



**WARDS AFFECTED: ALL**

Full Council

19<sup>th</sup> February 2020

---

## **Draft Leicester Local Plan (2019 – 2036) - Public Consultation**

---

Report of the Director of Planning, Development and Transportation

### **1. Summary**

This report outlines the proposed timetable for the local plan including provisions for consultation and scrutiny.

### **2. Recommendations**

That council is recommended to approve public consultation for this stage of the replacement Leicester Local Plan as set out in the report.

### **3. Draft Local Plan**

#### **3.1 Background**

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) requires all local planning authorities to produce a local plan. In view of this officers have been working on a new plan which will replace the current core strategy (2014) and saved policies from the previous local plan of 2006.

The draft plan will cover the period 2019 – 2036 and seeks to:

- Meet the needs for homes, jobs, shopping, and leisure;
- Allocate sites for development including strategic development sites; and
- Set clear planning policies that guide decisions on planning applications

The replacement local plan process involves a number of stages before the plan is ultimately adopted by the council. Following on from previous consultations, the council is now in a position to publish a draft plan for public consultation. The plan will be supported by various evidence documents and assessments, including an Equality Impact Assessment.

The draft plan and supporting documents can be viewed here:-  
<https://consultations.leicester.gov.uk/sec/local-plan-2019-2036>

The plan also needs to be viable and deliverable and should not be a burden on development.

#### **3.2 Key Strategies and Policies in the draft Local Plan**

- Housing need for the city over the plan period is 29,104. Supply of land is proposed as follows:

##### Strategic Sites

- Former Western Park Golf Course (LCC) – Including employment and open space
  - East of Ashton Green (LCC) – Including employment and open space
  - Land North of A46 bypass LCC/Private) – Including open space
  - Land at Billesdon Close and the Paddock (Private)
  - Leicester General Hospital (Private)
- 85 other sites will be allocated for housing and a large number of dwellings will also be provided on city centre and brownfield sites within the Central Development Area (CDA).
  - The Central Development Area (CDA) will provide around 4900 dwellings to

contribute towards housing supply but also focus on retailing, culture, leisure and entertainment.

- However, there will still be an insufficient supply of land, which means there will be a shortfall of 7,813 dwellings which will be distributed through agreement with district councils
- Officers have carried out a detailed analysis of areas (e.g. building heights, local character, heritage assets) within the CDA which has identified 9 key character areas and 4 'other' areas, each with their own objectives.
- Employment – To meet 45ha employment need, new sites are allocated at the former Western Park Golf course, East of Ashton Green, and Beaumont Park. The city centre will still be a focus for offices.
- Open Space – Balance between housing, employment and open space. Some green wedge will be lost and public open space reduced. However, there will be opportunities to secure new open space on strategic sites and enhance the quality of existing public open space.
- Transport – The plan will support the emerging local transport plan, which includes improving key transport hubs, providing a fast and efficient bus network, and promoting walking and cycling.

### **3.3 Key planning policies that planning applications will be judged against.**

- Climate Change – Includes air quality, transport, energy and flooding
- Health and Wellbeing – Good design, open spaces, employment, cycling and walking
- Internal Space Standards – City wide
- Affordable Housing 30% on greenfield sites
- Policies in relation to Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO's), student housing and retention of family housing
- Delivering Quality Places – includes tall buildings, landscaping, shopfronts, and protecting residential amenity
- Policies to preserve heritage assets and to support tourism in the city
- Maintaining and enhancing the quality of open space

- Protecting designated bio-diversity sites and support for net gain (awaiting government guidance)
- Policies to protect existing sports pitches and support for new ones
- Support the city's retail hierarchy and leisure and cultural facilities

### **3.4 Local Plan Timetable**

The Government is expected to introduce policy and legislation changes in relation to issues such as bio-diversity, design and climate change. Subject to emerging Government policy and any associated changes in plan making requirements, the current timetable for the local plan is as follows:

- Issues and Options - Public Consultation (Complete)
- Emerging Options, Sites and Development Management Policies – Public Consultation (Complete)
- Full Council 19<sup>th</sup> February 2020
- Public Consultation to commence March 2020
- Submission Local Plan Consultation – Autumn 2020
- Public Examination Winter 2020
- Adoption 2021

## **4. Details of Proposed Scrutiny**

Scrutiny of the Local Plan will be carried out at draft stage, submission and modifications stages (After the Local Plan examination).

During the public consultation a full round of reports to each Scrutiny Commissions will be carried out, to allow them to review in detail, the plan and policy elements which come under their remit. Decisions will be captured as part of the formal consultation process.

The plans, at appropriate stages, will also be referred for consideration at Full Council.

## **5. Financial, legal and other implications**

### 5.1 Financial implications

There are no direct financial implications from this report as support for the development of the Local Plan is being resourced through existing staffing and operational budgets.

Paresh Radia – Finance.

### 5.2 Legal implications

The draft local plan for the city of Leicester has been drafted pursuant to powers under the following legislation, the Planning and Compulsory purchase Act 2004 and the Localism Act 2011. As part of the plan process, consultation now needs to take place in relation to provisions in the draft plan this process is authorised following the requirements set out in regulation 18 of the Town and Country (Local Planning) Regulations 2012.

Stuart Evans – Solicitor.

### 5.3 Climate Change and Carbon Reduction implications

Land use and development have been identified as key factors which will affect Leicester's ability to respond to the climate emergency declared on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2019. The Local Plan therefore represents an important opportunity to ensure that, as far as possible within the legal framework set by central government, including for the viability of development, changes to the city's land use and built environment support the necessary rapid progress towards carbon neutrality and climate-adaptation.

Council should note that the proposals for responding to the climate emergency include "Land use, green space and development" as one of six key themes. Public consultation on these is currently underway until 9<sup>th</sup> February 2020. They were considered by the Economic Development, Transport and Tourism Scrutiny Commission on 4<sup>th</sup> December and the Housing Scrutiny Commission on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January. It is also proposed to bring them to the Overview Scrutiny Committee on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February.

Duncan Bell - Corporate Environmental Consultant.

### 5.4 Equalities Implications

An Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out and is available as part of the 'Evidence Base', (see section 6.)

Under the Equality Act 2010, public authorities have a Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) which means that, in carrying out their functions, they have a statutory duty to pay due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation, to advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who don't and to foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who don't.

Protected Characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 are age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation.

Meaningful consultation on the local plan will be an important method of collating evidence around any potential equalities implications and should aid the authority in paying due regard to the aims of the PSED. The local plan is a high-level document, and in order to foster a meaningful approach to assessing the equalities impacts, in this stage, a high-level assessment of potential equalities implications has been undertaken to indicate both the key issues and where more intensive focus is required in the following stage of local plan development.

Therefore, prior to a final decision on the local plan in 2021, at the next 'submission' stage of consultation (Regulation 19), a more detailed impact assessment on policies will be undertaken drawing upon equality information and the results of consultation and engagement activity. Building an evidence base is a vital part of equality impact assessment and should include protected characteristic groups (through established groups, support organisations and individually as part of a representative sample of consultees) and other groups at risk of exclusion. A key part of this will be understanding how current policies and issues affect different groups. This will be an iterative process and should be undertaken in such a way that equalities considerations influence the final decision.

Where disproportionate negative impacts on any protected characteristic/s are identified, decision makers must consider steps to mitigate those impacts. It is important that, throughout the process of decision making, decision makers are aware of and act upon their duty to pay due regard to the PSED.

Surinder Singh - Equalities Officer

5.5 Other Implications (You will need to have considered other implications in preparing this report. Please indicate which ones apply?)

None applicable

## **6. Background information and other papers:**

A number of documents, which make up "The Evidence Base" behind the Local Plan, are also available on the consultation website link:-

<https://consultations.leicester.gov.uk/sec/local-plan-2019-2036>