



Policy and Resources Committee

6 January 2020

Title	Barnet's Local Plan – Preferred Approach (Reg 18 stage)
Report of	Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee
Wards	All
Status	Public
Urgent	No
Key	Yes
Enclosures	Appendix A - Barnet's Local Plan – Preferred Approach (Reg 18 stage) Appendix B - Barnet's Local Plan – Equalities Impact Assessment (Reg 18 stage)
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Summary

Setting out a planning policy framework which the Council will use to make decisions about how Barnet will change as a place over the next 15 years, the Local Plan is one of the most important statutory documents that must be produced for the Borough.

This document sets out the Council's preferred policy approach and represents the first formal stage (Reg 18) in replacing the Local Plan Core Strategy and Development Management Policies documents adopted in 2012. This formal statutory process will involve at least two periods of public consultation and an examination by an Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State. This process is expected to take at least two years with adoption of the new Local Plan not expected until late 2021.

Officers Recommendations

- 1. That the Committee considers the contents of the Local Plan – Preferred Approach (Reg 18) attached at Appendix A.**
- 2. That the Committee having considered the contents approves the Preferred Approach Local Plan (Reg 18) as the basis for public consultation. Following revisions and updates in response to the public consultation the Local Plan will then return to Committee for approval of the next formal stage (Reg 19).**
- 3. That the Committee delegates authority to the Deputy Chief Executive to make any necessary changes of a minor nature to the Local Plan – Preferred Approach in consultation with the Leader prior to public consultation.**

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 The Local Plan shapes the future of Barnet as a place, looking ahead to 2036, providing the overarching local policy framework for delivering sustainable development. It is a strategic document that acts as the spatial expression of corporate strategies. This consultation draft (Reg 18) consists of 51 policies and 67 site proposals, will eventually replace the Core Strategy and Development Management Policies documents adopted in 2012. Adoption of the new Local Plan is not expected until late 2021.
- 1.2 The Local Plan is supported by an extensive evidence base. This is available on the Local Plan webpages. Additional evidence on the viability of the Local Plan and a new Infrastructure Delivery Plan will be published to support the Reg 19 version which, together with representations received at that stage, will be submitted for examination. Additional evidence requirements and the need to update existing evidence may be highlighted as part of the public consultation.
- 1.3 Engagement with Members has been ongoing since Autumn 2017 when a series of Local Plan Visioning Workshops took place. The cross-party Local Plan Members Advisory Group serves as a sounding board for feeding general and specific, locally-based opinions and views from residents' forums, into the preparation of the Local Plan. The Group has met nine times to discuss evidence, policies and site proposals. In November the Group signed off the Reg 18 version as the basis for consultation.
- 1.4 The main challenge faced by the Local Plan is a need to deliver an increased housing target of 46,000 additional homes over the plan period in response to anticipated population growth. Debate and uncertainty about housing targets has become more prominent in recent years. This has contributed to Barnet's Local Plan being delayed.
- 1.5 In February 2019 the Government (MHCLG) released new housing requirement figures. The Standardised Housing Assessment set Barnet a target of 4,164 new homes per annum (2nd highest in England) representing a 32% increase on the proposed Local Plan 15 year housing target (2021 to 2036), going up from 47,000 new homes (in accordance with the Draft London Plan) to planning for 62,000 new homes. To deliver the MHCLG figure Local Plan policies and proposals would be expected to support greater increases to housing densities.

- 1.6 In October 2019 the Panel Report into the Draft London Plan was published and recommended a reduction in the overall London housing target. For Barnet this would entail a reduction to 35,500 new homes (2,364 per annum) over the Local Plan period. The Mayor has accepted this reduction. However as the Secretary of State is able to intervene there is uncertainty about the final housing target included in the replacement London Plan when it is published.
- 1.7 In response to this uncertainty it is proposed that the Local Plan sets a housing target that reflects the Local Plan evidence base, in particular the 2018 Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA). The SHMA sets Barnet's Objectively Assessed Need at 3,060 new homes per annum, which equates to delivering a minimum of 46,000 new homes over 15 years, therefore close to the target in the Draft London Plan. In addition, the Council has written to the Chief Executives of all neighbouring London boroughs and authorities in Hertfordshire to ask if they are able to assist Barnet in delivering the challenging MHCLG target of 62,000 new homes over 15 years.
- 1.8 The Growth and Spatial Strategy section of the Reg 18 sets out how this housing growth will be distributed across regeneration areas in Brent Cross and Colindale together with growth areas in Barnet's town centres, around transport nodes and along major thoroughfares. Table 1 sets out the components of housing growth.

Table 1 - Housing Delivery 2021 to 2036

Growth Areas	21,300
District Town centres	6,100
Existing & New Major Transport Infrastructure	3,450
Estate renewal & infill	4,000
Major Thoroughfares	4,900
Other large sites	1,150
Small Sites	5,100
Total	46,000

- 1.9 The 51 policies in the new Local Plan will replace the 34 policies set out in the two documents – Core Strategy and Development Management Policies that were adopted as Barnet's Local Plan in 2012. In summary:
- Barnet's **Vision and Objectives** sets the scene for benefits of well planned growth between 2021 and 2036. Barnet's Spatial Strategy for growth is set out; it highlights that by focusing on sustainable locations the impacts of development on the climate will be better managed.
 - The **Growth and Spatial Strategy** Chapter sets out in a suite of 13 new strategic policies where Sustainable Growth will be focused. This policy framework further shapes the regeneration of **Brent Cross** and **Colindale**, as well as identifying new areas of significant growth in main town centres at **Cricklewood** and **Edgware** and around new (as at **Brent Cross West**) and existing public transport nodes. Policies for these Growth Areas set hooks for more detailed area planning frameworks to come forward.

- The Local Plan's approach to **Brent Cross** is reflective of a large and complex scheme that will take over 20 years to deliver and will need to deal with changes in economic and market conditions in particular retail trends. The existing outline consent from 2010 needs to be supplemented through further planning applications in response to market and national policy shifts. Therefore, the Council's approach is to create a policy framework for the Brent Cross Growth Area capable of responding to change in the long-term. Progress on Brent Cross will be measured against appropriate milestones in the Local Plan. At the next stage (Reg 19) the Local Plan will set out where a review of GSS02 or introduction of a new planning framework may be necessary to further the comprehensive redevelopment of Brent Cross.
- **Mill Hill East**, in particular Millbrook Park, is an example of good suburban growth which the Council promotes with new Local Plan proposals at Mill Hill East Station, Watchtower House and IBSA House.
- In addition to Cricklewood and Edgware Main **Town Centres** at Burnt Oak, Chipping Barnet, Finchley Central / Church End, Golders Green and North Finchley form the Council's priorities for investment and revitalisation, supporting local businesses and delivering mixed use development in accordance with the place making policies of the Local Plan. To pursue objectives for individual town centres the Council will utilise more detailed area frameworks similar to the 2018 Supplementary Planning Document at North Finchley.
- Policy on **Major Transport Infrastructure** highlights the opportunity to deliver a density and quantum of residential units which optimise the potential of locations around West London Orbital stations (services not expected until 2026, at the earliest) and New Southgate station (Crossrail 2 not expected until 2033 at the earliest). Subject to progress on these major transport infrastructure projects, more detailed area frameworks will come forward to support comprehensive development. Redevelopment of station sites at East Finchley, Edgware, Finchley Central, High Barnet, Mill Hill East and Woodside Park are highlighted in the Schedule of Proposals. Re-provision of car parking spaces is supported through a more land efficient design approach.
- The Local Plan sets out an approach to **Estate Renewal and Infill** that is consistent with the Draft London Plan and the Mayor's Good Practice Guide to Estate Regeneration.
- Policy on **Major Thoroughfares** is a response to unmanaged growth along main road corridors such as the A5, A1000, A504 and an opportunity to promote design solutions to mitigate noise and air pollution. The Local Plan identifies the A5 and A1000 as new strategic locations that may be appropriate for tall buildings in certain places. The Council will produce SPD on Building Heights which will set out, within such locations, the parameters for tall and very tall buildings. Policy on **Car Parks** sets out a position on how surface level car parking can be more efficiently utilised while continuing to provide a car parking function.
- The Chapter on **Housing** sets out how the Local Plan will respond to a changing population, building new homes to widen choice and ensure access to affordable, good quality housing as well as protecting existing stock. The Council's approach to securing **Affordable Housing** and seeking a minimum level of 35 per cent delivery is set within the context of the Draft London Plan. Priorities for ensuring an appropriate **Housing Mix** emphasise that in delivering against priorities for 2 bed and 3 bed

homes that the smallest 2 bedroom property provides a minimum of 4 bed spaces in accordance with London Plan residential space standards. In terms of protecting family homes a new bespoke policy on **Residential Conversions** has been introduced which restricts conversions to areas around town centres or areas with good public transport accessibility. In terms of **Specialist Housing** the Local Plan highlights support for helping people with social care and health support needs to live independently as well as providing tenure choice. This policy also sets out a response to the increased pressures of student accommodation and large-scale purpose built shared accommodation as well as Houses in Multiple Occupation. To reduce demands on pressures for new build, policy on ensuring the **Efficient Use of the Housing Stock** has been strengthened to resist loss of existing homes and set out how the impact of short term holiday lets is to be managed. New policy on **Meeting Other Housing Needs** sets out the Council's policy as part of the approach to widening choice in terms of Build to Rent and Self-Build housing. A new bespoke policy on **Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople** highlights that there is no identified need for plots and pitches within Barnet and sets out how any proposals will be considered.

- **Character, Design and Heritage** sets parameters for managing change ensuring positive benefits of growth and that Barnet does not lose the qualities that attract people to live, work and visit the Borough. The Council's main design requirements for development are set out in **Promoting High Quality Design and Sustainable and Inclusive Design, Amenity Space and Landscaping**. Minimum requirements for residential space, internal layout and design as well as outdoor amenity space are clearly set out. New bespoke policy on **Public Realm** emphasises the importance of development contributing to sense of place, community cohesiveness, health and wellbeing. In order to manage and respond to pressures for very tall buildings (over 14 storeys) the **Tall Buildings** policy has been revised to clearly set out those strategic locations where such height may be appropriate. A new Supplementary Planning Document on Building Heights will set out the parameters for tall and very tall buildings. New bespoke policies on **Extensions** and **Basements** have been introduced to guide proposals that exceed permitted development rights. Policy on **Barnet's Heritage** has been revised to ensure consistency with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) with regard to designated and non-designated heritage assets. A new policy on **Advertisements** has been introduced to better manage their impact on character and residential amenity.
- Chapter on **Town Centres** sets out how these locations will remain the focus for inward investment, vitality and viability despite retail change. The **Vibrant Town Centres** policy sets out the role that these locations play in delivering growth and improving their overall offer. Policy sets out evidence based expectations for growth in comparison retail and food and drink establishments but not new or expanded supermarkets. Policy emphasises the importance of protecting local parades of shops to ensure services are available for less mobile residents. In order to provide more flexibility for uses and inject investment and activity into town centres the Local Plan has removed secondary shopping frontages. The associations with excessive noise, odours, traffic and anti-social behaviour makes the clustering of uses such as hot food takeaways, shisha bars, betting shops and money lenders a problem across the Borough. Having greater control over the location and numbers of such uses will have positive benefits for health and wellbeing. Similarly, new policy on the **Night Time Economy** enables the Local Plan to ensure that this growing sector is successful and contributes to safer and more welcoming town centres for visitors as well as residents.

- **Community Uses, Health and Wellbeing** sets out how Local Plan can help deliver new social infrastructure in more accessible locations while promoting healthier lives for residents. Within policy on **Community Infrastructure** there is a greater focus on town centre locations for multi-purpose community hubs. Robust justification is required for other locations. Promoting health and wellbeing is a consistent theme across the Local Plan and Policy CHW02 signposts a range of policies which contribute to positive benefits for Barnet's residents, workers and visitors. In **Making Barnet a Safer Place** the Local Plan sets out the measures that the planning system can take to improve community safety. **Public Houses** also contribute to community wellbeing. In response to the loss of such assets the Local Plan seeks to better protect them from loss.
- **Economy** sets out how enterprises will be supported and access to employment opportunities secured. A more robust position on protecting employment space in particular for offices, as well as promoting new job opportunities is set out in **A Vibrant Local Economy**. A new bespoke policy on **Affordable Workspace** will ensure that new employment development will contribute to floorspace in a variety of formats to support start-ups and SMEs. Requirements on S106 contributions from major development are more clearly expressed in the **Local Jobs, Skills and Training** policy.
- **Environment and Climate Change** sets out how the Council is seeking to mitigate climate change and improve access to, as well as to the quality of, parks and open spaces. Requirements for reducing carbon emissions from new development are clarified in policy on **Mitigating Climate Change** while requirements on air and noise quality as well as water efficiency, flood risk and sustainable urban drainage systems are set out in **Environmental Considerations**. The **Dealing with Waste** policy provides linkage with the North London Waste Plan and sets out proposal for utilising additional capacity at an existing waste management facility at Scratchwood Quarry. Policy on **Barnet's Parks and Open Spaces** emphasises improving the quality of spaces of low quality and low amenity as identified in the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy. Barnet's **Green Belt and Metropolitan Open Land** policy continues the robust protection of this land in accordance with NPPF and the London Plan. Policy on **Biodiversity** sets out Local Plan requirements from development that has an impact on biodiversity and habitat quality.
- The Chapter on **Transport and Communications** sets out how the Local Plan is seeking to improve connectivity in terms of sustainable and active travel as well as digital communication. Policy on **Sustainable and Active Travel** supports an improved transport network where dependency on the car is much reduced and advocates application of the Healthy Streets Approach in making non car travel more of an attractive option. The **Transport Infrastructure** policy sets out Local Plan expectations for new or improved stations as well as West London Orbital and Crossrail 2 at New Southgate. A robust justification for setting non London Plan compliant residential parking standards that better reflect local public transport accessibility in the context of Outer London is set out in the **Parking Management** policy. Zero car parking may be appropriate in areas with high Public Transport Accessibility Levels. Policy on **Digital Communication and Connectivity** emphasises the Council's aim to facilitate high speed broadband and clarifies requirements on the installation of telecommunications equipment.

- **Delivering the Local Plan** explains mechanisms for ensuring the infrastructure to support growth is secured. The Council is reviewing its CIL charging schedule in 2020 and will conduct a further review following adoption of the new Local Plan.
- The **Schedule of Proposals** sets out 67 Local Plan policy compliant site proposals from across Barnet. These proposals all contribute to the delivery of the Local Plan's strategy and spatial vision.
 - Proposals have come forward from a number of sources including existing planning documents such as the North Finchley SPD and various Town Centre Frameworks. Inclusion in the Local Plan of these sites which have already gone through a process of public consultation elevates their planning status.
 - Another source has been the Call for Sites information gathering exercise. The Council has conducted 4 rounds of Call for Sites since 2009.
 - Sites have come forward as proposals following a robust assessment process ensuring that constraints such as flood risk or location in a conservation area are factored into what is set out in the Local Plan.
 - As the Local Plan progresses a number of sites will obtain planning consent. It is most likely that as a consequence of such consent they will be deleted as site proposals in the emerging Local Plan.
 - Indicative residential capacity on the basis of the existing London Plan Sustainable Residential Quality Density Matrix is set out for all proposals apart from Scratchwood Quarry which has potential for additional waste management capacity. Indicative capacities range from 2,400 new homes at Edgware Town Centre to 7 new homes at Manor Road Car Park in Golders Green.
 - The Local Plan sets out a Summary Table of Sites at Section 14.4

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Failure to progress a review of the Local Plan will delay the delivery of sustainable development and infrastructure, while reducing the Council's power to protect and enhance the Borough through planning decision making. The Council and Barnet residents and businesses will have less of a say on the future of the Borough as important planning decisions are made by the Mayor of London and the Planning Inspectorate in an incremental fashion.
- 2.2 The absence of an up to date Local Plan and any unwillingness to replace it will reduce opportunities for private inward investment as well as funding support from the Government and Mayor of London, such as the Planning Delivery Fund and Housebuilding Capacity Fund which the Borough has previously benefitted from.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

- 3.1 This document represents the Council's preferred approach; for each individual policy the Council's preferred policy approach is set out. Where there are realistic alternatives these are also set out with justification for the preferred approach, or reasons why it is considered that there are no realistic alternatives. The Council is inviting comments on whether other reasonable alternatives exist as well as the intended preferred policy option. For the next draft, the Reg 19 proposed submission plan, the alternative options will be removed.

4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

- 4.1 Following approval of the Reg 18 document the Local Plan will be subject to a six week period of public consultation. The next stages are set out below

- Reg 19: Publication of Local Plan and Consultation – Autumn 2020
- Reg 22: Submission – Winter 2020/21
- Reg 24: Examination in Public – Summer 2021
- Reg 26: Adoption – Winter 2021.

5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

- 5.1.1 The Local Plan is the statutory spatial expression of corporate strategies including the Corporate Plan, Growth Strategy, Housing Strategy, Long Term Transport Strategy and Health and Wellbeing Strategy. It will deliver against the three main outcomes and their underlying priorities as follows

- A pleasant, well maintained borough that we protect and invest in -
 - In keeping Barnet clean the Local Plan addresses environmental problems that arise from the clustering of uses such as hot food takeaways, shisha bars and betting shops;
 - In keeping the Borough moving the Local Plan utilises Healthy Streets Indicators such as good street lighting to help promote walking, cycling and use of public transport;
 - Policies in the Housing and Character, Design and Heritage Chapters seek to ensure access to decent quality affordable housing;
 - Chapter on Delivering the Local Plan sets out mechanisms for securing funding from growth to invest in social infrastructure to support a growing population. The emerging Infrastructure Delivery Plan will set out the needs, gaps and deficits in provision, along with the costs of providing the infrastructure; and
 - The Local Plan approach to delivering sustainable growth demonstrates responsible delivery of Barnet's major regeneration schemes to create better places to live and work, whilst protecting and enhancing the Borough, in particular it's suburban qualities.
- Our residents live happy, healthy, independent lives with the most vulnerable protected -
 - In ensuring the needs of children are considered the Local Plan seeks to tackle childhood obesity by not allowing any new hot food takeaways within 400 metres

of a school or youth centre. It also seeks to deliver new high quality homes that meet space standards as well as ensuring delivery of highlighting requirements for children's play facilities arising from growth;

- Policies on Housing support accommodation for vulnerable people helping them to live independent lives;
 - Policy on promoting health and wellbeing cross-refers to a range of policies supporting healthier lifestyles including Sustainable and Active Travel as well as protecting public houses in recognition of their contribution to community cohesiveness;
 - Specific policy on Local Jobs, Skills and Training sets out how the Local Plan will help people access the employment opportunities generated by growth; and
 - The Infrastructure Delivery Plan which supports the Local Plan together with contributions from development through S106 and Community Infrastructure Levy helps to ensure the Council has good schools and enough school places so all children have access to a great education.
- Safe and strong communities where people get along well -
 - The Local Plan has specific policy on Making Barnet a Safer Place. The use of Designing out Crime is highlighted throughout the Local Plan and reference is made to the Secured Resilient Design Tool for places where crowds may congregate.
 - Creating a sense of place that encourages social interaction and physical activity is an aim of the new policy on Public Realm. Making public realm more accessible and welcoming can help, as a consequence of development, create or improve public space that can serve as a venue for celebrating Barnet's diversity and tackle anti-social behaviour and environmental crime. As can the policy on Managing Clustering of Town Centre Uses such as hot food takeaways, betting shops, payday loan shops and shisha bars.
 - Ensuring we are a family friendly borough is reflected throughout the Local Plan in particular policies on Mitigating Climate Change, Housing Mix and Barnet's Parks and Open Spaces as well as Sustainable and Active Travel.
 - Policies on A Vibrant Local Economy and Affordable Workspace help to safeguard existing employment floorspace and secure new affordable floorspace from development. Utilising vacant space in town centres for meanwhile uses is supported when it contributes to vitality and viability.

5.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

5.2.1 The cost of producing the Local Plan is included in the Re contract. The Local Plan is supported by an extensive evidence base, the requirements of which are subject to change. The Council agreed to fund additional evidence requirements that were not specified in the original Re contract. This includes the Green Belt and Metropolitan Open Land Study (£62k) and the Residential Conversions Study (£21k). Further additional evidence requirements and the need to update existing evidence may be highlighted as part of the Reg 18 public consultation.

5.2.2 The cost of consulting on the Local Plan is met by Re. The Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) adopted by the Council in October 2018 sets out consultation

requirements for Local Plans. The Local Plan Consultation Strategy reflects the SCI. The cost of any additions to these requirements will be met by the Council.

5.2.3 The Local Plan promotes a number of sites that have been put forward through the Council Assets Disposal Programme. These sites have predominantly provided community uses. Through the Local Plan the Council can ensure that any future redevelopment is policy compliant and benefits from community engagement prior to any future planning application.

5.3 **Social Value**

5.3.1 The Local Plan will secure a range of social, economic and environmental benefits. These are set out within the body of this Report and detailed within the Sustainability Appraisal of the Reg 18 document.

5.4 **Legal and Constitutional References**

5.4.1 The Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, in particular Regulation 18 and 19 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012, provides guidance on the preparation and adoption of Local Plan documents. Upon adoption the Local Plan becomes a statutory Development Plan Document that forms part of Barnet's formal planning policy framework.

5.4.2 Under the Council's Constitution, Article 7 - Item 7.5 (Responsibility for Functions) sets out that the Policy and Resources Committee is responsible for the overall strategic direction of the Council including responsibility for Local Plans (except for matters reserved to Full Council). The Constitution, Article 4 (The Full Council) requires Full Council for approving the submission and adoption of Development Plan Documents comprising the Local Plan.

5.5 **Risk Management**

5.5.1 The Local Plan process faces a number of risks and these are managed by the Council's Strategic Planning Operations Board which meets monthly. The major identified risks are:

- the Local Plan being found unsound by a Planning Inspector. This can be mitigated by use of Planning Advisory Service (PAS) Local Plan Route Mapper & Toolkit for use when undertaking a review and update of local plan policies which includes guidance and checklists for ensuring soundness, legal compliance and a robust evidence base supporting the Local Plan;
- another major soundness risk is on the failure to comply with MHCLG housing requirements and demonstrate exceptional circumstances. It is considered that such national requirements will become clearer in 2020 following the publication of the new London Plan. The Local Plan housing target is only slightly lower than the number that was in the Draft London Plan and which the independent Inspector Panel considered to be too high;
- a failure to meet the legal requirements of duty to cooperate with neighbouring authorities and statutory agencies such as Historic England and the Environment Agency is another major risk. Through early and ongoing engagement including working with the West London Alliance this can be mitigated. As evidence that engagement is underway the

Council has produced a Duty to Co-operate Statement;

- another significant risk is that the GLA consider the Local Plan not to be in general conformity with the new London Plan. The Local Plan has been produced to reflect the draft London Plan and the Council will ensure ongoing engagement with the GLA's London Plan team;
- a lack of political and local support for the Local Plan can be addressed through the cross-party Members Advisory Group who act as a sounding board for issues that the Local Plan should address.

5.6 Equalities and Diversity

5.6.1 The Equalities and Diversity Act, 2010 outlines the provisions of the Public Sector Equalities Duty which requires Public Bodies to have due regard to the need to:-

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act, 2010;
- Advance equality of opportunity between people of different groups; and
- Foster good relations between people from different groups.

5.6.2 Relevant protected characteristics are: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation.

5.6.3 The Local Plan, once adopted, has the potential to impact on all of those who live, work and visit the Borough. An Equalities Impact Assessment (EQIA) (see Appendix B) has been undertaken as part of an Integrated Impact Assessment of the Local Plan. Policies contained within the Reg 18 document could potentially have significant effects on those individuals who share one or more of the nine protected characteristics identified under the Equalities Act 2010, particularly those which relates to housing, transport, employment, environment and inclusive design.

5.6.4 The EqIA identified that many of the policies would have a positive effect across equalities groups particularly those which relate to housing (e.g. the provision of affordable housing and specialist housing), high quality design (e.g. emphasis on inclusive design will be beneficial to disabled people), the promotion of employment and training opportunities to help reduce poverty and improvements within the built environment to make it more inclusive. However, the EqIA did note that there is potential for conflict in protecting heritage assets and making alterations to improve disabled access, e.g. ramps / lifts may not be considered appropriate in some listed buildings. Where significant effects are identified, appropriate mitigation strategies need to be put in place to avoid or reduce impacts.

5.7 Corporate Parenting

5.7.1 N/A

5.8 Consultation and Engagement

5.8.1 Early engagement on the Local Plan commenced in late 2017 with a series of workshops

with community representatives, Councillors and Chief Officers. This helped create the vision and objectives for the Local Plan.

5.8.2 The Reg 18 Local Plan document will undergo public consultation in early 2020 for a period of 6 weeks. Consultation will be carried out in accordance with the 2018 Statement of Community Involvement. A Reg 18 Consultation Strategy sets out more detail on engagement activities, including working with boroughwide groups under the protected characteristics of the Equalities Act as well as targeted events focused on locations where the Local Plan is proposing development.

5.8.3 To help better explain the Regulation 18 document a Glossary and Acronym Buster will be added to the Local Plan prior to the launch of public consultation. The Council will also provide a summary version of the 51 policies in the Local Plan.

5.9 **Insight**

5.9.1 N/A

6. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

6.1 Local Plan Integrated Impact Assessment – Sustainability Appraisal, Equalities Impact Assessment and Health Impact Assessment

6.2 Local Plan Consultation Strategy

6.3 Changes to the Local Plan Policies Map

6.4 Local Plan Site Proposals Background Paper

6.5 Local Plan Duty to Cooperate Statement