

Framework



Welcome to Issue 59 of *Framework*, the newsletter that keeps you up to date with the Local Plan and other planning policy matters in Pendle.

We can finally announce that the Pendle Local Plan Fourth Edition 2021-2040 has been formally adopted by the Council. It is now being used to help decide whether to approve applications for planning permission across Pendle.

There is a lot happening elsewhere in planning right now. We take a quick look at the consultations on proposed revisions to the National Planning Policy Framework and Planning Practice Guidance on Design and Placemaking.

Pendle Local Plan

Pendle Council submitted the [Pendle Local Plan Fourth Edition](#) to the Secretary of State for independent examination on 18 February 2025.

The public hearings took place over 8 days in June and July. They were followed by a public consultation to consider proposed modifications to the submitted plan, before the Inspector issued his final report.

At its meeting on 18 December 2025 Council agreed to accept the changes recommended by the Inspector and adopt the revised Local Plan.

Following its adoption a six-week period allowed anyone concerned by this decision to request a judicial review within 6 weeks. This period has now expired.

Our new Local Plan replaces the following documents. Their policies no longer form part of the statutory development plan for Pendle:

- Saved Policies from the Replacement Pendle Local Plan (2006)
- Bradley Area Action Plan (2011)
- Pendle Core Strategy (2015)

Councillor David Whipp, Leader of Pendle Borough Council, said: "The Local Plan is Pendle's most important planning document.

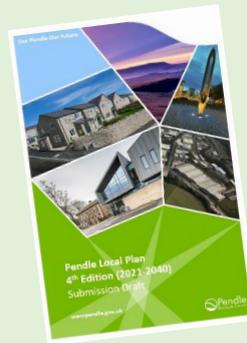
"I welcome its completion – it has been a very lengthy process!

"Adoption of the plan provides the Council with the ability to manage

growth and resist speculative development.

"It identifies the land we want to protect from development because it is highly valued by the local community or important for biodiversity and landscape character."

"Thank you to everyone who took part in the public consultations, helping to shape this hugely important document for the borough."



Councillor Lola Whipp, Portfolio Holder for Strategic and Local Planning and Infrastructure, added: "Our strategy seeks to ensure that Pendle continues to be an attractive place for people to live, work and visit.

"The Inspector has acknowledged that our Local Plan strikes an appropriate balance between the area's development needs and safeguarding the environment.

"Our new housing requirement recognises the need for new housing and the opportunity for Pendle to improve and adapt its existing homes. This enables our towns and villages to grow sustainably rather than extend further into the countryside that makes Pendle such a great place to live."

Draft NPPF

[A new draft of the National Planning Policy Framework](#) (NPPF) was published for consultation on 16 December 2025. It signals a shift towards strategic planning and a broader presumption in favour of sustainable development.

The consultation closes on 10 March. It is seeking your views on the proposed changes, which are aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of the plan-making and decision-making processes.

The most obvious difference is the reorganisation of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) into themed chapters containing a total of 133 coded policies. It introduces a clear separation between plan-making and decision-making policies.

Where policies in a Local Plan are inconsistent with these policies, they are expected to be given very limited weight when determining applications for planning permission.

Policy S3 applies a presumption in favour of sustainable development. Within settlements (Policy S4), this means that any development proposal should normally be approved unless the negative effects substantially outweigh the benefits of the proposal.

Policy S5 restricts the types of development that are considered acceptable outside settlements – i.e. within the countryside.

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Design & Placemaking

Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) supports the application of policies in the NPPF.

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) is proposing to update its guidance on Design and Placemaking.

The aim is to simplify and speed up planning decisions by consolidating four existing documents into one, making it simpler to understand what good design looks like.

The four documents are:

- National Design Guide
- National Model Design Code Part 1
- National Model Design Code part 2
- Design process and tools planning practice guidance



Northlight, Brierfield

The changes seek to promote places of lasting value. New build homes will be expected to reflect modern life choices, cater for every stage of life, be resilient to climate change and minimise flood risk.

The guidance supports higher-density housing in locations accessible by public transport, encouraging walkable neighbourhoods that reduce car dependency.

The draft guidance sets out seven features of well-designed places.

The new Design and Placemaking PPG should be read alongside a set of Model Design Codes once they are published. These will provide a template for common development types such as large housebuilder led sites and small urban sites. This will save both time and resources by avoiding the need to create local design codes for these types of development.

A [public consultation](#) to consider the government's proposals is currently underway. Comments should be submitted to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) by Tuesday 10 March 2026.

Draft NPPF (continued)

Policy L1 promotes the effective use of land, encouraging the redevelopment of corner and other low-density plots, through upward extensions and infill development. It also seeks to set minimum density standards for residential development in town centres and other locations that are highly accessible by public transport.

A new "medium-sized" category of residential development aims to boost the delivery of housing by small scale house builders on land delivering 10 to 49 homes on sites up to 2.5 ha.

The draft NPPF strengthens alignment with the new Local Nature Recovery Strategies and emphasises the importance of landscape character. Green infrastructure and nature-based solutions are highlighted as ways to address flood risk, urban heat and biodiversity loss.

Other news

Following the close of the public consultation in August 2025, the [Lancashire Local Nature Recovery Strategy](#) (LNRS) was published on 16 January 2026.

The role of the LNRS is to drive nature recovery by identifying opportunities to create or improve those habitats that are most likely to provide the greatest benefit for nature and the wider environment.

The LNRS will be used to target action and funding, but it is not a delivery plan and does not place any obligations or restrictions on landowners.



National Landscape

A public consultation to consider the [Forest of Bowland National Landscape Draft Management Plan 2026-2031](#) is open until Monday 2 March 2026.

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Document Progress

This summary is based on our [Local Development Scheme \(LDS\)](#).

Development Plan Documents	
Pendle Local Plan: Fourth Edition (2025)	4
Neighbourhood Plans	
Trawden Forest (2018)	4
Barrowford (2019)	4
Kelbrook and Sough (2022)	4
Colne (2023)	4
Supplementary Planning Documents	
Conservation Area Design Guidance	4
Design Principles	4
Open Countryside & AONB	-
Brierfield Railway Street Neighbourhood	4
Brierfield Canal Corridor	4
Other Documents	
Textile Mills Design Code (Draft)	1

- 1 Plan preparation and evidence gathering. Includes informal discussion with key stakeholders and other interested parties.
- 2 Formal public consultation to consider the first draft of the Plan, which is then amended to reflect the comments received.
- 3 Formal public consultation to consider the final draft of the Plan. After the consultation, the unaltered Plan and any comments received are subject to independent examination.

This stage does not apply to Supplementary Planning Documents.

- 4 Document formally adopted by Pendle Council.