

Dear Resident

Thank you for contacting me on the Village Tour. I had many residents asking me about the Local Plan 2035 and questions regarding the timetable ahead. I would like to take this opportunity to update you on the progress on the Local Plan and provide a timetable so that all residents can contribute and comment on the next stage.

Firstly, some points need to be made clear regarding the Local Plan 2035:

- i. We have to consider any applications and sites put forward for housing development by any resident or developer.
- ii. Central Government requires that Councils must plan to meet the ‘objectively assessed need’ for housing development in the area. This means that Bedford Borough Council needs to allocate land for development of [19000 new homes by 2035](#). [The allocation of land for 11000 new](#) homes has already been approved in existing plans. The Council must therefore allocate land, via the Local Plan, for the development of an additional 8,000 new homes.
- iii. The majority of sites submitted will not be taken forward as part of the Local Plan 2035.
- iv. I can assure you that I and other leaders in other areas are pressing Central Government for infrastructure to proceed before agreeing any development as part of the Local Plan.

The ongoing timetable for the Local Plan 2035 is as follows:

- August 2017 to January 2018 – Preparation of Draft Local Plan 2035 Document.
- February/March 2018 – Public Consultation on Draft Local Plan 2035 Document.
- October 2018 – Estimated date for submission of the Local plan 2035 for examination by independent planning inspectors.
- June 2019 – Estimated date for Adoption of the Local Plan 2035.

The council are currently processing the 1800 responses received to the consultation from April/May 2017; these responses will help formulate the Draft Local Plan 2035 Document.

The residents of Bedford Borough will have the opportunity to comment on the draft local plan in the consultation phase during February and March 2018. It is important to contribute to the consultation as the planning inspectors will only call residents with any objections from the consultation to a hearing session with the planning inspector. The planning inspectors decide who to call to the hearing sessions.

I encourage you, your friends and family living in Bedford Borough to contribute to the next stage of the Local Plan consultation in February and March 2018. Details of the consultation will start to appear on the Bedford Borough Council website and local council buildings in January.

I will add your name and email address to the list for local plan updates, if you do not wish to receive these you will be able to opt-out on the first and subsequent emails received.

**Dave Hodgson**  
**Mayor of Bedford Borough**  
**Bedford Borough Council**  
Borough Hall, Cauldwell Street  
Bedford MK42 9AP  
Tel 01234 718620  
Email [dave.hodgson@bedford.gov.uk](mailto:dave.hodgson@bedford.gov.uk)  
Website [www.bedford.gov.uk](http://www.bedford.gov.uk)