

Melton Local Plan Partial Update

Main Modifications Consultation

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. What is the Melton Local Plan Partial Update?

The Melton Local Plan Partial Update is an update to the Council's planning framework (the Melton Local Plan 2011-2036) that will guide decisions on future development across the borough.

It sets out policies for housing, employment, infrastructure, transport, environmental protection, community facilities and other planning matters. More information about the Melton Local Plan Partial Update is available on the council's local plan website: meltonplan.co.uk

2. How will the Local Plan affect me?

The Local Plan helps determine:

- where homes may be built;
- employment and business development opportunities;
- infrastructure provision such as schools, transport and community facilities;
- protection of the natural and historic environment; and
- future planning decisions across the borough.

3. Why are local plans examined?

Local Plans are examined by an independent Planning Inspector to ensure they have been prepared in accordance with the law, are supported by appropriate evidence and meet the Government's tests of soundness.

The examination process helps ensure that the Plan provides a robust framework for managing future development and planning decisions across the borough.

More information about the examination process is available on council's local plan website - meltonplan.co.uk.

4. What are Main Modifications?

The Melton Local Plan Partial Update has been submitted for independent examination and hearings have been undertaken by an independent Planning Inspector.

Following consideration of the evidence and representations made during the examination, the Inspectors have identified a number of proposed Main Modifications that are considered necessary to make the plan sound and legally compliant.

The Main Modifications set out in this consultation are proposed changes to the Melton Local Plan Partial Update document that was submitted for examination in

March 2026. The Inspectors consider that they are necessary to make the Melton Local Plan Partial Update legally compliant and/or sound. They may involve changes to policies, supporting text, site allocations, infrastructure requirements or monitoring arrangements.

5. How many Main Modifications are proposed?

The Schedule of Main Modifications identifies a total of 68 changes proposed by the Inspectors. The consultation seeks comments on each of these modifications and their potential effects.

The full schedule is available on the council's local plan website (meltonplan.co.uk) and through the council's [Have your say](#) consultation page.

6. What are Policy Map Modifications?

The Policies Map shows the geographic extent of policies and site allocations across the borough. It identifies matters such as development allocations, environmental designations, safeguarded land, settlement boundaries and other planning designations.

Where a proposed Main Modification affects the geographic application of a policy or site allocation, a corresponding change may also be required to the Policies Map. These changes are known as Policy Map Modifications.

The proposed Policy Map Modifications have been published alongside the Main Modifications consultation to show how any relevant changes would be reflected spatially on the Policies Map.

Representations on Policy Map Modifications should focus on the proposed changes and whether they are necessary to support the soundness and legal compliance of the Plan.

7. What is a Sustainability Appraisal?

A Sustainability Appraisal (SA) assesses the likely social, economic and environmental effects of the Plan. A Sustainability Appraisal has been produced to support the Melton Local Plan Partial Update.

Because Main Modifications may alter the effects of policies in the Plan, the Sustainability Appraisal needs to be updated to reflect the proposed main modifications. This is why a Sustainability Appraisal addendum which considered the impact of the proposed changes has been published alongside this consultation.

8. What is a Habitats Regulations Assessment?

A Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) considers whether the Local Plan could have significant effects on protected habitats and species sites. A HRA has been produced to support the Melton Local Plan Partial Update.

Because Main Modifications may alter the effects of policies in the Plan, the HRA needs to be updated to reflect the proposed main modifications. This is why a HRA

addendum which considered the impact of the proposed changes has been published alongside this consultation.

9. What are Additional Modifications?

Additional Modifications are also proposed changes to the Melton Local Plan Partial Update document that was submitted for examination in March 2026.

Additional Modifications are not necessary to make the plan sound or legally compliant. They are typically proposed by the Council to improve clarity, correct errors, update evidence references, or improve usability.

Examples of additional modifications include; formatting changes, correcting typos and grammatical errors and minor changes in wording that do not alter the substance, effectiveness, or soundness of a policy.

For transparency a schedule of additional modifications has been published by the council alongside the main modifications. The Additional Modifications Schedule has been produced for **information purposes only** and it **does not** form part of the Main Modifications consultation.

10. What is the tracked changes version of the Submission Plan?

The tracked changes version of the Submission Melton Local Plan Partial Update is an informal reference document that has been published alongside the Main Modifications consultation. It shows the proposed changes to the Plan using tracked changes and highlighting.

It has been prepared to help users identify where Main Modifications and Additional Modifications are proposed and to understand how the submitted Plan would read if those changes were incorporated.

The document is provided for **information purposes only** and has no formal status within the examination process. Where there is any discrepancy between the tracked changes version and the published schedules of modifications, the schedules of modifications should be treated as the definitive consultation documents.

11. Why is the Council consulting on the Main Modifications?

The proposed Main Modifications have been issued for consultation as part of the independent examination process for the Melton Local Plan Partial Update.

The council is running the consultation on behalf of the independent Planning Inspectors who are undertaking the examination of the plan.

The inspectors are required to consult on the proposed Main Modifications before they can finalise their report on the examination of the plan.

This consultation gives residents, businesses, community groups, landowners, developers and statutory organisations an opportunity to comment on the proposed changes.

The Planning Inspectors will consider all representations received before reaching their conclusions and preparing their final report.

12. Can I comment on any part of the Plan?

No. The purpose of this consultation is to invite comments on the proposed Main Modifications and their potential effects. Representations should relate directly to one or more of the published Main Modifications.

Comments submitted at previous stages in the preparation and examination of the Plan are already before the Inspectors and will be taken into account as part of the examination process. Accordingly, there is no need to resubmit comments previously made unless they relate specifically to the proposed Main Modifications.

13. What should my comments (representation) focus on?

Representations should focus on whether the proposed Main Modifications are legally compliant and whether they make the Plan sound. The tests of soundness are whether the Plan is;

- Positively prepared,
- Justified,
- Effective, and
- Consistent with national policy.

Comments on matters outside the scope of the proposed Main Modifications are unlikely to be considered by the Inspectors.

14. What should I include in my representation?

Please be clear in your response which main modification you are commenting on. You can do this by including its reference number (for example, MM50).

In addition to identifying which Main Modification you are commenting on, please;

- explain why you support, object to or wish to comment on the modification;
- provide any evidence that supports your views; and
- clearly state any suggested alternative wording if appropriate.

It is important to include your name and a contact address with your response. This can be either an email address or a postal address.

15. Will my comments be made public?

Yes. Planning consultations are public processes. Representations will normally be published on the Council's website and submitted to the Planning Inspectors.

All personal information will be processed in accordance with the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018.

16. Where can I view the consultation documents?

Documents are available on the council's local plan website (meltonplan.co.uk) and through the council's [Have your say](#) consultation page.

Hard copies of the consultation documents are also available to view at the council's main Parkside offices reception, as well as Bottesford and Melton Mowbray Libraries during normal opening times.

The consultation documents are:

- **The Schedule of Main Modifications**
- **The Schedule of Policies Map Modifications**
- **The Sustainability Appraisal Addendum**
- **The Habitat Regulations Assessment Addendum**

In addition to the consultation documents listed above, the council has also prepared:

- **A Schedule of Additional Modifications**, and
- **A tracked changes version of the Submission Local Plan** showing the proposed Main Modifications and Additional Modifications.

These additional documents have been produced for information purposes only and do not form part of the consultation.

17. How long is the consultation open?

The consultation runs from Friday 30th October until 11.59pm on Monday 14th December 2026.

All comments must be received before the published closing date and time.

18. How can I submit my comments?

Representations can be submitted:

- online through the consultation portal: haveyoursay.melton.gov.uk;
- by email to planningpolicy@melton.gov.uk; or
- by post to the council's main offices: Planning Policy, Melton Borough Council, Parkside, Station Approach, Burton Street, Melton Mowbray, LE13 1GH.

Details are also provided within the consultation documents and on the Council's website.

19. Do I need planning expertise to respond?

No. Anyone can submit comments. The independent Planning Inspectors will consider representations from residents, businesses, community groups, landowners, developers and statutory organisations.

20. What happens after the consultation closes?

Following the close of the consultation all representations will be submitted to the Inspectors. The Inspectors will then consider the comments received and (subject to the need for any further clarification) issue their final report.

If the Inspectors conclude that the Plan is sound, subject to the recommended Main Modifications, the council may proceed to consider adoption of the Melton Local Plan Partial Update at a meeting of Full Council.

The timetable for adoption of the Plan will depend on the outcome of this consultation. The council sets out in its Local Development Scheme that it expects to adopt the Melton Local Plan Partial Update by July 2027.

Progress updates will be published on the Council's Local Plan website; meltonplan.co.uk. Examination updates will be published on the dedicated examination webpage: www.meltonplan.co.uk/lpupdate-examination. You can also request to join the Council's local plan mailing list to be updated on the Plan's progress.

21. Will there be further public hearings?

The Inspectors will determine whether any additional examination sessions or clarifications are required once they have reviewed representations received during the Main Modifications consultation. If any additional clarifications are required, the Inspectors may seek to consider representations in writing rather than holding a further public hearing.

Regular updates will be published on the council's local plan website; meltonplan.co.uk and dedicated Examination webpage: www.meltonplan.co.uk/lpupdate-examination. You can also join the Council's local plan mailing list to be updated on the plan's progress.

22. Can I speak to someone about the consultation?

Yes. The Planning Policy Team can assist with queries about the consultation;

- Email: planningpolicy@melton.gov.uk
- Telephone: 01664 502502

23. What support is available if I cannot access documents online?

The Council can provide assistance and alternative formats on request.

Printed copies of the consultation documents are available at the council's main Parkside offices in Melton Mowbray and Bottesford and Melton Mowbray libraries during normal opening times.

Anyone who requires documents in an alternative format or needs assistance participating in the consultation is encouraged to contact the Planning Policy Team;

- Email: planningpolicy@melton.gov.uk
- Telephone: 01664 502502

24. Where can I find more information about the Melton Local Plan Partial Update?

Further information can be found on the Melton Borough Council Local Plan website - meltonplan.co.uk or by contacting the Planning Policy Team;

- Email: planningpolicy@melton.gov.uk
- Telephone: 01664 502502