

What is a Local Plan and why do we need one?

A Local Plan sets out planning policies and proposals for new development and designated areas to be conserved or protected. Hounslow Borough already has a Local Plan, the Hounslow Local Plan 2015. The Government requires local planning authorities to provide a Local Plan to help meet growth targets and to set planning policies in the area and they have to be reviewed every 5 years. As such, a new Hounslow Local Plan is being prepared and when it is 'adopted' it will be used to determine Planning Applications in the Borough.

Without a Local Plan, development can still take place but the Council would have less influence on where and when this occurs. The Council would also have less ability to require improvements needed to complement development, such as road improvements, or the construction of new schools.

We need to have an up-to-date Local Plan so we are able to refuse planning permission for sites that, if developed, could harm some of the borough's most important spaces. We could also be subject to the government stepping in and writing a Local Plan for us with little say in the process ourselves. We therefore want to be able to make decisions locally and for local people to have full involvement in the process, and to provide a plan which delivers homes and employment areas that we need in the most suitable places.

This updated Local Plan will help enable positive development in the Borough that meets the needs of communities, addresses climate change and enhances the built and natural environment. The new plan will also complement London's new capital-wide plan that was published in 2021, ensuring that it reflects and builds upon the vision, objectives and planning policies in the London Plan.

Policy Context

The **National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)** and **National Planning Policy Guidance (NPPG)** give guidance on how Local Authorities should draft Local Plans. The **Local Plan** must be consistent with the **NPPF** and be in conformity with the key planning principles within it.

The **London Plan** is produced by the Mayor of London and sets the strategic plan for London. The current version of the London Plan was published in March 2021 and sets out a framework for how London will develop over a 20-25 year period and the Mayor's vision for Good Growth. The Local Plan must be in general conformity with the London Plan.

The London Plan establishes a strategic approach in relation to key policy areas leaving limited scope for alternative policy options at the local level. For Hounslow, this includes identifying a minimum housing delivery target of 1,782 additional homes per annum to 2029.

There are numerous other areas where The Mayor establishes a strategic approach including for affordable housing, protecting Industrial Sites, the town centre hierarchy and facilitating the delivery of 80 per cent of all trips in London to be made by foot, cycle or public transport by 2041.



Planning for Growth – Hounslow Local Plan 2020-41

The primary aims of the emerging Local Plan include enabling positive development in the Borough that meets the needs of communities, allocating sufficient land for housing, employment and other uses, addressing the climate emergency and enhancing the built and natural environment. It will seek to do this by:

- Delivering 28,800 homes to 2041.
- Delivering high quality and affordable housing in sustainable places.
- Tackling the climate emergency by embedding sustainable design and seeking carbon neutral development.
- Ensuring that the Borough continues to be a key contributor to the wider London economy with the Great West Corridor evolving as the Gateway to London from Heathrow and the M4 Corridor.
- Helping to deliver more than 20,000 new jobs in the Borough to 2041.
- Supporting business growth including those near to Heathrow Airport and creative industries in the east of the Borough.
- Embedding Hounslow's Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy and the Mayor's Urban Greening Factor approach to enhance connectivity between green spaces and waterways.
- Driving nature recovery through implementing Biodiversity Net Gain.

What else will the Plan do?

- Support our **Town Centres** by enhancing their vitality and viability.
- Promote **economic growth** and inward investment to improve our Opportunity Areas, and set out visions to enhance and protect all places and neighbourhoods.
- Help deliver **sustainable and mixed communities** by servicing the diversity of local cultural needs.
- Help to deliver **community infrastructure** through collection of S106 contributions from new development.
- **Enhance Connectivity** by improving and supporting the delivery of new strategic transport links.
- Deliver **green and blue infrastructure** improvements to enhance our urban and open spaces, and drive borough-wide nature recovery.
- Continue to improve **environmental quality** through promoting zero carbon and sustainable design; improve resilience through addressing flood risk; and ensuring development avoids and mitigates impacts from all forms of pollution.
- Ensure **Tall Buildings** are cited and designed appropriately.



Next Steps and how to comment

The consultation on the proposed submission version of the Local Plan will end on **Monday 28th October 2024**.

You can access the consultation homepage at: talk.hounslow.gov.uk/local-plan-reg19

This is where you can find out more about the proposed submission version of the Local Plan, view consultation documents and submit a consultation response. This consultation is the final opportunity to provide us with your feedback on the Local Plan.

The next steps will be for us to submit the Local Plan and supporting documents alongside the comments we receive to the Secretary of State, who will appoint a Planning Inspector to assess the Local Plan. At this point, we will update our webpages and send notifications to those who have responded to this consultation with examination hearing dates, once they are agreed.

If, after examination, the Planning Inspector agrees that the Local Plan meets the required standards, the Council will be able to 'adopt' the Local Plan and use it to assess planning applications in the borough.

The consultation response form can also be downloaded from the our webpage as outlined above. The completed form can be returned to us by:

Email: spp@hounslow.gov.uk



**London Borough
of Hounslow**