

Sevenoaks District Local Plan

Regulation 19 Publication 2026

23 July – 17 September

Please make your representations online at www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/reg19.

Alternatively, copies of the below form can be filled in and sent via:

Email: planning.policy@sevenoaks.gov.uk

Post: Sevenoaks District Council, Argyle Road, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 1HG

The proposed submission version of the Sevenoaks District Local Plan can be accessed at www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/reg19 or by visiting the SDC Office, local Town and Parish Council or Library across the District.

Please note this form has two parts A & B. Part A only needs to be completed once. Please fill in and complete a separate sheet for each representation you wish to make.

PART C – Further guidance for responding

What do we mean by 'Legally Compliant'?

The Local Plan must have been prepared in line with all legal requirements. This includes:

- being prepared in accordance with the council's Local Development Scheme and its Statement of Community Involvement
- being subject to a Sustainability Appraisal, Strategic Environmental Assessment, and a Habitat Regulations Assessment
- including policies designed to secure that the development and use of land in the local planning authority's area contribute to the mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change
- being prepared in accordance with the Equality Act 2010
- complying with all other relevant legal requirements including the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and the 2012 Regulations, which include following the necessary steps for consultation and publicity

What do we mean by 'Sound'?

The government requires all Local Plans to be 'sound'. This means the Plan must be:

- positively prepared (it must plan for enough homes, jobs and infrastructure to meet the District's needs)
- justified (the decisions made must be based on robust evidence)
- effective (the plan must be deliverable in practice)
- consistent with national policy (it must follow government planning guidance)

What happened to the 'Duty to Cooperate'?

The "Duty to Cooperate" was a legal requirement under the Localism Act 2011, requiring that local planning authorities engage constructively on cross-boundary strategic matters. This legal duty was officially removed on 25 March 2026 but remains part of the tests of soundness which will be considered through the examination process.

Previously, plan-making bodies were legally obligated to engage constructively, actively, and on an ongoing basis when preparing Local Plans to address spatial issues like housing distribution, transport, and major infrastructure. Instead of a rigid legal test that frequently caused local plan failures at examination, the focus has now shifted to assessing how effectively authorities collaborate with each other on strategic matters. The council will continue to work closely with our neighbouring authorities on strategic matters to ensure we align our policy work.

For further guidance, please visit www.gov.uk/guidance/plan-making.