

Single Member Cabinet Decision

Executive
Forward Plan
Reference

E3363

B&NES New Local Plan Launch

Decision maker/s	Cllr Tim Ball, Cabinet Member for Planning and Licensing
The Issue	<p>The preparation of a new Local Plan for B&NES provides the opportunity for the Council to look afresh at its planning policy framework for the district. As this is a long-term plan (20 years), and because the Local Plan is the Council's primary tool for place shaping and the basis of decision-making on development and the use of land, the Council needs to ensure the Plan is sufficiently ambitious to deliver the Council's priorities and is responsive to local community concerns. In particular, the new Local Plan will play a key role in helping to deliver the Council's priorities in responding to the climate and ecological emergencies.</p> <p>The preparation of the Local Plan will commence with the publication of a Launch Document in October 2022. The Launch Document will outline the purpose, scope and timetable of the Local Plan and how communities and stakeholders can be involved.</p>
Decision Date	26 September 2022
The decision	<p>The Cabinet Member agrees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the new Local Plan Launch Document (Annex1) for publication (including editorial updates listed below)• the revised Local Development Scheme 2022 (Annex 2)• the Engagement Strategy (Annex 3) for the preparation of the new Local Plan (including editorial updates listed below)• the Statement of Community Engagement (Annex 4), and• to delegate authority to the Head of Planning, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Planning and Licensing, to make minor amendments and correct any errors to the above four documents before publication. <p>In making this decision some editorial updates are agreed by the Cabinet Member to the Local Plan Launch Document and Engagement Strategy as set out below.</p> <p>Local Plan Launch Document:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dates updated to take account of October launch• Additional text added to emphasise the importance of the Local Plan in improving people's lives and health and well-being

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reference to <u>net</u> zero carbon target • Additional text to specify types of housing to be delivered • Reference to creation of vibrant town and city centres • Editorial amendments to text relating to the Doughnut Economics Model • Update to text relating to the questions asked in the Launch Consultation <p>Engagement Strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dates updated to take account of October launch • References to initial engagement with the community (stages 2A and 2C) amended to focus on targeted engagement with community groups. • Removal of reference to 'newsletter page' on the website. • Insertion of list of main duty to cooperate bodies.
<p>Rationale for decision</p>	<p>The process for the preparation of local plans is primarily set out in the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) (the 2004 Act) and the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (the 2012 Regulations, national planning policy (the National Planning Policy Framework 2019) and national guidance (National Planning Practice Guidance). Other legislation is also relevant such as the Environment Act 2022. The Council must produce a Local Plan that is sound. The Planning Acts require that planning applications must be determined in accordance with Development Plan (which includes Neighbourhood Plans) unless material considerations indicate otherwise.</p> <p>Under the 2012 Regulations, the Launch Document will commence the initial consultation required by Regulation 18 of plan preparation, i.e. informal engagement.</p>
<p>Financial and budget implications</p>	<p>The Council's planning policy framework is critical to the delivery of the new Corporate Strategy. The formulation of planning policy will require extensive cross-service working to ensure a co-ordinated approach and an efficient use of resources.</p> <p>The preparation of Planning Policies and Supplementary Planning Documents for the District is primarily funded by the Local Development Framework budget and national and regional grants. In particular, funding of £1.34m has been made available from the WECA Investment Fund to assess opportunities for strategic growth. The scope and progress of preparation of Supplementary Planning Documents will depend on priorities and the available resources.</p> <p>The CIL charging levy is based on the Local Plan and generates substantial income (c.£20m over last 5 years) to fund infrastructure in the district. The charging levy will be reviewed alongside the preparation of the Local Plan, as will the approach to s.106 developer contributions.</p>
<p>Issues considered</p>	<p>Social Inclusion; Customer Focus; Sustainability; Property; Equality (age, race, disability, religion/belief, gender, sexual orientation); Corporate; Health.</p>

<p>Consultation undertaken</p>	<p>In preparing the report and the annexes consultation was undertaken with: Cabinet colleagues; Other B&NES Services; Section 151 Finance Officer; Chief Executive; Monitoring Officer</p> <p>Preparation of the Local Plan itself will be subject to extensive community and stakeholder engagement and consultation – see below.</p>
<p>How consultation was carried out</p>	<p>Community and Stakeholder Engagement is integral to plan preparation. Community engagement will need to be planned and coordinated with other Council initiatives and engagement exercises. Whilst comments will be invited on the Launch Document, this will not entail a substantive engagement. Instead, it will initiate a programme of informal, ongoing discussions with communities and stakeholders leading to the more substantive Issues and Options consultation in autumn 2023. More details on this engagement is set out in the Engagement Strategy.</p>
<p>Other options considered</p>	<p>The development plan is at the heart of the planning system. It is essential that local plans are in place and kept up to date. Section 19(1B) - (1E) 2004 Act sets out that each local planning authority must identify their strategic priorities and have policies to address these in their development plan documents (taken as a whole).</p> <p>Therefore, the Council doesn't have the option in this context not to prepare a Local Plan.</p>
<p>Declaration of interest by Cabinet Member for decision:</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Any conflict of interest declared by anyone who is consulted by a Member taking the decision:</p>	<p>None</p>

<p>Name and Signature of Decision Maker</p>	<p>Cllr Tim Ball</p>
<p>Date of Signature</p>	<p>26th September 2022</p>

Subject to Call-in until 5 Working days have elapsed following publication of the decision