

Ilmington Parish Council Annual Report Councillor Paul Harrison

South Warwickshire Local Plan update

The Draft Local Plan is the long-term plan to guide development within the district in the period to 2050. It sets out a strategy for the amount, location and design of new built development (such as homes, schools, employment, retail) and the infrastructure needed, whilst helping to protect from inappropriate development, as well as improving the natural environment and tackling climate change.

Stratford on Avon District Council needs to ensure its Local Plan remains up to date so it can positively manage built development and protect areas from inappropriate development. Following changes in Central Government policies, the Council has had to plan for a substantial increase in housing numbers across the district.

Following on from the Issues and Options consultation, which took place in early 2025, the council is now moving to the last stage which will be a Regulation 19 consultation. This is the final stage of public engagement in preparing a Local Plan before being submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for examination in December 2026.

A Regulation 19 consultation allows the public to comment on the plan's legal compliance and soundness, ensuring it meets development needs (e.g., housing, employment). It is not intended as feedback on preferences but a check on whether the plan is valid, justified, and effective.

Local Government Reorganisation

The way local government works is changing. On the 16 December 2024, Central Government published the English Devolution White Paper. LGR will replace borough/district/city and county councils with fewer councils. Unitary authorities are a single tier of local government responsible for all local services in an area.

Stratford-on-Avon District Council, alongside the other Warwickshire district and borough councils, submitted an Interim Plan on the 21 March 2025, which identified two options for local government reorganisation in Warwickshire.

On the 17th November 2025, Stratford-on-Avon District Council formally endorsed their proposal for the creation of two new unitary authorities in Warwickshire, one covering the north of the county and another covering south Warwickshire. This was submitted to Government. We are now waiting for their decision which is expected in July.

Unless there are any delays in the Government's decisions, there will be elections to a shadow authority in May 2027. The new unitary council will start in April 2028.