Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan Timetable

The Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan Timetable has effect from 3rd June 2026.

Timetable for preparing the Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan

Please note that where precise dates are currently unknown the 1st of the month is set out – specific dates will be added once known through future updates to the Timetable.

The Regulations referred to are The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026.

Local Plan Stage	Description	Date
Publish Local Plan Timetable and Notice of Intention to Commence Local Plan Preparation	Publish Local Plan Timetable in accordance with the new plan-making regulations and the Government template. The Local Plan Timetable will be reviewed once a month and updated and re-published if necessary. Publication of the Notice of Intention to Commence Local Plan Preparation under Regulation 19 (1).	3rd June 2026
Start date for Local Plan Scoping Consultation	A Local Plan Scoping Consultation will be undertaken for a period of at least six weeks where representations will be invited. This consultation will invite feedback in accordance with Regulation 20 (4) on matters including how the Councils will engage with the public and stakeholders throughout the plan-making process and what the Local Plan should contain.	5th June 2026
Date when representations to the Scoping Consultation must be received	All comments (representations) on the Scoping Consultation must be received on or before the specified date.	31st July 2026
Gateway 1: Publication of self-assessment summary	Publication of a document setting out details of how the Councils have got ready for plan-making, marking formal commencement of plan-making for the purposes of the 30-month timeframe in accordance with Regulation 21 (3).	21st October 2026
Start date for consultation on proposed Local Plan Content and Evidence	Consultation for a period of at least six weeks on the proposed Local Plan content and evidence, including draft vision, any proposed aims and objectives, the proposed spatial strategy, summary of the evidence the Councils intend to gather,	1st June 2027

	details of evidence already gathered, initial draft policies in accordance with Regulation 23. Date that the notice will be published.	
Date when representations to the Proposed Local Plan Content and Evidence consultation must be received	All comments (representations) on the Proposed Local Plan Content and Evidence consultation must be received on or before the specified date.	1st July 2027
Gateway 2	Seeking observations from the Planning Inspectorate on the draft Local Plan and supporting evidence, and progress towards the 'prescribed requirements'. Gateway 2 will take between 4-6 weeks, in accordance with Regulation 26.	1st September to 1st October 2027
Start date for Proposed Local Plan consultation	Consultation for at least eight weeks on the Proposed Local Plan and supporting documents in accordance with Regulation 27. Date that the notice will be published.	1st February 2028
Date when representations must be received to the Proposed Local Plan	All comments (representations) on the Proposed Local Plan consultation must be received on or before the specified date.	1st March 2028
Gateway 3	Testing the Local Plan has met the 'prescribed requirements' and can proceed to Examination. Gateway 3 will take between 4-6 weeks, in accordance with Regulation 31.	1st July to 1st August 2028
Submission of Local Plan for Examination	Submission of the Local Plan for Examination.	1st September 2028
Examination	Examination of the Local Plan against the tests of soundness set out in national policy.	1st October 2028 to 1st March 2029
Adoption	Adoption of the Local Plan.	1st April 2029

The matters that the Local Plan will deal with

The Joint Local Plan will cover the period 1st April 2026 to 31st March 2045 and will replace the Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan Part 1 (2023) and the remaining Saved Policies from the Babergh Core Strategy (2014) and the Babergh Local Plan (2006). The Joint Local Plan will include a vision, objectives, policies and site allocations.

The Joint Local Plan will not cover minerals and waste, as Suffolk County Council is the planning authority for these matters.

The geographical area to which the Local Plan will relate

The Local Plan will cover the administrative districts of Babergh and Mid Suffolk and is being prepared as a Joint Local Plan with Mid Suffolk District Council. The Local Plan area is shown on the map below.


Mid Suffolk District
Babergh District
0 2.5 5 km
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Working Together
Babergh District Council and Mid Suffolk District Council
Administrative Boundaries
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Any Supplementary Plans to be prepared

There are no current confirmed plans to prepare any Supplementary Plans or any joint Supplementary Plans.

The Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan Timetable is prepared and published in accordance with the requirements of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) and the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026.

The Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan Timetable has effect from 3rd June 2026

The Local Plan Timetable has been made available to view in the following locations:

- On the Babergh District Council website (www.babergh.gov.uk/jointlocalplan) and Mid Suffolk District Council website (www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/jointlocalplan).
- At the Councils' offices at Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road, Ipswich, IP1 2BX.
- At the Customer Service Centres in Stowmarket (https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/w/customer-access-points) and Sudbury (https://www.babergh.gov.uk/w/customer-access-points).

Copies of this Local Plan Timetable can be made available on request in accordance with the costs incurred by the Councils.