

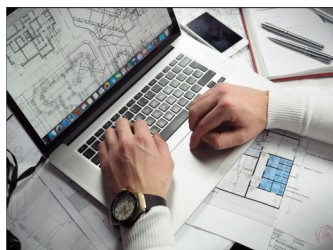


Proposed Planning Reforms

On 30 July, the Government published its proposed changes to the Planning system in England in three documents:

- Proposed reforms consultation document
- National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF): draft text for consultation
- Outcome of the proposed revised method

Full details can be found [here](#).
The consultation period closes on Tuesday 24 September.



HEADLINES

- The Government proposes a **new 'standard method'** to establish the number of homes each authority needs to plan for in its Local Plan.
- The intention is that the new standard method will be mandatory rather than an advisory starting point. A local authority will need to plan for its 'standard method' number and could only plan for a lower figure where all other options have been exhausted, including sharing need with other authorities.
- **Affordable Homes:** currently, national policy prescribes the proportion of affordable home ownership properties on a housing development. The Government intends to give councils more flexibility on this matter, enabling them to give a higher priority to affordable rented properties as needed.

- Proposals for development on **brownfield land** "should be regarded as acceptable in principle." This, the consultation document says, makes clear that the default answer to brownfield development should be 'yes'.
- New NPPF paragraph 161 would set a stronger expectation that authorities should proactively identify sites for **renewable and low carbon development** when producing their plans, whereas previously it advised that authorities should "consider identifying" such sites.
- There are no changes that specifically relate to **neighbourhood plans** although, as now, neighbourhood plans will need to comply with the revised NPPF when it is published.

IMPLICATIONS

The new standard method would give North West Leicestershire a housing requirement of 621 homes per year whereas the current standard method figure is 357 homes per year. However, that is not the end of the story.

North West Leicestershire District Council (NWLDC) and the other Leicestershire authorities are under a Duty to Cooperate to accept a proportion of Leicester City's unmet housing need. To date, our new Local Plan has been planning for 686 homes every year and, whilst the unmet need figure for Leicester looks set to decrease significantly, it is too early to say what this means for NW Leicestershire's housing requirement.

We will be working with the other authorities to assess the implications of these changes and we will take a report to our Local Plan Committee in due course.

FlexCollect Expands

The district council is expanding the trial of plastic bags and wrapping recycling collections to a further 6,422 households. More information [here](#).



The collections were rolled out to more than 6,500 households in the district in March 2024 as part of the national [Flexible Plastic Fund 'FlexCollect' project](#). Since then, over eight tonnes of plastic bags and wrapping has been collected and recycled.

The trial is being expanded from Friday 20 September to include households in Acresford, Appleby Magna, Donisthorpe, Measham, Normanton Le Heath, Oakthorpe and parts of Moira and Packington. The trial will also be expanded to all households on the council's rural collection round.

Food Waste Rollout

NWLDC's Cabinet has agreed to allocate [additional funding](#) ahead of the rollout of mandatory separate food waste collections in England.

The request for £92,072 was approved at the cabinet meeting on Tuesday 20 August, and will be allocated from the council's business rates reserve fund.

The money will be used to cover a shortfall in funding to buy food waste containers and collection vehicles required to provide separate weekly food waste collections by the end of March 2026.

Star Council Awards

There is still time to submit your application for the [Star Council Awards 2024](#), organised by the National Association of Local Councils (NALC). The deadline for applications is Friday 6 September and the six categories are:



- Council of the Year
- Councillor of the Year
- Young Councillor of the Year
- County Association of the Year
- Clerk of the Year
- Climate Response of the Year

Natural Flood Management Event

Trent Rivers Trust are hosting a FREE informative event on [Natural Flood Management](#) on Wednesday 18 September 2024, to be held at Breedon Parish Hall. The event includes an illustrated talk on the purpose and challenges around the delivery of natural flood management.

Flood Warden Event

This is a [free event](#) from [LLR Prepared](#) for existing and new flood wardens. Book this date in your diary - Saturday 14 September.

FLOOD WARDEN ENGAGEMENT 2024

LLR Prepared are excited to invite you to our free **Flood Warden Engagement event**.

When: **Saturday 14 September 2024 11:00 - 15:00**

Where: **County Hall, Leicester Rd, Glenfield, Leicester LE3 8RA**

BOOK YOUR PLACE NOW!

To reserve your space scan the QR code or register online.

Alternatively, please contact our office on 0116 305 6101 or email emergency.management@leics.gov.uk

An opportunity to meet partner organisations, find out about preparing for flooding and learn ways to make your community more resilient!

Talks from:

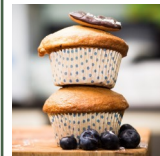
- Environment Agency
- Lead Local Flood Authority
- Leicestershire Fire & Rescue
- Resilience Partnership

Hello Heritage

We are delighted to be bringing you an exciting [Hello Heritage](#) programme this year that contains a number of guided walks, talks and open events. You could visit a medieval garden, take your teddy to the mill at Swannington, visit our museums in Castle Donington, Kegworth, Swannington, Ashby de la Zouch, Measham, Moira Furnace and Appleby Magna.



2024 sees the [centenary year of New Lount Colliery](#), celebrated on 14 September with exhibitions, talks and characters bringing history to life! You can find out all about our rich industrial heritage in [Snibston Colliery Park](#).



Remember, it is all **FREE** and many venues will be serving tea, coffee and cake to round off a perfect day out.

Stand Up Against Harassment

[The Suzy Lamplugh Trust](#) is offering free [‘Stand Up Against Street Harassment’](#) training throughout September.

This training drives awareness of harassment, upskilling and empowering individuals across various settings such as schools, public transport, festivals, public spaces, and workplaces, to help defuse situations, discourage harassers, and support victims.

For further information and to book on to one of the online training sessions click [here](#).

Harmless Training

The North West Leicestershire Health & Wellbeing Partnership has teamed up with [Harmless](#) to deliver sessions on the topic of Self Harm and Suicide Prevention to anyone working with people in our district.

There are a number of training dates over the next few months; some are virtual and some are in person. For further information click [here](#).

Funding

[UKSPF Grant Round 4](#)

This opened at the start of August and will close on Friday 25 October. We would encourage you to get in touch to discuss any potential project ideas before embarking on the application process so that we can provide advice and support.



[Zero Carbon Grants](#)

Don't forget that parish and town councils can apply for a Zero Carbon grant from £50 to £1000. This is great news if you are planning a larger environmental, carbon reducing project and we hope to fund some exciting projects. Match funding of £50 to £1000 is required; this needs to be cash as opposed to in-kind funding.

[UK Community Tree Planting](#)

The International Tree Foundation has two funding streams open to community-based organisations including parish and town councils.

- Grants for community woodland/hedging projects that range from 100 to 25,000 trees planted per year
- Grants for community orchard projects of up to 30 trees planted per year

Deadline for applications is Friday 13 December.

[Midlands Net Zero Hub Community Energy Fund](#)

This funding will help to kickstart clean energy projects including small-scale wind farms and rooftop solar partnerships. Feasibility grants of up to £40,000 and development grants of up to £100,000 are available to community groups, including parish/town councils. Next deadline is Friday 8 November.

[Creative People and Places](#)

This new funding stream from the Arts Council aims to 'ensure that everyone can access culture and express creativity, fostering thriving communities through inclusive and collaborative cultural approaches'. Funding is available to partnerships of organisations for a three year period for projects in various areas including North West Leicestershire. Grants from £750,000 to £1 million are available. The grant opens on Thursday 12 September and closes on Thursday 16 January 2025.