

# Consultation Strategy

In support of the Lewisham Local Plan: Main  
Issues and Preferred Approaches

November 2020

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# 1.About the Lewisham Local Plan

## **Background**

- 1.1. The Local Plan sets out the long-term development strategy for the borough and is one of the Council's most important documents. It makes provision for new housing (prioritising genuinely affordable housing), employment and other development needs including the necessary infrastructure to support Good Growth (defined in the new London Plan as "growth that is socially and economically inclusive and environmentally sustainable"). The Local Plan has a key role in implementing the spatial aspects of the Council's Corporate Strategy.
- 1.2. A new Local Plan is being prepared to ensure there is an up-to-date plan in place for the borough, and to reflect national and London Plan policy changes that have emerged in recent years. A new Local Plan is vital for the Council to be in a strong position to maintain control of local planning decisions, and to ensure these decisions are made in the best interests of Lewisham's neighbourhoods, communities and people.
- 1.3. The new Lewisham Local Plan will be a consolidated plan which, once adopted, will update and replace the Council's current development plan documents including:
  - Lewisham Core Strategy (2011)
  - Site Allocations Local Plan (2013)
  - Development Management Local Plan (2014)
  - Lewisham Town Centre Local Plan (2014)
- 1.4. The Local Plan will be supported by a number of Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs), prepared by the Council, that provide further information and guidance to support the implementation of the adopted planning policies.

## **Public consultation and plan-making**

- 1.5. The preparation of the Local Plan, and its successful implementation, will require the Council to take a positive and proactive approach to working alongside a wide range of stakeholders. This includes local residents, community groups, businesses, landowners, infrastructure providers, neighbouring local authorities and other stakeholders. Meaningful dialogue, including through formal public consultation, will help to ensure that the Local Plan reflects the aspirations of the wider community and that it is deliverable.

- 1.6. The legal framework for the preparation of the local plan is set out in planning legislation.<sup>1</sup> This includes the undertaking of several rounds of statutory public consultation before a draft plan is submitted to the Secretary of State for the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) for independent examination. The Council can only adopt a local plan if a Planning Inspector has found it to be 'sound' and the legal procedures for plan-making have been satisfied.
- 1.7. The Council is also required to prepare a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). The SCI is a document which sets out how and when the Council will consult with and involve the community and other stakeholders in planning matters, including in the preparation of the Local Plan.
- 1.8. This Consultation Strategy has been prepared having regard to the Council's adopted SCI (2006), as well as the emerging Addendum to this document (discussed later below). It sets out the public consultation and community engagement techniques that will be used during the preparation of the new Local Plan. It focusses mainly on the next statutory round of consultation (Regulation 18 stage) as this is the key opportunity for the public to help inform the production of the plan and to shape the policy proposals.

### **Tackling deprivation and inequality**

- 1.9. The Council has a statutory duty to review its Local Plan every 5 years in order to ensure it is up-to-date (i.e. consistent with the London Plan and national planning policy). There are significant risks to the Council should it not have an up-to-date plan in place. Notwithstanding these risks, however, is the urgent need to tackle the causes of deprivation within the borough and the impacts of inequality.
- 1.10. The Council's latest research shows that while progress has been made, many parts of the borough remain in the 20 per cent most deprived in the country. There is an acute and rising need for genuinely affordable housing locally and Lewisham's economy is one of London's smallest, limiting opportunities for jobs and training. Furthermore, there is now a growing body of evidence showing the adverse economic impacts of COVID-19; and that the pandemic is disproportionately affecting those in areas of deprivation, particularly BAME groups.
- 1.11. Coupled with this is the recognition that the climate emergency will have severe and enduring social, economic and environmental implications,

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<sup>1</sup> The main primary legislation is the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004<sup>1</sup> (as amended) and the secondary legislation is The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012<sup>1</sup> (as amended).

and that tackling climate change is an issue of inequality as the greatest impact will be on the most vulnerable and those least able to protect themselves. Lewisham Council was one of the first local authorities in the UK to declare a climate emergency. The Local Plan will play an important role in helping the Borough respond to this emergency. It provides the strategic framework for climate change mitigation and adaption in respect of the future use and management of land within Lewisham. It sets out key policies to ensure that new development is designed, constructed and operated in a sustainable way.

- 1.12. The Plan also recognises the vital role the Boroughs green infrastructure has to play in tackling the climate emergency as well as the significant contribution it makes to the physical health and wellbeing of Lewisham's population. The Plan retains and strengthens current open space designations, seeks to address areas of deficiencies and strengthens existing policies relating to urban greening and tree coverage within the borough. The new Local Plan is a timely opportunity to address these issues, including by supporting the wider corporate response to COVID-19 and a recovery from it.

### **Plan-making during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic**

- 1.13. Like other sectors in the UK, the planning and development industry has been significantly impacted by COVID-19 since the initial peak in early spring 2020, with a general slowdown in activity. COVID-19 has also meant that in the interests of public safety and given the need to ensure social distancing, it is not reasonably practicable for local authorities to carry out public consultation in ways that they have done previously. This has implications for the plan-making process, which has been recognised by the Government.

### **Updating the Statement of Community Involvement**

- 1.14. Planning guidance published on 13 May by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) makes clear that local planning authorities will need to assess their SCI to identify which policies are inconsistent with the Government's latest social distancing guidelines. This could include, for example, holding face-to-face community consultation events or providing physical documents for inspection. The guidance also provides that authorities should introduce temporary amendments that are necessary to allow plan-making to progress, and that continue to promote effective community engagement by means which are reasonably practicable. The use of modern technologies, including internet platforms, is strongly encouraged whilst recognising that steps will need to be taken to ensure those without internet access have opportunities to engage in the planning process.

- 1.15. In addition, the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) (Coronavirus) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 have been introduced in response to COVID-19. These regulations make temporary changes to how documents are required to be made available to the public during the plan preparation and consultation process. Specifically, they temporarily remove the requirement for the Council to: make documents available for public inspection at its principal office and at other places it considers appropriate; and provide hard copies of specified documents. These temporary changes apply until 31 December 2020. However, given the uncertainty regarding COVID-19, the Council will need to monitor whether any changes or an extension to these temporary measures are made, in order to ensure compliance with the relevant statutory requirements for public consultation.
- 1.16. In light of the above noted changes to the legislative and policy framework for preparing local planning documents, along with substantial improvements to the Council's IT infrastructure and systems, it is considered necessary to revise the adopted SCI to both respond to and appropriately reflect these changes.
- 1.17. Accordingly, following approval by Mayor and Cabinet, the Council is undertaking a non-statutory public consultation on an Addendum to the SCI 2006, with a view to adopting this in December 2020. This will ensure that the Council is well-placed to progress with the preparation of its Local Plan, without further undue delay.

#### Experiences from other planning authorities

- 1.18. Many planning authorities in London and elsewhere across the country have now positioned themselves to continue carrying out their functions, including plan-making, even despite the second peak of COVID-19. This reflects the backing provided by new planning legislation and guidance to deal with COVID-19 in a proportionate way; greatly improved digital (online) consultation tools, along with public confidence in and use of these; as well as the priority given to positively managing development for the benefit of local communities, whether through individual planning applications or through the preparation of local plans. In the Capital, this is perhaps exemplified by the London Mayor's current portfolio of public consultations, which includes the London Plan Guidance on 'Good Quality Homes for All Londoners'.

## 2. Lewisham's demographic profile

- 2.1. The following statistics describe the population of Lewisham in terms of key socio-demographic characteristics that potentially influence participation rates, including age, ethnicity, disability and household composition.
- 2.2. It is important that during the Lewisham Local Plan – Main Issues and Preferred Approaches document (2020) consultation, the council proactively provides opportunities for all of Lewisham's stakeholders to engage with and understand the proposed key objectives set out within the plan. The following statistics help council officers better understand the demographics of Lewisham and will assist in tailoring the consultation activities, aiming to ensure a wider engagement throughout the borough.

**The Borough:** Lewisham is the 14<sup>th</sup> largest borough in London by population size and 6<sup>th</sup> Largest in Inner London<sup>2</sup>. The total population was estimated to be 305, 842 in 2019<sup>3</sup> and this is projected to increase by 20% to 364, 200 by the end of the Local Plan Period in 2040<sup>4</sup>.

**Population by Age:** Lewisham has a relatively high percentage of young people; with 68,458 (23%) 0-17-year olds and 58, 213 (19%) 18-30-year olds. The population of 31 – 64-year olds is 148,384 (49%), and 28,481 (9%) are over 65<sup>5</sup>.

**Population by Ethnicity:** Lewisham is home to residents of more than 75 nationalities. By the end of 2028 it is forecast that the White and BAME population will be 50/50. By 2031 the proportion of BAME residents aged 0-19 is projected to reach 67%<sup>6</sup>.

**Deprivation:** With an average score of 28.59 in the overall Index of Multiple Deprivation in 2015, the borough falls within the 20% most deprived local authority areas in England<sup>7</sup>.

**Disability:** 14.5% of residents are living with a long-term condition which limit their daily activities<sup>8</sup>. This is slightly below England average (17.6%) and likely due to the younger population bias.

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<sup>2</sup> Source: MYE 2019, Office for National Statistics

<sup>3</sup> Source: ONS 2019 Mid-Year Population Estimates

<sup>4</sup> Source: ONS 2016-based Subnational Population Projections

<sup>5</sup> Source: ONS 2019 Mid-Year Population Estimates

<sup>6</sup> Source: Round Ethnic Group Population projections, GLA

<sup>7</sup> Source: Indices for Multiple Deprivation, 2015, DCLG

<sup>8</sup> Proxy question for disability 2011 census

**Household Composition:** There are 26,294 (14% of one family households) lone parent families with dependent children<sup>9</sup> in the borough.

### 3. Plan-making and public consultation

- 3.1. There are several stages involved in the production of the new Lewisham Local Plan, including several rounds of statutory public consultation. A revised timeline for the production of the Local Plan will be set out in the Local Development Scheme (LDS) update, which is scheduled to be considered by Mayor and Cabinet on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2020.
- 3.2. The table below summarises the key stages of the plan-making process in accordance with the current legislative framework, and where the Council is in that process. The timescales reflect those proposed in the LDS update.

Key stage	Timescale
<b>Consultation on the Main Issues</b> (Stage: Regulation 18)	October – November 2015
<b>Pre-production (with community and stakeholder engagement)</b>  This includes consultation on 'Call for Sites' exercises, landowner surveys and public engagement on the preparation of evidence base documents, including area-based strategies.	Ongoing to October 2020
<b>Consultation on the Main Issues and Preferred Approaches document (current stage)</b>  This is a key opportunity for the public to review the scope of the local plan and to shape its content, including detailed policy proposals. (Stage: Regulation 18)	Winter - Spring 2021  <b>Current stage</b>
<b>Consultation / Publication of the draft Local Plan, 'proposed submission version'</b>  The public consultation is focussed on matters of legal compliance. (Stage: Regulation 19)	Autumn 2021
<b>Submission to the Secretary of State and Examination in Public</b>  The Council submits the draft Local Plan to the Secretary of State for the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local	Winter – Spring 2022

<sup>9</sup> Source: 2011 Census

Government, who appoints a Planning Inspector is appointed to carry out a public examination of the plan.  (Stage: Regulations 22-25)	
<b>Adoption by the Council</b>  Subject to the plan being found 'sound' at the examination, the Council can formally adopt it and bring it into force.  (Stage: Regulation 26)	Summer – Autumn 2022

3.3. After commencing the Local Plan Review in early 2015, the Council undertook a Regulation 18 stage consultation of the Lewisham Local Plan – 'Consultation on Main Issues' in October – November 2015. Activities and engagement undertaken, and responses received during the consultation are outlined in the Regulation 18 - 'Consultation on main issues' consultation statement which is included in the package of documents that have been submitted to full council. Since then, the Council has carried out a number of public consultation and engagement exercises including:

- Consultation on evidence base studies that will help to inform the new plan, including: New Cross Area Framework, Catford town centre masterplan and the Lewisham Characterisation Study.
- Several 'call for sites' exercises inviting the public (including landowners and developers) to submit potential development sites to be considered for inclusion in the plan.
- Engagement with key stakeholders and delivery partners to support the preparation of the Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP), which is a companion document to the Local Plan.

3.4. In preparing the consultation strategy for the next round of Regulation 18 stage consultation (Main Issues and Preferred Approaches), Council officers have completed an assessment of what is required from a statutory perspective, including Lewisham's Statement of Community Involvement (2006) and also taking into account the proposed Addendum to the SCI (2020), for the next stage of public consultation.

## 4. How will we consult on the Local Plan

4.1. This Consultation Strategy explains how we will consult on the Regulation 18 Lewisham Local Plan: Main Issues and Preferred Approaches document. It will set out how the public consultation will be undertaken in

order to meet the relevant statutory requirements, including those of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 as amended, whilst complying with the Council's Statement of Community involvement (SCI).

- 4.2. As well as Regulation 18 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012, this consultation strategy also considers the restrictions on physical consultation activities as recommended by the Governments Chief Planner in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 4.3. This consultation strategy should be read alongside the 'Lewisham Local Plan – Main Issues and Preferred Approaches' document (2020) available to view on the Councils website.
- 4.4. The Statement of Community Involvement sets out how the Council will consult the community in the preparation of planning documents and sets out a range of possible methods of consultation that involve the wider community. Lewisham has a diverse population as outlined in section 3 of this document, which requires a wide range of approaches to consulting on planning documents. The consultation methods that are outlined in the SCI will be adapted, where appropriate, to meet the requirements needed to consult effectively on the Lewisham Local Plan: Main Issues and Preferred Approaches document (2020).

## 5. Consultation methods

- 5.1. During the public consultation for the Lewisham Local Plan: Main Issues and Preferred Approaches document (2020) the council will engage with a variety of stakeholders by undertaking a programme of consultation activities across various platforms available to the council.
- 5.2. However due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the government guidance on restricting physical consultation activities, the council will be undertaking a significant proportion of its consultation activities through online engagement tools.
- 5.3. It is understood by council officers that by holding a significant proportion of the consultation activities with stakeholders through online platforms, a number of challenges are then presented around effectively engaging with stakeholders from hard to reach (HTR) groups within the borough.
- 5.4. The challenges that are presented to council officers regarding engagement with HTR groups include:
  - Access to the online platforms where the consultation is presented

- Promoting the Local Plan consultation in a way that effectively encourages HTR groups to partake.
  - Presenting the Local Plan in a non-technical and easy to interpret manner to groups who traditionally have not engaged with planning policy document consultations.
- 5.5. Officers hope to address these challenges by working with officers from the culture and communities team who will support the Lewisham Local Plan: Main Issues and Preferred Approaches document (2020) by promoting the consultation to HTR groups including Youth groups, BME networks, pensioner networks and Gypsy and Traveller forums.
- 5.6. Council Officers will also work with the Young Mayor and the Young Mayor's team to further promote the consultation within schools and youth groups in Lewisham and the Lewisham BME network/Stephen Lawrence Centre.
- 5.7. As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, and in line with government guidance, it is intended that physical copies of the Lewisham Local Plan – Main Issues and Preferred Approaches document (2020) or summary document may not be made available in public buildings. However, if updated government guidance is published before the consultation start date that states the contrary, physical copies of the documents can be made available for inspection in public buildings.
- 5.8. Presented below is an overview of the main consultation tools that will be used throughout the Lewisham Local Plan: Main Issues and Preferred Approaches document (2020) consultation:

### **Commonplace**

- Commonplace is an industry leading consultation platform that is tailored to make public participation easy, intuitive and fun. It has been used by over 250 Local Authorities and has been used by Lewisham as a key public engagement tool during council led projects such as the award winning Team Catford regeneration project and the NCIL ward fund priority setting consultation.
- The Commonplace platform offers a user friendly experience for both stakeholders engaging in the consultation and council officers responsible for managing the consultation.
- Commonplace can be personalised to incorporate Lewisham branding to provide a visual identity in line with the council's own website. There is also the ability for stakeholders to share the consultation through social media, e-mail and messaging services. This will help promote

the consultation, generate wider engagement and help increase inclusivity.

- Commonplace will act as a document library, where all of the associated Lewisham Local Plan: Main Issues and Preferred Approaches (2020) documents will be made available for the stakeholder to download and personally save.
- Council officers will also have the ability to export the representations received by specific policy areas. This will assist in the production of the consultation statement and schedule of representations by allowing council officers to group comments by policy and sub-area.
- Commonplace also has the ability to provide engagement analytics showing how many stakeholders have visited the consultation, how many have made a representation to the consultation and how the user traffic has accessed the site. With this information officers will have a better understanding of where and how stakeholders were informed of the consultation. This information will be useful when promoting the consultation to support the council's aim of engaging with a wide variety of stakeholders.
- The Commonplace platform will separate the key policy areas as well as the local sub-areas outlined in the Lewisham Local Plan – Main Issues and Preferred Approaches document (2020) allowing stakeholders to easily navigate through the plan and engage with the policy areas of the plan that are of most interest to them.
- Each of the key policy areas represented in the Lewisham Local Plan – Main Issues and Preferred Approaches document (2020) will have what is known as its own Commonplace 'tile'. Each 'tile' will have a summary of the policy area embedded within the text, the relating summary document chapter, as well as the full chapter as found in the main consultation document. Each policy 'tile' will have its own dialogue box where stakeholders can submit their representations. It will be these submissions that will be regarded as formal responses.
- To enhance the user experience with Commonplace, officers will explore the use of short video presentations; these can be embedded on the website, and used to provide users with an overview of the key policy area and plan proposals.
- An interactive map of the borough will also be made available. Stakeholders will be able to submit comments on aspects of the borough based on geographical location. This approach was used during the priority setting exercise of the NCIL consultation. These

comments will be considered by officers, however they will not be regarded as formal representations to the Local Plan consultation.

- Commonplace is GDPR compliant and is covered by its own privacy notice. Council officers will not share any personal data collected by the council with Commonplace.

### **Citizen Space**

- The councils own consultation portal (Citizen Space) will be used to promote the consultation and will provide a link to the Commonplace portal where formal online representations can be submitted.
- Citizen Space is not being used as the main consultation hub during the consultation as Commonplace provides a more user friendly way of presenting the Lewisham Local Plan: Main Issues and Preferred Approaches document (2020).
- The Citizen Space consultation portal formats its questions in a linear style, which can add complexity to the presentation of the draft Local Plan and opportunities to comment on its different aspects; therefore it was felt by council officers that the level of engagement would be increased if stakeholders could actively select the policy areas that they would wish to submit comments to, rather than having to complete an entire questionnaire/survey.

### **Local Plan: Main Issues and Preferred Approaches Summary Document**

- A summary document has been produced at the request of Council Members which summarises the Lewisham Local Plan – Main Issues and Preferred Approaches document (2020) into a short, graphically engaging non-technical overview.
- The summary document provides an overview of:
  - The role of the Local Plan
  - Information about the plan-making process and timeline
  - The Vision for Lewisham and the key objectives for the Local Plan
  - The growth strategy for the Borough, and the key drivers for the preferred strategy
  - For key thematic policy areas (e.g. development design, housing, green infrastructure, etc): a summary of consultation feedback to-date; findings from evidence base studies; the main issues for the plan and snapshot of policy approaches to address these

- Summary of the key proposals for the Borough's five character areas.
- The summary document will be a useful tool to raise awareness of the Local Plan and help to draw people to the main consultation document. The summary is also targeted at stakeholders who may not traditionally engage in strategic planning consultations. It has been prepared to help the public understand why a Local Plan is needed, what outcomes the council hopes to deliver through a Local Plan and what the key issues or challenges for the borough are.

### **Virtual 'Town Hall' events**

- A Virtual 'Town Hall' is an online event or meeting which has been used extensively during the COVID-19 pandemic by Local Authorities and developers to simulate drop in sessions and public meetings.
- Virtual 'Town Hall' events will provide an opportunity for council officers to present and hold informal Q&A sessions on the key strategic policy objectives of the Local Plan – Main Issues and Preferred Approaches document (2020) with a variety of stakeholders within the borough through online meetings.
- The Virtual 'Town Hall' events will be held via Microsoft teams and will be promoted through targeted e-mails to specific stakeholders for sessions focused on particular policy areas. Social media will also be used to promote sessions to the general public that will present the general objectives of the plan
- Virtual 'Town Hall' events will aim to:
  - address stakeholders who may experience any accessibility issues when interpreting the local plan documents via the online portal
  - To present key policy areas within the plan to a targeted group of stakeholders i.e. people based in a specific sub area or conservation groups interested in the heritage policies.
  - To provide informal comments from stakeholders on the Local Plan – Main Issues and referred Options document (2020) and to direct people to the Commonplace consultation so they can submit a formal representation.
- At present due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the government guidance restricting physical consultation activities we have assumed that the above sessions will all be online. However, if updated government guidance is published before the consultation start date that allows physical consultation then officers will explore options to

hold these sessions in person subject to allowing appropriate preparation time.

### **E-mails, letters and site notifications and posters**

- E-mails will be sent out to all registered consultees informing them of the consultation. Emails will provide a link to all of the Lewisham Local Plan – Main Issues and Preferred Approches document (2020) as well as a guide on how to submit representations to the consultation
- E-mails will be used to promote Virtual ‘Town Hall’ events that take place throughout the consultation.
- Site-notifications will be used in and around any site allocations identified within the plan and letters will be sent to stakeholders who reside or carry out business within the vicinity of any site allocations
- Posters can be situated at points where there is significant footfall/road traffic throughout the borough to further promote the Local Plan consultation.

5.9. Below is a table outlining the consultation methods, what stakeholders they target and

**Table 1**

<b>Consultation activity</b>	<b>Stakeholders</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Mail Out (physical/e-mail)	Statutory consultees, general consultees, consultee database, letters to landowners/leaseholders within and adjoining site allocation properties will be considered, pending resources	Formal Letters informing consultees dates of consultation and how to make representations
Local Plan and supporting documents published via Council website	All	Local Plan and all supporting documents to be published via council planning policy website
Local Plan Summary document	All residents, visitors, businesses, Hard to Reach (HTR) groups, community organisations	Local Plan summary document will provide a non-technical overview of the key objectives of the Local Plan.  Intended to be easier to interpret for stakeholders who do not historically engage in planning policy consultations.

Consultation activity	Stakeholders	Comments
Press notices	All	Press notices promoting the start and end dates of the consultation to be published in all Local media outlets
Press releases	All residents, visitors, businesses, Hard to Reach (HTR) groups, community organisations	Press releases providing an overview of the purpose of the Local plan to be published in local press such as Lewisham ledger, Catford conversations, Lewisham life, Newssshopper.
Social media	All	Using council social media accounts to promote Local Plan consultation activities and how to make representations regarding the draft Plan
Commonplace Online engagement tool.	All	Local Plan to be published by chapter via Commonplace  Local Plans sub areas to be separated and plan to be made more accessible for members of the public. Capability to submit comments around key policy themes
Citizen Space	All	Local Plan to be published via the councils own consultation portal
Virtual 'Town Hall' events	All residents, visitors, businesses, HTR groups, community organisations	Virtual 'Town hall' events on a weekly basis that will allow the community and members of the public to comment on overview of the
Mayoral press release	All	Mayoral press release announcing the start of the consultation period. Press release to be published via local press and Lewisham council social media accounts

## 6.Publicity of Consultation activities

- 6.1. The success of the Local Plan consultation will depend on an effective and wide ranging publicity campaign.
- 6.2. The Lewisham Local Plan – Main Issues and Preferred Approaches (2020) consultation will have a designated officer from the communications team at the council who will support the strategic planning team in promoting the consultation and associated activities to a wide range of stakeholders across the borough.
- 6.3. It is envisioned that to support the consultation, there will be a significant promotion exercise that will include e-mails to all registered consultees and statutory consultees, posters that are visible in different areas of the borough, a leaflet/letter drop to key stakeholders within the borough and a social media campaign supported by the official council social media accounts as well as those of local community/volunteer groups and council members.
- 6.4. Press releases promoting the consultation and any consultation activities will also be published in local press, primarily Lewisham Life and the Newshopper as well as community circulars, local lifestyle magazines (e.g. Lewisham Ledger) and ward assembly newsletters.
- 6.5. Promoting the online consultation activities to hard to reach groups, BAME communities and young people will be supported by officers from the Culture and Community Team and the Young Mayor's team.
- 6.6. Stakeholders who had previously registered to Commonplace to submit representations on council led projects such as the Team Catford regeneration, the NCIL ward fund and Healthy Neighbourhoods programme will be notified of the Local Plan consultation by a push e-mail.
- 6.7. Please note that at the time of drafting this consultation strategy, due to the restrictions on physical consultation activities and face to face meetings, physical copies of the document in public buildings will not be made available during the consultation.
- 6.8. However as mentioned in the consultation methods section of this strategy, if the government guidance does change then physical copies of the plan and the summary document will be made available for inspection within public buildings.

## 7.Responding to the Consultation

- 7.1. The public consultation on the draft Lewisham Local Plan – Main Issues and Preferred Approaches Document (2020) will run for a 12 week period from starting in early January 2021. You can respond in the following way:
- Post - Planning Policy, London Borough of Lewisham, 5th Floor, Laurence House, 1 Catford Road, SE6 4RU
  - E-mail – [Planning.policy@lewisham.gov.uk](mailto:Planning.policy@lewisham.gov.uk)
  - Online Commonplace
- 7.2. We will set a specific date for when all representations to the consultation should be received.
- 7.3. It is likely that copies of the Lewisham Local Plan – Main Issues and Preferred Approaches Document (2020) will not be available to inspect as physical copies due to the closure of public buildings in response to the Covid-19 pandemic unless government.
- 7.4. We will seek to provide copies of the Summary Document where this can be provided within the consultations budget.

## 8.Reporting Back

- 8.1. The council is legally required to report back on responses to the consultation. Following this stage of public consultation the council will:
- Acknowledge and give full consideration to all representations received and engage in further discussions where this will assist in developing the document
  - Make a summary of responses available on the council website
  - Produce a Consultation Statement detailing the consultation exercises undertaken in this consultation, representations received, and how they have been taken into account in the plan's production
- 8.2. The outcomes of the Lewisham Local Plan – Main Issues and Preferred Approaches consultation (2020) will inform the Regulation 19 stage 'proposed submission' version of the document, which will be published for another round of public consultation (the main focus of which is the

council's compliance with legal procedures during the plan-making process).

- 8.3. All respondents to this stage of public consultation will be added to the Strategic Planning consultation database and will be notified of the next consultation stages of the plan making process as well as other consultations that will be carried out by the strategic planning team.