



My Ref: EIR 6137
Enquiries to: Information Requests
E-Mail: informationrequests@barnsley.gov.uk

Dear Requester,

Re: Request for Information – Environmental Information Regulations 2004

I wish to confirm that the council has completed its search for the information which you requested.

The information requested and our findings are as follows: -

Please treat this as a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004, applying whichever regime is appropriate to each part. We would be grateful for the following:

1. The current published Local Development Scheme for Barnsley — including the date it was last reviewed or amended.

No relevant LDS in place at present. A new timetable is being prepared using the Government's new template.

2. Any draft, updated, or replacement Local Development Scheme — currently being prepared, together with any timetable that has been set for its consideration by Members.

We are working on a timetable based on the Government's new template.

3. Any committee reports, officer decision notices, or member-level decisions — issued since 1 January 2024 that have considered the commencement, scoping, or programming of a new or replacement Local Plan. Please include both Cabinet and any relevant policy or scrutiny committee material.

None to date. A cabinet report is being prepared that will be considered by members later this year. This will be placed on the Council's forward plan as a key decision in due course.

4. A list of evidence-base studies commissioned by the Council since 1 January 2025 — in support of any current or future Local Plan review, providing in each case (a) the title of the study, (b) the commissioning date and the contractor instructed, (c) the agreed brief or scope of work, (d) the cost (or budget) where this is disclosable, and (e) the expected or actual completion date. We are particularly interested in the Housing Needs Survey understood to have been commissioned from arc4 Limited and would be grateful for confirmation of its current status.

As you have noted Arc 4 have been commissioned to prepare a Strategic Housing Market Assessment. We are awaiting a first draft of this document. The cost is £44,097. It is estimated that this will be completed in Summer 2026.

Arup have been commissioned to develop a Green Belt review methodology that can be followed consistently by the four South Yorkshire authorities and used by the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority as evidence base in any future Spatial Development Strategy. Barnsley's contribution to this will be around £6,000.

5. Any framework, methodology, or briefing document — prepared by Council officers since 12 December 2024 setting out how the Council intends to apply or assess the “grey belt” provisions introduced by the National Planning Policy Framework revised on that date, particularly in connection with any review of the existing Green Belt boundary in Barnsley.

None, this is to be considered as part of the Arup work referred to above.

6. Whether the Council has received any unsolicited representations, pre-application enquiries, strategic land submissions, or “call for sites” responses — since 1 January 2025 from landowners, developers, or their agents proposing the release, reclassification, or development of land currently designated as Green Belt. For the avoidance of doubt we are not at this stage seeking the content of any such submission, only confirmation of (a) whether any have been received, (b) the approximate number, and (c) the broad categories of land referred to (for example, edge-of-settlement agricultural, land adjacent to existing housing allocations, larger-scale strategic sites, and so on).

The Council does not automatically publish details of pre-application discussions and treats them as commercially sensitive. Notwithstanding this, in response to this question we have received 14 pre-application enquiries for housing development on Green Belt land since 1st January 2025. 6 of these enquires are for minor developments i.e. developments under 10 dwellings. The remaining 8 enquiries are for major housing development i.e. 10 or more residential units.

7. The name, role, and contact details of the officer or team — currently leading the preparation of any future or replacement Local Plan.

Paula Tweed Planning Policy Group Leader paulatweed@barnsley.gov.uk
Planning Policy Team planningpolicy@barnsley.gov.uk

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact Information Requests Via email.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

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PO Box 634, Barnsley, South Yorkshire S70 9GG

If you are unhappy with the way the Directorate has handled your request, you may ask for an internal review. Please clearly mark your correspondence 'Complaint' and address it to:

Barnsley MBC
Information Requests Team
PO Box 634
Barnsley
S70 9GG
email: informationrequests@barnsley.gov.uk

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: -

Customer Services Team
Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Email: <http://www.ico.org.uk/foicomplaints>

Kind regards,

Information Requests Team, Barnsley MBC

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