

Review of Local Plan underway

On Monday 4 December, our Joint Executive Advisory Board (EAB) will consider the scope of the forthcoming review of the Council's adopted Local Plan: Strategy and Sites (2019).

The formal review of the Local Plan will then follow, with a report to Full Council scheduled for February 2024.

Based on the outcome of this review, we will determine whether we should update any elements of the Local Plan. Even if an update is needed, the existing Plan does not become redundant. It will remain the primary consideration in determining development applications in the borough.

Lead Councillor for Planning, Environment and Climate Change, Cllr George Potter said:

"The Local Plan was adopted in 2019. Since then, there have been changes in a range of circumstances that impact on our borough. We are also legally required to review the Local Plan within five years of its adoption. Therefore it is now the right time to review whether the Local Plan should be updated. I look forward to the Joint EAB discussing the review process. Recommendations will go forward to Full Council for a decision in the new year, at which point the findings of the review will be available, and by which point we are hoping long-promised government changes to the National Planning Policy Framework will have been made.

"It is important to us that we are as transparent and accountable as possible throughout both the review process and any potential update of the Local Plan. The review process has already been discussed by the new cross-party Planning Policy Board and comments made by councillors at the Joint EAB will also be taken fully into account. As we go forwards we are committed to keeping residents informed about what is happening and we will continue to provide updates as more details become available."

If Full Council agrees a Local Plan update, we'll prepare a timetable, budget and actions before we begin any consultation and evidence gathering. The existing Local Plan would remain in place whilst this process is ongoing.