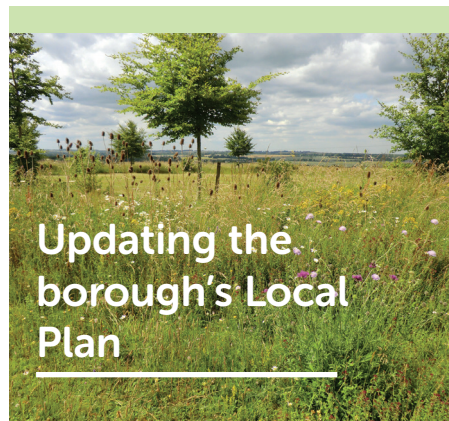




Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan Update | Winter 2019 | Issue 1



Updating the borough's Local Plan

The council agreed in May to launch an update to the current adopted Local Plan. The council has to review and update the plan in light of national guidance to ensure it remains up to date and relevant. Local Plans have always had a set lifespan before they are reviewed (the adopted Local Plan for the borough runs to 2029) but there is a new national requirement to review plans every five years.

This is the first of our regular newsletters updating you on the progress of the Local Plan Update. Please share this with others who may be interested in the future of the borough.

For more information on the Update process go to www.basingstoke.gov.uk/lpu

Early stages

At this early stage, the focus is on compiling the necessary evidence base and a number of studies have been commissioned or are being completed by the council to inform the update. Some key pieces of evidence are explained further below.

The council had originally considered undertaking initial consultation on issues and options for the plan prior to Christmas. However, this will now take place in summer 2020 to enable initial evidence base work to be completed and enable a more informed consultation. It also provides the opportunity to gain more certainty at a national level as changes made by the Government will have a



significant bearing on the plan, including setting out the level of housing the borough needs to provide.

The key stages in updating the Local Plan are outlined below:

Key Stage	Dates
Issues and Options consultation	Summer 2020
Consultation on draft plan	Spring 2021
Consultation on amended plan	Spring 2022
Submission to Planning Inspectorate	Summer 2022
Examination and main modifications	Autumn to Spring 2023
Adoption	Summer 2023



Outcome of call for sites consultation



A call for sites consultation took place in May/June inviting landowners and developers to put forward land in the borough which they consider to have development potential for uses including new housing and employment. A significant number of submissions were received which are currently being assessed. The outcomes of the consultation will be published on the council's website in December, through

the Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA).

The primary purpose of a SHELAA, which local planning authorities are required to prepare, is to identify sites with the potential for development; assess how many homes or floorspace they could provide and assess when they could be developed. It is a technical document and an important evidence source to inform decision making on future

housing and employment development. It does not determine whether a site will be allocated as this will be considered through the Local Plan Update process. It will, however, include a high level strategic overview assessment of the deliverability/developability of each site in terms of its suitability, availability and achievability in line with national planning policy requirements.

Developing an evidence base

A number of key pieces of evidence are being compiled to inform the Local Plan Update including the following:

- **Water Cycle Study (WCS) and Strategic Floodrisk Assessment (SFRA)**

The WCS will assess the capacity of the borough's water supply and wastewater treatment infrastructure to accommodate any future growth and consider the impact of growth on the borough's water environment. The SFRA will identify flood risk across the borough from all sources, including flooding from rivers and surface water. Aecom have been commissioned to undertake the study.

- **Retail and Main Town Centre Study**

The study will consider the current vitality and viability of the borough's shopping centres and identify the need for future floorspace over the plan period. Consideration will be given to

how changing shopping and leisure patterns will impact upon centres.

- **Landscape Character Assessment and Landscape Capacity study**

The study will identify and describe the variation in character of the borough's landscape, while the capacity study will consider the landscape capacity and sensitivity of sites to assess their relative suitability for accommodating future development. Hankinson Duckett Associates (HAD) have been commissioned to undertake the assessment.

- **Basingstoke Urban Design Framework**

The study will carry out a contextual survey and analysis of factors which will influence the future development of Basingstoke town. The study will include an assessment of the design policies within the current Local Plan and consider to what

extent they could be made more effective and locally specific.

Future pieces of updated evidence will include a Strategic Housing Market Assessment, Economic Needs Assessment, Transport Assessment, Settlement Study and Gypsy and Traveller Needs Assessment.

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

