



STOCKPORT
METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

Stockport Local Plan Proposed Representations Arrangements

September 2026

Contents

1. Introduction	2
2. Regulation 19 Local Plan Consultation Process.....	3
3. Post-Consultation Process	6

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The purpose of consultation for the Regulation 19 local plan is very specific and is different to that under which the consultation took place for the Regulation 18 version in 2025.
- 1.2 The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 require the council to publish the proposed submission version of the Stockport Local Plan (referred to as the 'regulation 19' Local Plan) and invite representations before the Local Plan is submitted for independent examination.
- 1.3 The purpose of this consultation is to give interested parties the opportunity to comment on whether the Local Plan:
 - Has been prepared in accordance with legal and procedural requirements; and
 - Is sound, meaning whether it is:
 - Positively prepared;
 - Justified;
 - Effective; and
 - Consistent with national policy.
- 1.4 The regulation 19 consultation is the last formal consultation stage before the Local Plan is submitted for examination. This differs from the consultation on the regulation 18 version, which sought comments on the draft plan and its general contents. The regulation 19 consultation focuses on the legal compliance and soundness of the plan according to National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) requirements. The purpose of this part of the process is to seek stakeholders' views on the soundness and legal compliance.
- 1.5 The regulation 19 plan has been informed by the representations made during the Regulation 18 consultation and evidence produced during plan preparation, and is the plan that the council intends to submit to the Planning Inspectorate for examination.
- 1.6 Representations received during this consultation stage will be submitted to the Secretary of State alongside the Local Plan and supporting documents. They will then be considered by the Planning Inspector appointed to carry out the independent examination. This is now the final statutory consultation stage before submission of the Plan.

2. Regulation 19 Local Plan Consultation Process

- 2.1 Subject to approval at Cabinet, it is intended that the consultation will run for just over the statutory minimum of six weeks, from Wednesday 23 September to Sunday 8 November 2026.
- 2.2 Representations received outside this period cannot be accepted as ‘duly made’ and will not be forwarded for consideration at examination.
- 2.3 The following documents will be published and available for inspection throughout the consultation period:
- Stockport Local Plan (the ‘regulation 19’ version)
 - Policies Map
 - Other supporting documents relevant to the preparation, assessment and examination of the Local Plan.
- 2.4 The documents will be made available in the following ways:

Online

Via the Council's Local Plan website -

<https://www.stockport.gov.uk/landing/stockport-local-plan>

In Person

Paper copies of key consultation documents will be available for inspection at designated locations during the consultation period:

- At Stopford House, Piccadilly, Stockport, SK1 3XE
 - At all Stockport libraries.
- 2.5 Representations can be submitted in the following ways
- online via www.stockport.gov.uk/localplan;
 - by email to local.plan@stockport.gov.uk; or
 - by post to: Planning Policy Team, 4th Floor, Stopford House, Piccadilly, Stockport, SK1 3XE.
- 2.6 In order for comments to carry the most weight and having regard to the matters set out in Section 2 above, representations should clearly state:
- The part of the Plan to which the representation relates;

- Whether the representation concerns legal compliance or soundness;
- The reasons for the representation; and
- Any changes sought.

2.7 In accordance with the regulations and the council's own Statement of Community Involvement, the Council will notify:

- Specific consultation bodies;
- General consultation bodies;
- Duty to Cooperate bodies;
- Individuals and organisations registered on the Local Plan consultation database; and
- Other stakeholders who have requested to be kept informed.

2.8 Notification will primarily be issued by direct e-mail. Postal notification will be used only where email details are not available.

2.9 A communications campaign will be used to raise awareness of the consultation period and explain the purpose of the Regulation 19 stage. This will include:

- Updates on the Local Plan website.
- Council social media channels
- Stockport Newsletter.
- Communications to elected Members.
- Notification via area committees.
- Press and media notices where appropriate.
- Posters and promotional material displayed in libraries and Council buildings.

2.10 Communications will explain that at this stage, comments should focus on legal compliance and soundness, rather than introducing new ideas, issues or options to shape the Local Plan.

2.11 Although regulation 19 is a formal and technical consultation stage, the council will provide opportunities for residents and stakeholders to understand the process and how to make representations. We recognise that a careful balance needs to be struck to ensure that residents still engage in the process and are not put off by the use of technical language. Support activity will include:

- Dedicated guidance explaining legal compliance and soundness

- Three public drop-in sessions¹
- Explanatory information on the council website and in libraries.

2.12 The council will seek to make consultation materials accessible to all sections of the community, where possible. These arrangements are consistent with the council's Statement of Community Involvement and its equality responsibilities. Measures will include:

- Accessible online documents.
- Availability of printed documents at inspection locations.
- Alternative formats upon request.
- Accessible venues for any public events.
- Support for residents who may be digitally excluded.

¹ These sessions are intended to help people understand the consultation process and are not formal methods for submitting representations.

3. Post-Consultation Process

3.1 After the consultation closes, the following will need to take place:

- All representations will be reviewed and recorded.
- A summary of the main issues raised will be prepared.
- Representations will be submitted alongside the Local Plan and supporting documentation in accordance with 'regulation 22'.
- The council will then seek approval to submit the Local Plan to the Secretary of State for independent examination.

3.2 The anticipated programme is for submission to be considered by Scrutiny Committee, Cabinet and Council in December 2026, ahead of submission to the Secretary of State and in line with the council's published Local Development Scheme (LDS) and the amended Ministerial direction issued by Matthew Pennycook on 1st July 2026.

3.3 All duly made representations are submitted to the Planning Inspectorate by the council as part of the examination submission package. After the Local Plan and supporting documents are formally submitted to the Secretary of State, control shifts from the council to the Planning Inspectorate, who take responsibility for examining the plan. The Government appoints an independent inspector who will examine the Local Plan on issues of soundness and legal compliance, a process which will include holding a series public hearing sessions as well as the Inspectorate assessing the full package of documents and representations which have been made in relation to the plan.