



# Consultation Strategy for 'Lewisham Local Plan'

2015

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# 1 Introduction

## What is a Local Plan?

- 1.1 The Lewisham Local Plan will be the key planning document for the borough. It will set out the planning strategy for growth, that is, how we will deliver the new homes needed over the next 15 years. It will contain the planning policies that will be used to assess planning applications in the future. It will identify the areas in the borough where growth is expected and how these areas are likely to change in order to accommodate that growth.
- 1.2 The Lewisham Local Plan will eventually replace the existing Local Development Framework (LDF) which is a suite of planning documents consisting of the:
- Core Strategy (adopted June 2011)
  - Development Management Local Plan (adopted November 2014)
  - Site Allocations Local Plan (adopted June 2013) and
  - Lewisham Town Centre Local Plan (adopted February 2014)
- 1.3 The Local Plan will be supplemented by supplementary planning documents (SPDs) and a separate Gypsy and Traveller Site(s) Local Plan.
- 1.4 This Consultation Strategy should be read alongside the 'Lewisham Local Plan – Consultation on Main Issues' (2015). This document is available on the Council's website [www.lewisham.gov.uk/XXXX](http://www.lewisham.gov.uk/XXXX)

## 2 How will the Lewisham Local Plan be prepared?

- 2.1 The process of producing the new Lewisham Local Plan will involve several stages. The timeline for producing the Local Plan is set out in the Local Development Scheme which is available to view on the Council's website.<sup>1</sup> The diagram below shows the preparation of the plan and its relationship with the stages of the consultation process.
- 2.2 The 'Lewisham Local Plan – Consultation on Main Issues' (2015) forms the first round of public consultation on the production of a new plan. This initial round of consultation must notify interested people about the intention to produce a new local plan and identify the main issues that the local plan will address and invite representations on these topics.
- 2.3 The Sustainability Appraisal of the Lewisham Local Plan will be prepared in tandem with each stage of the Local Plan and is consulted on at the same time. The Sustainability Appraisal ensures that the planning policies are soundly based on economic, social and environmental grounds.

Table 1: Local Plan preparation and consultation stages

Timeline	Autumn 2015	2016	2017	Winter 2017
<b>Local Plan Preparation</b>	Lewisham Local Plan – Consultation on Main Issues	Preferred Options	Publication/Sub mission version	Adoption of Lewisham Local Plan
<b>Local Plan Preparation and Sustainability Appraisal</b>	Prepare & consult on Sustainability Scoping Report.	Prepare interim Sustainability Appraisal.	Update draft Sustainability Appraisal.	Update final Sustainability Appraisal.
<b>Local Plan consultation</b>	Issues & Options consultation allows local community to shape contents of the new Local Plan.	Consultation takes place on broad subject matter, alternative options are consulted upon if appropriate.	Submission stage: limited consultation at this stage – representations made are forwarded on to Planning Inspector.	Examination in public hearings with Planning Inspector.

<sup>1</sup> Local Development Scheme [www.lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/planning/policy/LDF/Pages/Local-development-scheme.aspx](http://www.lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/planning/policy/LDF/Pages/Local-development-scheme.aspx)

### 3 How will we consult on the Lewisham Local Plan?

- 3.1 This Consultation Strategy explains how the consultation on the Lewisham Local Plan will be carried out. It will set out how the Consultation Strategy will meet the requirements of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 and the guidance set out in the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)<sup>2</sup> on consulting people in the preparation of planning policy and guidance.
- 3.2 After the first round of public consultation on the Lewisham Local Plan, the Council will collate and consider all the consultation responses received. These consultation responses will inform the next stage of the plan making process called the Preferred Options. The Council will consult on a Preferred Options in February 2016.
- 3.3 This consultation strategy should be read alongside the 'Lewisham Local Plan – Consultation on Main Issues' (2015) available to view on the Councils website [www.lewisham.gov.uk/XXXX](http://www.lewisham.gov.uk/XXXX). These documents will be available to view at all of our local libraries in Lewisham.
- 3.4 The SCI sets out how the Council will consult the community in the preparation of planning documents and sets out a range of possible consultation methods to involve the community. Lewisham has a diverse population which requires a range of consultation approaches to be considered. These consultation methods have been adapted to meet the requirements and needs of the Lewisham Local Plan.
- 3.5 The Lewisham Local Plan is a 15 year spatial strategy for the whole of the borough and will therefore have a wide reaching impact on the borough's residents and businesses. It is likely to affect the following groups:
- Existing residents living in and around the borough, including council tenants; people in need of housing
  - Existing businesses and businesses looking to move into the borough.
  - People with jobs in businesses in the borough that might be affected; people who might be looking for jobs
  - Landowners
  - Congregations in the many faith premises that are located in the borough

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<sup>2</sup> Draft Statement of Community Involvement (August 2013)  
<https://www.lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/planning/policy/LDF/Pages/Statement-of-community-involvement.aspx>

- Shoppers and visitors to the area
- Students who are studying and/or residing in the borough
- Cyclists and pedestrians using the routes in the borough
- Developers

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## 4 Our Consultation Strategy

- 4.1 The public consultation on the ‘Lewisham Local Plan – Consultation on Main Issues’ (2015) will run for a period of 6 weeks. This is in line with requirements set out in the Statement of Community Involvement and the Planning Regulations 2012.
- 4.2 The consultation on the ‘Lewisham Local Plan’ is open from **XX** 2015 to **XX** 2015.
- 4.3 All responses must be received by **X**.
- 4.4 In the following section, we have set out the consultation methods we propose to use. These methods are based on best practice.
- 4.5 Please check our website for up to date list of consultation events at [www.lewisham.gov.uk/](http://www.lewisham.gov.uk/)

Table 2: Consultation Methods for Lewisham Local Plan

Method	Consultees	Legal Status	Dates	Comments
<b>Display documents at Laurence House, Catford and all libraries in the borough including community libraries.</b>	All	Required. This is a minimum requirement in the Planning Regulations 2012.	To be confirmed.	Lewisham Local Plan will be available for inspection on ground floor of Laurence House, SE6 4RU and borough libraries.
<b>Publish ‘Lewisham Local Plan’ &amp; accompanying documents on Council’s website.</b>  <b>Publish ‘Lewisham Local Plan’ on consultation portal.</b>	All	Required. This is a minimum requirement in the Planning Regulations 2012.	Documents will be available from the start of the consultation period and throughout the consultation.  All past phases of the consultation on Local Planning documents	Lewisham Local Plan and accompanying documents will be published on the Council’s website. The Local Plan will also be made available on the Council’s consultation portal. The consultation portal is accessible via the Council’s website and enables people to view and comment on a planning document online. Members of the public can register on the portal to

Method	Consultees	Legal Status	Dates	Comments
			are published on the website together with all of the evidence base documents used to support the preparation of the planning document.	receive updates on consultation events by email.
<p><b>Printed media:</b></p> <p><b>Place a press notice in local newspaper to advertise the public consultation.</b></p> <p><b>Publish a notice in Lewisham Life, the Council's newspaper &amp; e-bulletin.</b></p>	<p>All – Lewisham Life newspaper is distributed to all homes in the borough.</p> <p>Lewisham Life is the council's e-bulletin.</p>	This is an optional consultation method.	<p>During the public consultation period.</p> <p>Publication dates to be confirmed.</p>	<p>A press notice will be placed in South London Press.</p> <p>Lewisham Life, the Council's newspaper is distributed to all the homes in the borough on a quarterly basis. There is a risk that the consultation might not coincide with its quarterly publication date. However the Lewisham Life e-bulletin newsletter is published on a monthly basis and is a more reliable method of publicising the consultation.</p>
<p><b>Mail out to all the prescribed bodies and non statutory bodies in the planning policy consultation database.</b></p>	The contact details for the prescribed bodies and non statutory bodies are held on the planning policy consultation database.	Legal requirement in Local Planning Regulation 2012 to notify 'general' and 'specific' consultation bodies as the Council considers	At the start of the consultation period.	The planning policy database contains consultee addresses and is updated regularly. Letter and emails will be used to notify consultees about the Local Plan consultation. Email is the preferred method to notify consultees of consultation events. Consultees should advise the Council of

Method	Consultees	Legal Status	Dates	Comments
		<p>appropriate at all stages of plan preparation. See Appendix 1 for a list of consultation bodies.</p>		<p>any new email address.</p> <p>The SCI defines the prescribed bodies and neighbouring authorities referred to in the Duty to Co-operate.</p>
<p><b>Meetings will be arranged with selected stakeholders:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>:-Federation of Community &amp; Amenity Society (FOCAS)</b></li> <li><b>-Young Mayor</b></li> <li><b>-Lewisham Pensioners Forum</b></li> <li><b>-Development Group</b></li> </ul>	<p>Members of individual groups and organisations.</p>	<p>Optional consultation method.</p>	<p>Meetings with selected stakeholders will be held during the public consultation period.</p> <p>Venues and dates of meetings to be confirmed.</p>	<p>There are approximately 20 organisations in FOCAS. We will seek to arrange one meeting and invite all amenity societies to attend this meeting.</p> <p>The Young Mayor provides a channel for young people's views to be heard by decision makers. The Young Mayor is democratically elected every year through Lewisham's schools and colleges The Young Mayor is supported by young advisers and a Young Citizens' Panel and they have access to the full range of young people's forums, networks and school councils.</p> <p>Lewisham Pensioners Forum provides a voice for older people.</p> <p>The Development Group refers to a database of active developers in the borough.</p>

<b>Method</b>	<b>Consultees</b>	<b>Legal Status</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>Notification of Local Assemblies.</b>	All - there is a local assembly for every ward in the borough.	Optional consultation method.	At the start of the consultation period.	Local Assemblies are open meetings and there is one for each ward in Lewisham.
<b>Discussions with our neighbouring boroughs and where appropriate prescribed bodies.</b>	All prescribed bodies and neighbouring boroughs. See Appendix 1.	Required under the Duty to co-operate.	Throughout the consultation period.	The National Planning Policy Framework has introduced the Duty to Co-operate.  We will send our neighbouring boroughs and prescribed bodies a copy of 'Lewisham Local Plan' for comment.
<b>Library exhibition – display panels will be put up in Lewisham library and Catford library</b>	Wide cross section of the public.	Optional consultation method.	Display boards will be on show throughout the 6 week public consultation period. They will be on display for 3 weeks in Lewisham Library and then for 3 weeks in Catford Library.	These are a good way to present visual information on planning documents to a wide cross section of the public who might not, for various reasons, come into contact with other consultant events.
<b>Internet Social Networks</b>	Wide cross section of the public.	Optional consultation method.	At the start of the consultation period.	Social networks such as the Council's twitter feed will be used to publicise the consultation. This will reach a wider audience than the planning policy consultation database.

## 5 How to comment

5.1 The public consultation on 'Lewisham Local Plan – Consultation on Main Issues' runs for 6 weeks from XXXX to XXX 2015. You can respond in the following ways:

- **On-line:** <http://consult.lewisham.gov.uk/portal>
- **E-mail:** [planning.policy@lewisham.gov.uk](mailto:planning.policy@lewisham.gov.uk)
- **Post:** Planning Policy, London Borough of Lewisham, 3rd Floor, Laurence House, 1 Catford Road, SE6 4RU

5.2 All consultation responses must be received by XXXX.

5.3 Copies of the document can be:

- viewed on the Council's website [www.lewisham.gov.uk/](http://www.lewisham.gov.uk/)
- inspected at all borough libraries and Council's AccessPoint, Ground Floor, Laurence House, Catford, SE6 4RU and obtained by contacting the Planning Policy Team on 020 8314 7400 who will also be happy to answer any questions you may have.

## 6 Reporting Back

- 6.1 The council is committed to reporting back on responses to the consultation. Following each 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 all responses available on our website.
  - Produce a consultation report, detailing the comments we have received and explaining how we have dealt with comments and how they have affected the development of policy, at each stage of the Local Plan process.
  - Consultation reports will be made available to view the Council's website, and paper copies will be made available at Laurence House and at town centre libraries.
- 6.2 The outcomes of the public consultation on 'Lewisham Local Plan – Consultation on Main Issues' (2015) will inform the Preferred Options document which will be consulted upon in early 2016.
- 6.3 All respondents will be notified of the submission of the plan to the secretary of state for examination and will be notified of the examination hearings. A consultation report will be submitted to the secretary of state showing how the Regulations and the aims of the Statement of Community Involvement have been met and describing how the plan has been influenced by consultation.

# Appendix 1: Specific and General Consultation Bodies

6.4 The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 define the following bodies as 'specific consultation bodies':

- The Coal Authority
- The Environment Agency
- English Heritage (Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England)
- Marine Management Organisation
- Natural England
- Network Rail Infrastructure Limited
- The Highways Agency
- Adjoining Local Planning Authorities
- Relevant telecommunications companies
- Lewisham PCT or successor body
- Strategic Health Authority
- Relevant electricity and gas companies
- Thames Water
- The Mayor of London (including the designated housing function and TfL)

6.5 The Council will consult as a minimum the following bodies on the Scope of Sustainability Appraisals:

- Environment Agency
- Natural England
- English Heritage

## **Local Policing Body**

6.6 The Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime

## General Consultation Bodies

6.7 The Government has defined General Consultation Bodies as voluntary bodies some or all of whose activities benefit any part of the authority's area and other bodies who represent, in the authority's area, the interests of different racial, ethnic or national groups, different religious groups, disabled persons, and business interests. The Lewisham Planning Policy database contains over 1,500 groups, organisations and companies from the following categories:

- Adjoining boroughs
- Advice and information groups
- Amenity groups 21
- Architects, planners and other professionals
- Black and Minority Ethnic Groups
- Builders
- Community groups
- Conservation and heritage groups
- Developers
- Disability groups
- Education/children/young people's groups
- Elderly groups
- Employment/business interests
- Environmental and ecology groups
- Faith groups
- Health organisations including NHS Trusts
- House builders
- Housing associations
- Landowners
- Police and other emergency services
- Political parties

- Regeneration groups and partnerships
- Rivers and riverside interest groups
- Shopkeepers
- Sport and leisure groups
- Statutory consultees
- Tenants and residents associations
- Town centre partnerships
- Transport groups
- Utility companies
- Women's groups
- Youth Groups

