

Bath & North East Somerset Council

DECISION MAKER:	Cllr Matt McCabe, Cabinet Member for Built Environment and Sustainable Development	
DECISION DATE:	On or after 17 February 2024	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE: E3515
TITLE:	B&NES Council response to Bristol City Council Publication Draft Local Plan	
WARD:	All	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report: Attachment 1 – Response to Bristol Publication Draft Local Plan		

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 Bristol City Council has progressed its Local Plan to the Publication Draft Stage for consultation under Regulation 19 of the Town and County Planning (Local Planning) Regulations (England) 2012. This is an important stage in Local Plan preparation prior to its submission for examination by a Planning Inspector. Bristol has close physical and functional relationships with Bath and North East Somerset (B&NES) communities. It is important that B&NES Council responds to consultation on the Bristol Local Plan. This report sets out in attachment 1 a recommended response for consideration and endorsement by the Cabinet Member for Built Environment and Sustainable Development.

2 RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet Member for Built Environment and Sustainable Development is asked to;

- 2.1 Endorse the comments set out in attachment 1 as this Council's response to the Bristol Publication Draft Local Plan**

2.2 Agree that B&NES Council should continue to engage constructively and on an ongoing basis with Bristol City Council on the preparation of its Local Plan in accordance with the Duty to Co-operate

3 THE REPORT

3.1 Bristol City Council is preparing its Local Plan to cover an 18-year plan period up to 2040. The Bristol Local Plan has reached the Publication Draft stage. The Publication Draft Local Plan has been published for consultation under Reg 19 of the Town and County Planning (Local Planning) Regulations (England) 2012. This is an important stage in Local Plan preparation prior to submission of the Draft Local Plan and representations received on it for examination by a Planning Inspector.

3.2 As an authority neighbouring Bristol City Council, B&NES Council is required, under the Duty to Co-operate, to engage constructively and on an ongoing basis on strategic, cross boundary matters in the preparation of the Bristol Local Plan. It is also important that we work with Bristol CC on its Local Plan given that Bristol has close physical and functional relationships with B&NES communities.

3.3 B&NES Council continues to work and engage with Bristol CC in ensuring our respective Local Plans appropriately address the cross boundary strategic matters. This includes through commenting on the various iterations of the Bristol Local Plan. The matters on which engagement has taken place and the outcomes of this engagement is documented in a Statement of Common Ground that will be updated during plan preparation.

3.4 B&NES comments on the Bristol Publication Draft Local Plan consultation document set out in Attachment 1 relate to cross-boundary strategic issues and focus on:

- Unmet housing need arising in Bristol and B&NES responding to the request from Bristol CC to accommodate a proportion of the unmet need through the B&NES Local Plan
- Other specific housing needs, including student accommodation and Traveller pitches
- Strategy relating to economic uses/development
- Development at Bath Road, Brislington and the need to continue working together in relation to development in the wider area
- Transport issues
- Other cross boundary strategic matters e.g. flood risk and renewable energy

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS

4.1 Bristol CC is preparing its Local Plan following a process prescribed by statute and regulations, including the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) and Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. B&NES Council is formally responding to the latest consultation document published for public consultation under Regulation 19 of the 2012 Regulations. Under section 33A of the Planning & Compulsory

Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) Bristol CC has a duty to co-operate (engage constructively, actively and on an on-going basis) with its neighbouring authorities and other prescribed bodies. B&NES Council is working constructively, actively and on an on-going basis with Bristol CC on its Local Plan and as required by the NPPF this will be documented through a Statement of Common Ground

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

- 5.1 Engaging in the preparation of the Bristol Local Plan and the preparation of comments on the Bristol Publication Draft Local Plan has been undertaken by the Planning Policy Team, with input from the Transport Planning Team, and the costs covered within the existing salary budget. It is anticipated that any costs arising from on-going engagement with Bristol CC on its Local Plan, via the Duty to Co-operate, will also be covered within the existing salary budget and the Council's LDF budget.

6 RISK MANAGEMENT

- 6.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision-making risk management guidance.

7 EQUALITIES

- 7.1 Given this report relates to comments on Bristol CC's Local Plan an Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) has not been carried out. An EqIA of the Bristol Local Plan is the responsibility of Bristol CC

8 CLIMATE CHANGE

- 8.1 In common with this Council, Bristol CC has declared a climate emergency and is aiming to be carbon neutral by 2030. The Bristol Publication Draft Local Plan Review includes policies that seek to address the climate emergency and B&NES welcomes this approach. Comments are made on strategic, cross boundary issues that arise and opportunities for continued joint working e.g. related to planning for renewable energy provision.

9 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 9.1 This report relates to B&NES Council's comments on the Bristol Publication Draft Local Plan. Given there are strategic, cross-boundary issues that this Council wants to raise no alternative options were considered

10 CONSULTATION

- 10.1 This report sets out B&NES Council response to consultation on Bristol CC's Publication Draft Local Plan. The undertaking of this consultation is the responsibility of Bristol CC. In preparing this Report and the response attached as Appendix 1 consultation has been undertaken with Cabinet Members and the Council's S151 and Monitoring Officers.

Contact person	Richard Daone, Deputy Head of Planning 01225 477546
Background papers	Bristol Publication Draft Local Plan https://www.bristol.gov.uk/residents/planning-and-building-regulations/planning-policy-and-guidance/local-plan/local-plan-review
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	