

## Introduction

### The Waltham Forest Local Plan (2020 – 2035)

**2.1** The Waltham Forest Local Plan sets out the Council's spatial and planning policy framework to promote, shape and manage sustainable, inclusive growth in the borough over the 15 year Plan Period. Through robust and independently examined evidence it establishes what is needed in the borough, including 27,000 new homes and 52,000 sqm of new employment space, and it identifies the most suitable and sustainable locations for the delivery of inclusive growth to meet these needs.

**2.2** The Local Plan aims to go as far as possible to meet the evidenced need for new homes in the borough, whilst also securing high quality design, protecting and enhancing the character of local areas, providing new and improved green spaces and public realm, responding to the climate emergency, improving air quality, reducing surface water flood risk, creating safer places, reducing fear of crime, maximising the number of local jobs and employment space, and delivering a whole range of community infrastructure, including health facilities, a new hospital, public transport/station improvements, facilities for young people and new cultural amenities.

**2.3** The Local Plan is formed of two parts. Together, they set out the Council's spatial and planning policy framework to promote, shape and manage inclusive growth over a 15-year period from 2020 to 2035.

**2.4** Local Plan Part 1 sets out the overarching vision and strategic objectives to achieve inclusive growth, the spatial approach to development across the southern, central and northern parts of the borough, and includes strategic and development management policies for delivering high quality, inclusive and accessible development. All planning applications within the borough will be assessed against these policies. Local Plan Part 1 was adopted on 29 February 2024.

**2.5** Local Plan Part 2 (Site Allocations) complements Local Plan Part 1. It allocates specific sites for a range of uses to deliver the Council's spatial vision, objectives and development requirements to achieve inclusive growth. The sites identified are therefore the strategic and key sites that the Council expects to come forward over the Local Plan period (2030 – 2035), and for which the provision of further guidance is important in realising inclusive growth.

### Mission Waltham Forest

**2.6** In March 2024, the Council launched 'Mission Waltham Forest', setting out the Council's corporate plan to create a more equal borough by 2030. Mission Waltham Forest is made up of six 'borough missions', which are:

1. Ensure every family and every child are given every opportunity
2. Build an economy that works for everyone
3. Make Waltham Forest a great place to live and age well
4. Tackle the housing crisis head on
5. Lead the way for a net-zero borough
6. Create safe, green neighbourhood where everyone can thrive

**2.7** The Local Plan is essential in delivering these missions, as well as the borough's Climate Action Plan. Underpinning the Local Plan's spatial strategy is the fundamental principle that inclusive growth should be directed to previously developed sites, which - in their current state – may be dominated by swathes of hard surfaced car parks, out of town and out of character retail parks and supermarkets. In their place, the Local Plan seeks well designed, well landscaped, green and biodiverse new places that play their part in making a more equal borough. Directing inclusive, sustainable growth to previously developed sites at the heart of existing communities can deliver the homes and facilities that people need, improve air quality across the borough, fight the climate emergency and reduce the risk of surface water flooding, and preserve and enhance the borough's existing green and open spaces to be enjoyed by all.

## Local Plan Part 2

**2.8** Part 2 of the Local Plan allocates specific sites for inclusive growth.

**2.9** An allocation is not a proposal for development and the allocation of a site does not replace the need for planning permission. Accordingly, developers will still need to submit a planning application for an allocated site, allowing the local community and other interested parties the opportunity to comment on the detailed proposals and the Council to ensure the development is in accordance with all relevant planning policy requirements.

**2.10** Local Plan Part 2 sets out the parameters within which a site should be redeveloped and establishes additional policy requirements against which planning applications will be assessed when they are submitted to the Council for determination. Local Plan Part 2, when read in conjunction with Part 1, therefore provides a framework for clear and consistent decision making, giving greater certainty to both the local community and developers.

**2.11** A typical allocation includes:

- Suitable uses for the site and indicative capacities;
- Information about the site and relevant planning policy designations (e.g. if it is located within a designated industrial site or has heritage constraints on or near the site);
- Estimated timescales for potential delivery ; and
- Site requirements and a placemaking plan, setting out spatially specific aspects that must be taken into account in any proposal (e.g. the requirement for and location of an active frontages, more detailed requirements about the reprovision of an existing community facility; on site flood risk and appropriate mitigation measures; etc).

**2.12** Both parts of the Local Plan will be used to inform decisions on planning applications across the borough. Policy requirements from Local Plan Part 1 are not repeated in Local Plan Part 2 where the guidance cannot provide any additional level of site specific detail (for example, the required level of bicycle parking on site is not specified in Local Plan Part 2, as this is required under policy already established in Local Plan Part 1). Accordingly, Local Plan Parts 1 and 2 must be read together. Satisfying the requirements for a site within this document only would not be sufficient to secure planning permission; the application must also assess and address all relevant policies within Local Plan Part 1.

**2.13** In addition, applications must also have regard to the relevant policies from the other documents that form the borough's Statutory Development Plan (or any subsequent updates to these documents), which include: the London Plan (2021), the North London Waste Plan (2022), the London Legacy Development Corporation (LLDC) Local Plan 2020-2036, and Highams Park Neighbourhood Plan (2020), as well any other neighbourhood plans that are appropriately prepared by the community and are successful at a referendum.

**2.14** The Local Plan is supported by Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs). These provide additional detail and guidance to existing policies, and have material weight in the assessment of planning applications.

### The 'Proposed Submission' Version

**2.15** This Local Plan has been prepared in compliance with the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, and other relevant regulations. Government planning policy and guidance is set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and Planning Practice Guidance (PPG). The NPPF states that Development Plan Documents should be prepared in accordance with the legal and procedural requirements. To be found to be 'sound', plans must be positively prepared, justified, effective, and consistent with national policy. It must also satisfy the legal and procedural requirements. The Council has prepared this document in line with these requirements.

**2.16** The preparation of the Plan has involved testing of reasonable alternatives through Sustainability Appraisal (SA) that incorporates a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA). Both reports are published alongside this document.

**2.17** A previous draft version of Local Plan Part 2: Site Allocations (November 2021) was made available for public consultation from November 2021 to January 2022. This current version updates the above in response to representations made to that consultation (where appropriate), and has also been updated to align with additional evidence that came forward during the examination of Local Plan Part 1, which concluded in 8 January 2024.

**2.18** This version of the Plan – the Proposed Submission Version, or sometimes referred to as the 'Regulation 19' version after to the corresponding part of the relevant legislation – is being published for consultation for a period of 9 weeks. After the consultation period, this version of the Local Plan and all duly made representations received on this document and on the previously published November 2021 version will be submitted to the Secretary of State for independent examination.

**2.19** Once Local Plan Part 2 has been submitted, in accordance with paragraph 48 of the NPPF, the Local Planning Authority may give weight to relevant plan policies according to: the stage of preparation of the emerging plan (the more advanced its preparation, the greater the weight that may be given); the extent to which there are unresolved objections to relevant policies (the less significant the unresolved objections, the greater the weight that may be given); and the degree of consistency of the relevant policies in the emerging plan to this Framework (the closer the policies in the emerging plan to the policies in the Framework, the greater the weight that may be given).