

Statement of Community Involvement – Addendum (temporary changes)



Temporary changes in respect of how we will consult on Wandsworth Council's draft Local Plan during the Covid-19 pandemic

December 2020

London Borough of Wandsworth

Statement of Community Involvement – Temporary Addendum, December 2020

Temporary changes in respect of how we will consult on Wandsworth Council’s draft Local Plan during the Covid-19 pandemic

- 1.1 Wandsworth Council’s Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) was adopted in February 2019 by Council. This document is a temporary Addendum and should therefore be read alongside the SCI, which can be found on the Council’s website at: www.wandsworth.gov.uk/statement-of-community-involvement
- 1.2 The purpose of this Addendum to the SCI is to set out the temporary changes in respect of the Council’s standards for involving the community in the planning process to take account of the Government requirements for preventing the spread of COVID-19 and reflecting the adaptations in service delivery.
- 1.3 The amendments set out in this document are temporary and apply only to the Council’s proposed consultation under Regulation 18 of The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 on the draft Wandsworth Local Plan. The proposed period for public consultation is from 4 January 2021 until 1 March 2021. Once this consultation period ends, the Council will revert back to the original SCI, as adopted in February 2019.
- 1.4 The National Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) has been updated earlier this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The PPG provides guidance on how local authorities can review and update their Statements of Community Involvement to help combat the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19).
- 1.5 The PPG states: “Where any of the policies in the Statement of Community Involvement cannot be complied with due to current guidance to help combat the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19), the local planning authority is encouraged to undertake an immediate review and update the policies where necessary so that plan-making can continue.”¹.
- 1.6 The updated PPG then goes on to state that “The local planning authority should then make any temporary amendments that are necessary to allow plan-making to progress, and that continue to promote effective community engagement by means which are reasonably practicable.”²
- 1.7 The Government also introduced temporary changes in the law. In the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) (Coronavirus) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 Regulation 35(1)(a) was omitted from 16/07/2020 – 31/12/2020. Given the ongoing pandemic and need to combat the spread of the coronavirus, it is anticipated that this provision and temporary change will be extended.
- 1.8 There are a number of ways in which the Council is having to adapt the existing approaches as set out in the adopted SCI (2019) for the purpose of the Regulation 18 Local Plan consultation, whilst continuing to promote effective community engagement by means which are reasonably practicable in light of the pandemic.

¹ PPG: Plan-making, Delivery of strategic matters, Statement of Community Involvement (Paragraph: 077 Reference ID: 61-077-201200513); <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/plan-making#coronavirus>

² PPG: Plan-making, Delivery of strategic matters, Statement of Community Involvement (Paragraph: 078 Reference ID: 61-078-201200513); <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/plan-making#coronavirus>

1.9 The below sets out how we will be consulting on the Council's first draft of the Local Plan in January – March 2021, and in turn where there are some deviations from the existing SCI (2019):

Availability of documents

1.10 The locations in which we would usually deposit documents are listed at Appendix 2 of the existing Statement of Community Involvement (2019). While our normal deposit locations are unavailable for the public inspection of documents (i.e. Wandsworth Town Hall and the main libraries at Balham, Battersea, Putney, Tooting and Wandsworth), we are making alternative arrangements as follows:

- **Planning Policy documents will continue to be available online via our website** www.wandsworth.gov.uk/local-plan-full-review. All consultation documents relating to the Regulation 18 consultation on the Council's first draft of the Local Plan, as well as accompanying reports such as the Sustainability Appraisal and Equalities Impacts Needs Analysis, including evidence base and supporting material, will be published on this website.
- We will **notify all interested parties on our Local Plan consultation database**, explaining where the documents can be inspected online. In addition, contact details will be made available should anyone require assistance, such as having difficulties in accessing online documents. Notifications will be sent by email and also by letter to anyone who has not previously provided an email address.
- **Printed and online media will continue to be utilised**; this includes a Council press release at the start of the public consultation as well as utilising Brightside (the Council's magazine), where a Local Plan article has been published in the December edition, available at: https://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/media/7938/brightside_december_2020.pdf
In addition, the Council will be liaising with the local press to seek the publication of an article related to the Local Plan consultation. The Council will also be seeking to utilise its poster boards across the borough, as well as utilise other Council newsletter as appropriate.
- We will provide **assistance to those who may have difficulty in accessing online materials**. Contact details will be provided to help any person who may have difficulty in accessing the documents online. Where access to documents online cannot be achieved, the Planning Policy team can be contacted and will be able to assist, such as by providing an appointment at Wandsworth Town Hall to view a reference copy of the consultation documents or providing a hard copy through the post.
- **We will utilise the Council's social media channels**, including Twitter and Facebook, to promote the Local Plan consultation.

Meetings with specific groups and stakeholders

- As social distancing measures will continue to be in place early in 2021, we are unable to hold any face-to-face meetings, workshops, exhibitions or focus groups. **We will use online engagement and virtual meeting systems to ensure that engagement and consultation takes place.** For the consultation on the Council's first draft of the Local Plan, we will be undertaking targeted engagement events with people who don't usually engage in plan-making and who we want to hear from specifically.
- The **Wandsworth Planning Forum** is specifically referred to in the existing SCI (2019), and we will continue to specifically engage with this Forum during the

consultation period early in 2021. A meeting of the Forum that comprises representatives of local amenity and residents' groups will take place in January 2021, and this will provide an opportunity to explore some of the matters in more depth.

How to respond

- Anyone can respond to the Local Plan consultation **online, by email and post as previously**. We will however not be able to provide paper representation forms at our normal deposit locations. The representation forms will be made available on the Council's website; for anyone having difficulties accessing documents and the representation form online, a hard copy can be made available upon request.

If you have any questions on any of the temporary changes outlined in this Addendum, please contact the Planning Policy team

- Email: planningpolicy@wandsworth.gov.uk
- Phone: 020 8871 6000