



## Press Release

18 December 2025

### **Fenland sets course for new Local Plan ahead of planning reforms**

Fenland District Council has withdrawn its emerging Local Plan ahead of a new national plan-making system coming into force early next year.

The decision gives the Council the opportunity to prepare a new Local Plan in line with the latest legislation that better reflects the needs of people across the district.

Members agreed to formally withdraw the current emerging Local Plan at Full Council on Monday 15 December.

Council Leader, Cllr Chris Boden, said: "This was not an easy decision for the Council to take. A significant amount of work has already gone into the emerging plan, including detailed evidence gathering and listening to local views. However, national changes to how Local Plans must now be prepared mean that continuing with the current plan would not deliver the clear, up-to-date guidance Fenland needs.

"Rather than pressing ahead with a plan that would soon require significant changes, we have chosen to take a fresh and forward-looking approach. By starting a new Local Plan now, we can focus on what will really improve residents' lives, while giving businesses and investors the confidence to plan and invest here."

The new Local Plan – to be titled Fenland 50 – will look ahead to 2050. It will focus on issues that matter most to local people, such as good-quality homes, access to jobs and skills, stronger town centres, better infrastructure, and healthier, more connected communities. It will also support major investment opportunities, including the proposed Fens Reservoir, and reflect Fenland's role as a key area of opportunity within the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority's Local Growth Plan.

Work is now underway on a project plan that will set out what happens next and how residents, businesses, landowners and developers can get involved.

The Council is keen to make progress on the new plan before Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) takes place in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, helping to ensure Fenland's priorities are clearly reflected in future decisions across the wider region.

Fenland District Council continues to have a strong supply of land for new homes and remains open for business. Development will continue to be managed carefully, with a clear focus on quality and long-term benefits for local communities.

Further updates will be shared in the coming months.

**Ends**

### Notes to Editors

- Fenland District Council agreed to prepare the current Local Plan in February 2019. Progress has been slower than expected since publication of the Draft Local Plan due to the uncertainty created by ongoing national planning reforms, Covid-19, updated flood-risk data, resourcing and procurement challenges, and the plans for Local Government Reorganisation (LGR).
- At Full Council on Monday 15 December, Members withdrew the Draft Fenland Local Plan (2019–2040) and agreed to begin work on a new Local Plan under the new plan-making system introduced by the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023. Much of the work done to date can be updated and carried forward into the new process.
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