

Report for: Strategic Planning Committee 24 February 2025

Title: Haringey Local Development Scheme

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

Lead Officer: Bryce Tudball, Head of Spatial Planning

Ward(s) affected: All

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

1. Describe the issue under consideration

- 1.1 The Council is required by law to prepare and maintain a Local Development Scheme (LDS). The LDS is a public document which identifies the documents that will comprise the Council's Local Plan and the timetable for the preparation and revision of such documents. The Local Plan is the Council's main planning document used to decide applications for planning permission for new buildings and development, and is also a spatial expression of the borough's Vision. The Local Plan is subject to a legal requirement to regularly review it and keep it up-to-date.
- 1.2 This report proposes a revised LDS to replace the current outdated LDS published in November 2019. The updated LDS includes a detailed timetable for the production of the Council's new Local Plan which will replace the existing Haringey Local Plan adopted in 2017.
- 1.3 This report seeks Strategic Planning Committee's agreement to refer this report and the appended LDS to Cabinet with the recommendation to adopt the revised LDS.

2. Cabinet Member Introduction

- 2.1 The LDS is a document setting out a timetable for the preparation of a new Local Plan for the Borough. The Local Plan is the Council's main planning document and provides a framework for placemaking, as well as managing new buildings, development, and infrastructure in the borough.
- 2.2 Our existing Local Plan was adopted in 2017 since which time a number of significant changes 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, including a new Vision for the future of Haringey and the creation of Haringey Deal.

- 2.2 A new Local Plan is a key opportunity to help deliver the Council's Vision of what it wants for Haringey by 2035: a place where we can all belong and thrive. Furthermore, it is a key opportunity to deliver on the Haringey Deal—allowing local residents, businesses and organisations to shape development and change in Haringey's communities and neighbourhoods, and for us to hear the voices of those that are too often overlooked.
- 2.3 In this context, we need a new Local Plan 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. The LDS does not set out any draft or emerging policy content but is important to indicate to members, residents and businesses when the Council intends to prepare the new Local Plan and which documents will be comprised in the same.

3. Strategic Planning Committee is asked to:

- 3.1 Note the content of this report and the appended LDS
- 3.2 To agree to refer this report and the appended Local Development Scheme to Cabinet with the recommendation to adopt the Local Development Scheme.

4. Reasons for decision

- 4.1 Under Section 15 (1) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended), the Council has a statutory duty to maintain an up-to-date LDS. The revised LDS fulfils this duty, reflecting the current timetable for the preparation of the Council's new Local Plan.
- 4.2 In light of the changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) in December 2024, the Deputy Prime Minister has asked that all local planning authorities produce an updated LDS within 12 weeks of the publication of the NPPF (i.e. 6 March 2025).

5. Alternative options considered

- 5.1 The option of not updating the LDS has been considered but is dismissed, because Section 15 (1) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) requires local planning authorities to maintain their local development scheme and Section 19(1) of the Act that Local Plans be prepared in accordance with the LDS. This includes complying with the timetable contained in the LDS. If the project timetables for preparing the Local Plan and that in the LDS differ significantly, this is likely to lead to a finding of non-compliance with the statutory legal test at the independent examination of the Local Plan.

- 5.2 Therefore, the only valid option available is to revise the out-of-date timetable in the LDS to reflect the current timetable to satisfy the legal requirements of the Act.

6. Background information

- 6.1 The LDS is required to be published by law. The primary legislation, secondary legislation and national government guidance relating to LDSs comprises:
- The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) ('the Act');
 - The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended) ('the Regulations'); and
 - National Planning Practice Guidance on Plan-making¹.
- 6.2 The Council must prepare and maintain a LDS as required by Section 15(1) of the Act and paragraph 003 of the National Planning Practice Guidance on Plan Making.
- 6.3 The LDS is important because it keeps the public and other stakeholders informed of the Local Plan documents the Council is intending to prepare. Importantly, it also establishes the timetable for when the Local Plan will be prepared, highlighting key milestones such as the public consultation stages.
- 6.4 In light of the changes to the NPPF in December 2024, the Deputy Prime Minister has asked all local planning authorities to produce an updated LDS within 12 weeks of the publication of the NPPF (i.e. 6 March 2025).
- 6.5 The Council's current LDS was last revised and adopted in November 2019. It set out timescales for three development plan documents: New Local Plan (borough wide), Wood Green Area Action Plan, and North London Waste Plan.
- 6.6 **New Local Plan:** The Council has not met the original timetable envisaged to produce a New Local Plan. There are a variety of reasons for this but principally delays owe to resourcing levels within the Planning Policy Team and a long-term vacancy of the Planning Policy Team Manager role. The Planning Service Peer Challenge, which took place in October 2023 and was facilitated by the Local Government Association (LGA) Planning Advisory Service (PAS), made a number of recommendations to address progress on the New Local Plan which were subsequently agreed by Cabinet in March 2024 as part of an associated Action Plan. These were:

Recommendation 2: There should be a dedicated officer lead for the local plan. The unfilled position of Planning Policy Team Manager and the combined responsibilities of the Head of Planning Policy, Transport & Infrastructure is not giving enough priority to the production of the local plan. This must be seen as key going forward.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/plan-making>

Recommendation 4: A detailed and resourced programme for the production of the new local plan should be produced, with specific project management support, recognising the resources required, the timetable for delivery and confirming the proposed timescales are deliverable.

- 6.7 These recommendations have both been implemented and a Draft Local Plan containing a full set of draft policies and proposals is now at an advanced stage of preparation ready for consultation in Summer 2025, subject to Cabinet approval in June 2025. The Draft Local Plan builds upon the Council's First Steps Engagement delivered in late 2020/early 2021 which won regional and national awards in 2022 and was described by the Royal Town Planning Institute as "an example of an imaginative, innovative, inclusive industry leading approach to planning consultation".
- 6.8 **Wood Green Area Action Plan:** The Council has not progressed the Wood Green Area Action Plan to adoption. The principal reasons for this include focusing resources on the New Local Plan and the considerable uncertainty around Crossrail 2 due to a delay in the confirmation of the final Crossrail 2 route and the subsequent decision made during the pandemic as part of the Transport for London Funding Agreement to pause further work on the design and development of the scheme. Instead, the policies and proposals for Wood Green will be incorporated into the aforementioned New Local Plan which will cover the entire borough. This approach is consistent with the Government's preference for consolidated Local Plans.
- 6.9 **North London Waste Plan:** The North London Waste Plan was adopted in July 2022. This was slightly behind schedule due to a prolonged and complex examination of the plan. The North London Waste Plan is not due for review at the current time therefore the New Local Plan is the only development plan document currently under preparation.
- 6.10 The LDS at Appendix A, which has been prepared having regard to the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended), The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 as amended ('the Regulations') and National Planning Practice Guidance on Plan-making, sets out details of the Local Plan documents which the Council intends to prepare. At the current time, this is limited to the Council's New Local Plan. The New Local Plan will be a consolidated Local Plan covering the entire borough. The timetable in the LDS for preparing the Council's New Local Plan is as follows:

Preparation stage	Regulation	Date
New Local Plan First Steps Engagement consultation	Reg 18	November 2020-February 2021
Draft Local Plan consultation	Reg 18	July-September 2025
Proposed Submission Local Plan consultation	Reg 19	May-June 2026
Submission to the Planning Inspectorate & Examination	Reg 22-25	July-November 2026
Adoption	Reg 26	February 2027

6.11 There is no requirement to consult on an LDS.

7. Contribution to the Corporate Delivery Plan 2022-2024 High level Strategic outcomes

7.1 The completion of the Council's new Local Plan will support the delivery of both the Council's Borough Vision and key outcomes in the Corporate Delivery Plan 2024-2026. Not only will it enable the Council to better manage development in the Borough, but assist in the delivery of other corporate priorities around placemaking, economic development and housing delivery including:

- identifying sufficient land for Haringey's future housing and economic development needs;
- focusing new development to where it can be best managed;
- delivery high-quality design and placemaking
- securing inward investment through the development of key strategic sites;
- assisting with land assembly required to bring about comprehensive development that maximises the delivery of community benefits;
- securing and sustaining the vitality and viability of our District and Local Centres and designated employment areas; and
- enhancing the quality and capacity of social and physical infrastructure required to support growth and achieve more sustainable communities.

8. Carbon and Climate Change

8.1 The New Local Plan aims to deliver three overarching placemaking objectives, the third of which is: "a Sustainable and Resilient Place, with strong communities, a regenerating natural environment and on target to be net zero carbon by 2041". To help achieve this the plan will contain a substantially enhanced approach to reducing carbon and increasing sustainability. This approach will be embedded throughout the entire plan and will be supported by a new strategic policy requiring all development in the borough to achieve a Zero Carbon balance. To deliver this, proposals must minimise embodied carbon emissions in accordance with a new Embodied Carbon Hierarchy, minimise waste by applying new Circular Economy Principles, and achieve net zero operational carbon by following a new Operational Carbon Hierarchy.

9. Statutory Officers comments

Finance and Procurement

- 9.1 The preparation and publication of the LDS 2025 is a statutory requirement. This process will be managed within the existing Policy, Conservation & Design Team staff budgets and does not require additional funding.

Procurement

- 9.2 There are no implications arising directly from this report.

Legal

- 9.3 This report is seeking approval of the updated LDS as required under section 15 (1) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) for the reason explained in section 6 of this report, which if approved must be published on the Council's website together with a copy of the amendments made and information regarding the Council's compliance with the timetable in the same.
- 9.4 LDSs must specify the following information which it is confirmed the updated LDS does in section 6.10 of this report:
- the local development documents which are to be development plan documents;
 - the subject matter and geographical area to which each development plan document is to relate;
 - which development plan documents (if any) are to be prepared jointly with one or more other local planning authorities;
 - any matter or area in respect of which the authority have agreed (or propose to agree) to the constitution of a joint committee under section 29;
 - the timetable for the preparation and revision of the development plan documents; and
 - such other matters as are prescribed.
- 9.5 Directions may be given by the Secretary of State and/or the Mayor of London regarding the geographical coverage or subject matter of a LDS, which the Council must comply where given.
- 9.6 The National Planning Practice Guidance on Plan-making has been considered by officers when updating the LDS as explained in section 6.10 of this report.
- 9.7 The Council must resolve that the updated LDS is to have effect and specify the date from which it is to have effect, which is an executive decision that can be exercised by the Cabinet in accordance with the Council's Constitution.

Equality

- 9.8 The Council has a Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act (2010) to have due regard to the need to:
- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act
 - Advance equality of opportunity between people who share those protected characteristics and people who do not
 - Foster good relations between people who share those characteristics and people who do not.
- 9.9 The three parts of the duty applies to the following protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy/maternity, race, religion/faith, sex and sexual orientation. Marriage and civil partnership status applies to the first part of the duty.
- 9.10 Although it is not enforced in legislation as a protected characteristic, Haringey Council treats socioeconomic status as a local protected characteristic.
- 9.11 The LDS will have a positive impact on those groups with protected characteristics by transparently outlining the Council's timetable for producing the New Local Plan to engage a wide variety of people. Detailed equality impact assessment will be carried out during the New Local Plan preparation process.

10. Use of Appendices

Appendix A: Revised Local Development Scheme March 2025

11. Background Papers

Background documents:

Current Local Development Scheme (adopted November 2019)

[Haringey Local Development Scheme 12 November 2019](#)