

MAYOR AND CABINET		
Report Title:	Local Plan – Response To Referral From Sustainable Development Select Committee	
Key decision:	No	Item No:
Ward:	All	
Contributors:	Executive Director for Resources & Regeneration (David Syme – Strategic Planning Manager)	
Class:	Part 1	Date: 12 December 2018

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report responds to the referral from Sustainable Development Select Committee (SDSC) to Mayor and Cabinet in October, regarding the new Local Plan.

2. PURPOSE

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to respond to the SD SC referral.

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 The Mayor and Cabinet are asked to note the report and officers response in Section 5 and agree that it be submitted to the Sustainable Development Select Committee.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1. The Local Plan is the main development plan document for LB Lewisham, setting out a vision and strategy for future development of the borough, addressing the needs and opportunities in relation to housing, the economy, community facilities and infrastructure, as well as providing detailed policies for managing growth and change, safeguarding the environment, meeting the challenge of climate change, securing good design in developments, and identifying specific proposals for the use of land in the borough.

- 4.2. The Local Plan also has an important role in translating any corporate strategy into a spatial vision for the borough, along with guidance to assist in delivering that vision.

Reasons for a new Local Plan

- 4.3. The council has a statutory duty to review its Local Plan every 5 years. Work is therefore underway to progress preparation of a new Plan for the borough, informed by a review of the current suite of adopted Local Plan documents. This will ensure the council continues to maintain an up-to-date and robust

framework for managing new development and coordinating investment across Lewisham.

- 4.4. The current Local Plan has helped the council to secure and deliver significant investment in homes, jobs and infrastructure. Most of the key strategic sites identified by the Plan for development now have planning permission or have started/completed build out. A new overarching strategy is therefore required to ensure that current and future local needs, such as for housing and business floorspace, can be accommodated in appropriate locations. For sustainable community development it is vital that such needs are met in a coordinated rather than piecemeal manner.
- 4.5. Furthermore, the Local Plan is required to be in line with national and regional planning policy. Crucially, there have been significant changes in this higher level policy landscape since the Plan was adopted. The new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and its associated guidance were published in July 2018. Together these help give effect to the Government's proposals set out in the Housing White Paper ("Fixing our broken housing market"). In addition, the current London Plan, which came into force in March 2016, is now proposed to be replaced. The draft new London Plan was published in December 2017 and is due to go to examination imminently, with its adoption scheduled for summer 2019. Lewisham's strategic housing target will significantly increase in the light of these higher level policies.
- 4.6. The new Local Plan provides a timely opportunity to reconsider the borough's overall development strategy in light of the aforementioned issues and policy changes, particularly in a manner that confidently aligns with the latest corporate strategy and key priorities across the council.

5. SDSC REFERRAL

- 5.1 At its meeting on 12th September 2018, the Sustainable Development Select Committee considered an officer report on the development of the local plan.
- 5.2 The Committee resolved to advise Mayor and Cabinet of the following:
 1. The Committee recommends that Mayor and Cabinet ensures that all options be explored for the consultation on the new Local Plan. The Committee acknowledges that the plan has to be technically sound and legally robust. However, it asks that options be considered for the production of a simplified version of the plan for consultation with as broad a group of residents and stakeholders as possible. The Committee recognises that the Planning Department may need support from other Council teams to achieve this aim.
 2. The Committee recommends that options be considered for the engagement of all councillors in the production of the new plan, the Committee believes that specific focus should be placed on the role of ward councillors in engaging local groups and in identifying local opportunities and challenges.

3. The Committee recommends that the new plan be used to promote the inclusion of infrastructure for renewable energy production in new developments.
4. The Committee believes that further consideration should be given to how best areas of public realm (that are delivered as part of new developments) can be maintained in the long term.
5. The Committee recommends that options should be considered for the retention and expansion of community spaces. It believes that this might best be achieved through the protection and development of the spaces categorised in the D1 planning class. The Committee would welcome the development of a new community space strategy.

Officers response

1. Officers are currently in the process of preparing a consultation strategy for the new Local Plan. This will set out the approach and techniques for engaging with internal and external stakeholders including: Members, statutory consultees, local community groups and the general public. The strategy will be prepared having regard to the council's adopted Statement of Community Involvement (SCI), which the council is legally required to undertake planning consultations in line with. The draft consultation strategy will be presented to Sustainable Development Select Committee for approval in due course. We are statutory required to consult on all of the detailed proposals set out in the Local Plan. However, as part of this consultation strategy, consideration will be given to the production of a summary document highlighting key objectives and policies for consultation purposes to make the plan more accessible.
2. As set out above, detailed proposals for maintaining engagement with councillors in the production of the new Local Plan will be set out in the draft consultation strategy. It is noted that officers have facilitated three All Member Workshops to-date on the new Local Plan following the local elections in May 2018, and will seek to continue to build on this early engagement through the next stages of the plan process.
3. Noted. Officers will be considering policy options for minimising carbon emissions, including the use of renewable energy, consistent with higher level policy. These options will be pursued through the 'development management' policies update in the new Local Plan.
4. Noted. Officers will be considering policy options for the long term management of public realm. These options will be pursued through the 'development management' policies update in the new Local Plan.
5. Noted. Officers will be considering policy options for the appropriate provision of community and social infrastructure to support planned levels of growth in the borough. These options will be pursued through the 'development management' policies update in the new Local Plan, along with consideration given in the plan's companion Infrastructure Delivery Plan. The new Local Plan will help give effect to the council's key plans and strategies and officers will work proactively with colleagues to support the Community and Culture Team with any future strategy or related work.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no specific financial implications arising from this report.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no specific environmental implications arising from this report.

8. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no specific environmental implications arising from this report.

9. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no specific crime and disorder implications arising from this report.

10 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

10.1 The Equality Act 2010 (the Act) brings together all previous equality legislation in England, Scotland and Wales. The Act includes a public sector equality duty which covers the following nine protected characteristics: age; disability; gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

10.2 The Council must in the exercise of its functions, have regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

10.3 The Council's Comprehensive Equality Scheme for 2016-20 provides an overarching framework and focus for the Council's work on equalities and helps ensure compliance with the Equality Act 2010.

10.4 There are no specific equalities implications arising from this report.

If you have any questions about this report please contact David Syme, Strategic Planning Manager david.syme@lewisham.gov.uk