

Appendix 5

Local Plan Member Working Group Terms of Reference

Purpose

For discussion, guidance and support on the update of the Birmingham Development Plan (a new Local Plan for Birmingham).

Role

The Member Working Group will undertake the following activities:

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

Membership

- The Working Group will comprise 9 elected Members including the Leader of the Council (Portfolio Holder for Land Use Planning). Membership will be apportioned in line with the political balance of the Council and appointees from each party will be agreed by their respective group leader.
- The Working Group must have at least 4 members to be quorate.
- The Leader of the Council (Portfolio Holder for Land Use Planning) will chair the group and shall appoint a Vice-Chair from amongst its members.

Principles

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

Operation

- The frequency of meetings will be informed by the key stages in the development of the Local Plan.
- The Working Group will be supported by the Head of Development Policy and officers in the Planning Policy Team.
- Meetings are not open to the public and the matters discussed, and papers shared will remain confidential unless otherwise agreed in view of the informal status of the group. Confidential information should not be shared with other parties, including other councillors and outside organisations.
- The Working Group will cease on the adoption of the Local Plan by the Council.