

London Borough of Enfield

Council

Meeting Date: 12th October 2022

Subject: Petition - Councillors: We voted for you. Please speak up for us. #Debate Enfield's Local Plan

Director: Director of Law and Governance

Key Decision: N/A

Purpose of Report

1. The following petition was submitted with 4231 signatures. Under the Council's petition scheme this has the requisite number of signatures for referral for debate by Council.

The Petition states:

We, the undersigned, welcome our 63 councillors (of whom 29 are newly elected) and petition the council to:

- a. Bring the revised Local Plan to a Full Council meeting, as promised by a majority vote of councillors at an Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 9 June 2021.
- b. Allow sufficient time for councillors to debate the merits of the Local Plan for the first, and only, time at Full Council before it is submitted to the National Planning Inspectorate for consultation as part of the Regulation 19 process.
- c. Ensure that each councillor has the chance to vote either for or against the plan and, in the interest of transparency and public accountability, subject this vote to a "Roll Call" so that there is a public record of how each councillor voted.
- d. Publish the revised Local Plan, in fully accessible form for residents (length, format, physical copies) at least 12 weeks before the date of the proposed Full Council meeting to enable councillors, especially those who are new, to properly consider the contents of the plan and to engage their constituents in a meaningful and productive consultation about their aspirations, their homes and their environment **before** the debate at Full Council at which councillors can decide whether to submit the plan to the National Inspectorate and proceed to a formal public consultation.

This petition seeks an opportunity for councillors to participate in a debate about Enfield's Local Plan, the most significant and important policy choice that can be made by local governments.

Enfield Councillors have never voted on the merits of the Local Plan 2019 – 2039 but did agree to bring the final version of the Local Plan back to a Full Council meeting.

On 9 June 2021, the then council debated whether to consult on the "DRAFT REGULATION 18 ENFIELD LOCAL PLAN: 2019-2039".

- They decided to do so and the consultation took place; councillors should examine, publicly, the revisions resulting from the consultation.
- Councillor Nesil Caliskan moved the report with two minor amendments
 - 1) to have a twelve week consultation period on the Local Plan, and
 - 2) following the consultation, to bring the final version of the Local Plan to back to a Full Council meeting.

Proposal(s)

2. Council is asked to receive the petition from the Lead Petitioner, and in accordance with the Councils Petition Scheme, allow consideration of the views expressed in the petition.

The petition organiser or a Councillor requested by the petition organiser to represent them will be given 5 minutes to present the petition at the meeting and the petition will then be discussed by councillors for a maximum of 15 minutes.

The Council will decide how to respond to the petition, and have the following options:

- i. Take the action the petition requests;
- ii. Not to take the action requested for reasons put forward in the debate;
- iii. To commission further investigation into the matter, for example by a relevant committee; or
- iv. Where the issue is one on which the council executive are required to make the final decision, the Council will decide whether to make recommendations to inform that decision.

Reason for Proposal(s)

3. The Council's Petition Scheme allows Petitions with 3124 signatures (1% of the assessed population from the 2011 census as published by the Office of National Statistics) to be debated at Full Council.
4. The petition received 4231 signatures (2333 online and 1898 paper).

Relevance to the Council Plan

5. The Local Plan is part of the Council's policy framework.

Background

6. The Council's Petition Scheme details that a compliant petition submitted to the Council must:

- Contain the name, a valid address with postcode, and the signature of any person supporting the petition. A valid address is within the Borough of Enfield and can be a home, work or study address. It must include a clear and concise statement covering the subject of the petition. It should state what action the petitioners wish the council to take
- Relate to a matter for which the authority has responsibility, and which affect the authority or its area

Safeguarding Implications

7. There are no safeguarding implications.

Public Health Implications

8. There are no public health implications.

Equalities Impact of the Proposal

9. There are no Equality Impact implications for this report.

Environmental and Climate Change Considerations

10. There are no Environmental and Climate change considerations associated with the petitions report.

Risks that may arise if the proposed decision and related work is not taken

11. The Council Petition Scheme allows a debate at Council following the requisite number of signatures.

Risks that may arise if the proposed decision is taken and actions that will be taken to manage these risks

12. There are no key risks associated with this Report.

Financial Implications

13. There are no financial implications or additional costs associated with the debating of this Petition.

Legal Implications

14. The Council's statutory duty to have a petition scheme was repealed by s46 of the Localism Act 2011. Although no longer a duty, the Council has retained its petition scheme in the interest of promoting democracy. The Council's Petition Scheme is therefore still valid.

Workforce Implications

15. There are no workforce implications.

Property Implications

16. There are no property implications.

Other Implications

17. There are no other implications.

Options Considered

18. In accordance with the Council's Petition Scheme, Council is required to allow consideration of the views expressed in the Petition.

Report Author: Claire Johnson
Head of Governance, Scrutiny & Registration Services
Claire.Johnson@enfield.gov.uk
020 8132 1154

Date of report: 3 October 2022

Background Papers

None