

## **Consultation and Engagement Strategy**

### **Birmingham Local Plan**

### **Preferred Options Document**

**May 2024**

#### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1. Planning for development within the city is a key responsibility of Birmingham City Council 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. 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 to Council Cabinet that a new Local Plan was prepared to replace the BDP. The new Local Plan, to be known as the Birmingham Local Plan, will involve evidence and information gathering and will have been through 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 by the City Council.

- 1.5. The first consultation stage, known as the Issues and Options stage, took place in October and November 2022. The Issues and Options consultation provided an opportunity to reflect on the policies and impact of the Birmingham Development Plan (2017) and invited views on how the new Birmingham Local Plan should look in order to adapt to the many challenges facing Birmingham over the next 20 years including the climate emergency, massive housing pressures and a changing economy.
- 1.6. The evidence base supporting the Local Plan was also updated before, during and since the Issues and Options Stage and this, combined with the comments and issues raised during the consultation, have informed the draft policies and Growth area work which now makes up the Preferred Options Document for this consultation.

## **2. Consultation Requirements and Purpose**

2.1. The engagement strategy has been produced in line with the following national and local planning policy documents and legislation:

- **Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended by the Planning Act 2008)**
- **Localism Act 2011**
- **The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012**
- **Housing and Planning Act 2016**
- **Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017**
- **Government's Consultation Principles: Guidance 2018**
- **National Planning Policy Framework 2023**
- **Birmingham Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) 2020**

2.2. Subsequently, this legislation requires the Council to prepare a statement for how they will be involving those with an interest in development, setting out the standards for publicity, engagement and consultation on the development of the Birmingham Local Plan.

- 2.3. The duty to prepare an up-to-date Local Plan arises from the **Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 as amended by the Planning Act 2008**, the **Localism Act 2011** and the **Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017**.
- 2.4. **The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended)** sets out statutory requirements to which Local Authorities must comply. **Regulation 10A** requires local planning authorities to review their local plans at least once every 5 years from their adoption date to ensure that policies remain relevant and effectively address the needs of the local community. **Regulations 18 and 19** set out the key stages and statutory consultation for the production of Local Plan documents such as the Birmingham Local Plan.
- 2.5. [\*\*The Statement of Community Involvement \(2020\) \(SCI\)\*\*](#) sets out how the Council will consult in the preparation and review of planning policies and the consideration of planning applications. The SCI sets out minimum requirements for Birmingham Council in engaging and consulting on local plan documents at each particular stage in their development. However, the SCI is flexible enough to allow for tailor-made consultation and engagement to enable the Council to adapt its approach at particular stages.
- 2.6. There is a clear emphasis within national policy that consultation should begin at the very start of the preparation of any policy documents and communities should be given ample chance to comment on any form of development taking place within the city. Legislation states that early and consistent community involvement should be encouraged by Local Planning Authorities and should involve consulting key partners, including the local community.
- 2.7. The Council will ensure that a wide and relevant audience is consulted, which will involve informing communities about emerging policies and specific development proposals in the Birmingham Local Plan along with enabling communities to put forward their ideas in shaping the area in which they live in.
- 2.8. The SCI stipulates that comments made at each stage in the preparation of the Birmingham Local Plan should be acknowledged and that any consultation documents should be published for a statutory consultation period and made widely available in public places, online and advertised in newspapers. Any feedback which is received by any bodies should then form part of the 'pre-production work' whereby information, issues and evidence gathered should be considered in the development of the Birmingham Local Plan.

### **Duty to Co-operate**

- 2.9. Under the 2011 Localism Act and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), local planning authorities have a legal Duty to Cooperate with other local planning authorities and organisations to seek to address strategic planning matters that are driven by larger than local issues that are likely to have an impact beyond their immediate Local Plan area. The Duty to Cooperate is the mechanism for ensuring the right issues are addressed, in the right way, and with the right partners to maximise the effectiveness of policy and plan-making.
- 2.10. Section 33A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 sets out that to maximise effective working on strategic matters throughout the preparation of Local Plans, authorities have a duty "...to engage constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis".
- 2.11. Cooperation will involve social, environmental and economic issues that can only be addressed effectively by working with other local planning authorities and organisations beyond our own administrative boundaries. For example, housing market areas, travel to work areas, river catchments and ecological networks may represent a more effective basis on which to plan for housing, transport, infrastructure, flood risk management, climate change mitigation/adaptation, and biodiversity.
- 2.12. The engagement required will therefore vary depending on the nature of the issues being addressed, and could range from consulting on an issue, to preparing joint evidence and/or the preparation of a Statement of Common Ground. Cooperation will be needed before options for the planning strategy are identified so that the implications of strategic cross boundary issues can be assessed.
- 2.13. More information about the Duty to Cooperate can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/plan-making> and a list of Duty to Cooperate bodies relevant to Birmingham is attached at Appendix 1.
- 2.14. The Birmingham Local Plan is divided into key stages in its production. Within those key stages, there are three opportunities to formally consult with local communities, businesses and key stakeholders. These are the Issues and Options Consultation, the Preferred Option / Draft Plan consultation and the Publication / Pre-submission consultation. The purpose of those documents and the methodology required for each is set out further in Section 4 below. These three consultation periods are set out as a statutory requirement of Regulations 18 and 19 of the The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 as described in Section 2 above.

2.15. The table below sets out the proposed timetable for the key stages of the Birmingham Local Plan along with the minimum

Table 1: Proposed Timetable for the Birmingham Local Plan

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

### **3. General Methodology**

3.1. In accordance with the Regulations, the Local Authority is required to consult relevant bodies at various stages during the planning process. The regulations outline Specific Consultation Bodies that must be consulted, in addition to the other groups outlined in the NPPF, referred to as 'General' consultation bodies.

#### **Birmingham's Consultation Database**

3.2. A consultation database is active and utilised by the Planning Service which lists the Specific Consultation Bodies, as outlined in the Regulation, and a list of General

Consultation Bodies which have been included because the City Council considers them to be of great importance to the development of any plan. However, the database also contains a comprehensive list of local businesses, landowners, consultants, community groups and religious groups as well as other stakeholders and individuals who have expressed an interest in being consulted on local plan documents in Birmingham.

- 3.3. The database has been gradually built up over a number of years and now includes over 1,000 businesses, organisations and individuals and provides a valuable tool for the planning service to reach a wide number of key individuals and organisations across the city to publicise its documents. All data collected by the Council for the purposes for consulting on the Local Plan is in accordance with the latest General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) requirements.

### **Consultation Principles**

- 3.4. The Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) sets out a set of consultation principles. The City Council wishes to involve people in a meaningful way using timely, proportionate, and appropriate consultation techniques. Consultation on the Birmingham Local Plan will therefore be carried out in the context of the following overarching consultation principles.

- 3.5. Consultation should:

- Have a purpose and be proportionate, asking relevant questions on the issues that are to be decided on.
- Be clear and informative, using plain English that is clear to help everyone contribute to the process.
- Be open, transparent and responsive, allowing the opportunity for all to take part and showing how comments and views have been considered.
- Be targeted towards the most affected people, but also promote consultation as widely as possible.
- Promote equality through ensuring vulnerable people or disadvantaged groups are involved in the planning process and ensuring that the potential equality impact of planning policies and decisions are fully assessed.
- Promote social cohesion by involving as many sectors of the local community as possible and recognising their different consultation needs.

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- Use appropriate methods to engage with people constructively whilst, at the same time, ensuring City Council resources are used in the most effective and efficient manner.
- Commit to working with partners and communities in an open and transparent manner involving all, including those with protected characteristics as identified in the Equality Act 2010.

3.6. In addition to its legal and statutory requirements, consultation on the Birmingham Local Plan will also capture the City Council's commitment to equality, diversity, involvement and community cohesion in line with the following policies and strategies. These are also reflected in the principles for effective and representative consultation set out above.

- Equality - The City Council has a commitment to equality which is also a statutory duty under the Equality Act 2010. The Act aims to promote equality, eliminate discrimination and encourage good relations between different groups associated with age, disability, gender, race, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, religion/beliefs, pregnancy/maternity and marriage/civil partnership. Engaging with residents and other stakeholders is key to meeting this duty to better understand the needs of diverse groups.
- Council Plan – consultation on the Birmingham Local Plan will encompass the objectives of the Council Plan by 'proactively strengthening our partnerships with key institutions and businesses to create a strong civic family to lead the city' and 'fostering local influence and involvement' so as 'to ensure that local people have a voice in how their area is run'.
- Community Cohesion – the principles and practices of the Birmingham Local Plan will reflect those of the Community Cohesion Strategy for Birmingham [https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/downloads/download/2606/community\\_cohesion\\_strategy.gov.uk](https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/downloads/download/2606/community_cohesion_strategy.gov.uk) particularly in promoting inclusive economic growth that benefits everyone across Birmingham and helping to empower and engage neighbourhoods to be active participants in local solutions and decisions.
- Localism in Birmingham – the Birmingham Local Plan will help to deliver the objectives set out in the City Council's framework on Localism in Birmingham, which aims to build stronger communities and empower them to participate in setting local priorities and influence local service delivery. A key element of this is working more effectively with ward committees, forums and councillors to encourage communities to engage and participate in the planning process, so that they can influence and shape the development of their area.

- Birmingham Business Charter for Social Responsibility – this is a set of guiding principles which the City Council adheres to and invites all organisations to adopt as a mechanism for managing how they deliver social value.

### **How will we consult and engage?**

3.7. The City Council considers wide engagement particularly at the initial stages of preparation to be important so suitable methods to engage and consult need to be considered in order to meet and build on the statutory regulations. We will carefully consider how consultations are run in order to ensure that the city's diverse communities are made aware of relevant planning proposals and opportunities to comment on them. Different methods will be used according to the scope of the consultation, the target audience and the resources available. The following outlines some of the different methods of consultation which will be utilised:

- **Online engagement** – this has become the primary method of engagement for the City Council which includes the use of websites, online questionnaires, social media and email alerts. The City Council's website will be regularly updated with information about the Local Plan and other planning documents. The City Council will advertise all consultations on its website with documents available to view on dedicated pages and will make use of social media where appropriate, posting information on Facebook, Twitter and other social media platforms to promote consultations.
- **Face to face engagement** – sometimes speaking directly to someone is the best way to understand a person's point of view. Depending on the issues involved, this can include drop-in events, exhibitions, meetings with relevant groups or organisations, and presentations at public meetings such as ward committees. Meetings and exhibitions will be held at accessible and appropriate locations.
- **Written notifications** – for all statutory consultations, the City Council will directly contact by email or letter all known consultation bodies, along with anyone who has asked to be notified when consultation is taking place. Details of consultation and the availability of documents will be set out in this communication in plain English. Consultation notification e.g. letters and e-mails, may be accompanied by specially designed comment forms to assist people with their responses.
- **Publicising consultations** – the City Council will publicise consultations through a variety of means, including advertisements in the local press, public notices, media releases, newsletters, posters and site notices (for



planning applications). Public notices will be published in local newspapers when appropriate and press releases and/or briefings to convey information to wider audiences will also be used where appropriate.

- **Making consultation material available** - as well as publishing documents and consultation material online, hard copies will be made available for inspection at the City Council's main planning offices or to purchase in hard copy form.

## 4. Completed Stages of the Birmingham Local Plan

### Stage 1 - Evidence gathering / Sustainability Appraisal scoping

- 4.1. Where possible, the Council has aimed to engage stakeholders informally in the production of the updated Birmingham Local Plan from the outset, to create a collaborative approach. The original Birmingham Development Plan was subject to review, to see if it required updating early in 2021. Neighbouring Local Authorities which make up Birmingham's Housing Market Area<sup>1</sup>, along with other Duty to Co-operate Partners (Appendix 1), were consulted to seek views on the need to begin work on an updated Birmingham Local Plan and gain their views on the scope of any update.
- 4.2. Most Duty to Cooperate partners and other neighbouring authorities agreed with Birmingham's conclusions that changing circumstances meant that substantial changes were required to the Local Plan and that a full update of the Plan was necessary.
- 4.3. All local planning documents must be accompanied by a Sustainability Appraisal and during this stage a Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report needs to be produced and agreed by the statutory bodies. Consultation on this vital element of the Birmingham Local Plan is being carried out with the Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England.
- 4.4. At this stage, City Council internal groups need to be established to raise awareness and encourage engagement and involvement throughout the process. A Local Plan Member Working Group has been set up along with a Local Plan Board and Officer Working Group to ensure that awareness and engagement in the Local Plan is established across Members, Senior Managers and different departments.

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4.5. Focus groups will also need to be established for specific issues such as housing, environment, industry as well as connecting with established groups and networks e.g. climate change and Route to Zero.

Objectives of Stage 1

4.6. At this stage the main objectives of consultation and engagement are as follows:

- Evidence and information gathering
- Establish issues affecting communities across the City
- Identify ‘strategic matters’ and engage with those neighbouring local authorities affected i.e. cross boundary issues that impact Birmingham and neighbouring planning authorities.
- Identify existing community and stakeholder groups to be targeted throughout the production of the Birmingham Local Plan
- Identify the need to set up any focus groups to help identify issues
- Raise awareness and gain input from directorates within the City Council including Members and Senior managers

Table 2: Strategy for Stage 1

<b>Process and Requirements</b>	<b>Who was consulted</b>	<b>How was the consultation done</b>
Carry out the ‘duty to co-operate’ requirement	Duty to Cooperate (DtC) bodies (See Appendix 1 for full list)  Neighbouring local authorities in the wider Housing Market Area.	Exchange of letters / emails with DtC bodies and neighbouring local authorities.  Individual meetings with DtC bodies  Raise awareness at relevant meetings involving WM

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		<p>Combined Authority and neighbouring local authorities</p> <p>Greater Birmingham and Black Country Housing Market area (HMA) working group meetings.</p>
Internal Member and Officer engagement.	BCC Council Leader, Cabinet Members, Councillors and Senior Officers	Set up Birmingham Local Plan Members Working Group; Birmingham Local Plan Board; Birmingham Local Plan Officer Working Group.
Collect evidence and scope wider policy framework	<p>BCC Departments relevant to policy areas. (Neighbourhoods, Public Health, Transport, Education, Housing, Route to Zero)</p> <p>BCC Members</p> <p>External stakeholders relevant to policy areas.</p> <p>Landowners and Developers</p>	<p>Meetings and email correspondence.</p> <p>Briefings with Leader and Cabinet Members as requested.</p> <p>Meetings and email correspondence.</p> <p>Call for sites to be considered for future development</p>
Establish scope of the SA/SEA	Environment Agency. Natural England. Historic England	Letter/emails seeking approval of Scoping Report
Begin to establish focus groups on particular issues or contact existing groups.	Private sector developers, BMHT, BCC officers, community groups and organisations	Establish regular meetings of different groups

**Stage 2 - Issues and Options consultation (Regulation 18) - COMPLETED**

**Consultation dates: 24 October 2022 – 5 December 2022**

4.7. 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.

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- 4.8. The consultation covered 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 was broad in its approach and was not targeted towards specific areas.
- 4.9. At this stage, initial engagement was 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.

Objectives of Stage 2

4.10. At Stage 2 the objectives of consultation and engagement were 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 3: Strategy for Stage 2 – Issues and Options Consultation

<b>Process and Requirements</b>	<b>Who was consulted</b>	<b>How was the consultation done</b>
Establish specific engagement with local communities, businesses and other stakeholders to enable issues to be refined and allow preferred approaches to emerge.	Community groups and organisations private sector developers and stakeholders, BMHT, BCC officers.	Establish and maintain regular meetings with the various groups

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<p>Consultation on Issues and Options Document to consider issues and alternatives</p>	<p>Communities, businesses, stakeholder groups and organisations, Duty to Cooperate Bodies and other local authorities.</p>	<p>Dedicated website page including 'Objective' version of document</p> <p>Email / post notification to all on the Consultation database</p> <p>Press release</p> <p>Hard copies documents at Councils' receptions and Libraries where possible</p> <p>Officer advice and assistance over the telephone, e-mail and post</p> <p>Posters / leaflets in libraries and other public buildings</p> <p>Social media campaign with various posts made on a weekly basis during consultation (Facebook, Twitter (now X))</p> <p>Consultation advertised on newsletters and Social Media of partner organisations e.g. community groups, BMHT, housing associations, Birmingham and Solihull LEP, Birmingham Chamber of Commerce</p> <p>Other City Council newsletters / bulletins</p> <p>Short video on Council's You Tube Channel</p> <p>Support from Councillors</p> <p>Community newsletters</p> <p>Open day events at prominent venues in the City (one venue was chosen in each of the 10 constituencies of Birmingham plus the City Centre)</p> <p>Online events were carried out for BIDs and through Ward Forum groups</p>
<p>Carry out the 'duty to co-operate' requirement</p>	<p>Duty to Cooperate (DtC) bodies and neighbouring local authorities.</p>	<p>Exchange of letters / emails with DtC bodies and neighbouring local authorities.</p> <p>Individual meetings with DtC bodies</p>

		Raise awareness at relevant meetings involving WM Combined Authority and neighbouring local authorities
Internal consultation	BCC Departments relevant to policy areas (Neighbourhoods, Public Health, Transport, Education, Housing, Route to Zero)  Senior Officer Groups, working groups and Members	Birmingham Local Plan Members Working Group; Birmingham Local Plan Board; Birmingham Local Plan Officer Working Group.  Briefing sessions and meetings

## 5. Methodology for this stage of the Birmingham Local Plan

### Stage 3 - ‘Preferred Options’ Draft Plan (Regulation 18)

#### Consultation Dates: Provisionally 8 July 2024 – 19 August 2024

- 5.1. The time between the Issues and Options Consultation and the consultation on the Preferred Options draft Plan is important as this is the stage where the broad issues previously identified become refined into a series of preferred options. This requires the Council taking on board all of the responses and feedback from the ‘Issues and Options’ stage, feedback from various focus and community groups which have been established and furthering the evidence base for the Plan.
- 5.2. Specific policy issues have emerged and draft policies have now been put together in the Preferred Options document. There is also much more of a geographic focus on specific areas with the establishment of 27 growth zone areas which will be key to the future growth and development of the City. This will require more focus on particular interest groups or particular communities which will experience the most impact of growth and development proposals and strategies emerging in the Birmingham Local Plan and will be reflected in the targeting of events in particular geographic areas to cover as many of the growth zones as possible in the consultation as individual zones or groupings of zones.

#### Objectives of Stage 3

- Finalise key policy areas in preparation for Publication document

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- Finalise any specific areas which require particular focus
- Finalise levels of growth across the City and the focus for that growth
- Begin to establish Statements of Common Ground with neighbouring planning authorities on cross-boundary issues.
- Gain support from community and stakeholder groups on final preferred options to take forward for publication
- Gain cross-Council support from officers and Members on final preferred options to take forward for publication

Table 5: Strategy for Stage 3

<b>Process and Requirements</b>	<b>Who is consulted</b>	<b>How will the consultation be done</b>
<p>Continue specific engagement with local communities, businesses and other stakeholders to enable issues to be refined and allow preferred approaches to emerge.</p> <p>Add further community and focus groups as policy issues and geographic details emerge.</p>	<p>Community groups and organisations particularly those that are traditionally hard to reach, private sector developers and stakeholders, BMHT, BCC officers.</p> <p>Target engagement of specific geographic areas which emerge as growth / development areas in the Local Plan</p>	<p>Continue to establish and maintain regular meetings with the various groups</p> <p>Community newsletters, support from Councillors and open day events in those communities.</p>

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<p>Consultation on the Preferred Options Draft Plan (Summer 2024) (see table below for a strategy on events).</p>	<p>Communities (particularly those that are traditionally hard to reach), businesses, stakeholder groups and organisations, Duty to Cooperate Bodies and other local authorities.</p> <p>Target consultation of specific geographic areas which emerge as growth / development areas in the Plan</p>	<p>Dedicated website page and BeHeard page including a questionnaire</p> <p>Consultation database via email / post</p> <p>Press release/article</p> <p>Hard copies documents at Councils' receptions and Libraries.</p> <p>Officer advice and assistance over the telephone, e-mail and post</p> <p>Posters / leaflets in libraries and other public buildings such as shopping centres and hospitals</p> <p>Social media (Facebook, twitter etc)</p> <p>Newsletters and Social Media of partner organisations e.g. community groups, BMHT, housing associations, Birmingham and Solihull LEP, Birmingham Chamber of Commerce</p> <p>Other City Council newsletters / bulletins</p> <p>Support from Councillors</p> <p>Community newsletters</p> <p>Attending community events</p> <p>Open day events at prominent venues in the City</p>
<p>Carry out the 'duty to co-operate' requirement</p>	<p>Duty to Cooperate (DtC) bodies and neighbouring local authorities. (See Appendix 1 for full list)</p>	<p>Exchange of letters / emails with DtC bodies and neighbouring local authorities.</p>



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		<p>Individual meetings with DtC bodies</p> <p>Drafting of 'Statement of Common Ground' documents</p> <p>Raise awareness at relevant meetings involving WM Combined Authority and neighbouring local authorities</p>
Internal consultation	<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 Local Plan Officer Working Group.</p> <p>Briefing Sessions and meetings</p>

For this Stage of the consultation, the consultation will be targeted towards areas where there is expected to be most development activity during the Plan period which, in the Preferred Options document, are the growth zones. Twenty-seven Growth Zones have been identified across the City. In terms of events, the consultation will cover the City Centre and quadrants of the City where stakeholders and communities will be invited or can drop in. There will be at least one event in each area but, in addition, staff will be present at other community events throughout the consultation period to publicise the plan and encourage people to respond to the consultation. **Please note that all the events, dates and consultation venues will continue to be added as they are arranged prior to the commencement of the consultation in July 2024.**

**Table 4: Specific events for the Preferred Options document consultation.**

<b>Event and format</b>	<b>Area coverage</b>	<b>Date, time and venue</b>
<b>Face-to-face public consultation events</b>	<b>Birmingham City Centre</b>	<b>Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2024 11am-5pm Library of Birmingham, Centenary Square, Birmingham</b>
	<b>North and west of the City Centre</b>	<b>Week commencing 8<sup>th</sup> July 2024 Aston or Handsworth area</b>
	<b>Southwest of City Centre</b>	<b>Week commencing 15<sup>th</sup> July 2024 Selly Oak area</b>
	<b>East Birmingham</b>	<b>Week Commencing 8<sup>th</sup> July 2024 Small Heath area</b>
	<b>Northeast Birmingham</b>	<b>Week commencing 15<sup>th</sup> July 2024 Erdington area</b>
<b>Sutton Coldfield Town Council  Presentation with Q&amp;A</b>	<b>Sutton Coldfield</b>	<b>Sutton Coldfield Town Hall</b>
<b>Business Improvement Districts  Presentation with Q&amp;A</b>	<b>City-wide</b>	Online Teams Meeting to be arranged
<b>Birmingham City Council Members  Presentation with Q&amp;A</b>	<b>City-wide</b>	Online Teams Meeting to be arranged
<b>Birmingham City Council Members – Exhibition</b>	Prior to Full Council Meeting – Council House Birmingham	<b>Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> July 12.30pm-2.00pm Council House, Birmingham</b>

Appendix 4

<p><b>'Duty to Co-operate' partners including officers from neighbouring local authorities</b></p> <p><b>Presentation with Q&amp;A</b></p>	<p>West Midlands Development Needs Group - Online Teams Meeting</p> <p>Individual meeting with officers from neighbouring local authorities and other Duty to co-operate partners</p>	<p>To be arranged</p>
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## 6. Future stages of the Birmingham Local Plan

### Stage 4 – Publication and Submission of the Birmingham Local Plan (Early 2025)

- 6.1. Following consultation at the ‘Preferred Options’ stage, the Council will then need to finalise and refine the policies and mapping of the Birmingham Local Plan so that a final version is ready at the ‘Publication’ stage. This will be the version of the Plan to be submitted for examination by the Planning Inspectorate. It is therefore important that all key issues and responses from the Preferred options consultation have been taken on board along with any feedback from focus and community groups.
- 6.2. Any responses received from organisations or individuals at this stage will be forwarded to the Planning Inspectorate to be considered as part of the Examination into the Plan scheduled to be held at the end of 2025 or early 2026.

#### Objectives of Stage 4

- Finalise Statements of Common Ground with neighbouring planning authorities on cross-boundary issues.
- Finalise support from community and stakeholder groups on the soundness of the Birmingham Local Plan to be submitted
- Gain cross-Council support from officers and Members on the soundness of the Birmingham Local Plan to be submitted

Table 6: Strategy for Stage 4

Process and Requirements	Who is consulted	How will the consultation be done
Consultation on the Publication of the Birmingham Local Plan (Early 2025)	Communities, businesses, stakeholder groups and organisations, Duty to Cooperate Bodies and other local authorities.	Dedicated website page and BeHeard page including a questionnaire  Consultation database via email / post  Press release/article  Hard copies documents at Councils’ receptions and Libraries.

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		<p>Officer advice and assistance over the telephone, e-mail and post</p> <p>Posters / leaflets in libraries and other public buildings such as shopping centres and hospitals</p> <p>Social media (Facebook, twitter etc)</p> <p>Newsletters and Social Media of partner organisations e.g. community groups, BMHT, housing associations, Birmingham and Solihull LEP, Birmingham Chamber of Commerce</p> <p>Other City Council newsletters / bulletins</p> <p>Support from Councillors</p> <p>Community newsletters</p> <p>Attending community events</p> <p>Open day events at prominent venues in the City</p>
Carry out the 'duty to co-operate' requirement	Duty to Cooperate (DtC) bodies and neighbouring local authorities. (See Appendix 1 for full list)	<p>Finalise any agreements or Statements of Common Ground with neighbouring authorities and DtC bodies.</p> <p>Individual meetings with DtC bodies</p> <p>Raise awareness at relevant meetings involving WM Combined Authority and neighbouring local authorities</p>
Internal consultation	BCC Departments relevant to policy areas (Neighbourhoods, Public Health, Transport,	Birmingham Local Plan Members Working Group; Birmingham Local Plan Board;

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	Education, Housing, Route to Zero)  Senior Officer Groups, working groups and Members	Birmingham Local Plan Officer Working Group.  Briefing Sessions and meetings
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**Stage 5 – Independent examination of the Birmingham Local Plan**

6.3. An Examination in Public will be held by the Planning Inspectorate to determine the soundness of the Birmingham Local Plan and if any changes are necessary to make it sound in line with relevant national policy and any representations received. At this point the Council’s role is to publicise and signpost the Examination and provide information for those that request it.

Table 7: Strategy for Stage 5

<b>Process and Requirements</b>	<b>Who is consulted</b>	<b>How will the consultation be done</b>
Raise awareness of the Examination	Communities, businesses, stakeholder groups and organisations, Duty to Cooperate Bodies and other local authorities.	Dedicated website page  Consultation database via email / post  Press release/article  Officer advice and assistance over the telephone, e-mail and post  Social media (Facebook, twitter etc)  Newsletters and Social Media of partner organisations e.g. community groups, BMHT, housing associations, Birmingham and Solihull LEP, Birmingham Chamber of Commerce  Other City Council newsletters / bulletins

Appendix 4

<p>Internal consultation</p>	<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 Local Plan Officer Working Group.</p> <p>Briefing Sessions and meetings</p>
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## **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
- 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 Staffs District Council
  - Wyre Forest District Council