

West Suffolk Council's Local Plan Summary of some Key Points

A local plan provides a vision for the growth and development of an area and policies, which set out the way that the plan aims to meet the housing, employment, social and community needs of an area while at the same time protecting and enhancing the natural, built and historic environment.

It is a statutory requirement that local authorities produce a local plan for their area and keep it up to date.

The first phase of a Local Plan was for West Suffolk Council to prepare an evidence base. Part of this process involved a 'call for sites' where landowners put forward land that they feel may be suitable for development. West Suffolk Council describes this as a landowner's 'wish list'.

It is important to note that no decisions have been made on whether the sites in this document will necessarily be taken forward to the next stage of the local plan as a preferred allocation to meet the district's housing requirement.

Another part of the process is for West Suffolk Council to prepare a **settlement hierarchy**. A settlement hierarchy categorises settlements according to the range of services and facilities they offer, reflecting their level of sustainability.

West Suffolk Council has identified six potential types of place for West Suffolk in the draft hierarchy, from most to least sustainable:

- Towns
- Key service centres
- Local service centres
- Type A villages
- Type B villages

Moulton has been categorised as a **Local service centre**. As a minimum, local services centres will have a primary school and a convenience shop. These settlements tend to have a few of the key services and facilities. The opportunity for site allocations will be explored through the local plan. We do not know yet how many houses a Local Service Centre will be expected to accommodate.

In October 2020, West Suffolk Council carried out its first consultation – The Issues and Options consultation. Communities were asked to provide feedback on how they think the Local Plan should shape the future of West Suffolk to 2040.

West Suffolk Council will review all the comments received as part of the Issues and Options Consultation and identify how much development should take place and where it should go. They will prepare the **Preferred Options** draft of the plan. At this stage we will have more information about which sites will be put forward in Moulton and how much new housing Moulton is expected to accommodate. consultation for this stage will take place in January 2022. The final plan is not expected to be approved until 2024.