Please respond below and quote any key matter, priority topic (including paragraph number) or general or specific consultee or methodology of engagement table number, your comment relates to about the Community Engagement Strategy.

No

Increased emphasis should be placed on stakeholder engagement with Bedfordshire Fire & Rescue Service, Bedfordshire Police & the East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust

Do you have any suggestions for other organisations/forums or groups we should be liaising with?

Please respond below and quote any key matter, priority topic (including paragraph number) or general or specific consultee or methodology of engagement table number, your comment relates to about the Community Engagement Strategy.

Please see response to the first consultation question above

Are the engagement methods proposed appropriate?

Please respond below and quote any key matter, priority topic (including paragraph number) or general or specific consultee or methodology of engagement table number, your comment relates to about the Community Engagement Strategy.

Please see response to the first consultation question above

Do you have any suggestions about how we can make consultation material available and in what formats?

Please respond below and quote any key matter, priority topic (including paragraph number) or general or specific consultee or methodology of engagement table number, your comment relates to about the Community Engagement Strategy.

Please see response to the first consultation question above

Are you an individual, group or organisation that want to be involved in the Local Plan, please let us know (including what stages of plan making)?

Please respond below and quote any key matter, priority topic (including paragraph number) or general or specific consultee or methodology of engagement table number, your comment relates to about the Community Engagement Strategy.

Yes

BFRS is principally interested in Chapter 5 – Issues & Options for Luton: Sustainable Infrastructure & Funding

Bedfordshire Fire & Rescue Service (BFRS) is an essential social infrastructure provider integral to the creation & delivery of safe, strong, healthy, resilient & sustainable communities within Luton & the surrounding area

BFRS wish to ensure that appropriate policy & budgetary recognition is provided within the Local Plan & supporting IDP - for developer funded fire & rescue infrastructure/ facilities, in order to mitigate & manage the Service impacts arising from planned growth

BFRS wish to be involved in all stages of the Local Plan & IDP processes.

In addition, BFRS wish to engage with developers to provide pre-application advice & be consulted by Luton Council on all planning applications of 250 dwellings or more

7 Privacy Notice

- 7.1 We are committed to protecting your privacy when you use our services. This privacy notice explains how we use your information you and how we protect your privacy.
- 7.2 A planning service specific privacy notice is also included below and explains what we do with your data within the planning service, where it is different to the main policy below. We'll also provide information about who we may share your information with and why.
- 7.3 If you have any concerns or questions about how we look after your personal information, please contact us at dataprotection@luton.gov.uk.

***Please note: the above email address is for data protection queries and subject access requests only.**

Data controller

Luton Council

- Luton Council, Town Hall, George Street, Luton, LU1 2BQ

Data protection officer

Donna McLeod

- Luton Council, Town Hall, George Street, Luton, LU1 2BQ

8 Planning service Privacy Notice

- 8.1 We're committed to protecting your privacy when you use our services. We have a data protection officer who makes sure we respect your rights and follow the law.
- 8.2 If you have any concerns or questions about how we look after your personal information, please contact us at dataprotection@luton.gov.uk.
- 8.3 As the planning department for Luton Council, we deal with:
- planning policy
 - planning applications (including minerals and waste, listed buildings, trees and high hedges)
 - planning enforcement and appeals

Personal data

- 8.4 Personal data we will hold, include:-

- name
- address
- email address
- telephone number

- land ownership/ interest details
- signatures
- special category data (such as health conditions, disabilities, bank statements, tenancy agreements etc.)

8.5 We receive application information either directly from the application or via a planning agent on their behalf. Information is provided to us via:

- the Planning Portal
- email
- paper copy
- online form
- direct secure access to our document management system
- consultation portal

8.6 We also receive comments, representations, allegations, requests and questions via our online planning register planning consultation portal, email, letter and online forms and payments via the planning portal online payment portal, our own online payment portal, via BACS and cheques. The planning service will also be using a drone to improve our information gathering in the Borough to aid our Planning Enforcement investigations, our assessment of planning applications, our monitoring of developments, existing uses and the survey of sites for the potential for site designation for planning policy purposes.

8.7 The planning department your personal data to:

- make decisions and provide advice on planning applications
- make planning policies
- work with neighbouring authorities on strategic policies
- respond to allegations of unlawful development
- monitor development
- enter legal agreements, serve notices and promote the best use of land

Lawful basis

Personal Data

8.8 Article 6 (c) - processing is necessary for the compliance with a legal obligation to which the controller is subject

Special category data

8.9 Article 6(e) - processing is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in the controller.

Supporting information

8.10 The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 requires that public consultation be carried out as part of the decision-making process for planning applications.

8.11 [The Town and Country Planning \(Local Planning\) \(England\) Regulations 2026](#) set out the procedure for the adoption of a local plan, which too requires various stages of consultation.

- 8.12 To allow us to make decisions, we must be provided with relevant personal data. In a small number of circumstances individuals will provide us with “special category data” in support of their application (e.g. evidence of medical history). Processing of personal data is necessary to allow us to evaluate the impact of any development or policies in the Local Plan when undertaking its planning functions. For example, the address of a representor’s property may be relevant in this context. We are unable to consider the harm or otherwise from a scheme to the representor’s property or amenities where the representation is anonymised and the location of the property is not disclosed.
- 8.13 We are obliged under the regulations to make some information available on our planning register. This is a permanent record of our planning decisions that form part of the planning history of a site, along with other facts that form part of the “land search”.
- 8.14 Your contact details and comment are recorded on our secure planning system. If you have requested to be entirely anonymised, only your comment will be recorded. If you have submitted an anonymous comment, we will not be able to inform you of any committee and/or appeal details.
- 8.15 Information on Planning Enforcement cases will be reviewed case by case to see what can be disclosed to the public. Any data or information that may be used in future formal litigation will be retained and not disclosed under legal privilege.
- 8.16 Any personal and private information obtained by drone use will only be used internally and not shared publicly or externally unless consented by the individual.
- 8.17 Please see the [Planning Advisory Service’s Planning and GDPR Guide](#) for more information.

Who we share your information with:

- other teams and services within Luton Council where law permits, or it is necessary to do so
- the Planning Inspectorate
- planning committees
- external consultees (e.g. fire service, water companies, the police, the environment agency, natural England, historic England, active travel England etc.)

Why we share your information

- 8.18 We are obliged to consult within the council, with external agencies and with residents depending on the nature of your application.
- 8.19 We will make details of planning applications available online so that people can contribute their comments, this will include the applicant/agent’s name and address.
- 8.20 We apply redactions to personal contact details e.g. telephone numbers, email addresses and signatures from public view. However, we will continue to hold the unredacted version on our planning system and this can be viewed by planning staff when necessary.
- **Please note:** agent’s details are not normally classed as personal data.

- 8.21 We also redact special category data e.g. supporting statements that include information concerning your health and any information deemed confidential e.g. bank statements, tenancy agreements etc.
- 8.22 We will sometimes need to share the information we have with other teams within the council, to receive comments related to the decision-making process.
- 8.23 If you are submitting supporting information which you would like to be treated confidentially or wish to be specifically withheld from the public register, please label this appropriately. You can do this by contacting developmentcontrol@luton.gov.uk.

Planning Enforcement

- 8.24 We will keep completely confidential any details received about a planning enforcement complaint, including the details of the person making the complaint.
- 8.25 Further details regarding this is provided in the Council's adopted [Planning Enforcement Charter](#)
- 8.26 We will update the complainant on process with an enforcement complaint (as per the Planning Enforcement Charter).

Any automated decision making or profiling

None.

Transfer of data to another country

- 8.27 No information within planning is transferred to another country. None of the systems we use are hosted abroad.
- 8.28 The majority of personal information is stored on systems in the UK. But there are some occasions where your information may leave the UK either in order to get to another organisation or if it's stored in a system outside of the EU.
- 8.29 We have additional protections on your information if it leaves the UK ranging from secure ways of transferring data to ensuring we have a robust contract in place with any third party who may transfer it out of the EU.
- 8.30 If we need to send your information to an 'unsafe' location we'll always seek advice from the Information Commissioner first.

Retention ('how long we keep your information for')

- 8.31 The data will be kept in accordance with our retention schedule. We only keep information for as long as it is needed. This will be based on either a legal requirement (where a law says we have to keep information for a specific period of time) or accepted business practice.

Exercising your rights

- 8.32 You have the right to ask us to amend or delete your data as well transfer or limit its use.
- 8.33 Each request will be considered individually. Where we are required to keep your data by law, we may be unable to action your request. In all circumstances we will explain our decision making in writing to you.
- 8.34 Please see our main privacy statement using the green button below if you want more information on how:
- we keep your data safe
 - to request a change to the records we hold
 - to make a complaint