



Our Place... Our **FUTURE**... Join the conversation

 Westmorland and Furness Local Plan

## Call for Sites

### Frequently Asked Questions – May 2025

#### Introduction

The Council is required to produce a Local Plan for Westmorland & Furness which will set out the amount and location of development in the district over the period until 2045 ensuring the right development happens in the right place at the right time, benefitting communities and the economy and setting out which areas need to be protected.

The Westmorland and Furness Local Plan will replace the existing Local Plans for Barrow Borough, Eden and South Lakeland and the Cumbria Minerals & Waste Local Plan.

#### What is a Call for Sites?

The Call for Sites is an important first step in the Council's evidence gathering process to inform the future drafting of the Local Plan. In Summer of 2024 the Council asked for sites to be submitted to be assessed for suitability for potential development.

During the window detailed information on sites was submitted to the Council by interested parties (e.g. developer or landowner) for assessment and potential inclusion as an allocation in the Local Plan.

Subsequently site promoters may be required to provide further information on their site as part of the assessment process.

#### What is the Call for Sites Interactive Map?

The Call for Sites Interactive Map shows all the sites that have been submitted to the Council for consideration in the Local Plan.

At this stage (May 2025) if a site is included on the Map, it does not mean that it is suitable for development or does not imply a commitment to its allocation within the Local Plan. The inclusion of a site on the Map simply indicates it was submitted within the deadline and that all the information requested was presented. The site

boundaries shown on the map are as they were provided by the promoter. These may be amended (e.g. to follow field boundaries accurately) as part of the assessment process.

### **What uses can Sites be submitted for?**

Sites can be submitted for a variety of uses including:

- Housing
- Employment
- Mixed use
- Minerals
- Waste

### **Who can submit a site?**

Anyone can put forward a piece of land to be assessed and considered for inclusion in the Local Plan.

The person submitting the site should have the landowner's permission as they will need to demonstrate that the proposal is deliverable in due course.

Site promoters will have a responsibility to ensure that the information they submitted is accurate.

As sites progress through the process, site promoters may need to provide more detailed information and supporting evidence and may wish to engage the services of a planning consultant.

### **Will existing site allocations automatically be rolled forward?**

No. Sites currently allocated for development in the existing Local Plans which have not been developed will need to be reassessed.

### **What does it mean if a site is included on the Interactive Map?**

The inclusion of a site on the Map solely indicates it was submitted within the deadline and that all the information requested was presented.

The next step beginning in May 2025 is to assess the sites included in line with our [methodology](#).

### **Will all sites be developed?**

No. Not all sites put forward will be allocated for development in the final Local Plan. The Council will assess the sites submitted, taking into consideration identified needs and sustainability considerations, before indicating which sites may be suitable for development.

Some may be ruled out straightaway because of a fundamental constraint such as flooding or proximity to a designated heritage or natural asset. Others will undergo more detailed assessment.



Sites which are then allocated will only come forward for development following successful approval of planning permission.

### **When will the Council publish further site submission information?**

The Council will now carefully assess each of the sites put forward under the Call for Sites process. Following the assessment, some of the sites could be ruled out – for example if they are unavailable for development, or there are too many constraints on the land which makes a site undevelopable.

Once the assessment process has been completed an updated list of sites deemed potentially suitable for further consideration will be published. The list is expected to be published in the Autumn of 2025.

### **When will I be able to make comments on sites that are put forward?**

The Council will invite people to comment on the initial site assessments during a public consultation in Autumn 2025. This will be your opportunity to:

- Provide further evidence about a site's suitability and availability;
- Fact-check the Council's assessment; and
- Share your views on site specific local impacts, infrastructure needs, environmental considerations and other relevant issues.

All feedback received will help inform the ongoing assessment process and shape decisions about which sites may be taken forward in the Local Plan

The best way to be kept informed is by signing up to the consultation database, [here](#), we will then provide updates and notify you when the consultation is open.

### **Will all sites in the Autumn 2025 list be allocated in the Local Plan?**

No. The list to be published in Autumn 2025 is an initial shortlist of potentially suitable development sites. The Council will carry out more detailed assessments of the shortlisted sites as part of the Local Plan process. This will include undertaking sustainability appraisal, infrastructure capacity and policy alignment assessments. Further public consultation will be undertaken as part of the Local Plan, before final site selections are made.

### **Who do I contact if I have queries about the Call for Sites?**

Anyone interested in looking at the map and who is having difficulty accessing it digitally should contact the Planning Policy team who will help with your request.

Please contact the Planning Policy team using the following details:

Planning Policy Team

[localplan@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk](mailto:localplan@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk)

0300 373 3300



## **How can I be kept informed about the Westmorland & Furness Local Plan?**

If you would like to be kept informed about the Local Plan you can be added to our consultation database so that we will keep you informed of updates.

Please sign up [here](#).

