

Taw and Torridge Estuary Forum notice

Local Plan Scoping Consultation open until 17:00 on 11 August 2026

"A Plan for Northern Devon"

North Devon and Torridge have launched their Scoping Consultation which is the first of three formal consultations in the new plan-making process, each of which is an opportunity for communities and other stakeholders to influence our next local plan.

We want to hear about what the plan should contain and how we should go about including people in the plan-making process.

We need to deliver more homes, business spaces and infrastructure in northern Devon, and we know this raises important questions and concerns for our communities. By taking part in this questionnaire, you can help shape the future of our area and ensure local priorities are better understood and reflected in planning decisions.

The questionnaire takes approximately 10-15 minutes to complete.

The deadline to submit responses is at **17:00 on 11 August 2026**.

A summary of the responses will be made available on the portal after we pass through Gateway 1 on 31 October 2026.

What is included in the questionnaire?

in the questionnaire we are seeking your views on:

- The most valuable parts of northern Devon
- The key issues facing our area
- How the plan can support opportunities for growth and investment
- How we can best include people in preparing the plan

Please read our [Scoping Consultation Document](#) which lays out our current position and provides the background information to help you answer most effectively. This and further supporting documents, including the formal [Notice of Scoping Consultation](#) can be found in the 'supporting files'.

For your response to be considered, it must be **duly-made**, which means it must: be received within the consultation period, relate to the plan or its preparation, **include your name and address**, and must not contain offensive language. If there's an issue with your submission, we'll let you know and help you resolve it.

Other ways to respond

The easiest way for you to submit responses is by using the online portal. You will need to register or sign in as a consultee. This allows you to save a draft of your answers and return to them later without losing data. You will also receive a copy of your response for your records, and if you also complete future consultations, it allows us to group all your responses in one place.

You can also submit comments via our dedicated consultation response email:

- shapetheplan@northdevon.gov.uk or shapetheplan@torridge.gov.uk

Or via post to:

- North Devon Planning Policy Team, North Devon District Council, Lynton House, Commercial Road, Barnstaple, EX31 1DG; or
- Torridge Planning Policy Team, Torridge District Council, Riverbank House, Bideford, EX39 2QG

A [printable copy of the questionnaire](#), along with a [questionnaire suitable for completing electronically](#) and returning by email are available to download on the left-hand side of this page (under 'supporting files').

Copies of the consultation materials can be accessed at our customer service centres:

- Barnstaple Town Centre Hub, 38 Green Lanes Shopping Centre, Barnstaple, EX31 1UL
Monday to Friday, 09:00 to 17:00
- Riverbank House, Bideford, EX39 2QG
Monday to Friday, 09:00 to 13:00 and 14:00 to 16:30
- The Amory Centre, 125 East Street, South Molton, EX36 3BU
Thursday, 09:00 to 13:00 and 14:00 to 17:00
- The Ilfracombe Centre, 44 High Street, Ilfracombe, EX34 9QB
Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 09:00 to 13:00 and 14:00 to 17:00

The consultation materials are also available for inspection at the following libraries: Appledore, Barnstaple, Bideford, Braunton, Chulmleigh, Combe Martin, Ilfracombe, Holsworthy, Northam, South Molton, and Torrington. Details of the opening times and locations of the libraries can be found at: <https://discover.librariesunlimited.org.uk/our-libraries>.

Thank you for taking the time to share your views, your input will help ensure that our local plan reflects the needs and priorities of our local communities.

Further information

Please contact us

at peopleandplace@northdevon.gov.uk or peopleandplace@torridge.gov.uk if you have any questions related to the local plan process.

Use of Artificial Intelligence

To support efficient and consistent analysis, we may use secure Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools to assist in processing consultation responses. This may include:

- Categorising and summarising responses

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- Identifying key themes and patterns
 - Supporting statistical or qualitative analysis.

These tools are used to assist human reviewers and do not make final decisions independently. All outputs are reviewed by staff. We take steps to ensure that:

- AI systems are used responsibly and proportionately
- Personal data is handled securely
- Outputs are checked for accuracy and bias.

Data Protection and Privacy

The information submitted as part of the Scoping Consultation is collected by North Devon Council and Torridge District Councils as data controllers in accordance with the data protection principles in the Data Protection Act 2018. The purposes for collecting this data are to support the preparation and review of our new local plan and to contact you, if necessary, regarding your response.

The preparation of a local plan is a statutory process, and any formal consultation response may need to be made public for that purpose. As such, information contained within your response may be made available for public viewing and the information provided may be identifiable or attributable to your name, organisation and address.

Your personal details will be safeguarded and will not be divulged to any other individuals or organisations for any other purposes unless we need to do so in order to meet our public task, legal duties or obligations.

The consultation portal allows you to maintain and update the personal information associated with your consultee profile, or you can request for changes to be made by contacting the Planning Policy Teams.

Further information on our privacy and data protection policies and your rights under the Data Protection Act can be found on the relevant web pages for [North Devon Council](#) and [Torridge District Council](#).