



Statement of Community Involvement

Temporary Amendments due to Covid-19 Restrictions

September 2020

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Text in red and '~~striketrough~~' text indicates the temporary amendments.

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1. Introduction

What is the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)?

- 1.1 Planning for land use and development in the city is one of the City Council's key responsibilities, impacting directly and indirectly on residents and communities. The City Council is committed to engaging with local people, organisations, businesses and other interested parties to get their views on different aspects of its planning service.
- 1.2 The Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) sets out how the City Council will involve local communities, businesses and other stakeholders in the preparation and review of planning policy and the consideration of planning applications. It explains who will be consulted, when and how. **However, temporary amendments have been made due to the Covid-19 outbreak and government guidance on social distancing.**
- 1.3 The SCI is a Local Development Document and forms part of the City Council's statutory local planning framework. The City Council must comply with it in the preparation of any planning policy documents and when determining planning applications.

Why has the SCI been updated?

- 1.4 Birmingham City Council's first SCI was adopted in 2008. An update of the SCI was therefore required to reflect changes to legislation and guidance including the Housing and Planning Act 2016, the Neighbourhood Plan Act 2017, the latest planning regulations, changes in national planning policy and guidance, as well as changes in communication methods and techniques over the past 10 years. This SCI will now replace the 2008 version **and has been temporarily amended to adapt to government guidance on social distancing.**

What is the aim of the SCI?

- 1.5 Consultation is crucial in helping the City Council and its partners make decisions which affect the City. By involving the community in the planning process the City Council can ensure that the planning and development of the area meets the aspirations of the widest possible range of people, communities, organisations and businesses. It also supports the Council in meeting its equality duty which will in turn help to provide services that meet the diverse needs of our communities as well as helping to carry out our core business more efficiently. The aims of the SCI are to:
- help promote participation and involvement in the planning process by presenting clear opportunities for people to make their views known **whilst adhering to any social distancing guidelines in existence at the time;**
 - help make the planning system more accessible, transparent and inclusive;

- harness the views, aspirations and knowledge of local communities and stakeholders **in ways that maintain any protocols on social distancing in place at the time** to improve the quality and efficiency of planning decisions; and
- promote social cohesion by making connections with communities and offering them a tangible stake in decision making **using methods which continue to maintain any social distancing protocols in place at that time.**

Consultation Principles

- 1.6 The SCI takes account of the Government's Consultation Principles: Guidance (2018) which provides guidance on how consultations should in general be conducted. The City Council wishes to involve people in a meaningful way using timely, proportionate, and appropriate consultation techniques **which conform to any ongoing Government protocols and rules on social distancing in place at that time.** This document has been prepared in the context of the following overarching consultation principles.

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.
- 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.
- **Use appropriate methods to engage with people constructively whilst, at the same time, ensuring that any ongoing restrictions and guidelines on social distancing in place at that time are followed.**
- 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.

Consultation Policy Framework

- 1.7 The duty to engage the community in planning matters and to prepare the SCI arises from the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (section 18) as amended by the Planning Act 2008, the Localism Act 2011 and the Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017. This legislation requires the Local Planning Authority (in this case the City Council) to prepare a statement for how it will involve those with an interest in development in the area. There is a clear emphasis through national policy on encouraging early and consistent community involvement.
- 1.8 Legislation sets out the minimum standards for publicity and consultation on planning applications and plan-making, which are set out in the next chapter. The City Council will always meet these requirements and, where appropriate and resources allow, will seek to go beyond them to secure wider-ranging involvement, social inclusion and equality in plan-making and planning decisions. **However, temporary amendments have been made to these requirements which will ensure that the minimum standards for publicity and consultation also take account of any ongoing restrictions brought about by Government legislation and regulations relating to the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic at the time of that consultation.**

Commitment to Equality and Inclusive Consultation

- 1.9 In addition to its legal and statutory requirements, the SCI also captures 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. This SCI has been updated to demonstrate that the City Council has had due regard to this statutory duty in terms of public consultation on planning documents and applications and that analysing the equality impact of policy changes and other planning decisions is now an integral and evident part of policy development and review.
 - Council Plan – This SCI will contribute to 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 SCI reflect those of the Community Cohesion Strategy for Birmingham particularly in promoting inclusive economic growth that benefits everyone across Birmingham and helps to

empower and engage neighbourhoods to be active participants in local solutions and decisions.

https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/downloads/download/2606/community_cohesion_strategy.gov.uk

- Localism in Birmingham – the SCI 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.

What will we consult on?

1.10 The SCI relates to the engagement and consultations that the Local Planning Authority carries out; it does not cover all City Council related consultations and engagement activities. The SCI specifically sets out how the City Council will engage with people on the following matters:

- **Chapter 2 - Planning Policy Documents** which are set out as a programme within the Local Development Scheme (see below) including;
 - Development Plan Documents (which make up the **Local Plan**) which set the strategic planning direction for the city, allocate land for development and policies to guide development decisions;
 - Supplementary Planning Documents which support the Local Plan by providing detailed guidance;
 - Informal planning documents, such as area frameworks;
- **Chapter 3 - Neighbourhood Plans**, which are prepared by communities;
- **Chapter 4 - Community Infrastructure Levy** which is a charge that allows local authorities to raise funds from most types of new development in their area to fund essential infrastructure; and
- **Chapter 5 - Planning applications**

Local Development Scheme

1.11 The Local Development Scheme (LDS) lists the planning policy documents that the Council intends to produce or review and the timetables for their preparation. When

the LDS is updated and approved, it will be published on the City Council's website. Notifications will be sent to the consultation bodies listed in the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended) and those on the planning policy consultation database.

2. Consultation on Planning Policy Documents

Introduction

- 2.1 There are various planning documents prepared by the City Council. Each of these is described below and the process for their preparation is set out in the tables overleaf. This chapter sets out how and when people can get involved during the process. To make consultation as effective as possible, an engagement strategy will be put in place for the consultation on each planning document.
- 2.2 The engagement strategy will ensure that the engagement is relevant to the area, that key stakeholders have been identified, and that suitable methods of engagement are put in place. The methods used should inform people and allow opportunities to engage and collaborate as part of the consultation. The strategy should be informed by the community profile for the relevant area which will also help to assess what effect the likely policy will have on equality matters and whether any changes are necessary as a result.
- 2.3 It is recognised that some parts of the community are not always adequately represented, particularly those recognised as sharing protected characteristics within the Public Sector Equality Duty. The City Council will work closely with relevant organisations that have experience in a particular matter or engaging with particular groups to find the best way of consulting and liaising with such groups.

Development Plan Documents

- 2.4 Development Plan Documents (DPDs) are statutory documents which set out strategic policies, allocate sites for development, and set policies for decision making on planning matters. Collectively, the DPDs comprise the Local Plan, which forms part of the Development Plan. Planning applications should be determined in accordance with the Development Plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise.
- 2.5 DPDs need to follow a statutory process set out in the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. This is set out in **Table 1** below along with how the City Council will engage with stakeholders and communities at each stage. However, given any ongoing restrictions on social distancing set by the Government due to the Covid-19 outbreak, temporary amendments have been made to this process for DPDs and shown within Table 1 as well.

Supplementary Planning Documents and other Informal Planning Documents

- 2.6 Supplementary planning documents (SPDs) and other informal planning documents do not have statutory status and cannot set new policy. Rather they provide more detailed guidance on how the policies in the Local Plan are applied. While SPDs are adopted formally by the City Council and are material considerations in the

determination of planning applications, they do not form part of the Development Plan.

- 2.7 SPDs and other informal planning documents may cover a range of issues - thematic and site specific. SPDs may take the form of design guides, area development briefs, masterplans or issue-based documents. Birmingham has a number of adopted SPDs adopted and there are also a number currently in preparation. Find out more on https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/directory/10/approved_planning_policies/category/55
- 2.8 There are a number of key stages in preparing SPDs which are set out in **Table 2** along with how the City Council will engage with stakeholders and communities at each stage. **However, given the ongoing restrictions on social distancing set by the Government due to the Covid-19 outbreak, temporary amendments have been made to this process for SPDs and shown within Table 2.** The level and extent of consultation required in the preparation of a SPD is generally less than that for a DPD and the methods used will vary, according to its content.

Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 2.9 Sustainability Appraisal (SA) seeks to assess how the policies reflect sustainable development objectives. This will be consulted on at certain key stages of the plan-making process.
- 2.10 All DPDs must be subject to a Sustainability Appraisal. Most DPDs and some SPDs are also subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), the latter normally being incorporated into the SA via a combined 'Sustainability Report'. The Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report, which sets out the methodology for the appraisals, will be updated as necessary and be the subject of consultation with relevant stakeholders each time a DPD is prepared to ensure that it provides for an up-to-date and appropriate appraisal of the likely impacts of the document's policies. The Sustainability Report will be published alongside the relevant DPD.
- 2.11 Natural England, Historic England and The Environment Agency are 'Strategic Environmental Assessment Consultation bodies' who will be specifically consulted on the requirement for and on the scope of any Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEAs).

Who will be consulted?

- 2.12 All planning policies and decisions have the potential to impact on people and organisations. These include residents, councillors, businesses, interest groups, agents, developers, community groups and organisations such as the West Midlands Combined Authority, Transport for the West Midlands, and the Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership.
- 2.13 The minimum legal requirements for consultation and public participation in DPDs and SPDs are set down in the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning)

(England) Regulations 2012. Specified bodies must be consulted where the City Council considers that the body may be affected by what is proposed.

- 2.14 The 2012 Regulations also require consultation with other interest groups, which cover a whole range of voluntary, community, special interest, amenity and business interests, referred to as 'general consultation bodies'. The Council maintains an up to date database of such contacts which is used for notification of consultations. Individuals and organisations can ask to be included on the database at any time. If you wish to be included please contact the Planning Policy team or fill in a form on the Council's website at:

https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20054/planning_strategies_and_policies/1722/planning_policy_consultation_database

- 2.15 The Council also has a legal 'duty to co-operate' with other local planning authorities, county councils and other the 'prescribed' public bodies¹ in relation to strategic cross boundary issues, such as housing, transport and flood risk. The Council will continue to positively address cross boundary issues in its plan making. This duty is additional to the basic legal requirements for consultation when plan making.

How will we consult and engage?

- 2.16 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. **However, due to ongoing restrictions as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, the scope of these methods is currently limited and reflected in temporary modifications to those methods set out below.** The following **which** outlines some of the different methods of consultation **currently being** 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** – whilst any ongoing restrictions on social distancing due to the Covid-19 pandemic remain in place, face to face engagement will not be taking place until such restrictions are relaxed or lifted and it is deemed safe to do so. Use of social media and online technology, where appropriate, may be a 'best fit' alternative to face to face engagement through means such as online

¹ As defined by the Town and Country (Local Planning (England) Regulations 2012) (as amended)

exhibitions, 'virtual' drop-in events on video platforms e.g. Microsoft Teams and presentations at 'virtual' committee meetings and public meetings ~~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. However, access to certain buildings may be restricted or public access to hard copies may not be the most appropriate course of action due to current restrictions as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. Additional resources may therefore need to be set aside to enable hard copies to be distributed to individuals on request if access to buildings is limited or regarded as impractical or unsafe for the individual concerned.

What happens to your views and comments?

- 2.17 All comments received on planning policy documents including the person/organisation's name and contact details will be recorded. The personal information that you provide will only be used by Birmingham City Council for the purposes of notifying you of progress with the document that you have made comments on and any subsequent planning policy consultations.
- 2.18 At the draft document stage for DPDs or following consultation on a draft SPD, comments will be reported to the decision-making body. The comments received will be reported as summaries or summary reports within a Consultation Statement which details the consultation that has been undertaken and the responses received. All comments will be available to inspect in full on request but addresses and contact details will not be published. Generally, anonymous comments are not accepted for consultation purposes. Individual written responses to the comments received will not normally be sent.

- 2.19 For DPDs, representations made at the Publication Stage (Regulation 19) will be sent to and considered directly by a Government appointed Planning Inspector to examine the plan. The representations will be published on the City Council's website in full but with addresses and contact details removed (redacted).
- 2.20 All comments made during the preparation of planning policy documents will be fully considered and, where appropriate, the City Council will make decisions or changes as a result. However, it is important to note that it may not always be possible or appropriate to decide the matter in accordance with the comments(s) received. Sometimes there may be other material considerations to which the City Council must adhere such as requirements of legislation or national / local policies.

Table 1: Process for Preparing a Development Plan Document

Key Stage	Process and Requirements	Opportunities for Engagement
1: Pre-production (Regulation 18)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collect evidence and scope wider policy framework • Establish how the aims of the policy framework relate to equality and present opportunities for social value enhancement. • Consider issues and alternatives • Establish scope of the SA/SEA • Carry out the 'duty to co-operate' requirement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carry out informal consultation and early engagement with relevant stakeholders and the local community, including identifying opportunities for social value enhancement. The nature/extent of this will be determined by the evidence gathered, subject matter and scope of the consultation • Consult with statutory bodies on the scope of the SA/SEA
2: 'Preferred Options' Draft Plan (Regulation 18)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare and publish 'Preferred Options' Draft Document • Carry out initial Equality Analysis and refine opportunities for social value enhancement • Prepare interim SA/ SEA • Consult for a minimum statutory period of six weeks <i>*in accordance with any ongoing Government guidelines and restrictions in place at the time as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.</i> • Prepare Consultation Statement • City Council considers the comments made 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write to specific, general and all other consultees who the City Council consider may have an interest, including everyone on the planning policy consultation database. • Make consultation documents available for inspection including on the City Council's website, planning offices and other locations <i>* which are publicly accessible and where any Covid-19 restrictions on social distancing measures existing at the time can be safely observed. as considered appropriate</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>* Use of social media and online technology, where appropriate, as a temporary alternative to face to face engagement whilst any Covid-19 restrictions on social distancing</i>

		<p>measures remain in place. This could be done through means such as online exhibitions, 'virtual' drop-in events on video platforms e.g. Microsoft Teams and presentations at 'virtual' committee meetings and public meetings. Hold public exhibitions, events and workshops or more focused meetings where appropriate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use social media and/ or local media to raise awareness • * Make additional hard copies of the document available on request to send to individuals if access to buildings is limited or regarded as impractical or unsafe by the individual concerned.
3: Publication of Proposed Submission Document (Regulations 19 & 20)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Having considered the comments and evidence gathered, the Publication/ Proposed Submission Document and SEA/SA Report is prepared • Statutory consultation for a minimum of six weeks to comment on the Plan, the SA/ SEA and supporting evidence * to be carried out in accordance with any ongoing Government guidelines and restrictions in place at the time as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. • Carry out final Equality Analysis • Comments will be considered by the Inspector at the Examination • Prepare Consultation Statement • City Council considers the comments and may propose further amendments to be considered by the Inspector 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write to specific, general and all other consultees who the City Council consider may have an interest, including everyone on the planning policy consultation database. • Make consultation documents available for inspection including on the City Council's website, planning offices and other locations * which are publicly accessible and where any Covid-19 restrictions on social distancing measures in place at the time can be safely observed as considered appropriate • * Use of social media and online technology, where appropriate, as a temporary alternative to face to face engagement through means such as online exhibitions, 'virtual' drop-in events on video platforms e.g. Microsoft Teams and presentations at 'virtual' committee meetings and public meetings. Hold public exhibitions, events and workshops or more focused meetings where appropriate. • Use social media and/ or local media to raise awareness • * Make additional hard copies of the

		document available on request to send to individuals if access to buildings is limited or regarded as impractical or unsafe for the individual concerned.
4: Submission of Proposed Submission Document and information to the Secretary of State (Regulation 22)**	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main issues raised at Stage 3 are summarised and made publicly available • **The City Council approves the submission of the documents and information to the Secretary of State • Plan submitted to Secretary of State for independent examination 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • **Make submission documents available for inspection including on the Council's website, planning offices and other locations * which are publicly accessible and where any Covid-19 restrictions on social distancing measures in existence at the time can be safely observed as considered appropriate. • **Notify the general and specific consultation bodies that were invited to make representations under Regulation 18(1) that the documents are available for inspection on the Council's website, planning officers and other locations * which are publicly accessible and where Covid-19 restrictions on social distancing measures in existence at the time can be safely observed as considered appropriate. • **Notify those who have requested to be notified of the submission of the document to the Secretary of State.
5: Examination (Regulation 24)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent Examination likely to involve hearing sessions (6 weeks prior notice to people who have requested to appear at the hearings) * If hearings are deemed as necessary, the Inspector may choose to postpone them until Government restrictions on social distancing due to the Covid-19 pandemic are sufficiently lifted. • Planning Inspector issues report if main modifications are not required, or; • Optional Stage where the City Council agrees, the Inspector can propose changes or 'main 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use City Council's website and social and/ or local media to raise awareness of the Examination • Make Examination documents available on the City Council's website • The Inspector will consider all representations made at Stage 3. • The Inspector will decide whether to conduct the examination via written representations or hearings and who is invited to participate. * If hearings are deemed as necessary, the Inspector may choose to postpone them until Government restrictions on social distancing due to the Covid-19 pandemic are sufficiently lifted.

	<p>modifications' to the plan to avoid it being found 'unsound'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspector considers representations on main modifications • The hearing may be re-opened • Planning Inspector issues report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notice of Examination is given six weeks in advance to people who have requested to appear at hearing sessions • Hearing sessions are generally open to the public * but will only be carried out if deemed safe to do so in line with Government advice existing at the time with regard to the Covid-19 pandemic. • Examination documents are published on the City Council's website
6: Adoption (Regulation 26)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan adopted by the City Council if found 'sound' by Inspector • Six week period for legal challenge to the High Court 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publish the Plan, adoption statement and other relevant evidence base documents on the City Council's website, and make available at Planning offices and other locations * which are publicly accessible and where any Covid-19 restrictions on social distancing measures existing at the time can be safely observed as considered appropriate • Send Adoption Statement to consultees on the Planning Policy Consultation Database and others who have asked to be notified • Use social media and/ or local media to advertise adoption of the Plan.
7: Monitoring & Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan is monitored to make sure it is achieving its aims • Monitoring to include equality impact or likely effects on different groups • The plan will be reviewed where necessary and at least every 5 years 	

* Temporary measures put in place due to any ongoing Government restrictions put in place for the Covid-19 outbreak.

** Clarification on Submission of Development Plan Documents

Table 2: Process for Preparing Supplementary Planning Documents and Informal Planning Documents

Key Stage	Process and Requirements	Opportunities for Engagement
1: Evidence gathering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collect evidence and scope wider policy framework • Establish how the aims of the policy framework relate to equality and present opportunities for social value enhancement. • Consider issues and alternatives • Screen to determine whether a SEA and Habitats Regulations Assessment is required. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carry out informal consultation and engagement with relevant stakeholders and the local community, including identifying opportunities for social value enhancement. The nature/extent of this will be determined by the evidence gathered, subject matter and scope of the consultation
2: Consultation on Draft Plan (Regulation 13)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statutory consultation for a minimum of four weeks to comment on the draft SPD and any supporting evidence <i>*as long as this is carried out within any ongoing Government guidelines and restrictions existing at the time as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.</i> • Carry out initial Equality Analysis and refine opportunities for social value enhancement • Comments considered and SPD amended where necessary • Prepare Consultation Statement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write to specific, general and all other consultees who the City Council consider may have an interest, including everyone on the planning policy consultation database. • Make consultation documents available for inspection including on the City Council's website, planning offices and other locations <i>* which are publicly accessible and where any ongoing Covid-19 restrictions on social distancing measures existing at the time can be safely observed as considered appropriate</i> • Use social media and/ or local media to raise awareness • Depending on the content, consultation may also be supported by workshops/meetings. <i>* This can be done through the use of social media and online technology, where appropriate, as a temporary alternative to face to face engagement through means such as online exhibitions, 'virtual' drop-in events on video platforms e.g. Microsoft Teams and presentations at 'virtual' committee meetings and public meetings.</i> • <i>* Make additional hard copies of the document available on request to</i>

		send to individuals if access to buildings is limited or regarded as impractical or unsafe for the individual concerned.
3: Adoption (Regulation 14)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carry out final Equality Analysis • City Council adopts Plan • Publish adoption documents including Consultation Statement • Six week period to allow for any legal challenge to the High Court 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send Adoption Statement to consultees on the Planning Policy Consultation Database and others who have asked to be notified • Use social media and/ or local media to advertise adoption of the Plan.
4: Monitoring & Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan is monitored to make sure it is achieving its aims • Monitoring to include equality impact or likely effects on different groups • SPD may be reviewed, where necessary 	

* Temporary measures put in place due to any ongoing Government restrictions put in place for the Covid-19 outbreak.

3. Neighbourhood Planning

- 3.1 Neighbourhood planning was introduced by the Localism Act (2011). It is a way for communities to decide the future of the places where they live and work by having more of a say in where new homes, businesses, shops and community facilities should be placed in their local area, along with being able to allocate sites for development. Neighbourhood Plans, once adopted, are statutory plans which carry equal weight to any Local Plan.
- 3.2 Unlike DPDs, Neighbourhood Plans are produced by local communities themselves with the support of the City Council. These plans must be in general conformity with the strategic policies in the Birmingham Development Plan and have regard to national planning policy.
- 3.3 Where they choose to, local people can draw up a plan or a development order:
- Neighbourhood Plans allow communities to establish general planning policies for the development of land in the area. A neighbourhood plan comes into force as part of the statutory development plan once it has been approved at referendum. This means that the council and planning inspectors will need to take the plan into consideration when making planning decisions.
- Neighbourhood Development Orders (including community right to build orders) grant planning permission for a specific type of development in a particular area. This could be either a particular development or a particular class of development such as housing or retail.
- 3.4 Like DPDs, there are regulations which cover the preparation of neighbourhood plans/orders including consultation requirements. Regulations also cover the referendum stages. The City Council's role is to provide advice and support to groups developing a plan. Up to submission of the final draft ('proposed submission') plan, it is the town or parish council (or forum) that is responsible for public consultation and engagement in its preparation.
- 3.5 It is only at submission stage that the City Council takes a lead on finalising the plan. This includes consultation and a referendum, which will be publicised on the website and in local press adverts.
- 3.6 The City Council will expect the consultation principles in this document to be followed and a clear engagement strategy in place. **Table 3** sets out the key stages in the process and the City Council's role and the qualifying body's role in relation to consultation and engagement. **However, given any ongoing social distancing rules set by the Government due to the Covid-19 outbreak, temporary amendments have been made to the process for Neighbourhood Plans and shown within Table 3.**
- 3.7 The City Council supports and promotes neighbourhood planning and is committed to providing advice and support to groups who wish to prepare neighbourhood plans and orders. As part of this commitment, the City Council will:

- Designate a planning officer to act as the first point of contact between neighbourhood planning groups and the City Council. The officer will provide appropriate help and advice on planning policy matters and facilitate access to other teams within the City Council where specialist advice is needed;
- Provide appropriate technical advice and assistance, for example, advice on the planning policies applying to the area, the steps involved in the preparing a plan or order, the formulation of a qualifying body;
- Share evidence and information on planning matters;
- Advise on consultation and engagement; and
- Provide a formal consultation response at the draft plan consultation stage

3.8 Further information and guidance on the process of setting up Neighbourhood Forums can be found on the website: www.neighbourhoodplanning.org/

Table 3: Neighbourhood Planning Key Stages

Key Stage	Opportunities for Engagement	
	Parish/ Neighbourhood Forum role	Birmingham City Council's role
1: Designation of Neighbourhood Area and Neighbourhood Forum (where appropriate):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Before submitting an application to designate the neighbourhood area the Parish Council/ Neighbourhood Forum may decide to consult with the local community about preparing a neighbourhood plan/ order. • Identify how the aims of the policy framework relate to equality and present opportunities for social value enhancement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With the exception of applications which are for an entire parish area, the City Council will formally publicise and consult on applications to designate a neighbourhood area (minimum consultation period is 4 weeks) and publish details in relation to the designation or refusal of a neighbourhood area. *Any consultation must be carried out in accordance with any ongoing Government guidance and restrictions in existence at the time relating to the Covid-19 pandemic. • Where appropriate, consultations on the designation of a Neighbourhood Area and a Neighbourhood Forum will be combined. • Write to specific, general and all other consultees who the City Council consider may have an interest.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make documents available on the City Council's website, planning offices and other locations * which are publicly accessible and where any Covid-19 restrictions on social distancing measures existing at the time can be safely observed as considered appropriate. • Use social media and local media/press to raise awareness
2: Preparing the Draft Neighbourhood Plan/Order: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop vision, aims and objectives • Gathering baseline information and evidence • Identify and assess options • Determine need for SEA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake ongoing consultation and engagement with the community and relevant consultees * as long as this is carried out within any Government guidelines and restrictions existing at the time as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial screening (5 weeks) consulting the statutory consultees to determine if a SEA is required. • Provide advice on relevant national and local planning policies and guidance • Share evidence and information on planning issues and on funding and skills for neighbourhood planning • Provide relevant contact information to assist consultation, publicity and engagement. *Ensure that any consultation is carried out in accordance with any ongoing Government guidance and restrictions existing at the time relating to the Covid-19 pandemic.
3: Pre-submission publicity and consultation:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publicise the draft Neighbourhood Plan or order and invite representations (minimum of six weeks consultation) • Consider the comments and amends plan/ order if appropriate • Prepare Consultation Statement • Consult the consultation bodies as appropriate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The City Council will continue to provide informal advice and support and a formal response to consultation
4: Submission of Neighbourhood Plan/Order to the Local Planning Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit plan or order and supporting documents to the City Council including basic conditions statement, SEA and Consultation Statement. 	<p>If the City Council finds that the plan or order meets the legal requirements, including the completion of an Equality Analysis, it will formally publicise and consult (for a minimum of 6 weeks) as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write to specific, general and all other consultees referred to in the

		<p>Consultation Statement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make documents available on the City Council's website, planning offices and other locations * which are publicly accessible and where any ongoing Covid -19 restrictions on social distancing measures existing at the time can be safely observed as considered appropriate • Use social media and/ or local media to raise awareness • Collate the representations made to send to the examiner.
5: Independent examination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Examiner issues a report to the local planning authority and qualifying body 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make arrangements for the independent examination of the neighbourhood plan • Submit the plan or order, relevant documentation and representations to independent examiner. • Publish the Examiner's report on the website • If the City Council is satisfied that the plan/ order meets the basic conditions the neighbourhood plan proceeds to referendum, working with the qualifying body in light of any changes • If the City Council doesn't think the basic conditions have been met, they will work with the qualifying body to determine the way forward. • If a decision is taken to differ from any recommendation then arrange for a further six week consultation as required *in line with Step 4 above.
6: Referendum plan/ order **See note below in relation to Regulations linked to the Coronavirus Act 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise awareness of referendum through publication of neutral promotional material. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make arrangements and publish information statement and notice of the referendum • Publish referendum results on the website and issue news release
7: Making the neighbourhood		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If more than 50% vote in favour, the City Council 'makes' the plan via Full

plan/ order		<p>Council resolution.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publish the Neighbourhood Plan, adoption statement and SEA adoption statement (where relevant) on the City Council's website, at the council offices and other locations * which are publicly accessible and where any Covid-19 restrictions on social distancing measures existing at the time can be safely observed. as considered appropriate
8: Monitoring and Review		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advise on the options, process and timing for reviewing neighbourhood plans. • Monitoring to include equality impact or likely effects on different groups

* Temporary measures put in place due to any ongoing Government restrictions put in place for the Covid-19 outbreak.

**Note: The Local Government and Police and Crime Commissioner (Coronavirus)(Postponement of Elections and Referendums) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 means that no elections or referendums can take place until 6 May 2021. This includes neighbourhood planning referendums. These provisions will be kept under review and may be amended or revoked in response to changing circumstances.

4. Community Infrastructure Levy

- 4.1 The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a charge that allows local authorities to raise funds from development in their area to fund essential infrastructure. CIL is a set charge that is applied to planning approvals for certain types of development in certain parts of the city. The City Council's CIL Charging Schedule is subject to periodic review and can be found at www.birmingham.gov.uk/CIL
- 4.2 CIL Regulations set out the procedure that charging authorities must follow prior to adopting or changing a Charging Schedule. These are summarised in **Table 4** along with the key opportunities for engagement. **However, given any ongoing restrictions on social distancing set by the Government due to the Covid-19 outbreak, temporary amendments have been made to the process for setting or changing the Community Infrastructure Levy and shown within Table 4.**

Table 4: Setting or Changing the Community Infrastructure Levy

Key Stage	Process and requirements	Opportunities for Engagement
1: Preliminary Draft Charging Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare evidence base to inform the Preliminary Draft Charging Schedule (PDCS) • Carry out initial Equality Analysis. • Establish how the aims of the policy framework relate to equality. • Publish the PDCS • Consult on the PDCS with consultees Consider representations when preparing the PDCS. • * Ensure that any consultation is carried out in accordance with any Government guidance and restrictions existing at the time relating to the Covid-19 pandemic. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informal consultation and engagement with key stakeholders and interested parties. * Ensure that any consultation is carried out in accordance with any Government guidance and restrictions existing at the time relating to the Covid-19 pandemic. • Make consultation documents available for inspection including on the City Council's website, planning offices and other locations * which are publicly accessible and where any Covid-19 restrictions on social distancing measures existing at the time can be safely observed. as considered appropriate • Use social media and/ or local media to raise awareness
2: Draft Charging Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publication of Draft Charging Schedule (DCS) and a statement of representations procedure • Carry out final Equality Analysis • Statutory consultation for a minimum of six weeks on the DCS and supporting evidence. *Ensure that any consultation is carried out in accordance with any Government guidance and restrictions existing at 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write to specific, general and all other consultees who the City Council consider may have an interest, including all those who have requested to be notified. • Make consultation documents available for inspection including on the City Council's website, planning offices and other locations * which are publicly accessible and where any Covid-19

	<p>the time relating to the Covid-19 pandemic.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare Consultation Statement • An Examiner is appointed 	<p>restrictions on social distancing measures existing at the time can be safely observed. as considered appropriate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use social media and local media to raise awareness • Consultation may also be supported by workshops/meetings. *Ensure that any consultation is carried out in accordance with any Government guidance and restrictions existing at the time relating to the Covid-19 pandemic. • Consultees can request to be heard by the Examiner and notified of further stages * within any Government guidelines and restrictions existing at the time as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.
3: Examination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submission of Draft Charging Schedule, a summary of main issues raised by the consultation, copies of the representations and relevant evidence • Examiner submits recommendations and the reasons 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documents made available and persons notified as above • If the DCS had been modified following Regulation 16 all consulted under Regulation 15 must receive a copy of the statement of modifications • Notice of Examination given 4weeks in advance to people who have requested the right to be heard • Local publicity for the Examination • Publish Examiner's recommendations and inform all who requested notification
4: Adoption, monitoring and review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City Council approves Charging Schedule and date of effect • Six week period for legal challenge to the High Court • Details of CIL income received and spent will be published in the AMR. • Review in line with BDP progress and changes in costs and values of development • Monitoring to include equality impact or likely effects on different groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adoption Statement, Charging Schedule and associated maps published on website • Use social media and/ or local media to advertise adoption

* Temporary measures put in place due to any ongoing Government restrictions put in place for the Covid-19 outbreak.

5. Consultation on Planning Applications

Introduction

- 5.1 The SCI must set out standards of consultation to be achieved by the City Council in making decisions on planning applications. Planning applications can range from modest extensions to existing dwellings to major development schemes for urban expansion or regeneration.
- 5.2 The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 sets out a minimum standard of publicity and notification of applications to the local community, depending on the nature of the application.
- 5.3 There are a number of different types of application depending on the specific type of consent sought. For most types of application, the process and approach to engagement is set out in **Table 5** below. This explains the process for determining a planning application and when, how and who will be consulted. **However, given any ongoing social distancing guidelines set by the Government due to the Covid-19 outbreak, additional temporary amendments have been made to the processes set out within Table 5.**

Pre-application consultation

- 5.4 Although this is not mandatory or a legal requirement, the Council recognises that for large or locally significant developments, it is important for developers to engage with local communities prior to the submission of a formal planning application. The process enables communities and stakeholders to have early input into planning proposals and help to identify improvements and overcome objections at a later stage.
- 5.5 The City Council welcomes and encourages pre-application consultation where it is appropriate and beneficial. It is recognised that the parties involved at the pre-application stage will vary on each proposal, and the level of engagement needs to be proportionate to the nature and scale of a proposed development **and within any ongoing guidance and regulations set out by Government in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.** Any pre-application consultation should follow the general consultation principles **(including any temporary principles relevant at the time due to the Covid-19 outbreak)** set out in section 1 of this document. The City Council has no formal role in pre-application consultations but will encourage other parties to take maximum advantage of the pre-application stage.
- 5.6 The Local Planning Authority would encourage developers to have discussions with local residents regarding future options for a site through pre-application consultation to establish if a relevant proposal might enhance social value i.e. by improving the economic, social and environmental well-being of the relevant site/area and how it might act with a view to securing that improvement. **Any such discussion must follow**

any ongoing guidelines on social distancing existing at the time as set out by the Government in response to the Covid-19 outbreak.

- 5.7 The details of pre-application consultations with the City Council, local community and statutory consultees, should form the basis of a Statement of Community Involvement at Pre-Application, which is submitted with the planning application. (See the Planning Local Validation List)
https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/downloads/file/7362/local_validation_criteria_2020

What happens to your views and comments?

- 5.8 Anyone can comment on a planning application either in support or to object. Any comments can only be made on the basis of material planning considerations. Material planning considerations are only those matters that can be considered within planning law in assessing and determining a planning application. For example, issues regarding traffic, wildlife, historic interests are all material considerations.
- 5.9 Comments which relate to “non-material” considerations cannot be taken into account. Non-material considerations include issues such as the loss of property value, boundary and other legal disputes between neighbours, potential problems associated with construction work, competition between businesses and structural and fire precaution issues
- 5.10 All relevant comments received within the defined consultation period will be fully considered and, where appropriate, the City Council will make their decision as a result. However, it is important to note that it may not always be possible or appropriate to decide the matter in accordance with the comments(s) received. Sometimes there may be other material considerations to which the City Council must adhere such as requirements of legislation or national / local policies.
- 5.11 Any comments can be made available upon written request. We will remove any personal details such as signatures, phone numbers and email addresses. Any support, objections and comments will be noted in the planning case officer’s report, along with how they have been considered in the decision. The City Council also reserves the right to withhold any comment(s) considered defamatory or harmful to an applicant, a consultee or the wider community.

Table 5: Process and Consultation on Planning Applications

Key Stage	Process and Requirements	Opportunities for Engagement
1. Receipt and registration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check compliance with relevant national and local validation requirements • <i>*All applications should be submitted electronically whilst any ongoing Government restrictions regarding Covid-19 existing at the time are in place.</i> • Check all relevant information and appropriate fee has been provided • Encourage developers to have early discussions with local residents for major applications including the potential for enhancing the social value of the proposal. <i>* This must be done in accordance with the latest Government guidance and restrictions in existence at the time as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The application will be available to view on the City Council's website.
2. Consultation and publicity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consult in line with current regulations currently for a minimum of 23 days (to cover postal delays). • If the scheme is amended, and we consider that those amendments raise new issues which could lead to further comment, we will seek to re-consult for a further 10 days. • <i>* Ongoing restrictions in place at the time due to the Covid-19 pandemic may mean that some decisions may take longer than normal requiring agreement on extension of time periods.</i> 	<p>The City Council notifies Ward Councillors, stakeholders and the community in accordance with the regulations by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publishing the application details on the City Council's website and how to comment; • Letter to the owners/occupiers of properties adjoining the application site advising of application and the period in which to submit comments; and/ or • <i>Site notices to be sent electronically to applicants and agents for them to print and display (with photographic evidence) placed on or near sites</i> subject to applications for development; and or • Publishing a notice in the local press for certain types of development¹ • A weekly list of all new applications received by the City Council is posted

		<p>on its website</p> <p>Depending on the proposal, we will also consult with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Various statutory and non-statutory consultees • Other bodies and interest groups relevant to the proposal • Duty to Cooperate bodies on major strategic applications or neighbouring authorities on applications for development close to the City boundary
3. Assessment	<p>The planning case officer will normally visit the site, *adhering to the Council's Planning Site Visits Covid-19 Protocol.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All material considerations will be taken into account in assessing the application, including comments received, relevant local and national planning policies and guidance. • Any comments received can be made available upon written request *submitted by email. We will remove any personal details such as signatures, phone numbers and email addresses • The City Council reserve the right to withhold any comment(s) considered defamatory or harmful to either an applicant, consultee or the wider community. 	
4. Making a decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The planning case officer will make a recommendation on the application in a report which sets out the reasoning, along with a summary and consideration of comments and consultation responses. • The majority of planning applications are determined under delegated powers. • Decisions for such applications will be made in accordance with the City Council's "Scheme of Delegation" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you have supported or objected to an application which is to be reported to Planning Committee you can register will be invited to *make a written statement to spea address the Committee for a specified time. *The protocol for written statements can be found at https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20182/planning_committee/60/speaking_at_planning_committee • The Planning Committee is currently

	<p>https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/downloads/file/14405/inclusive_growth_scheme_of_delegations_october_2019</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In certain circumstances, outlined within the City Council's "Scheme of Delegation", a planning application will be reported to, and determined by Planning Committee. * The scope of delegated powers has been temporarily broadened whilst ongoing restrictions imposed due to the Covid-19 pandemic are in place. 	<p>operating its meetings online via a virtual platform until Government restrictions are lifted with regard to the Covid-19 outbreak meets regularly in the Council House in Birmingham. The meetings are open to the public, however certain items may be discussed in private.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Committee meetings are broadcast live on the City Council's website *although certain items may be discussed in private by prior agreement. Once a decision has been issued, a decision notice will be sent to the applicant and/or agent to inform them of the decision. If you have commented on an application, you will be notified of the decision. All planning decisions are published on Planning Online (the public register of applications) available on the City Council's website.
5. Post decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the applicants disagree with our decision, they have the opportunity to make an appeal to the Secretary of State There is no right of appeal for third parties. This means that if planning permission is granted a member of the public cannot take the application to an appeal. 	

¹ Major applications; Listed Building Consent; development affecting Conservation Areas; Development subject to an Environmental Impact Assessment; Departures from the Development Plan; Development affecting a Public Right of Way

* Temporary measures put in place due to any ongoing Government restrictions put in place for the Covid-19 outbreak.

6. Monitoring and review

- 6.1 **In general**, the SCI will be kept under regular review and be updated at least every 5 years or earlier when necessary to correct factual changes not material to its principles. The effectiveness of the SCI will be monitored through the Authority Monitoring Report (AMR). **When Government guidance on social distancing due to Covid-19 is relaxed or removed and it is safe to return to all of the consultation methods and practices set out in the January 2020 SCI, the SCI will revert to the January 2020 version.**
- 6.2 In monitoring the SCI, account will be taken of the overall number of participants involved, planning policy consultations and feedback received about the satisfaction or otherwise of the involvement techniques used.
- 6.3 Changes to the SCI may also be instigated by further revisions of the regulations which govern publicity and involvement in the planning policy preparation and planning application processes. Any necessary changes will be made following appropriate public consultation, having regard to emerging best practice guidance and/or changes in legislation.

Glossary

Authority Monitoring Report (AMR) - The requirement for a local authority to produce an Authority Monitoring Report (AMR) is set out in Section 113 of the Localism Act 2011. This includes reporting on implementation of the Local Development Scheme (LDS), performance against housing targets set out in the Local Plan, neighbourhood planning, Community Infrastructure Levy implementation, and the Duty to Cooperate.

Birmingham Development Plan (BDP) – The BDP was adopted in January 2017 and is the key planning document which sets out the vision, objectives, and strategy for the future development of the whole of the City.

Community Cohesion – Where there is a common vision and a sense of belonging for all communities across the City

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and Charging Schedule - The Community Infrastructure Levy is a planning charge, introduced by the Planning Act 2008 as a tool for local authorities in England and Wales to help deliver infrastructure to support the development of their area. It came into force through the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010 and has been operating in Birmingham since January 2016. The Charging Schedule specifies the specifics of that charge.

Council Plan – Plan setting out the vision and priorities for the citizens of Birmingham across all disciplines and service provision within the Council.

Development Plan Documents (DPD) - Documents that set out policies for the strategic and overarching vision and development for the City or particular area. Development Plan Documents include the Birmingham Development Plan and Area Action Plans.

Duty to Cooperate - This requires cooperation between us and our neighbouring councils/planning authorities and other public bodies to maximise the effectiveness of strategic planning within the borough, particularly to ensure that regional planning issues are properly addressed.

Equality – Protection of people from discrimination in the workplace and in wider society legally embedded into the Equality Act 2010. Organisations such as local authorities have a duty to comply with the Act and uphold its principles including carrying out an Equality Analysis on all decisions made and policies adopted.

Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership (GBSLEP) - One of 39 Local Enterprise Partnerships set up by Government to drive economic development in England. It covers the geographical boundaries of the local authorities of Birmingham, Bromsgrove, Cannock Chase, East Staffordshire, Lichfield, Redditch, Solihull, Tamworth and Wyre Forest and is made up of representatives from the public and private sectors, in addition to skills providers.

Informal Planning Documents – Documents which are not statutory and do not set policies but provide planning guidance and additional information for a type of development or the future development of a particular area.

Localism – Enabling people to have control over what happens in their local area, that local businesses should be supported, and differences between places should be respected.

Local Planning Authority (LPA) - An LPA is the local authority or council that is empowered by law to exercise statutory town planning functions for a particular geographical area of the UK.

Local Development Document – Any document which makes up the suite of documents within the Council's development plans and policies

Local Development Scheme (LDS) - Document setting out timescales and milestones for the production of Development Plan Documents and Supplementary Planning Documents.

Localism Act (2011) - An Act of Parliament to facilitate the devolution of decision making powers from central government control to individuals and communities.

Local Plan - In law this is described as the development plan documents adopted under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

Neighbourhood Plans - a way of helping local communities to influence the planning of the area in which they live and work.

Non-statutory Consultees - In addition to Statutory Consultees, there are other consultees for which there are planning policy reasons to consult on planning applications and who are likely to have an interest in a proposal, but who are not required to be consulted by law

Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 - Government Act which reforms the town planning and compulsory purchase framework in the United Kingdom

Planning Policy Consultation Database - Individuals and organisations who have asked to be informed of consultations on any planning policy documents or those that the council view as needing to be informed of various stages in the planning policy formulation.

Secretary of State – Refers to the Secretary of State within the national government responsible for planning matters which is currently the Secretary of State for Communities, Housing and Local Government.

Statutory Consultees - Individuals or groups that the Council is required to consult. This list of Consultees is provided in the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning)(England) Regulations 2012 (as amended) <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukSI/2012/767/contents/made>

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) - The process by which environmental considerations are required to be fully integrated into the preparation of plans and programmes prior to their final adoption. The objectives of SEA are to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to promote sustainable development.

Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) - Documents intended to provide support or additional guidance to Development Plan Documents. Although they will not have development plan status they will be subject to procedures of community involvement and Sustainability Appraisal and are a material consideration in the determination of planning applications.

Sustainability Appraisal (SA) - An assessment of the likely significant social, economic and environmental impacts of policies.

Transport for the West Midlands (TfWM) – The public body responsible for co-ordinating transport services in the West Midlands metropolitan county. It is an executive body of the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA), with bus franchising and highway management powers similar to Transport for London.

West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) – This is a strategic authority with powers over transport, economic development and regeneration. The authority formally came into being on 17 June 2016 by statutory instrument under the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.