



## Local Plan Timetable

Westmorland and Furness Council has given notice of its intention to commence preparation of a new local plan, which is to be referred to as the Westmorland and Furness Local Plan (WAFLP). The WAFLP will set out the spatial vision and strategic objectives for the future development of Westmorland and Furness. It will contain policies and site allocations to deliver these objectives, and a framework for monitoring and implementation. A scoping consultation will be undertaken which will inform its detailed content.

The WAFLP will include strategic policies on minerals and waste and will incorporate and replace the Cumbria Minerals and Waste Local Plan.

The Council intends to prepare one supplementary plan. The Council has adopted a Design Code for Westmorland and Furness (April 2026) and this will help inform the content of the WAFLP. The supplementary plan will adopt the Design Code SPD as an SP.

### Get ready

Description	Start Date	Notes
Notice given of intention to commence local plan preparation	30 June 2026	Publishing the notice of intention to commence Local Plan preparation gives communities and stakeholders advance notice of plan-making. It sets out when and how they can get involved.
Scoping Consultation starts	1 July 2026	Consultation to seek views from stakeholders on the scope of the Local Plan and how they wish to be engaged during the plan-making process.
Scoping Consultation ends	11 August 2026	All comments on the scoping consultation must be received on or before the specified date.
Gateway 1 self-assessment summary made available	31 October 2026	Publication of a self-assessment document. This sets out details of how we prepared for plan making, formally marking the start of the 30-month plan preparation period.

## Prepare the Plan

Description	Start Date	Notes
Consultation on proposed local plan content and evidence starts	1 September 2027	Consultation on the proposed Local Plan content and evidence. This includes a draft vision, any proposed aims and objectives, the proposed spatial strategy, and summary of the evidence gathered to date.
Consultation on proposed local plan content and evidence end	13 October 2027	All comments on the Proposed Local Plan content and evidence consultation must be received on or before the specified date. Following consultation, a summary of the of responses received will be published.
Gateway 2	1 May 2028	Seeking observations from the Planning Inspectorate to identify and resolve potential soundness issues and to ensure that the Local Plan is on track to meet legal requirements.
Consultation on proposed local plan starts	12 June 2028	Consultation on the full draft Local Plan and policies map and supporting documents.
Consultation on proposed local plan ends	7 August 2028	All comments on the Proposed Local Plan consultation must be received on or before the specified date. Following consultation, a summary of the of responses received will be published.
Gateway 3	4 September 2028	Stop/Go Check. The final assessment stage by the Planning Inspectorate before the Local Plan can be submitted for examination. The gateway assessor will decide whether the Local Plan is ready for submission, based on the legislation. Following the assessment, the assessor's report, submitted documents and a Gateway 3 completion statement will be published.

## Examination and Adoption

Description	Start Date	Notes
Plan submission for examination	9 October 2028	Subject to passing Gateway 3, the Local Plan and all supporting evidence will be formally submitted to the Secretary of State for independent examination to determine whether it is sound and compliant with national planning policy.
Plan adoption	30 April 2029	Local Plan will be considered for adoption by the Council. Once adopted, the Local Plan will form part of the statutory development plan.

Table 1: WAFLP Timetable

## Supplementary Plans

A Supplementary Plan for the adoption of the Westmorland and Furness Design Code will be prepared in parallel with the Local Plan.

The Design Code Supplementary Plan details are as follows:

- The Design Code covers the Westmorland and Furness Local Planning Authority geography
- It applies only to Westmorland and Furness Council

Activity	Date
Publication of Supplementary Plan Statement	30 June 2026
Notice given of intention to commence supplementation plan (Design Code)	30 June 2026
Consultation on supplementation plan starts	12 June 2028
Consultation on supplementary plan ends	7 August 2028
Conformity with Spatial Development Strategy representations	7 August 2028
Submission	9 October 2028
Examination	October 2028 – April 2029
Adoption	30 April 2029

Table 2: Supplementary Plan Timetable: Design Code

This timetable is to have effect from 30 June 2026