

Report for: Housing, Planning & Development Scrutiny Panel, 27 February 2023

Item number: 7

Title: Placemaking Approach – including the Place-Based Approach of the Local Plan and Wood Green Voices rollout

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Ward(s) affected: All

**Report for Key/
Non Key Decision:** For information

1. Describe the issue under consideration

The purpose of this paper is to provide a response to questions raised by the Scrutiny Panel on the new Placemaking Approach for Haringey, on the Place-Based approach to the emerging New Local Plan, and on the roll-out of Wood Green Voices and similar exercises to follow elsewhere in the borough.

2. Recommendations

The Scrutiny Panel is asked to note this briefing paper.

3. Reasons for decision

Not applicable

4. Alternative options considered.

Not applicable

5. A New Placemaking Approach for Haringey

5.1. The purpose of a clear Placemaking approach for Haringey is to emphasise both the 'how' and the 'what' of the work that the Council does to achieve positive change in our communities. The council has been working on a new placemaking approach which builds on the principles set out in the Haringey Deal. This represents a new focus for Regeneration activities and will sit at the heart of the New Local Plan, underpinning its vision, policies and proposals and guiding its delivery and implementation.

5.2. Placemaking places a clear emphasis on embedding local communities in the process, taking a Haringey Deal approach to co-production and targeting a

whole Council approach to the way that we will deliver. The Wood Green Voices exercise delivered an early exemplar of this approach, carrying out a wide-ranging engagement exercise to involve local communities in discussions on the future of Wood Green. For North Tottenham and South Tottenham similar exercises will be carried out, albeit with an approach that is informed by the communities that Placemaking activities will benefit tailored to the respective strengths and opportunities of each area, and scoped according to the nature and stage of change already underway.

- 5.3. The placemaking approach will be used to guide the activities of all Regeneration activity in areas of change – Wood Green, North Tottenham and South Tottenham. When it is adopted as part of the Local Plan it will allow Cabinet to set their ambitions for the way these places will be improved, in partnership with communities. It is currently being used to refresh programmes of work for each area, together with ward members and lead cabinet members, and through engagement with affected communities.
- 5.4. The new Placemaking approach contains 3 overarching objectives and 6 priorities for what makes a good place. It is aimed at delivering fairer, healthier, sustainable and resilient places that young and old feel proud of. It will require a full Council approach to be successful, with priorities across broad areas of work. Shaping the future of the borough towards these outcomes also means continuing to work with external partners – funders, community groups, landowners and developers to ensure that we are taking every opportunity we have to bring in funding and influence key stakeholders.



Placemaking Approach as part of the Haringey Deal

- 5.5. Perhaps more important than the objectives and priorities of Placemaking, is the 'how' – setting out our approach to achieving Placemaking by working with our communities and aligning with the aims of the Haringey Deal. Where the council acts as a catalyst for wider change in an area, we will focus our efforts where the opportunity is greatest – in Wood Green, North Tottenham and South Tottenham. Our work will be guided by the people who live there, retaining a strong local influence over large scale, longer-term change, as well the everyday things which influence our quality of life so much, and ensuring that placemaking benefits existing communities.
- 5.6. The [Haringey Deal](#) changes the way that the Council works – listening better, sharing power, and drawing on the passion and expertise of our communities. It sets out our ambition to listen and prioritise the relationships, to focus on what's strong, not what is wrong, to learn from our mistakes, to create space for good things to happen, and to work harder to hear the voices that are too often overlooked. To be successful, and to be delivered in partnership with our communities, our approach to Placemaking must align with the way of working set out in the Deal.
- 5.7. Great places are achieved and sustained by people working together. Our diverse residents, businesses and stakeholders are an important resource. They know their local areas and how they function, what works, what doesn't, what the impacts of proposed changes may be on different groups of people, and what the opportunities are. They also offer a range of skills and resources to help deliver and manage improvements to their neighbourhoods.

6. The new Placemaking approach in action

- 6.1. **Wood Green Voices** aimed to give a range of local people the opportunity to have their say on Wood Green as it is today and their ambition for what it could be like in the future. The findings generated will help to inform an action plan for Wood Green, comprising some practical steps that can lead to improvements in the short term and some which can lay the foundations for longer term improvements.
- 6.2. Workshops were aimed at widening the conversation, hearing a broader range of voices than previous exercises, and launching the Haringey Deal, with Wood Green Voices representing an early exemplar of that approach. Participants were introduced to the Haringey Deal as the Council's commitment to a new way of working together with residents, businesses and communities, including listening better, sharing power and drawing on the passions and expertise of local people, and putting people at the heart of what the Council does.
- 6.3. 12 workshops were organised across two weeks, alongside a residents' survey and four public drop-in sessions. The exercise was designed and carried out at speed, to allow the Council to start shaping an action plan for Wood Green in early 2023, with the engagement process seen as the first phase in an ongoing process of listening to, and working with, local people in shaping the future of Wood Green. Four main stakeholder groups were targeted: Haringey

representatives, Young people, Communities of Interest, and General Stakeholders.

- 6.4. The exercise resulted in 140 people attending workshops, 50 participants in public drop-ins, 166 survey completions online and by hand, for a total of 350+ people engaged to date. The programme succeeded in engaging many new community groups, as well as less vocal residents' associations and faith groups. There was a particularly successful engagement with young people, with 70+ young people of a variety of ages participating. Follow-up face-to-face meetings are being held with known gaps in engagement, including the Alevi Centre and representatives from the Greek and Somali communities.
- 6.5. The results of the engagement are being collated into an action plan, with priorities determined by community and stakeholder feedback. This has been wide-ranging and spans the breadth of activity that Placemaking activities seek to address, and beyond. It will require a broad response across multiple Council departments.
- 6.6. Findings from Wood Green Voices are due to be taken to a strategic Cabinet session on 31st January, followed by a public feedback session in March, and finally a Cabinet decision in the Spring.

North Tottenham and South Tottenham

- 6.7. For North Tottenham and South Tottenham, a new Placemaking approach also means broad-based community engagement, tailored to each area respectively. This includes working closely with community design groups and community champions, and with key community partners as well as specific Placemaking-focussed community engagement exercises.
- 6.8. There has been continual community engagement, across various programmes and projects and through various routes, for some time in **North Tottenham**. Since a new approach to placemaking has been developed, officers have worked with lead members and ward members for North Tottenham wards (Northumberland Park; Bruce Castle) to provide feedback from previous engagement exercises, for example North Tottenham Community Voices, to define the strengths and weaknesses of North Tottenham as a place and build a vision for North Tottenham. This will need to link to the emerging Homes and Spaces Plan for Northumberland Park, and with the delivery of the High Road West masterplan.
- 6.9. For **South Tottenham**, officers are working with the lead member and ward members for the Tottenham Hale, Seven Sisters and Bruce Grove areas respectively. The three areas have been defined and mapped, and a more targeted approach is being taken for these three character areas, given the different work underway in each area. In Tottenham Hale there is extensive engagement through the Down Lane Park Community Design Group, informing improvements to the park and a wider, emerging Tottenham Hale Placemaking Approach. Engagement has taken place through the Your Bruce Grove project and through Liveable Seven Sisters. Following work to define the vision and engagement approach for each area, a broad, strategic engagement exercise, or a series of engagement exercises, will also be carried out for South

Tottenham, informed by the approach taken in Wood Green and North Tottenham.

7. Place-based approach to the emerging New Local Plan

- 7.1. The Local Plan is the Council's main planning document and provides a framework for managing development and change in the borough. Our existing Local Plan was adopted in 2017 and since that time a number of significant things have happened. These include changes to national policy and legislation, the adoption of a new London Plan, the COVID-19 pandemic, the Council's declaration of a climate emergency and the revision of the Council's strategic aspirations for Haringey. In this context, a new Local Plan is required to provide a robust and fit-for-purpose planning framework for the borough which is as effective as possible in achieving Haringey's priorities and addressing the issues we face.
- 7.2. In 2020 we carried out a First Steps Engagement on the New Local Plan to enable residents, businesses and other stakeholders to shape the Plan from the very beginning. The First Steps Engagement noted that the borough comprises a series of places, at a variety of scales, each with different issues, challenges, and opportunities and sought specific feedback on each of these (see Section 4 of the First Steps Engagement document¹ entitled "Our Neighbourhoods" or the related webpage on the accompanying Commonplace digital engagement platform²). It was evident from the responses to the First Steps Engagement that a nuanced, and locally-specific approach must be taken within the New Local Plan which:
- empowers residents and stakeholders to shape places that enable everyone to reach their potential;
 - meets diverse needs and ambitions to deliver a fairer, healthier, greener Haringey; and
 - enhances and celebrates our unique environments, histories, cultures, and identities.
- 7.3. Having regard to this, the New Local Plan is being developed with placemaking at its heart. A series of placemaking objectives and priorities are being developed for Haringey which will provide a clear direction of the type of borough and kinds of places which the Council wants to help create. The New Local Plan will also break the borough down into a series of neighbourhoods (circa 10 to 12). For each of these it will set out a place-specific vision and objectives and identify clearly how new development and buildings can help contribute to this. This will be underpinned by a new policy on delivering placemaking which will ensure that all development proposals are located, designed, constructed, and operated in a manner consistent with the Council's placemaking objectives, priorities, and approach.
- 7.4. A Draft Local Plan is currently under preparation and is expected to be consulted upon in Spring 2023 subject to approval of Strategic Planning

¹ https://www.haringey.gov.uk/sites/haringeygovuk/files/1._new_local_plan_first_steps_-_final_website.pdf

² <https://haringeynewlocalplan.commonplace.is/proposals/our-neighbourhoods>

Committee and Cabinet. The consultation will be carried out in accordance with a detailed Communications and Engagements Plan in turn informed by the Haringey Deal.

8. Use of Appendices

N/A

9. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

N/A