

Appendix 4

Record of minutes of Scrutiny Meetings - Reg 18 Consultation Sept to Dec 2020

1st Dec 2020	Heritage, Culture, Leisure & Tourism
26 Nov 2020	Neighbourhood Services

1. Heritage, Culture, Leisure & Tourism - 1st Dec 2020

Responses in blue

AGREED:

1. That the Local Plan specify essential green and open spaces which are well used by residents for recreation, exercise and sports should be protected and improved, not be considered for new developments.

Policy OSSR02 sets out criteria that will protect, maintain, and enhance open spaces in relation to proposals for new development. Sites that have been allocated for development have been assessed against the provision of open space within each ward and area. The requirement for development to provide Biodiversity Net Gain (Policy NE02) will contribute towards enhancing existing green spaces.

2. That the Local Plan should consider building upwards for new homes and offices etc, rather than outwards, as open spaces are precious and valued.

As part of the evidence base for the new local plan the council commissioned independent consultants to assess the potential capacity within the city centre which would be the most sustainable location for new homes. The capacity study has led to a significant increase in potential development on brownfield sites compared with the last plan.

In response to the representations received during the last consultation the council has increased the required densities on new sites to make more efficient use of land.

3. The local plan should create more 'green-walls' to offset and identify where open space has been lost and consider the heatsink effect created by higher densities.

Biodiversity Net Gain requirements (Policy NE02) means that all development must result in a 10% net gain in biodiversity onsite, with offsite provision only to be considered if BNG cannot be achieved onsite. Various methods of achieving BNG, including green walls, will be considered on their merits in the context of the site in question.

4. That Planning officers should consider Members comments in progressing work on the Local Plan.

All comments have been considered in preparation of the final version of the plan

5. Existing heritage sites to be protected, and heritage forums in the city to be consulted on the local plan.

Heritage sites will be protected where possible through the policy HE01. Demolition of heritage assets will only be permitted if there is a strong justification.

We undertake a wide range of consultation as part of preparing the local plan including heritage forums in the city.

6. The Local Plan should reflect the culture, history, and contribution of the diversity of Leicester City.

The plan should be read as a whole, policies in the culture & heritage chapters support this.

7. That there should be a report back to HCLS Scrutiny on sports and leisure facilities being included in the Plan – when finalised.

The infrastructure assessment that underpins the Local Plan looked at costings for new sports and leisure. However, as the council is about to start a review of sports and leisure facilities this has been removed from the final version. The council will be producing a developer contributions guidance document (SPD) which will set out the priorities for infrastructure provision linked to growth.

2. Neighbourhood Services – 26th Nov 2020

Responses in blue

AGREED:

Members of the Commission recommended that that Head of Planning and Development be requested to:

1) Note the Comments made by Commission Members

Noted

2) That new development accommodates public amenities to meet the needs of a growing population through engagement with local Councillors

The local plan aims to do this, particularly for the strategic sites, where large new communities are being introduced into an area. Detailed master planning is undertaken for each of the sites that considers the needs of the new communities.

The Local Plan is also supported by an Infrastructure Assessment that gives this further consideration.

3) That policies protect local areas across the city

Although, the majority of the policies in the plan apply across the whole city they are flexible enough to consider the local area when assessing planning applications. For example:

The Employment Chapter – Although, employment policies address the large employment areas that have a strategic role they also address employment in the smallest employment land designations (textile areas and Neighbourhood employment areas). Although, these areas do not have particularly good or strategic access they are very important for the local community around them and the city's economy.

The Central Development Area – A lot of analysis has gone into identifying areas with distinctive characteristics and developing different development objectives for each of these areas. This will help to manage and guide future development without losing what makes the area distinct and special.

Housing policies include policies to address specific issues in certain areas such as the retention of family housing, houses in multiple occupation and hostels.

Design and Heritage policies are flexible enough to consider local circumstances when assessing applications.

4) That green and open spaces are protected to promote well-being and protect wildlife

The Local Plan includes policies aimed at protecting and enhancing good quality green spaces and wildlife species and habitats.

5) Include guides on food hubs and their impacts on local areas

This is beyond the scope of what we can do through the Local Plan

6) And that, all future developments are energy efficient with green energy and green transport.

There are specific policies in the Climate Change chapter on ensuring that all development becomes more energy efficient and also developing a sustainable transport network in the Transport chapter.

To be most effective, climate change policies must be applied alongside policies in other chapters such as housing, transportation, the natural environment, open space, sports and recreation, and health and wellbeing which also seek to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

It is anticipated that policies will be assessed and strengthened at the next plan review, to consider progressively increased levels of greenhouse gas reduction, culminating in a net zero emissions requirement as soon as possible and in alignment with national regulation.