

Oldham Local Plan: Publication Plan

Guidance Notes for Submitting Comments

January 2026

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Oldham Local Plan: Publication Plan is published by Oldham Council in accordance with Regulation 19 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012, for comments to be made prior to submission. The comments will be considered alongside the published plan following its submission to the Secretary of State, who will appoint a Planning Inspector(s) to undertake an Independent Examination of the Plan. The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) (PCPA) states that the purpose of the examination is to consider whether the plan complies with legal requirements, the duty to co-operate and is “sound”.
- 1.2 The council is keen to promote the submission of comments electronically and would encourage anyone with access to the internet to make their responses in this way. Comments can be submitted online via the council's [consultation platform](#).¹ If you respond online, you do not need to send something through the post, and vice-versa. During analysis of the feedback, we will be checking for duplicate responses and removing these.
- 1.3 We have also produced a downloadable form for those who would prefer to respond via this method. The form consists of two parts – Part A for your personal details and Part B for any comments you would like to make. Please complete a separate Part B sheet for each set of comments you would like to make.

Part A – Personal / Agent Details (Questions 1 and 2)

- 1.4 Please note that we will not consider comments anonymously submitted for this consultation. In order for us to consider your comments as part of the formal planning process, we need to be able to contact you - just your name and an email address is enough. Please note that any and all comments will be held by Oldham Council and made available in accordance with our privacy policy. If you require further information regarding the Oldham Local Plan: Publication Plan privacy notice, please visit the Oldham Council website.

Part B – Comments

Which part of the Local Plan does the representation relate to (Question 3)

- 1.5 When making any comment, please specify which section of the Oldham Local Plan: Publication Plan your comment is in response to, for example, paragraph number, policy number, map number or other.

¹ The Local Plan consultation portal website is available at: <https://bigoldhamconvo.oldham.gov.uk/>

Legal Compliance, Soundness and Duty to Co-Operate (Questions 4, 5 and 6)

- 1.6 If you have any comments on the the Local Plan's legal compliance, soundness or compliance with the Duty to Co-operate, please utilise this section to make any comments.
- 1.7 If you would like to seek a modification to the plan, you should clearly set out in what way you consider the plan or part of the plan to be legally non-compliant or unsound, utilising the criteria set out below to the appropriate degree of soundness. Please ensure that wherever possible any comments made are supported by evidence and details on precisely how you believe the plan should be modified or altered are included.
- 1.8 Any evidence or accompanying information needed to support your comments and modifications should be provided succinctly as any further submissions once the plan has been submitted for examination will only be possible if the Inspector invites you to do so based on any matters, issues and questions they identify.
- 1.9 If you would like to support the Local Plan's legal compliance, soundness or compliance with the duty to co-operate, please utilise this section to make any comments.

Legal Compliance

- 1.10 The Inspector(s) will first check that the plan meets the legal requirements under s20(5)(a) and the Duty to Cooperate under s20(5)(c) of the PCPA before moving on to test for soundness. You should consider the following before making comments on legal compliance:
- The Local Plan should be included in the current Local Development Scheme (LDS) and the key stages should have been followed.
 - The process of community involvement for the Local Plan should be in general accordance with the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI).
 - The Plan should comply with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (the Regulations).
 - The LPA is required to provide a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) when it publishes a plan. This should identify the process by which the SA has been carried out, the baseline information used to inform the process, and the outcomes of that process.

Soundness

- 1.11 The term 'sound' is used to describe a Local Plan that has been prepared in accordance with what Government expects of local planning authorities. These expectations are set out in paragraph 36 of the National Planning Policy Framework as follows:
- a) **Positively prepared** – providing a strategy which, as a minimum, seeks to meet the area's objectively assessed needs and is informed by agreements with other authorities, so that unmet need from neighbouring areas is accommodated where it is practical to do so and is consistent with achieving sustainable development. This means that the councils must produce a plan

which promotes economic growth in its areas and makes provision for the homes, employment and infrastructure which it determines are needed.

b) **Justified** – an appropriate strategy, taking into account the reasonable alternatives, and based on proportionate evidence.

This means that the councils must have considered other policies and determined its approach based upon the most up to date and robust evidence including for example population projections, Strategic Housing Market Assessment, land availability, viability.

c) **Effective** – deliverable over the plan period and based on effective joint working on cross-boundary strategic matters that have been dealt with rather than deferred, as evidenced by the statement of common ground. This means that the councils must be confident that the policies within PfE can be achieved within the plan period.

d) **Consistent with national policy** – enabling the delivery of sustainable development in accordance with the policies in NPPF and other statements of national planning policy, where relevant.

Duty to Co-operate

1.12 You should consider the following before making comments on compliance with the Duty to Co-operate:

- The Council has met the 'Duty to Co-operate' when preparing the plan. The Duty to Co-operate came into force on 15 November 2011 and any plan submitted for examination on or after this date will be examined for compliance. LPAs will be expected to provide evidence of how they have complied with any requirements arising from that duty.

Participation in Examination Hearing Sessions (Questions 7 and 8)

- 1.13 The examination process is likely to include public hearings. The Inspector(s) will determine the most appropriate procedure to adopt to hear those who wish to participate at this stage. If you would like to appear and speak at the hearings, please state this and explain in the space provided why you consider it is necessary that you participate.
- 1.14 Please note that while this will provide an initial indication of your wish to participate in hearing session(s), you may be asked at a later point to confirm your request to participate.

Further notifications (Question 9)

- 1.15 In addition, the representation form asks you to confirm whether you wish to participate in the Examination in Public and whether you wish to be notified of any of the following:
- Submission of the Oldham Local Plan: Publication Plan for independent examination.
 - Publication of the Inspector's Report on the Examination of the Oldham Local Plan: Publication Plan.

- The Adoption of the Oldham Local Plan.

- 1.16 Please tick the relevant box(s) should you wish to be notified of these further stages.
- 1.17 All comments on the Oldham Local Plan, and / or its supporting documents, must be received by **23:59 on 27 March 2026**. All comments that Oldham Council receives during this consultation period will be submitted to and considered by the independent Planning Inspector(s) appointed for the examination.
- 1.18 Please submit all comments:

Via email to: SPI.Consultations@oldham.gov.uk

Post to: Planning and Infrastructure
Oldham Council
Spindles Shopping Centre
Oldham
OL1 1LF

Alternatively, you may wish to complete your representation **online** at:
<https://bigoldhamconvo.oldham.gov.uk>