

What is the Sheffield Plan: Citywide Options for Growth to 2034?

- It is the first stage in preparing our new Sheffield Plan to guide development in the city. The Sheffield Plan will be adopted in 2018 and will last until 2034.
- It is not a draft plan and is not a statement of Council policy but is about giving people in Sheffield the opportunity to give their views on options for the nature and scale of growth in their areas over a 15-20 year period.
- It sets out the challenges and opportunities for Sheffield, and proposes a Vision for what our city will be like in 2034.
- It explains how many new homes and jobs we need to plan for, and gives a range of options for how and where they could be located.
- It gives you the opportunity to tell us what you think about these options, and about the future Plan for our city.



1. Introduction

Sheffield is changing. The city is growing, and its economy is developing and adapting to new global trends in employment and technology. New initiatives and projects to develop the economy and enhance our environment will help transform the City Centre and many of our neighbourhoods over the coming years. The city's population is expanding and getting older, though there are also more young people living in the city.

The city also faces a number of challenges, not least a changing climate, persistent inequality between neighbourhoods and people's life chances, a significant demand for more housing, and the need to shift towards a more dynamic economy. We need to address these challenges, whilst also making the most of Sheffield's positive features – our strong communities, our natural environment, and our identity and heritage.

1.1 What is the Sheffield Plan?

All these trends and challenges present a range of opportunities for the city and how it will develop over the next 15-20 years. This means we need to develop a Local Plan for the city that recognises the current situation, but also sets the agenda for how Sheffield will develop and change over this period. We are calling our Local Plan the 'Sheffield Plan'.

This document is the first stage in preparing this comprehensive Plan for the city's development. It sets out the challenges and opportunities that the city faces, as well as a range of options for the nature and scale of development in Sheffield over the next 15-20 years. Your comments on this document will help shape the writing of the Sheffield Plan, which will be the formal basis for making decisions about where new housing and other development will go, and will give a citywide policy context for any future Neighbourhood Plans (see page 3 for an overview of the timescale for preparing the Plan).

1.2 What is the national context for the Sheffield Plan?

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, 2012) sets out national planning policies for England, and gives guidance on how these policies should be applied by Local Authorities. It covers a wide range of planning issues, including ensuring the vitality of town centres, delivering a wide choice of high quality homes, and conserving the natural environment.

You can read the NPPF here:

www.communities.gov.uk/planningandbuilding

The NPPF provides a framework within which Local Planning Authorities can produce their own distinctive Plans.



Which current plans will the new Sheffield Plan replace?

In 2009, we adopted the current Local Plan **Core Strategy**. The Core Strategy set out an overall spatial plan for the city, and broadly answered the question, 'At a strategic level, what is going to happen, where and how?' It contained a vision for the city and a set of objectives, as well as spatial policies which set out how the vision would be taken forward. Rather than starting a new Plan from scratch, we have decided to review the Core Strategy and use it as part of the preparation of the Sheffield Plan. The majority of the policies in the Core Strategy are consistent with the National Planning Policy Framework and many will be taken forward in a similar form in the new Plan.

We had also been working on a document called the **City Policies and Sites**, which would have set out policies to manage development, and allocated sites for particular types of development. This document had been consulted on several times and had reached the Pre-submission Draft stage of consultation in 2013. However, the Council decided not to proceed with this document, primarily because some of the housing policies in the Core Strategy were out of date, and the City Policies and Sites document did not identify sufficient land for new housing. Many of the policies and proposals in that document will be taken forward in the Sheffield Plan but the new Plan will also include some entirely new policies where needed, and identify additional sites for development.

The Sheffield Plan will ultimately replace both the Core Strategy, and the **Unitary Development Plan (UDP)**, which was adopted in 1998 and contains some policies which are still in use ('saved' policies). Some policies in the UDP have already been superseded by the Core Strategy.



1.3 How long will it take to prepare the Plan?

It will take just less than three years for the new Sheffield Plan to come into force. The following flowchart sets out the stages and timescale for the preparation of the Plan:



1.4 How long will the Plan last?

We are proposing to adopt the Sheffield Plan in 2018/19 and it will last for 15 years, until 2033/34. 15 years is the timeframe suggested by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) as it is difficult to plan with any level of confidence beyond that in terms of accurately predicting future changes and development requirements. Although the Plan will cover the period up to 2034, it will be reviewed before then to enable us to roll it forward for the next 15-year period.

1.5 Sustainability Appraisal and Equality Impacts

The main social and economic challenges and opportunities set out in this document are explored in more detail in the draft Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Scoping Report, along with the current environmental conditions in Sheffield. The Report outlines the latest baseline evidence and relevant plans and programmes that will inform the preparation of the Sheffield Plan and draws out the key sustainability issues for Sheffield. It also sets out the approach that will be used to predict, appraise and monitor the effects of the Sheffield Plan on all aspects of sustainability.

We have then assessed the likely effects of each Option, as set out within the Sustainability Appraisal/SEA of Citywide Options Report. This will inform the preferred approach we take in the Sheffield Plan. The work we have undertaken on Sustainability



Appraisal has ensured that we are complying with the EU Regulations on Strategic Environmental Assessment. Both Reports are available for comment as part of this consultation.

It is also important for us to understand any equality impacts arising from this Citywide Options for Growth document, to help us ensure that Sheffield is a fair and equal city.

Consultation question

Q1: Does this document raise any specific equality impacts which would affect particular groups or communities of people in Sheffield?

1.6 How to provide your comments

We look forward to receiving your comments on this Citywide Options for Growth document. Indeed, your comments are crucial to us gaining a full picture of the challenges that face the city and the options we are presenting for meeting them.

We have written this document to be as accessible as possible to a wide range of people, whether you are a resident with no previous experience of planning, or a professional who has commented on many plans.

You may wish to comment on all the parts of this document, but it is not necessary to do so – you may want to provide us with views on the areas that are important to you.

To provide your comments, please go to www.sheffield.gov.uk/sheffieldplan.

We are encouraging all input through the above online survey as it is much easier for us to process and respond to comments. However, if you cannot provide your comments online, please contact us on 0114 273 5259 to arrange an alternative means of providing input

