

Tower Hamlets Local Plan

Useful Information for Neighbourhood Forums

Introduction:

One of the 'basic conditions' Neighbourhood Plans have to meet, in order to be found sound at examination, is that they are in general conformity with the strategic policies in the Local Plan. Where a Local Plan is being updated, a planning inspector examining a Neighbourhood Plan will also look at the reasoning and evidence informing the emerging Local Plan process, to help judge conformity. National Guidance promotes working collaboratively where a Local Plan is being developed at the same time as Neighbourhood Plans. More information can be found in paragraph 184 of the National Planning Policy Framework and paragraphs 009 and 074 of Planning Practice Guidance.

This note is to help aid this collaborative approach and provide useful information regarding the current and future Tower Hamlets Local Plans for Neighbourhood Forums. The note covers:

1. Current Local Plan: List of the Tower Hamlets Strategic policies from the Core Strategy, 2010 and Development Management Document, 2013;
2. New Local Plan
 - a. Timetable for the new Local Plan;
 - b. Evidence Base update and availability.

1. Existing Strategic Policies:

LBTH considers the following policies to be our Strategic Policies, in line with Planning Practice Guidance paragraph 156. Please note, this is in addition to the London Plan 2015, which also forms part of our Development Plan.

Strategic Policies, LBTH Core Strategy, 2010

- SP01 Refocusing on our town centres
- SP02 Urban living for everyone
- SP03 Creating healthy and liveable neighbourhoods
- SP04 Creating a green and blue grid
- SP05 Dealing with waste
- SP06 Delivering successful employment hubs
- SP07 Improving education and skills
- SP08 Making connected places
- SP09 Creating attractive and safe streets and spaces
- SP10 Creating distinct and durable places
- SP11 Working towards a zero-carbon borough
- SP12 Delivering place-making

SP13 Delivering and monitoring

Development Management Policies, Managing Development Document, 2013

- DM0 Delivering Sustainable Development
- DM1 Development within the town centre hierarchy
- DM2 Local shops
- DM3 Delivering Homes
- DM4 Housing standards and amenity space
- DM5 Specialist housing
- DM6 Student accommodation
- DM7 Short stay accommodation
- DM8 Community infrastructure
- DM9 Improving Air Quality
- DM10 Delivering Open Space
- DM11 Living buildings and biodiversity
- DM12 Water spaces
- DM13 Sustainable Drainage
- DM14 Managing waste
- DM15 Local job creation and investment
- DM16 Office locations
- DM17 Local Industrial Locations
- DM18 Delivering schools and early learning
- DM19 Further and higher education
- DM20 Supporting a sustainable transport network
- DM21 Sustainable transportation of freight
- DM22 Parking
- DM23 Streets and the public realm
- DM24 Place-sensitive design
- DM25 Amenity
- DM26 Building heights
- DM27 Heritage and the historic environment
- DM28 World Heritage Sites
- DM29 Achieving a Zero Carbon Borough and addressing climate change
- DM30 Contaminated land and development and storage of hazardous substances
- All Site Allocations

2. The New Local Plan:

LBTH are updating our Local Plan to address the very great changes the borough has experienced since the last plans (Core Strategy, 2010 and Managing Development Document, 2013) were written, including population and employment increases, as well as the large increase in development activity. In addition there have been a number of significant changes to national and regional planning policy, which the new Plan has to address, including a higher housing target.

a. New Local Plan Timetable:

	Local Plan Key Stages	Deadline
1	Consult on the draft Local Plan (regulation 18), including: 1. A report which contains our preferred policy options and demonstrates that we evaluated reasonable alternatives and chose the preferred policies, based on our evidence base. 2. An accompanying draft Integrated Impact Assessment which will cover sustainability, health and equality impacts of the proposed policies. 3. A number of supporting documents, including our evidence base, which will cover a wide range of areas which were used to inform the development of policy alternatives.	Nov 2016
2	Publish and consult on the proposed submission Local Plan (regulation 19)	Jun 2017
3	Submission to the Planning Inspectorate	Jul 2017
4	Examination	Jul 2017 – Dec 2018
5	Adoption	Early 2018

b. New Local Plan Evidence Base

The Council's Local Plan webpage links to the evidence base used to develop the last Local Plan. There are also a number of useful socio-economic, education, employment, environmental research documents and strategies available on the Council's website. Some of these documents are available at a ward scale.

The Council is producing the following new evidence base documents to inform the new Local Plan:

Commissioned by Strategic Planning:

1. Integrated Impact Assessment (Including the Sustainability Appraisal /Equality Impact Assessment / Health Impact Assessment and Habitat Regulation Assessment)
2. Strategic Flood Risk Assessment
3. Employment Land Review
4. Town Centre Study
5. Waste Management Facilities
6. Transport
7. Viability Study
8. Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation needs assessment
9. Characterisation/Place-making Study*

10. Sports Pitch Assessment *
11. Conservation Strategy*

Commissioned by others:

1. Open Space Study (LBTH) *Refresh of existing strategy*
2. Infrastructure Delivery Plan/Framework (LBTH)
3. Strategic Housing Market Assessment (LBTH)
4. Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (GLA/LBTH)

*yet to be commissioned

All the evidence base documents address the whole borough, but some studies (Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, Employment Land Review, Town Centre Study, Transport, Characterisation/Place-making Study, Open Space Study) will include area based information and recommendations. They may include maps which could also be of use to Forums. However the level of detail and the spatial scale used by each study will depend on the nature of the study – for example, the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment will identify areas at different levels of flood risk and concentrate on higher risk areas, whilst the Town Centre Study will concentrate on the different town centres.

All evidence base documents will be made publicly available alongside the regulation 18 consultation in November.

In order to support Forums to determine whether they need to develop their own evidence base documents and to provide a examples on producing project briefs, we are happy to share the project brief, for each evidence base, the Plan Making Team has produced. We will also aim to share the briefs produced by other teams. This will indicate the scope of each evidence base, so Forums can determine whether it will provide the evidence base the Forum requires to support its proposed policy, or whether Forums will have to develop their own additional evidence base.