

## **Consultation and Engagement Plan for the Birmingham Local Plan – Issues and Options September 2022**

### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1. Planning for development within the city is a key responsibility of Birmingham City Council, in order to meet the aspirations of local communities and to reach the Council's overarching vision of creating an innovative, vibrant and sustainable city. The Council's objective is to tackle the social, economic and environmental challenges facing the city today and in the future. The City Council is highly committed to listening to local people in shaping the city and the services that they receive.
- 1.2. The Birmingham Development Plan (BDP) was adopted on 10 January 2017 and provides a spatial vision and development strategy for the city over the plan period 2011-2031. The BDP contains strategic policies and site allocations which are used to shape development and determine planning applications. The BDP forms a key part of Birmingham's Local Plan; a collection of documents that sets the planning framework for the city.
- 1.3. Local planning authorities are required by legislation to review Local Plan documents at least every five years from the date of adoption in order to ascertain if their policies need updating. There have been a number of changes to national planning policy and guidance since the plans were adopted, relating to a variety of issues such as affordable housing, climate change mitigation and biodiversity enhancement, as well as the introduction of a standard method to calculate local housing need and the Housing Delivery Test. Locally, the City Council declared a climate emergency in June 2019 and has committed to achieving carbon neutral status by 2030 or as soon thereafter as a 'just transition' allows.
- 1.4. Given the scale of changes to national policy and legislation and changes in local circumstances as set out above, it was recommended that a new Local Plan be prepared to replace the BDP. The new Local Plan, to be known as the Birmingham Local Plan, will involve evidence and information gathering and three main consultation stages before the Plan is submitted to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Communities and Local Government and subject to an Examination in Public carried out by the Planning Inspectorate. If, through that process, the Plan is found to be sound, the Birmingham Local Plan will then be adopted.

- 1.5. We are now at the 'Issues and Options stage of the plan-making process. This is the first public consultation stage, and this document sets out how we will undertake engagement at this stage.
- 1.6. The City Council's adopted Statement of Community Involvement sets out how we will engage at each stage of consultation. Consultation on the Issues and Options will be undertaken in accordance with the adopted Statement of Community Involvement and this document should be read alongside that.
- 1.7. The table below shows the overall timetable for the preparation of the Birmingham Local Plan and where the Issues and Options consultation sits within that timetable.

**Table 1: Proposed Timetable for the Birmingham Local Plan**

Key Stages	Scheduled Date	Minimum Consultation Period
Evidence gathering / Sustainability Appraisal scoping	June 2021	Ongoing
Issues and Options consultation (Regulation 18)	24 October – 5 December 2022	6 weeks
Preferred Options / Draft Plan consultation (Regulation 18)	October 2023	6 weeks
Publication/Pre-submission consultation (Regulation 19)	October 2024	6 weeks
Submission (Regulation 22)	June 2025	N/A
Examination (Regulation 24)	Autumn 2025	Ongoing during Examination period led by Planning Inspectorate
Adoption (Regulation 26)	Summer 2026	N/A

## **2. Issues and Options consultation (Regulation 18)** **Consultation dates: 24<sup>th</sup> October 2022 – 5<sup>th</sup> December 2022**

- 2.1 The Issues and Options stage is usually the first round of consultation in the development of a Local Plan. Issues and Options documents set out the scope and parameters of the Local Plan and the specific issues which need to be addressed as well as broad options to tackle the issues. The consultation also allows for the initial evidence gathered to accompany and inform the Issues and Options document to be published.
- 2.2 The consultation will cover general issues to be addressed without going into detail on any policy content or specific site allocations and geographic detail. To this extent, the consultation will be broad in its approach and not be targeted towards specific areas.
- 2.3 At this stage, initial engagement will be established with local communities, businesses and other stakeholders to help refine the issues and formulate a collaborative approach to how the Birmingham Local Plan will evolve. The Issues and Options Consultation will provoke interest from groups and communities, particularly in presenting opportunities for social value enhancement.

### **Objectives of the Issues and Options Consultation**

- 2.4 The objectives of consultation and engagement at the Issues and Options stage are as follows:
  - Identify key policy areas to update and renew in more detail
  - Identify any specific areas which require particular focus
  - Establish levels of growth across the City
  - Work with neighbouring planning authorities on cross-boundary issues.
  - Continue to develop engagement and support from community and stakeholder groups as well as any focus groups and see if alternative solutions can be identified
  - Continue to gain input from directorates within the City Council including Members and Senior managers in refining the issues to be addressed and establish alternative solutions

**Table 2: How we will undertake the Issues and Options Consultation (Regulation 18)**

Who is consulted	How will the consultation be done
<b>Consultation on Issues and Options Document to consider issues and alternatives (see table below for more details on events)</b>	
Communities, businesses, stakeholder groups and organisations, Duty to Cooperate (DtC) bodies and other local authorities.	<p>Dedicated website page including 'an online version of the document on which comments can be made electronically</p> <p>Email / post notification to all on the Planning Policy Consultation Database</p> <p>Press release/article</p> <p>Hard copies of documents at Councils' receptions and libraries where possible (known as the 'deposit' locations)</p> <p>Officer advice and assistance over the telephone, e-mail and post</p> <p>Posters / leaflets in appropriate locations such as libraries.</p> <p>Promoting the consultation on social media (Facebook, Twitter etc)</p> <p>Newsletters and social media of partner organisations e.g. community groups, BIDs, housing associations, Birmingham and Solihull LEP, Birmingham Chamber of Commerce</p> <p>Other City Council newsletters / bulletins</p> <p>Short video on the Council's You Tube Channel</p> <p>Online forums</p> <p>Drop in events at prominent venues in the city (one venue in each of the 10 constituencies of Birmingham plus the city centre) See below.</p> <p>Other online events throughout the consultation period, number subject to demand.</p>

<b>Carry out the 'Duty to Co-operate' requirement</b>	
Duty to Cooperate (DtC) bodies and neighbouring local authorities. (See Appendix 1 for full list)	<p>Exchange of letters / emails with DtC bodies and neighbouring local authorities.</p> <p>Meetings with DtC bodies</p> <p>Raise awareness at relevant meetings involving WM Combined Authority and neighbouring local authorities.</p>
<b>Internal consultation</b>	
<p>BCC Departments relevant to policy areas (Neighbourhoods, Public Health, Transport, Education, Housing, Route to Zero)</p> <p>Senior Officer Groups, working groups and Members</p>	<p>Birmingham Local Plan Members Working Group; Birmingham Local Plan Board; Birmingham Plan Officer Working Group.</p> <p>Briefing sessions and meetings</p>

**Table 3: Specific events for the Issues and Options document consultation**

All weekday drop in events are schedule to take place from early afternoon to early evening and weekend events will take place from mid-morning to late afternoon. The full details will be confirmed and publicised via the Council's website and social media as a minimum. Venues will be subject to final confirmation of availability.

<b>Event and Format</b>	<b>Constituency and Venue</b>
Pop-up Public Consultation Event - Face to face	<b>Erdington</b> - Co-op Supermarket, Erdington
Pop-up Public Consultation Event - Face to face	<b>Hodge Hill</b> - The Shard, Library Shard End
Pop-up Public Consultation Event - Face to face	<b>Perry Barr</b> - One Stop Shopping Centre, Perry Barr
Pop-up Public Consultation Event - Face to face	<b>Northfield</b> - The Northfield Centre
Pop-up Public Consultation Event - Face to face	<b>Sutton Coldfield</b> - Gracechurch Shopping Centre, Sutton Coldfield

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Pop-up Public Consultation Event - Face to face	<b>Selly Oak</b> - Morrisons supermarket, Stirchley
Pop-up Public Consultation Event - Face to face	<b>Yardley</b> - Swan Centre, Yardley
Pop-up Public Consultation Event - Face to face	<b>Ladywood</b> - Ladywood Leisure Centre
Pop-up Public Consultation Event - Face to face	<b>City Centre</b> - Grand Central
Pop-up Public Consultation Event - Face to face	<b>Edgbaston</b> - Waitrose Supermarket, Harborne
Pop-up Public Consultation Event - Face to face	<b>Hall Green</b> - Moseley Hive, Moseley
Online presentation sessions with opportunity for Q&A	The number of sessions will depend on demand and they will be held at different times during the day and early evening.
Sutton Coldfield Town Council - Presentation with Q&A	<b>Sutton Coldfield</b> - Online Teams Meeting or attendance at a Town Council Meeting
Business Improvement Districts - Presentation with Q&A	Cross City - Online Teams Meeting
Birmingham City Council Members - Presentation with Q&A	In person presentation to Planning Committee members with Q&A  Cross City - Online Teams Meeting
'Duty to Co-operate' partners including officers from neighbouring local authorities  Presentation with Q&A	West Midlands - Online Teams Meeting

## **Appendix 1: Duty to Cooperate bodies relevant to Birmingham City Council**

The bodies prescribed for the purposes of section 33A(1)(c) of the Act relevant to Birmingham City Council are:

- The Environment Agency;
- Historic England;
- Natural England;
- The Homes and Communities Agency;
- Highways England
- The Civil Aviation Authority
- NHS Black Country and west Birmingham Clinical Commissioning Group
- NHS Birmingham & Solihull Clinical Commissioning Group
- The Office of Rail Regulation
- Transport for West Midlands
- Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership
- West Midlands Combined Authority
- Neighbouring Local Authorities
  - Solihull MBC
  - Dudley MBC
  - Sandwell MBC
  - Walsall Council
  - Wolverhampton City Council
  - Bromsgrove District Council
  - Redditch District Council
  - Stratford-upon-Avon District Council
  - North Warwickshire District Council
  - Tamworth Borough Council
  - Lichfield District Council
  - Cannock District Council
  - South Staffordshire District Council
  - Wyre Forest District Council
  - Coventry City Council
  - Shropshire Council
  - Telford & Wrekin Council
  - Rugby Borough Council
  - Warwick District Council