



London Borough of Enfield

Report Title	Update on Enfield's Local Plan progress
Report to	Environment Forum
Date of Meeting	5 December 2023
Cabinet Member	Cllr N. Caliskan
Executive Director / Director	Simon Pollock, Interim Executive Director of Environment and Communities Brett Leahy, Director of Planning and Growth
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Ward(s) affected	All

Purpose of Report

1. This report aims to provide members with a comprehensive update on the ongoing development and progress of the New Enfield Local Plan (ELP) as it advances through the various stages of planning. Enfield Council is currently in the process of updating its existing Local Plan, which is a crucial document that will guide the spatial development of Enfield Borough up to and beyond 2041.

Background

2. The New Enfield Local Plan holds significant importance as it must address the amount, types, and timing of future developments required in the Borough. Importantly, it outlines how this growth will be achieved sustainably, ensuring the preservation and enhancement of the Borough's unique character.

Legal framework

3. The plan-making process operates within a framework of English planning legislation and policy. At the highest level are the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, 2021) and the National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG), both of which dictate government planning policies for England.

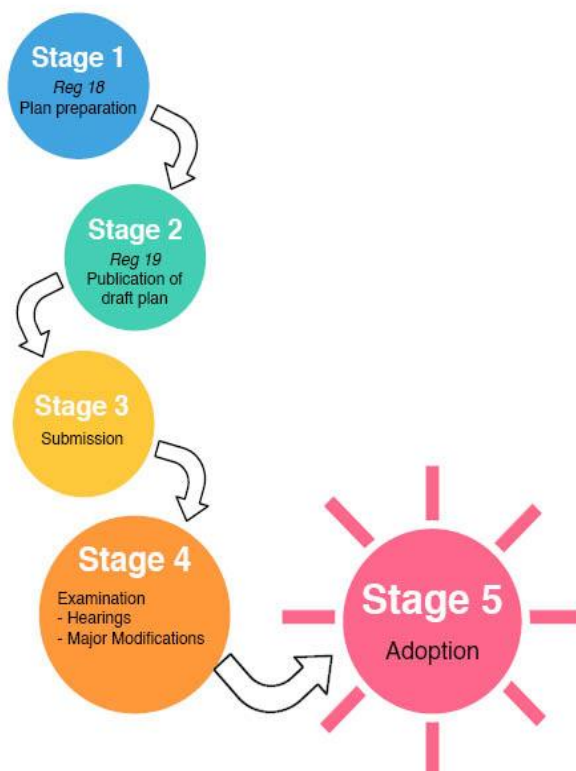
Local authorities must follow the NPPF unless local evidence justifies a different approach. In addition, the Town and Country (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 outline the planning processes.

Alignment with the London Plan

4. The Local Plan must align with the London Plan, prepared by the Mayor of London. General conformity with the London Plan is required, unless local evidence necessitates a different approach. The London Plan is a vital component of the Borough's development plan and provides the spatial development strategy for Greater London.

Current Plan Making stage

5. Enfield is currently at Stage 2 of the planning process, which represents the publication stage. At this point, the Council considers the ELP's final version, and public consultation is no longer focused on shaping the document's content. Instead, it allows interested parties to provide feedback on the draft plan and supporting information before submission to the Secretary of State. An independent Inspector will subsequently assess the plan during the examination stage, taking into account the comments received in the previous Main Issues and Preferred Approaches consultation held in June 2021.



Legal compliance and soundness

6. At the Examination in Public, the Council will seek representations on behalf of the Secretary of State, assessing legal compliance, compliance with the Duty to Cooperate, and the four tests of soundness. These tests ensure that the plan is positively prepared, justified, effective, and consistent with national policy as outlined in the NPPF.

Development of the Plan

7. The plan-making process began with the preparation of Issues and Options in late 2018/early 2019, focusing on exploring broad issues and options without indicating the Council's preferred approach. The subsequent Regulation 18 consultation document, published in June 2021, represented an advancement, setting out a preferred level of growth, spatial strategy, and related policies. Multiple public consultations were held, detailed in the consultation statement, to gather input from the community.

Informed by National Policy and community engagement

8. This submission document is informed by national policy, the London Plan (LP2021), the Council's strategic vision from the Council's Plan, the Evidence Base, and ongoing engagement with specific consultation bodies, organizations, and the local community.

Main considerations for the Panel

9. Looking ahead, the Borough faces numerous challenges related to climate change, biodiversity, shifting consumer preferences, and the housing crisis. There are spatial disparities within the Borough, affecting communities' access to quality public spaces and employment opportunities. The goal is to achieve sustainable growth while preserving the unique qualities of Enfield's neighbourhoods.

Conclusions

10. Enfield has the potential to address these challenges proactively, becoming a carbon-neutral borough, enhancing biodiversity, and transforming its high streets into multifunctional hubs. Growth can level disparities within the Borough and provide opportunities for all residents. By building walkable communities and augmenting the housing supply, Enfield can evolve into a healthier and more equitable place, providing a good quality of life for its residents.

Relevance to Council Plans and Strategies

11. The proposed plan closely aligns with Enfield Council's overarching priorities and strategies, demonstrating a significant contribution to the Council Plan (2023 – 2026), particularly under the 'Clean and green places' initiative. It emphasises a multi-disciplinary approach that encompasses biodiversity, cleanliness, active travel promotion, waste reduction, and carbon emissions mitigation.

12. The Vision is intrinsically linked with sustainability, climate responsiveness, and the aspiration for carbon neutrality. Moreover, it targets health inequalities, envisions the creation of liveable public spaces and green experiences, and places a strong emphasis on the development of zero-carbon infrastructure and sustainable waste management practices.

13. Notably, it envisions the establishment of a green corridor in northern Enfield, along with enhancements in rural areas, aligning with the goal of 'More and Better Homes,' providing affordable, climate-resilient housing options. In addressing spatial disparities and promoting diverse housing choices, the plan is inherently tied to the Council's objectives under 'Strong, Healthy, and Safe Communities' and 'Thriving Children and Young People,' actively fostering inclusivity and driving economic growth within the Borough.

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