

Planning, Development and Transportation



Briefing Paper for Rushey Mead Ward Meeting

Date: 2nd December 2020
From: Grant Butterworth, Head of Planning
RE: Local Plan Consultation: Next Steps

1.0 Purpose of briefing

The purpose of this briefing is to update the Ward meeting on the next steps and opportunities to engage with the Local Plan process following the conclusion of the latest consultation round on 7th December 2020.

2.0 Background

The 3 month 'Regulation 18' consultation on the Draft Local Plan concluded on 7th December 2020.

This is only one stage in a lengthy process- it follows the initial 'Issues and Options' and subsequent 'Emerging Options' Consultation undertaken in recent years. The Council followed Government advice in not unduly delaying the Local Plan process because of COVID, and set out for the first time a Draft plan setting out policies and a recommended set of sites to accommodate the City's projected housing and employment needs of the City for the period 2020 to 2036.

Views on these initial proposals were sought via the consultation following distribution of hard copy leaflets to all households across the city and beyond, together with the publication of Site Notices and posting of individual letters and plans to properties adjacent to the draft allocation sites

3.0 Current Position and Next Steps

A substantial number of responses have been received to the consultation. The next steps will be for officers to assess and consider all the representations, and to recommend revisions of the plan to be considered for approval at a future Council meeting next year.

Council will approve the next version of the plan **for a further consultation stage ('Regulation 19 or Submission Draft') to be undertaken next summer/autumn**. COVID conditions are anticipated to be likely to allow a more extensive and inclusive engagement to be undertaken at that stage.

Following the conclusion of this consultation, any further responses will be considered, and the plan amended as necessary and then a revised version- once approved by Council- will be formally **'Submitted' to the Government**.

The Government will appoint a Planning Inspector to review and consider the Plan. This will involve a further stage of public scrutiny and engagement in the form of an **'Examination in Public'** to be undertaken, chaired by the Inspector. This Examination will take place over a number of weeks, and the

Inspector will review all the Responses made to the Plan and invite selected interested parties and representatives to attend and present their comments and concerns on relevant aspects of the Plan.

Following the Examination in Public if the Inspector finds that the Plan is essentially 'sound' they will prepare a report for the Government to either **adopt or amend the Plan** subject to specified Modifications.

Following consideration of any recommended Modifications, the Plan will finally be adopted, potentially in 2022.

4.0 Conclusion

COVID has unfortunately delayed and impacted upon the Local plan process but in line with Government requirements, momentum on the process has been maintained by completing this draft consultation stage and a substantial response has been received to the recently concluded consultation.

It will be very important for all interested parties to engage fully in the next consultation (and subsequent Examination stage) of the revised plan, anticipated for summer/autumn next year.

Grant Butterworth, Head of Planning

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