

Sustainable Development Select Committee			
Title	Local Plan Update	Item No	6
Contributor	David Syme – Strategic Planning Manager		
Class	Part 1 (open)	30 January 2019	

1. Purpose

- 1.1. This report is intended to update Members on the progress of the new Local Plan for Lewisham.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1. The Select Committee is asked to note the content of this information report and direct questions to officers.

3. Background

- 3.1. On 12th September 2018 a report was presented to Sustainable Development Select Committee (SDSC) on Lewisham’s Local Plan. This provided an overview of the reasons why the council is preparing a new plan, the timetable for its production and the scope of the new plan (i.e. which adopted planning policy documents the new plan will replace). The SDSC report also highlighted some of the key opportunities and challenges that will need to be addressed by the new Local Plan in helping to deliver a “Lewisham for the many”. Finally, the report signposted key progress in the different areas of plan production, including early-stage engagement with Members and preparation of the evidence base studies which are needed to inform policy options.
- 3.2. Updates on the Local plan have been presented to SDSC on the 29th October where a report set out progress made and on the 12th Dec where David Syme, the Strategic Planning Manager gave a verbal update.
- 3.3. This paper provides a further update on the production of Lewisham’s new Local Plan and follows on from previous briefing reports. To avoid duplication of information, this report focusses on key progress made in the period since the last SDSC report.

4. Progress report

- 4.1. The following section discusses progress on the preparation of the new Local Plan, focussing on updates since the 12th December 2018 verbal update to SDSC.

Evidence gathering

- 4.2. In order to pass independent examination local plans are required to meet prescribed 'tests of soundness' as set out in the NPPF. This includes that they must be 'justified' by evidence. The process of plan making therefore involves a significant amount of information gathering at the front end of the process. This information is then used to set policy options and preferred approaches for the plan going forward.
- 4.3. Accordingly, much of the work on the Local Plan to-date has focussed on the preparation of the council's technical evidence base. This includes in-house research along with the commissioning of specialist studies, most of which have now been published online, completed in draft format or are in preparation.
- **Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA)** – led by the Greater London Authority in partner with the London boroughs, this study investigates the indicative capacity of potential development sites for housing in Lewisham and elsewhere, and has informed the draft London Plan housing targets. **Status: Complete.**
 - **Site portfolio work** – building on the SHLAA work above, in-house research is being undertaken to finalise a portfolio of potential development sites to be considered for inclusion in the Local Plan; this includes sites identified through a 'call for sites' consultation which was held 19th September to the 1st November 2018. **Status: draft being finalised.**
 - **Lewisham Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA)** – an update to the council's previous SHMA carried out jointly with the south-east London boroughs, and to supplement the latest pan-London SHMA, this study provides a local analysis of housing need in terms of type, tenure and size of housing, as well as the need for affordable housing and needs of specialist groups. **Status: final draft received additional work being commissioned.**
 - **Lewisham Character Study** – An urban characterisation study which analyses the form, character and special attributes of the borough, and will be central to underpinning the place-shaping direction and policies of the new Local Plan. The main document is now complete with an executive summary being finalised. The document is intended to be published for consultation Feb/March **Status: Complete see appendix A**
 - **Area Frameworks** – the council has commissioned work on the Catford Town Centre Master Plan and New Cross Area Framework, both of which will help to identify opportunities for area regeneration and improvements, and be given effect through the new Local Plan. **Status: Catford – Ongoing, New Cross Gate Framework – Complete**

- **Retail Capacity Study** – assesses performance of the borough’s town centres and provides an indication of future need for retail floorspace over the plan period, which the Local Plan must address. **Status: Original commission complete, considering update.**
- **Employment Land Study** – assesses future requirements for employment land and floorspace over the plan period and provides an audit of all designated employment sites in the borough, to help inform policy options for managing the borough’s industrial land stock. **Status: 2015 complete, update at final draft stage.**
- **Open Space Study** – provides an audit of the quantity and quality of open space in the borough and will be particularly useful to inform land use designations and interventions in areas of identified deficiency. **Status at final draft stage.**
- **Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA)** – an update to the existing SFRA which will ensure that the latest available baseline information on flood risk is used to inform plan making and decision taking. **Status: Ongoing – stage 2 will commence when site portfolio agreed.**
- **Infrastructure Delivery Plan** – developed in liaison with key infrastructure providers (both internal and external) this document sets out the infrastructure that is required to support the levels of planned growth in the borough, along with information on funding and delivery, and is regularly reviewed and updated. **Status: Ongoing**
- **Sustainability Appraisal / Strategic Environmental Assessment** – these social, economic and environmental assessments are a statutory requirement which are carried out iteratively throughout the plan process. **Status: Ongoing**

4.4. All evidence base documents will be made publicly available as appropriate (accessible on the council’s planning webpages) as they are finalised. The evidence base will be published alongside the submission Local Plan and be subject to scrutiny through the independent examination process.

5. Financial implications

5.1. At this stage there are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

6. Legal implications

6.1. At this is an information item there are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

7. Crime and disorder implications

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

8. Equalities implications

- 8.1. Our vision and ambition for our borough is that: “Together we will make Lewisham the best place in London to live work and learn.”
- 8.2. This is underpinned by hard-edged principles for:
 - **reducing inequality** – narrowing the gap in outcomes for citizens
 - **delivering together efficiently, effectively and equitably** - ensuring that all citizens have appropriate access to and choice of high quality local services
- 8.3. The Council’s Comprehensive Equality Scheme (CES) 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.
- 8.4. The Council equality objectives through the CES include:
 - tackle victimisation, discrimination and harassment
 - improve access to services
 - close the gap in outcomes for all residents
 - increase mutual understanding and respect within and between communities
 - increase citizen participation and engagement
- 8.5. There are no direct equalities implications arising from this report

9. Conclusion

- 9.1. The Committee is asked to note the content of this report setting out an update on work being undertaken by officers. If you have any questions about this report please contact David Syme, Strategic Planning Manager david.syme@lewisham.gov.uk