

1. Slough Local Plan 2026–2046 Scoping Matters Consultation Document

About this consultation

Early Engagement and Scoping matters for the Slough Local Plan

Open for comments from Monday 13 July until 11.59pm on Monday 24 August 2026

1. The Government has an ambition to provide more homes and regeneration across the UK including through speeding up planning, delivering infrastructure, addressing the challenges of climate change, plus mitigating impacts on the natural environment from additional growth.
2. An important part of that is updating Local Plans, and engaging those people affected. This consultation is the first part of that process for Slough. We must invite certain general and specific consultees to give their views, but the consultation is open to everyone. It is an early opportunity for those who are impacted by the plan to understand how it fits with other Plans, and how we engage on it through the process. The Local Plan will replace the Core Strategy and the Site Allocations Development Plan Documents.
3. This is the Local Plan Scoping Matters document. It forms part of a set of documents being consulted on under what is known as the 'Local Plan Regulations (2026) Regulation 20'.



2. About Slough Today

About Slough

The Slough Context

The population in Slough is 158,495 (2021)

We have one of the **youngest (under 18) populations** 28% (England 21%), 43,800 children and young people live in Slough.

We are one of England's **most ethnically diverse areas**, 64% of our residents come from ethnic minority backgrounds (excl. white minorities).

74% of working-age residents were employed in 2023, our **employment rate** is yet to recover fully from the pandemic.

Slough's economy is heavily influenced by its proximity to London and Heathrow Airport, providing opportunities in logistics, finance and technology.

Slough is ranked within the 5th most deprived decile in England, though none of our areas fall into the most deprived 10% nationally.

Deprivation is unequally distributed.

Life expectancy is lower than national and regional averages:

Men: 77 years spending 19 years (25%) in poor health.

Women: 82 years spending 21 years (26%) in poor health.

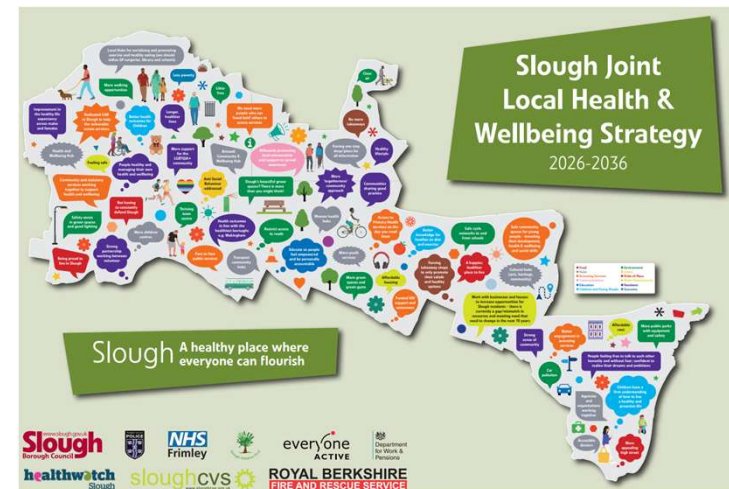
Diabetes prevalence is significantly higher than national and regional levels.

Overweight incl. obesity: 65.3% of adults.



	Slough	76.9	Slough	81.7
	England	78.9	England	82.8
Life expectancy at birth	Slough	82.2	Slough	86.6
	England	83.4	England	85.9
Life expectancy at 65	Slough	58.1	Slough	60.3
	England	63.1	England	63.9
Healthy life expectancy at birth				

Source: Slough JSNA People & Place Profile Feb 2024



Find out more at <https://www.slough.gov.uk/key-statistics-data> and the [Joint Strategic Needs Assessment](#)

3. Updating what we know – by integrating what we don't

Slough is changing. So is our Local Plan

4. Our borough is growing, our communities are evolving, and new opportunities are emerging through investment, regeneration, improved transport connections and economic growth.
5. The Plan can help the Council get the best for Slough, for the long term, by including policies to guide change and to protect land use.
6. Once adopted it will be used to help determine planning applications for new development in Slough by responding to our local needs and vision for the Borough in delivering the Government's ambitions.
7. We have carried out consultations on the new Local Plan from 2015 to 2025 under the previous plan process (known as the Legacy system). They form an important starting point and part of the evidence base for the new plan.
8. The new Regulations still prioritise housing and economic growth but give the ability to do more for nature protection and adapting to climate change.
9. We need organisations and individuals to help us by taking part.

We want to hear your views

10. This consultation is about preparing a new Slough Local Plan to help guide decisions and investment across the Borough for 20 years.
11. We want to you to know this is happening and:
 - a) understand how we can engage you in the process, and
 - b) submit representations (comments) if you have any views on the information we have published to help us decide what issues the Plan should address.
- 12. Government sets the rules, but your input helps us get the best for Slough.**
- 13. This stage is called Scoping.**

4. This consultation – Local Plan matters and supporting evidence base

14. The Scoping document is one of a number of documents we are sharing for your information and to seek your views.

1

Local Plan matters

Key Diagram – Spatial Plan
Housing
Economy and business
Local Nature Recovery Strategies
Adapting to climate change
Tackling pollution
Preserving our historic environment
Regeneration

2

Engagement strategy

Tailoring engagement approaches to meet the needs and interests of our target audiences.

Our draft Engagement Strategy will replace all or part of our adopted Statement of Community Involvement

Use adopted Council strategies that have consulted residents in their production

3

Other evidence

Conservation Area Character Appraisals
Call for Sites
Methodology for assessing sites ['HELAA']

Previous work – for information
Sustainability Appraisals and Scoping
(to become Environmental Outcome Reports)

Adopted Local Strategies for Slough
Joint Wellbeing and Health Strategy 2026-36

5. What the plan must contain

15. The Council is required to have an up-to-date Local Plan document that contains

A Vision

A vision for the future of Slough Borough Council setting out how the area is intended to change over the period of the plan.

Measurable Outcomes

Up to ten measurable outcomes, designed to monitor progress towards meeting the vision.

Spatial Strategy

A spatial strategy identifying where growth, development and infrastructure should be focused.

Policies, proposals, site allocations

Policies and proposals to help deliver the vision and outcomes and sites allocations to help implement the Vision.

6. The bigger picture – what the plan must address

16. The Council is required to have an up-to-date Local Plan that takes these matters into account

1. A Plan Vision

Slough 2040 is being consulted on until 31 July 2026. We will use that to inform the Local Plan vision.

2. Housing delivery and healthy places

We are working with public health to promote healthy environments to tackle inequality.

We will research how to address our high housing needs, including working with our neighbours.

3. Economic strategy

The Council is commissioning an Economic Growth Strategy for 2026-2040

This will complement the adopted The Simplified Planning Zone

4. Adapting to Climate change

Raising the profile of opportunities and interventions needed to help the borough adapt to the effects of climate change.

5. Enhance the natural and built environment

Policies for Nature recovery, biodiversity and protecting our historic environment.

6. Guide decisions

Writing Policies to support decisions on planning applications to get the right development in the right place

7. Regional planning context

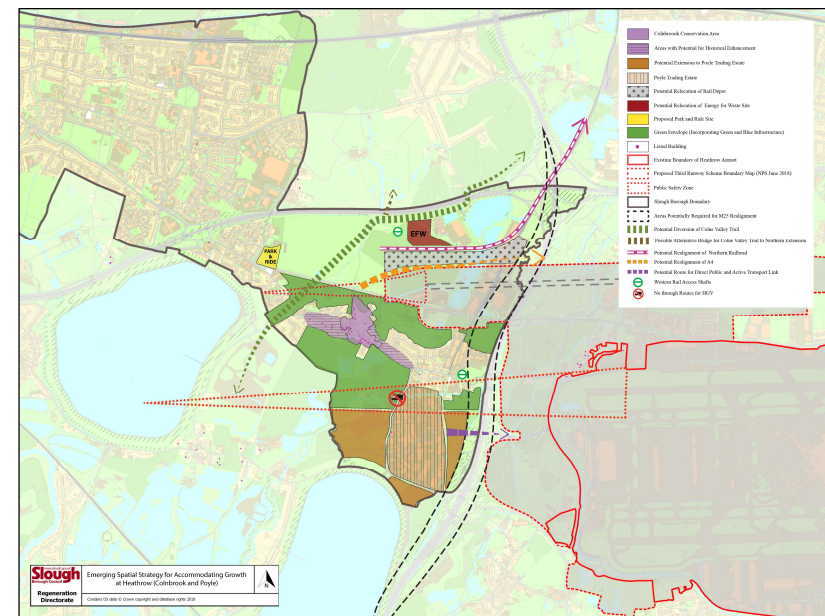
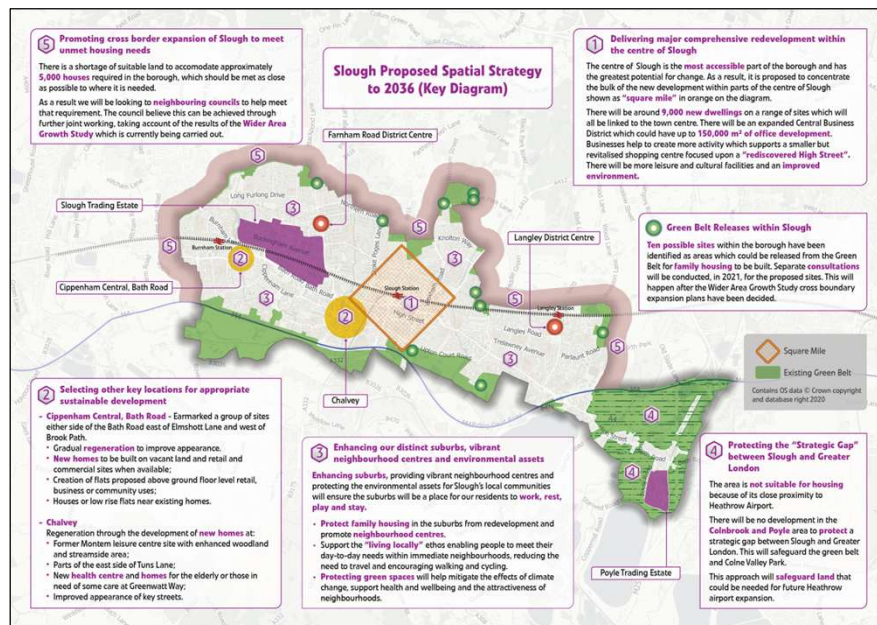
The Plan must respond to Government plans for Spatial Development Strategies, and adjoining Plans.

8. Heathrow expansion

Future airport growth will influence homes, jobs and infrastructure planning, especially in Colnbrook and Poyle.

7. Map of proposed local plan policies

17. The Plan will include a map that shows how the policies apply across the borough. The Plan must respond to Government plans for Spatial Development Strategies, and adjoining plans. The two maps below show earlier work.



1. The Preferred Spatial Strategy 2020

This forms a foundation for the new Plan and represents work completed under the previous regulations.

2. The emerging Spatial Strategy 2018

This plans shows how airport expansion might be accommodated. Future airport growth will influence homes, jobs and infrastructure planning, especially in Colnbrook and Poyle.

8. Working to our strengths

18. A borough of opportunity – what makes Slough special

Elizabeth Line, the M4, M25 and National Rail

Improved connections to London, Heathrow and the wider South East.

Well connected to London and Berkshire

Slough's location creates direct and catalytic opportunities to upskill our workforce to attract investment and growth. Slough works closely with the other Berkshire authorities.

Dedicated areas for industry and business

The Borough's business areas need protecting so they can support national and local business, major employers and the Borough's reputation as a datacentre hub.

Colne Valley Regional Park and Strategic Gap

Our Green Belt connects a mosaic of natural landscapes north and south, and adjoining London, but is under extreme pressure for development in Slough.

Local living for our diverse communities

Our diverse, multilingual and young population is one of Slough's strengths.
A growing and large working age population provides future employees and careers.
We want our suburbs, parks and retail areas to thrive.

Regeneration Opportunities

Horlicks is a success. The Queensmere redevelopment to deliver homes, jobs and new public spaces is next.

“Slough is Now” <https://www.sloughisnow.co.uk/>

9. Tackling the housing challenge

Providing enough homes and family homes is one of the biggest challenges facing Slough.

19. The borough has a Standard Housing Methodology housing need (currently 824 a year) but delivers nearer half of this. The proportion of family homes built has been quite small. The Council will need to consider to what extent it can reasonably address housing need taking account of constraints. There are also significant affordability and viability pressures. The Local Plan will set a housing target, the approach to affordable housing, and will have policies for Gypsies and Travellers and travelling showpeople (GTTS).

Homes and Affordable housing

The borough must plan to try to meet housing need not just in terms of numbers but also size, type and tenure and in particular affordable and family homes, and "GTTS".

Limited land availability

There is limited undeveloped land and redevelopment of existing property for homes and infrastructure is constrained by redevelopment viability, competing land uses or complications of land assembly for comprehensive redevelopment.

Green Belt

Green Belt prevents urban sprawl and promotes regeneration, but the Government are making it easier to develop it. Our Green Belt assessment will inform what sites could be released for family housing.

Green spaces and healthy places

Healthy environments help tackle health inequalities for our residents: from parks to food to healthcare.

Overcrowding

Slough has some of the highest levels of overcrowding in the country. We are building flats where we can, but we want to build more family homes.

Protecting the suburbs

Family housing is in high demand, and costly to build, and Slough is suffering from loss of such houses to Houses of Multiple Occupation.

The Local Plan will need to consider how future housing needs can be accommodated while creating sustainable and attractive places.

10. Local growth and sustainability

20. Most future development is expected to be focused on regeneration and previously developed land.
21. The Council's previous Preferred Spatial Strategy (November 2020) identified town centre regeneration and the renewal of key locations as central components of the future growth strategy. The Emerging Spatial Strategy (2018) set out how the Borough could accommodate Heathrow Expansion. We also consulted on sites in the Green Belt that could provide family housing. We think these strategies are an important starting point, but the Government rules have changed so these need reviewing.
22. The new Local Plan will be evidence based and will be tested through independent public examination by the Government. The policies need to be deliverable.

New Homes and community infrastructure

Environmental Outcome Reports or Sustainability Appraisal of the Plan

Modern Employment Space and job opportunities

Destination Farnham Road - Better active travel provision

Investment across our neighbourhood centres, Wards, and Town centre

Nature Recovery and historic environment

The Local Plan will consider how regeneration can contribute to meeting the borough's future needs. It will help to deliver the Council's other strategies and prepare for alignment with the Spatial Development Strategy and the updated National Planning Policy Framework when these are adopted.

11. Supporting Jobs And Prosperity

Slough is one of the country's most important economic centres.

23. The borough supports thousands of jobs and is home to internationally recognised businesses. The Local Plan will help support:

Business Growth

Providing suitable land and premises for businesses. Protecting our existing business areas.

Regeneration

Attracting investment to the town centre – such as via the Masterplan for Queensmere and the Horlicks Quarter.

Skills and sectors for economic development

Helping residents access jobs, training and careers.

Innovation

Supporting knowledge-based industries and emerging sectors, whilst retaining diverse practical skills.

Retail and Leisure Uses

The Ice Rink, private leisure facilities, retail parks, our Historic Park and Garden, and outdoor gyms draw visitors from across the sub-region.

Heathrow Opportunities

Ensuring Slough benefits from future airport-related investment and activity.

12. Infrastructure Matters

24. Growth must be supported by the right infrastructure, helping to create healthier, more connected and sustainable communities. The new regulations support us engaging with providers.
25. Managing congestion, improving public transport and supporting walking and cycling are important for the plan.

Transport

Roads, rail, buses, walking, cycling and other forms of sustainable travel.

Healthcare

GP surgeries, healthcare facilities and wellbeing services.

Education

Schools, colleges and training opportunities.

Community Facilities

Libraries, leisure centres and cultural facilities.

Utilities

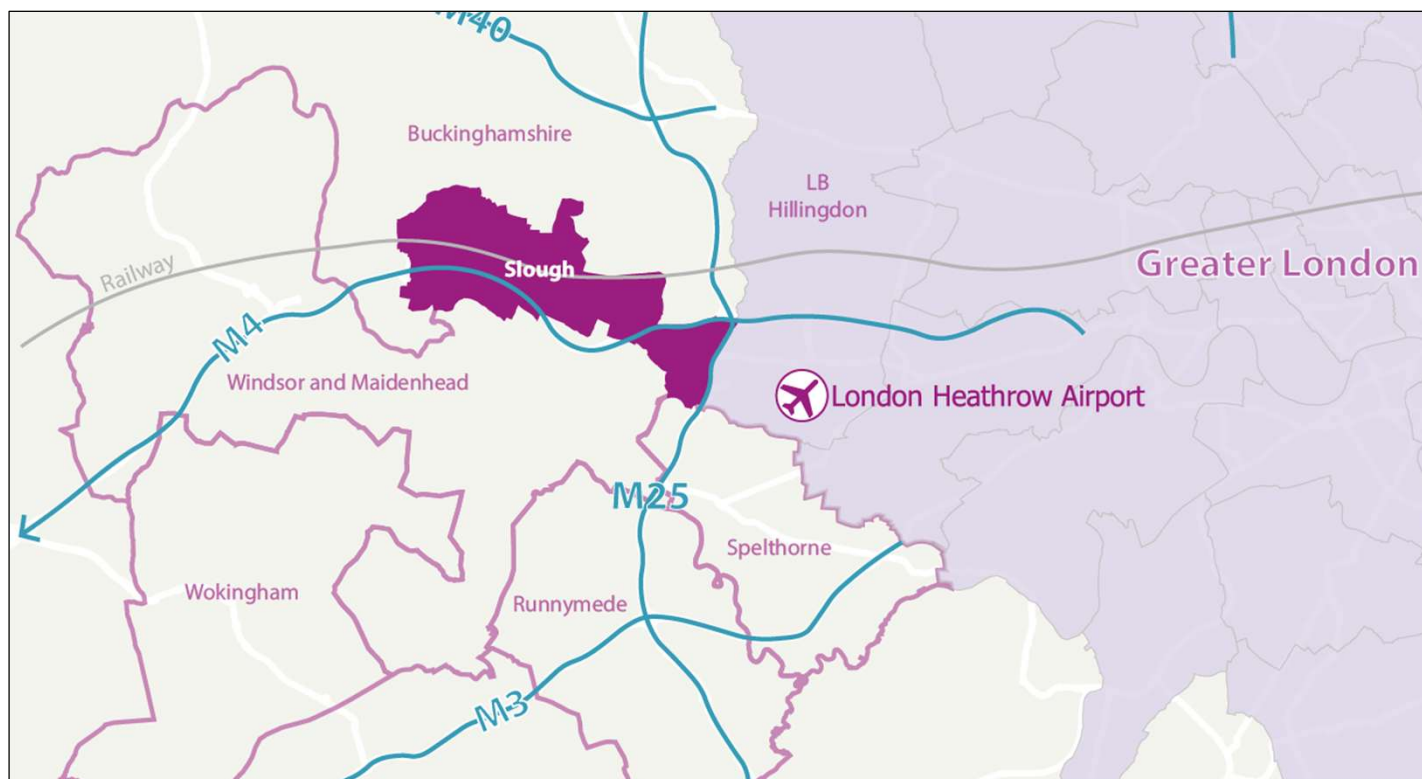
Water, wastewater, energy and digital infrastructure.

Green Infrastructure

Parks, open spaces and nature networks.

We want to understand which infrastructure improvements matter most to local people.

13. Wider Context in the sub-region and Slough's neighbours



14. Environment, Climate, and Design

26. The Local Plan will also contain policies to help:

Reduce pollution such as noise and air and water

Nature recovery for protected species and Biodiversity

Adapt to climate change

Promote good Urban Design, and public realm

Reduce Carbon Emissions

Support safe and well used green places and spaces

Protection for our historic environment

Respond to the results of consultation and engagement

27. The challenge is to accommodate growth while protecting and enhancing the environment: to ensure new development creates well-designed, healthy and sustainable places that can adapt to climate change.

28. The Local Plan will support nature recovery and biodiversity improvements, informed by the Berkshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS), and the historic environment informed by updates to conservation areas, and archaeological recording.

15. Have Your Say

This is the first stage of preparing the new Local Plan.
See our [Current timetable for the Local Plan](#) for more details

At this stage:

-  Note what the Plan will address and our evidence to date
-  Note our engagement strategy
-  Give us your view if you want to, by filling out the questionnaire(s) online , via email or post

What happens next?

-  1 Review the responses we receive
-  2 Refresh our Sustainability Appraisal Scoping report and commission other evidence
-  3 Carry out other work to achieve 'Gateway 1' which is the next stage of the Plan process
-  4 Note our next milestone on 31 October 2026

Open from Monday 13 July until 11.59pm on Monday 24 August 2026

Please make sure your response is submitted to the Council before the closing date.

16. Making a representation to the Scoping Consultation

29. The Scoping consultation welcomes responses on the Council's consultation portal. That has a series of questions to guide what we think are the points of particular interest. The questions on the included here.

The Draft Engagement Strategy sets out how engagement will be planned and delivered specifically for the Slough Local Plan 2026-2046.

The QR code for the Draft Engagement Strategy and the Scoping Matters Consultation Document is:



17. Engagement on the Draft Engagement Strategy

Questions on the Draft Engagement Strategy

Q1. Privacy Notice Agreement

Q2. What is your name?

Q3. If you are participating on behalf of an organisation, what is the name of the organisation?

Q4. What is your address?

Q5. What is your email address?

Q6. Do you consent to Slough Borough Council using your response as part of the Local Plan consultation process in accordance with its privacy notice?

Q7. Are the proposed engagement principles and overall approach clear and appropriate?

Q8. Are there any additional ways the Council should engage communities and stakeholders?

Q9. Are there groups or communities that may find it harder to participate in Local Plan engagement?

Q10. What reasonable steps could the Council take to help those groups engage?

Q11. How can the Council encourage more people and organisations to take part in Local Plan consultations?

18. Engagement on Supporting Documents

30. The Council is also seeking views on other documents including:

- a. **The Housing and Employment Land Availability Assessment (HELAA) Methodology;**



- b. **Conservation Area Character Appraisals,**



- c. **The Call for Sites 2026**



19. Consultation on the Scoping Matters Consultation Document

Economy and Employment

Q12. Where do you think future employment growth should be focused in Slough? (Select all that apply)

- a. Slough Trading Estate;
- b. Heathrow-related businesses and activities;
- c. Slough town centre and Central Business District;
- d. Existing employment areas across the borough;
- e. Local and neighbourhood centres;
- f. Science, technology and innovation sectors;
- g. Small and medium-sized businesses and start-ups;
- h. Other (please specify).

Please explain your answer.

20. Engagement on the Scoping Matters Consultation Document

Economy and Employment Continued

Q13. What should be the main priorities for supporting Slough's economy over the next 20 years? (Select up to three):

- a. Creating more local jobs for residents;
- b. Supporting business investment and growth;
- c. Maximising benefits from Heathrow Airport;
- d. Supporting Slough Trading Estate and the Simplified Planning Zone;
- e. Delivering new office and workspace development;
- f. Supporting start-up and small businesses;
- g. Promoting innovation and technology sectors;
- h. Improving skills and training opportunities;
- i. Reducing commuting and encouraging local employment;
- j. Other (please specify).

Please explain your answer.

21. Engagement on the Scoping Matters Consultation Document

Suburbs of Slough

Q14. Do you agree that the Local Plan should seek to protect and enhance local centres, community facilities and services so that residents can meet more of their day-to-day needs within their local neighbourhoods?

Yes

No

Unsure

Please explain your answer

Q15. Do you agree that the Local Plan should seek to protect the distinct character of Slough's established residential neighbourhoods, including family housing, green spaces and local environmental assets?

Yes

No

Unsure.

Please explain your answer.

22. Engagement on the Scoping Matters Consultation Document

Strategic Gap

Q16. Do you agree that the Local Plan should continue to protect the Strategic Gap between Slough and Greater London?

Yes

No

Unsure

Please explain your answer.

Regulations

Q17. Do you agree that the Local Plan meets the minimum regulatory requirements?

Yes

No

Unsure

Please explain your answer.

23. Engagement on the Scoping Matters Consultation Document

Other Matters

Q18. Are there any other matters that the Plan should contain?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Unsure.

Please explain your answer.