

Local Plan Member Working Group Terms of Reference

Purpose

For discussion, guidance and support on the preparation of the Birmingham Local Plan, which will replace the Birmingham Development Plan, once adopted. Development Plan (a new Local Plan for Birmingham).

Role

The Member Working Group will undertake the following activities:

1. Keep under review the progress in preparing the Birmingham Local Plan
2. Receive updates on Government policy changes and priorities insofar as they impact on the preparation of the Birmingham Local Plan
3. Receive reports and presentations on the development of the Birmingham Local Plan evidence base and provide comments
4. Receive updates on the progress of neighbouring authorities' Local Plans insofar as they impact on the preparation of the Birmingham Local Plan
5. Provide comment on the scope and nature of the thematic policy approaches to be considered in developing the Birmingham Local Plan
6. Provide comment on the development of an evidence based preferred spatial strategy
7. Keep under review the Council's approach to community engagement in the plan-making process

Membership

- The Working Group will comprise 9 elected Members including the cabinet members with responsibility for land use planning; housing and homelessness; and transport; and the chair of Planning Committee. Membership will be apportioned in line with the political balance of the Council and appointees from each party will be agreed by their respective group leader.
- The Working Group must have at least 4 members to be quorate.
- The portfolio holder with responsibility for land use planning will chair the group and shall appoint a Vice-Chair from amongst its members at the start of each municipal year

Principles

- The Working Group will have no executive powers and will refer all recommendations directly to the appropriate executive by way of report.
- The focus of the Working Group is on the key issues for the Birmingham Local Plan, not all related detailed issues.
- The purpose of the Working Group is to help speed up the plan-making, not delay it.

Operation

- The frequency of meetings will be informed by the key stages in the development of the Birmingham Local Plan.
- The Working Group will be supported by the Head of Development Policy and officers in the Planning Policy Team.
- Meetings are not open to the public and the matters discussed, and papers shared will remain confidential unless otherwise agreed in view of the informal status of the

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group. Confidential information should not be shared with other parties, including other councillors and outside organisations.

- The Working Group will cease on the adoption of the Birmingham Local Plan by the Council.