



**Resources and Public Realm
Scrutiny Committee**
15 January 2018

**Report from the Strategic Director
of Regeneration and Environment**

Consultation on the Draft Brent Local Plan

Wards Affected:	All, except area that falls within the boundary of the Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation.
Key or Non-Key Decision: (only applicable for Cabinet, Cabinet Sub Committee and officer decisions)	N/A
Open or Part/Fully Exempt: (If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)	Open
No. of Appendices:	None
Background documents:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Brent Local Plan Preferred Options Consultation Statement November 2018 ▪ Brent Local Plan Consultation Summary February 2018 ▪ Brent Local Plan Issues and Options February 18 ▪ Brent Local Plan Preferred Options November 18
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1.0 Purpose of the Report

1.1. The report details progress with the development of the council's new Local Plan and provides access to the results of initial public consultations. It sets out the plans for further consultation.

2.0 Recommendation

2.1 That the Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee consider the contents of the report.

3.0 Detail

Brent Local Plan Review

- 3.1 Brent's Development Plan sets out the planning policies against which planning applications are determined. It comprises four documents: Brent Core Strategy 2010, Brent Site Specific Allocations 2011, Wembley Area Action Plan 2015 and Brent Development Management Policies 2016. To reflect changes to national policy, the London Plan and Brent's latest aspirations, Brent's Local Plan needs to be updated. This process commenced in summer 2017.

Stages of Engagement to Date

- 3.2 Best practice in relation to local plan consultation is focussed on 'front-loading' the process. This is to tease out the issues and the potential options to address them through appropriate policy. This is with a view to reducing the potential for objection, or the need to radically revisit issues at the latter stages of adoption. To date there have been three separate phases of consultation:
- a) pre-issue of Brent Local Plan Issues and Options during 2017;
 - b) Brent Local Plan Issues and Options Feb 2018; and
 - c) Brent Local Plan Preferred Options Nov 2018.
- 3.3 For stage a) there was an informal emphasis. 9 workshops, 2 developer forums and 5 drop-in sessions were held across the borough in a range of venues to target different audiences. These were mostly held on evenings or weekends to allow maximum participation. These were advertised through direct mailing of interested parties, the Council's website and social media. Fuller details can be found on pages 8-9 of [Brent Local Plan Consultation Summary February 2018](#). In addition, targeted workshops and drop in sessions were held with groups that are sometimes underrepresented in consultation events. These included Brent Youth Parliament, Brent Multi-faith Forum, Disability Rights and Politics (DRAP) Brent and parents with young children via Barnardo's children's centres. This engagement occurred from early September until Early December 2017. In total 246 people attended a community workshop and approximately 230 commented at drop in sessions.
- 3.4 Stage b) was associated with a more formal issuing of a consultation Brent Local Plan Issues and Options document for comment from 8th February until 22nd March 2018. Awareness raising of the consultation was similar to that for Stage a). 8 drop-in sessions were undertaken. More detail can be found on page 5 of [Brent Local Plan Preferred Options Consultation Statement November 2018](#). Responses were collected principally via two mechanisms. One was through responses to particular questions raised in the Issues and Options document which could be responded to via the internet on a questionnaire, or via e-mail/ mail. In addition an interactive web map allowed people to identify areas and make comments. The comments can be viewed at <https://brent.commonplace.is/comments>
- 3.5 Stage c) the [Brent Local Plan Preferred Options November 18](#) document was issued for consultation between 8th November 2018 and 3rd January 2019. Publicity for the consultation was similar to that for stages a) and b). There

have been 4 workshops, 1 developer forum and 4 drop in sessions. In addition every property in the borough was sent a flyer advertising the consultation and there were advertisements in JC Decaux roadside sites as well as a video through social media.

Response Received

- 3.6 There has been a good response to the consultations in terms of number and quality. The plan's content is extensive and as such the responses diverse. [Brent Local Plan Consultation Summary February 2018](#) and [Brent Local Plan Preferred Options Consultation Statement November 2018](#) both contain Executive Summaries which set out the main issues. A verbal update will be provided at the meeting on the Preferred Options responses as the consultation runs until 3rd January 2019. It is anticipated that the level of responses received will be significant and as such this update will only be high level as full analysis will not have been able to happen.

Future Consultation

- 3.7 The next stages of consultation associated with the Local Plan are likely to be:
- a) Publication Stage Summer 2019
 - b) Examination Autumn 2019 Proposed Modifications
- 3.8 The publication stage is a statutory stage which has to be for a minimum of 6 weeks. At this stage consultation focusses on receiving representations related to the tests of 'soundness'. These relate to the policies in the Plan being: positively prepared, justified, effective and consistent with national policy.
- 3.9 When the document has been submitted for examination it is likely that the Council will seek to make modifications. These will relate to representations made at the publication stage and the Inspector's feedback through the matters raised and hearings sessions.
- 3.10 The publicity for the publication stage is likely to be consistent with previous stages. An exception however is likely to be in relation to a flyer being sent to every property in the borough.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 The consultation undertaken in association with the Local Plan is proportionate to the funds that are available within budget set aside for the project.

5.0 Legal Implications

- 5.1 There are statutory requirements set out in the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 related to the consultation, examination and adoption of Local Plans.

6.0 Equality Implications

- 6.1 The Council has sought to engage as widely as possible taking account of the diversity of Brent's population and those with protected characteristics.

Monitoring has been undertaken on the characteristics of respondents/ attendees at events and measures taken to address perceived lack of responses/ engagement with some groups.

- 6.2 The Local Plan policies themselves have been subject to an Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) which includes an assessment of equalities impacts, as well as for sustainability and health.

7.0 Consultation with Ward Members and Stakeholders

- 7.1 All Ward Members have been made aware of the various stages of consultation and the ability to contribute. This has been through the members' bulletin, numerous invites/ reminders from the Lead Member Regeneration, Highways & Planning and special member learning briefings and opportunities to attend workshops.

8.0 Human Resources/Property Implications (if appropriate)

- 8.1 The Council's property teams have been engaged with the Local Plan process throughout.

Report sign off:

Amar Dave

Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment