



Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan Update | Autumn 2020 | Issue 2



Progress of the borough's Local Plan

The council's current Local Plan was published in 2016 and runs until 2029. National guidance now requires Plans to be reviewed every 5 years to ensure they remain up to date in terms of policies and meeting needs. The council is in the early stages of updating the current Plan, with a focus on gathering evidence and working with the relevant bodies to identify key issues and options. This newsletter provides details of the forthcoming first consultation on an updated Plan and other relevant updates. Please continue to share this with others who may be interested in the future of the borough.

Issues and Options consultation this autumn

A six-week public consultation on Issues and Options for the Local Plan Update is due to start on Monday 28 September 2020 and end on 9 November 2020.

The primary purpose of this early and non-statutory consultation is to identify the key planning issues facing the borough over the next Local Plan period (to at least 2038) and consider suitable options to address them. The consultation provides all stakeholders (borough residents, technical consultees, town and parish councils, developers and agent, local residents groups)

with the opportunity to influence the plan at an early stage.

The consultation will identify a number of key issues, reflecting the specific characteristics of the borough and more wide-ranging trends that will impact upon the area. The issues also reflect the ambitions of the council, highlighting priority areas for action and change. The main consultation document also outlines key options to be considered in the development of a suitable spatial strategy for the borough.



Other published documents

In addition to the main Issues and Options consultation document, other information will also be published which the council is inviting comments on. These are outlined below

Promoted sites document

Over 230 sites were promoted to the council as being suitable for future growth through the call for sites consultation that took place in summer 2019. Details of the sites can be viewed in the Strategic Housing and Employment Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA) at <https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/SHELAA>. A small number of sites have also been promoted to the council since the most recent publication of the SHELAA in December 2019.

The promoted sites document will list all promoted sites and provide maps for sites promoted since the publication of the SHELAA (2019). At this early stage, the council (as Local Planning Authority) has not identified or made decisions on any preferred sites to accommodate future housing or employment uses. More sites were promoted than will be required to meet future needs.

Settlement Study (Part 1)

Part 1 of the study considers the relative sustainability of the borough's settlements. This takes account of such issues as size, range of local services and facilities, accessibility to larger settlements by sustainable transport and employment opportunities. The assessment has enabled settlements to be placed in a sustainability category. In part 2 of the study, which will be published at a later date, the relative sustainability of the listed settlements will be taken into account alongside local needs, opportunities and constraints, to determine future suitable levels of growth for each settlement. Views of the work completed to date are welcomed as part of the consultation.

Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

A Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report has been prepared in line with relevant Regulations. The report identifies the policies, plans and programmes which will impact on the Local Plan, provides detailed baseline information on the borough, identifies sustainability issues and problems, and sets out sustainability objectives for the Plan to be assessed against. Statutory consultees have already commented on the report which has been updated to take account of issues raised.

The Sustainability Appraisal will continue to develop alongside the Local Plan Update, to assess and inform both the development of a suitable spatial strategy and policies, ensuring that key issues are effectively addressed and that sustainable outcomes are achieved.

Site Assessment Methodology

The council will need to assess the relative suitability of different sites to accommodate future growth. The LPU will ultimately allocate the most favourable sites for

development. The report explains which sites will be assessed and sets out the detailed criteria to be used in the site assessment process. The report sets out the different stages of the process and how this will lead to the final selection of sites. This is an important part of the LPU and the site assessment methodology is being consulted upon at this stage in order to ensure a transparent process that is properly informed by the views of local communities and their representatives, site promoters, consultees and stakeholders. The outcomes of the assessment will be subject to detailed consultation at the next stages of the LPU process.

What infrastructure is needed to support growth?

As part of the issues and options consultation, the council will also be seeking to actively engage directly with infrastructure providers to consider future infrastructure requirements and ensure that this is provided in a timely manner to meet the needs of existing and future residents and visitors to the borough. Relevant bodies will be receiving a questionnaire at the start of the consultation.

How to get involved

At the start of the consultation, the council will email all those on the Local Plan database with further information on how and where to access information. All of the material will be available on the council's website.

Working with our communities and neighbours

During the consultation the council will be holding a number of Duty to Co-operate meetings with neighbouring authorities to discuss strategic cross boundary issues relating to the Local Plan Update. Meetings will also take place with town and parish councils to discuss how it will impact on neighbourhood plans.

Updated timetable

The council agreed a new timetable for producing the Local Plan Update at its Cabinet meeting in September. The updated timings take into account such issues as the impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Key Stages

Dates

Issues and Options consultation

Autumn 2020

Consultation on draft plan (regulation 18)

Winter 2021

Publication of a submission draft Local Plan (Regulation 19)

Winter 2022

Submission (Regulation 22)

Spring 2023

Examination and main modifications

Summer 2023

Adoption

Spring 2024

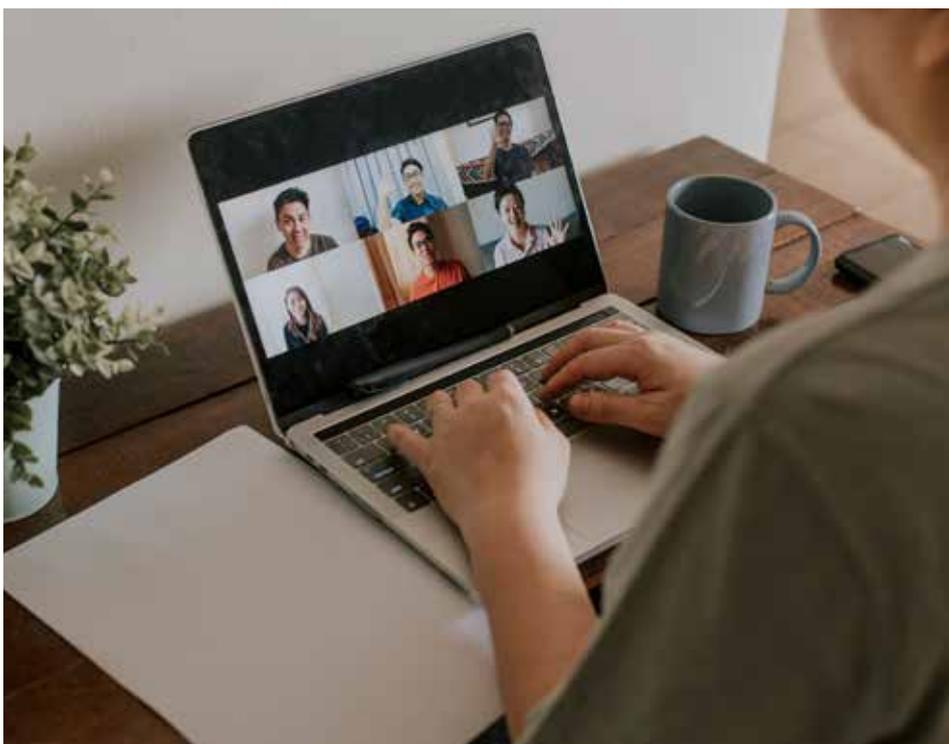
Planning consultations during the COVID-19 pandemic

The council's **Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)** sets out how partners, stakeholders and the community can be involved in the planning process. This covers both the production of planning policy and decisions relating to planning applications.

National guidance recommends that council's review their SCIs in light of the Pandemic and update

it to help prevent the spread of the disease. An updated interim SCI was consulted on in the summer and was adopted by Cabinet in September. The changes are temporary in nature until such time as national social distancing measures are lifted, at which point the council will revert back to the original version of the SCI (March 2018). This will be publicised when appropriate.

Main changes relate to how consultations are run, physical documents are displayed and how the council will engage with communities virtually via platforms such as video conferencing or via the telephone. For development management the main changes relate to the way that the council's Development Control committee is being run online and how the duty planning service is being run.



Keeping in touch

The council has a database for those who would like to receive updates on planning policy issues, including the Local Plan Update. If you would like to sign up, please email local.plan@basingstoke.gov.uk.

More information on the Local Plan Update is available on our webpage at www.basingstoke.gov.uk/lpu

