

# **Barnet Local Plan EIP – Note on Council’s commitment to an early review**

## **Reason for producing this note**

At the hearing session on Day 2 (Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September) during consideration of Matter 2: Spatial Strategy and Strategic Policies, Inspector Wildgoose requested provision of a note concerning the Council’s commitment to an early review of the plan. This Note was to:

- Include any actions required if there is a firm commitment to embed a review in the Local Plan; and,
- Consider the impact of any review on Local Development Scheme.

## **Background**

The Leader of the Council highlighted in his Opening Statement (EXAM 11) that the Council will keep this Plan up-to-date following adoption, ensuring a review within 5 years.

The commitment to review was requested in light of the Local Plan not having a full 15 year period from the date of adoption (if found to be sound).

## **Consideration**

*NPPF para 33 states: Policies in local plans and spatial development strategies should be reviewed to assess whether they need updating at least once every five years, and should then be updated as necessary. Reviews should be completed no later than five years from the adoption date of a plan, and should take into account changing circumstances affecting the area, or any relevant changes in national policy. Relevant strategic policies will need updating at least once every five years if their applicable local housing need figure has changed significantly; and they are likely to require earlier review if local housing need is expected to change significantly in the near future.*

The legal requirement for a review at least every five years is also set out in Regulation 10A of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.

The Council will signal its intention to review the Local Plan through formal publication of the Local Development Scheme. Timing of the publication of the Local Development Scheme is subject to the timing of the adoption of the Local Plan (if found to be sound). The Council expects to publish the Local Development Scheme within a year of Local Plan adoption. This will set out a new timetable for the review.

The Council will ensure that the timeframe of the Local Plan covers a minimum of 20 years.

It will also ensure that contents of the proposed monitoring framework at Table 24 provides for a satisfactory and practicable basis for annually monitoring the effectiveness of the Local Plan. This should also inform the process for review. The reality will be that monitoring indicators will evolve and adjust and the review of the Local Plan would provide the appropriate opportunity to do this.

The Council proposes the following modification within the supporting text of Chapter 1 – Introduction of the Local Plan

## **1.7 Early Review of Barnet’s Local Plan.**

*1.7.1 The NPPF requires that policies in local plans and spatial development strategies should be reviewed to assess whether they need updating at least once every five years, and should then be updated as necessary. Reviews should be completed no later than five years from the adoption date of a plan, and should take into account changing circumstances affecting the area, or any relevant changes in national policy.*

*1.7.2 The Council will facilitate the early review of the Local Plan through formal publication of a new Local Development Scheme. This will set out a new timetable for the review, looking ahead over a 20 year timeframe and ensuring that the Plan covers a minimum 15-year period from the projected date of adoption. The process for review will be informed by the contents of the Local Plan Monitoring Framework set out at Table 24. This provides for a satisfactory and practicable basis for annually monitoring the effectiveness of the Local Plan.*

*1.7.3 The Council will formally publish the new Local Development Scheme within a year of the date of adoption of this Plan.*

## **Conclusion**

- The Council will facilitate the early review the Local Plan through formal publication of the Local Development Scheme (LDS). This will set out a new timetable for the review.
- Timing of the publication of the LDS is subject to the timing of the adoption of the Local Plan (if found to be sound) which will trigger the timescale for the publication of the LDS. The Council expects to publish the LDS within a year of Local Plan adoption.
- The Council has proposed a modification to the Local Plan within the Introduction (Chapter 1) clearly to signal its intention to review at Section 1.7.