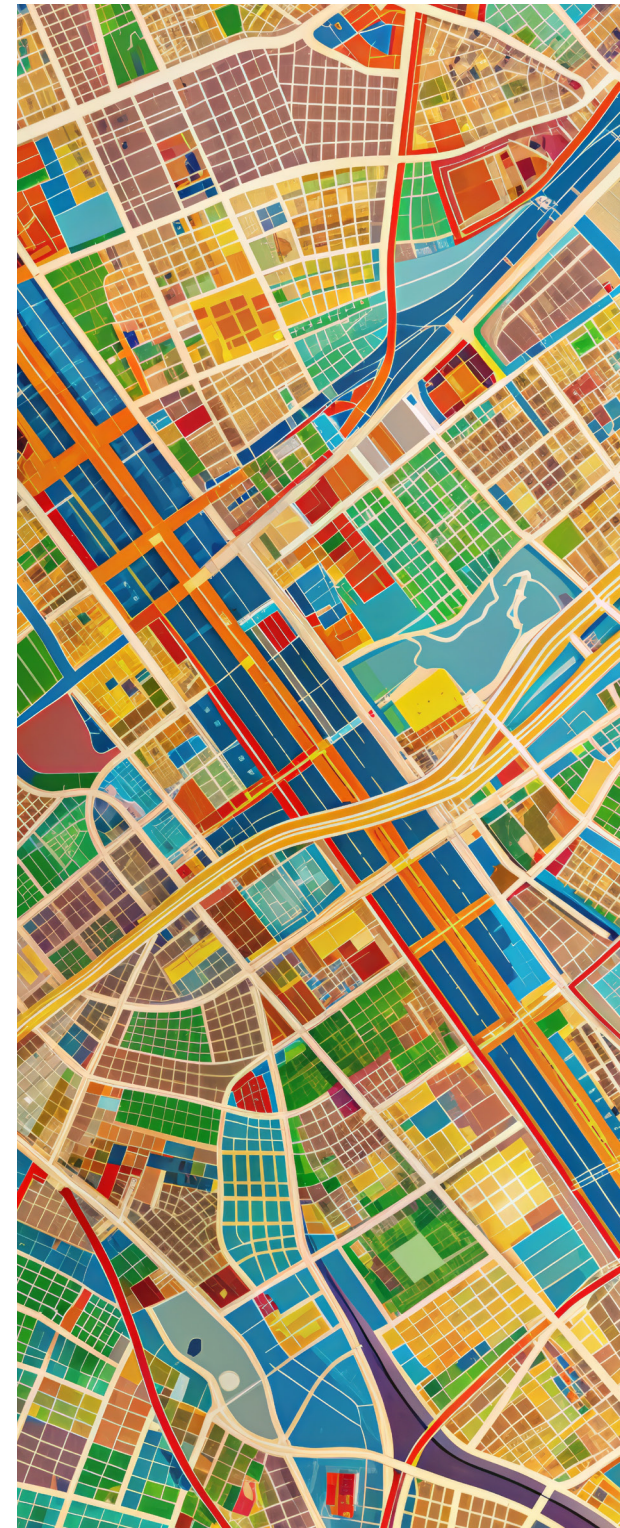


# A guide to the Local Plan



## What is a Local Plan?

Prepared by Local Planning Authorities (LPAs), Local Plans are statutory documents which contain planning policies to guide and shape development.

Planning policies set out the design principles and requirements that development should follow.

They cover topics such housing, employment, climate change and other economic, social and environmental priorities. Policies can also be used to protect land from development.

Local Plans usually cover a period of 15 to 20 years and have a defined geographical area. Once adopted, the Local Plan is the main tool used to determine local planning applications.

## Why prepare a new plan?

We are coming to the end of our current Plan period. To ensure local planning policies are up to date, we need to produce a brand new Local Plan.

Work on the new Plan commenced in 2022, however, in December 2024 changes were made to national planning policy. This included changes to the way housing targets are calculated and how the Green Belt is defined.

To respond to these changes we have reset the Plan making process including engagement and consultation activities.

Why are we  
talking to  
you today?

Hi!  
Welcome to  
the Local Plan

How to get in  
touch and  
keep up  
to date

The team is working very hard to get our engagement platform ready for you but in the meantime you can contact us in one of the following ways ...

Call us: 01225 394041  
Email us: [planning\\_policy@bathnes.gov.uk](mailto:planning_policy@bathnes.gov.uk)  
Follow us: [@bathnescouncil](https://www.bathnescouncil.gov.uk)  
Search for us: [www.bathnes.gov.uk](http://www.bathnes.gov.uk)

Bath & North East  
Somerset Council  
Improving People's Lives

1 To ensure that there is a common understanding of what the Local Plan is.

2 To gain a better understanding of the views within our local communities.

3 To share what we think good development looks like.

4 To build relationships and create opportunities to hold conversations.

5 To share the programme for future engagement and consultation on the Local Plan.

"There is no power for  
change greater than a  
community discovering  
what it cares about"

Margaret J. Wheatley (2002)  
Turning to One Another

# What does good look like?

## Our ambition

Access to high quality, affordable housing in the right locations is vitally important to addressing housing need. Focusing on housing alone, however, fails to deliver the types places that people want to live in.

We want to create sustainable, vibrant communities that have a low carbon impact and are resilient in the face of climate change.

## The principles of good development

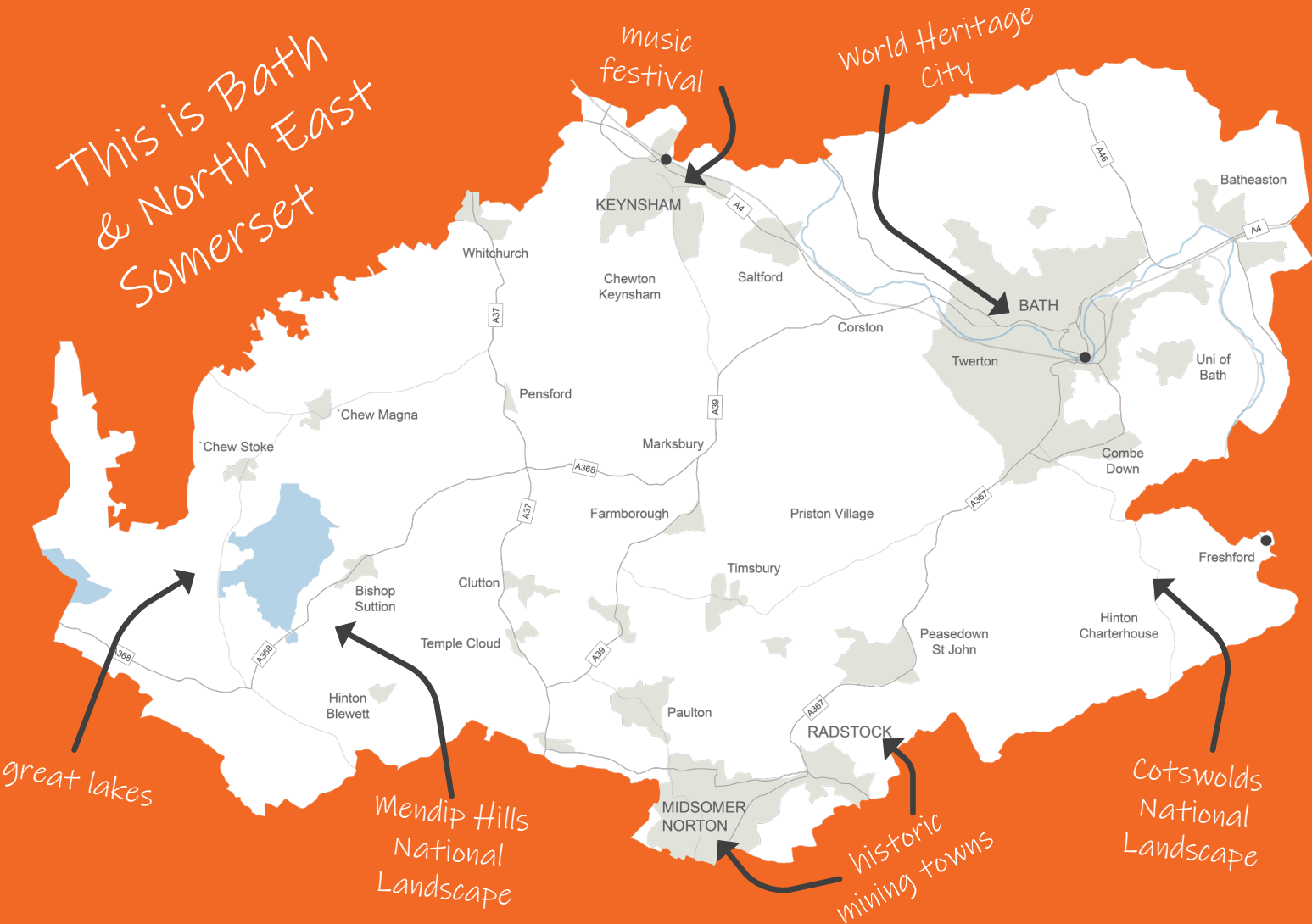
The principles of good development have long been established. There are 10 characteristics, as set out in the National Design Guidance (2021), that are essential for a well-designed place. These are...

- Enhances the local character
- Is attractive and distinctive
- Has a coherent pattern of development
- Is accessible and easy to move around
- Enhances and nurtures nature
- Has safe, inclusive public spaces
- Has mixed and integrated uses
- Has high quality homes and buildings
- Has efficient infrastructure
- Is adaptable and resilient

## What do you think good looks like?

Do you have an example of a great development, town or city that we should aspire to?

Share it with us using the details on the back of this leaflet or, if you're at an engagement event, speak to a member of staff. We would love to hear your views. It will help us set precedents for great development in B&NES!



# Programme

<b>Local Plan reset</b> Autumn - Winter 2025 (complete)
<b>Pre-options engagement</b> Spring - Summer (LIVE)
<b>Options consultation</b> Autumn 2025*
<b>Draft Local Plan consultation</b> Summer 2026*
<b>Local Plan submitted for examination</b> Autumn 2026*
<b>Local Plan adoption</b> 2027*

\* Target date

# What will the Local Plan cover?

Housing growth

Climate & carbon neutrality

Design principles

Community amenities & cultural venues

Jobs & employment

Transport infrastructure

Flood risk mitigation

Biodiversity net gain

Green infrastructure

Urban regeneration

Energy infrastructure

Green belt & grey belt review

and more!

# What if I've already given my views?

We recognise that a lot of views have already been expressed as part of the Options Consultation that took place in Spring 2024, before the Local Plan was reset.

The feedback given remains valid, however to prepare sound plan we need to repeat this process in the Autumn.

This will ensure that everyone has the opportunity to have a say on new and emerging policies before the Plan is drafted.