

Report for: Housing & Regeneration Scrutiny Panel, 28 June 2022

Title: New Local Plan update

Report authorised by: Rob Krzyszowski, Assistant Director, Planning, Building Standards & Sustainability

Lead Officer: Bryce Tudball, Interim Head of Planning Policy, Transport and Infrastructure

Ward(s) affected: All

Report for Key/
Non Key Decision: For information

1. Describe the issue under consideration

- 1.1 The Housing & Regeneration Scrutiny Panel has asked for an update in relation to the council's emerging New Local Plan. This report provides an update on engagement and consultation on the Plan to date, the collation of an evidence base to support and inform the Plan and sets out the next steps in the Plan's production as well as the proposed direction of travel for the New Local Plan.

2. Recommendations

The Scrutiny Panel is asked to note this update report.

3. Reasons for decision

Not applicable.

4. Alternative options considered

N/A

5. New Local Plan update

New Local Plan

- 5.1 In November 2019 Cabinet agreed an update to the council's Local Development Scheme (LDS) setting out that a New Local Plan would be prepared to replace the suite of existing Local Plan documents which were adopted in 2017. The New Local Plan is a key corporate document which will engage communities to set out a long-term vision for development and change in Haringey. A New Local Plan is required to:

- Engage communities in shaping a new Plan for the borough

- Take account of updates to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF);
- Take account of the London Plan 2021;
- Reflect the Council's latest strategic aspirations and ambitions;
- Respond to the Climate Emergency declared by the Council;
- Support the borough's recovery and renewal from Covid-19;
- Meet legal and policy requirements for the Council to have an up-to-date plan and a 5 Year Housing Land Supply.

5.2 The latest timetable for preparing the New Local Plan is set out in the table below:

Stage	Regulation	Date
New Local Plan First Steps Engagement consultation	Pre-Reg 18	November 2020- February 2021
Draft Local Plan consultation	Reg 18	Approval Autumn 2022 for consultation late 2022
Proposed Submission Local Plan consultation	Reg 19	Spring/Summer 2023
Submission & Examination	Reg 22-25	Autumn 2023
Adoption	Reg 26	Late 2023/early 2024 (subject to Examination)

First Steps Engagement

5.3 From 16 November 2020 to 1 February 2021 (11 weeks) the council carried out a New Local Plan First Steps Engagement. This was the first step in preparing the New Local Plan and provided the opportunity for residents, businesses and other local stakeholders to shape the Plan from the beginning, identifying key issues and challenges the borough faces and preferences for various possible options. The engagement was designed to begin a conversation about the Plan and as such did not contain draft policies or proposals.

5.4 Key elements to the First Steps Engagement document included:

- Contributing to a range of UN Sustainable Development Goals including quality education, reducing inequality, sustainable cities and communities and partnerships
- Options for how the Council can achieve its housing target of 1,592 homes per year
- Potential policy directions for a range of topics including housing, affordable housing, town centres & high streets, social infrastructure, design, heritage & culture, sustainable & green infrastructure, transport and economy.
- Taking on board the findings of the Haringey Fairness Commission and setting out the importance of the Local Plan in the Council achieving the UNICEF Child Friendly borough status

5.5 The First Steps Engagement was supported by a comprehensive Communications & Engagement Plan, with methods including:

- Dedicated engagement website (Commonplace)
- Interactive map
- Summary guide
- Micro-guide
- Accessible documents
- Mobile-friendly summary
- Language translations (Spanish, Portuguese, Turkish & Polish)
- QR codes
- Feature article in Haringey People magazine
- Business Bulletin
- Partnership Newsletter
- School Bulletin
- 19 topic-based online workshops
- Partnership with Haringey Youth Advisory Board
- Primary school engagement via a lesson plan and homework package
- Citizens Panel
- Inter-faith forum
- 500+ posters in parks, estates, cafes, supermarkets and other public locations
- Social media posts and poll (digital marketing)
- Digital on-street advertising through 'ClearChannel' boards
- Business engagement through a variety of channels
- Meetings with community groups, forums, and other key stakeholders
- Feedback from the Royal National Institute of Blind People on written materials

5.6 Over 600,000 were reached through the Council's digital campaign, nearly 20,000 clicked on digital adverts, over 2,300 people visited the main engagement websites, and 1,500 unique responses were received from individuals and organisations including over 300 responses from young people through the Haringey Youth Advisory Board. This significantly exceeded the quantitative target of 1,000 responses and was notably high despite the social distancing restrictions in place at the time.

5.7 Key consultation messages for the borough included the following:

- Good design of new development is essential;
- More needs to be done to address the Climate Emergency;
- Housing is a key priority, especially genuinely affordable housing;
- New homes should be high quality and the right type to meet local needs
- High support for active travel;
- Green spaces are highly valued;
- Open space is key, especially for young people;
- New development should protect and enhance the borough's rich cultural diversity;
- The importance of protecting employment land;
- Future growth should be directed to Tottenham and Wood Green;
- Expectation of greater community involvement in Planning and provision of more support for community groups

- 5.8 Since the consultation closed work has continued with key partners to ensure broad engagement on the New Local Plan, including local schools, Haringey Youth Advisory Board and the Voluntary and Community Sector.

Evidence base

- 5.9 In line with national policy and guidance the New Local Plan must be informed and supported by a relevant and up-to-date evidence base that is adequate and proportionate. The following evidence has been commissioned in support of the New Local Plan:

Study	Timeline for completion
Strategic Housing Market Assessment	Completed
Archaeological Priority Area Study	Completed
Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment	Completed
Employment Land Study	Completed
Retail and Town Centre Needs Study	Completed
Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation Study	Completed
Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (Level 1)	Completed
Whole Plan Viability Study	Summer 2022

- 5.10 In response to the requirements of the London Plan 2021 and having regard to the draft Characterisation and Growth London Plan guidance an updated Characterisation Study is being prepared by Council officers to inform the capacity for change and growth in the different parts of the borough. This is taking a digital approach to data collection and mapping to assist public involvement and the presentation of findings.

Member engagement

- 5.11 In Summer 2020 a New Local Plan Member Working Group (NLPMWG) was formed to support the development of the New Local Plan. This was chaired by the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Planning and comprised members of Strategic Planning Committee. The NLPMWG met four times in the period June 2020 to August 2020 feeding into the First Steps Engagement document. In 2021 the NLPMWG was re-engaged with four meetings taking place from August 2021 to November 2021 and feeding into the Draft Local Plan which is currently under preparation. The NLPMWG will be reconvened in coming months with the new Strategic Planning Committee members.
- 5.12 The Strategic Planning Committee is routinely engaged on the progress of the New Local Plan with feedback on the document reported to Cabinet when required.

Next Steps

- 5.13 A Draft Local Plan is currently under preparation and approval to consult will be sought from Cabinet later this year. At the same time the key evidence base documents listed above will be published together with a comprehensive

Consultation Report setting out the feedback received from the community and other stakeholders as part of the First Steps Engagement.

Direction of travel for New Local Plan

5.14 Taking account of the key consultation messages received from the First Steps Engagement, the emerging evidence base detailed above, and the Council's latest strategic aspirations and ambitions, the New Local Plan is being shaped around the themes of sustainability, health and wellbeing and reducing inequalities. The Draft Local Plan being prepared includes:

- An enhanced focus on sustainability including much stronger policies in relation to delivering carbon reductions;
- A clearer approach to enhancing biodiversity in the borough including through a biodiversity net gain requirement for new developments and a dedicated trees policy;
- A greater focus on the delivery of genuinely affordable housing to meet local need consistent with Council's new Draft Housing Strategy;
- Greater protection for certain types of employment land;
- A continued focus on securing the highest quality of design in all new development including not just buildings but also the spaces between and around them.

Risks

5.15 There are a number of risks to the delivery of the New Local Plan and its timetable, which include:

- Government reforms e.g. those contained in the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill
- Joint working with neighbouring boroughs and other statutory bodies through the statutory Duty to Cooperate;
- Staff, resources & competing work demands on the Planning Policy Team;
- Planning Inspectorate resources, timetabling & handling of the examination;
- Conformity with the NPPF & London Plan; and
- Achieving the housing target (1,592 homes per year) and being able to demonstrate a 5 Year Housing Land Supply (5YHLS) of 'deliverable' sites.

6. Contribution to strategic outcomes

6.1 The New Haringey Local Plan is cross-cutting and contributes to the Borough Plan priorities of Housing, People, Place and Economy and the Borough Plan Equality Principles and the Pledges on Residents' Engagement, Voluntary & Community Sector and Businesses are highly relevant.

6.2 The Delivery Plans for the Housing Priority include "Deliver new Local Plan" as the first delivery priority under Outcome 1) Objective a).

7. Use of Appendices

N/A

8. Background documents

- New Local Plan First Steps Engagement consultation document November 2020:
https://www.haringey.gov.uk/sites/haringeygovuk/files/1._new_local_plan_first_steps_-_final_website.pdf

9. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

N/A