

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Stoke-on-Trent Local Plan – Issues and Options Consultation**

#### **What is the Local Plan?**

The Local Plan will set out the strategic priorities for the development of the area and development management planning policies covering matters such as housing, employment, retail, leisure, transport, infrastructure and the natural and historic environment. It will allocate sites for housing and employment development.

Without a plan, we have much less control over the quality and location of development. A Local Plan in place we will be more able to protect our important green spaces, direct development to appropriate locations and deliver local priorities and aspirations.

#### **What stage are we at?**

The current consultation is the initial stage of consultation on the Local Plan, titled issues and options. This consultation seeks to notify people of the Council preparing a Local Plan for the City and asking what they consider it should cover. There will be various other consultation stages in which people can get involved throughout the Local Plan process.

#### **What about previous consultation?**

Work was undertaken to produce a Joint Local Plan with Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council. Earlier in the year, Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council decided to work independently on a Local Plan, therefore we are now starting the process on a Stoke-on-Trent Local Plan. The previous consultations were relative to the Joint Local Plan and, therefore, these are fresh consultations for people to submit their views.

#### **What is the Issues and Options Consultation about?**

The current consultation is the initial stage of consultation on the Local Plan, titled issues and options. This consultation seeks to notify people of the Council preparing a Local Plan for the City and asking what they consider it should cover.

#### **Can you help me understand the terms used?**

Yes, a glossary can be found on at the rear of the Issues and Options Consultation document.

#### **What is a Sustainability Appraisal?**

There is a requirement to produce a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) alongside the Local Plan. The Sustainability Appraisal assesses the impact of the options against a range of social, environmental and economic objectives. This helps us to ensure that our future policies are sustainable, i.e. they support development that meets the needs of current generations without compromising future generations.

This Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report, which sets out how this is measure, is out for consultation at the same time as the Issues and Options consultation and you may wish to comment on this document as well. As the Local Plan production processes goes forward, the SA will also be updated at each stage.

### **What is the ‘call for sites’?**

This is where landowners and developers submit potential development sites to the Council, so that these can be assessed as part of the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment and, where possible, they have been considered as part of the identification of development sites.

Call for sites received as part of the consultation will be assessed in an updated Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment.

For further information on the call for sites please visit the website at:

[www.stoke.gov.uk/localplan](http://www.stoke.gov.uk/localplan)

### **Have you chosen sites for development in the Issues and Options Consultation document?**

The current consultation does not set out proposed site allocations or sites for development. This will come in later stages and will be informed by responses received at this stage.

### **How is the impact of employment and housing growth upon local services and infrastructure taken into account?**

Infrastructure is a key component of the local plan making process. It is important that the Council has a thorough understanding of infrastructure provision and requirements. An infrastructure capacity assessment will be undertaken and an infrastructure delivery plan will enable provision to be considered as the plan progresses.

### **How does this plan relate to the neighbourhood plan my community is preparing?**

A local plan provides the overall development strategy for an area and a neighbourhood plan has to generally conform. Once made, neighbourhood plans form part of the development plan and are used to inform planning decisions within that area.

Neighbourhood planning groups will be kept informed as the Local Plan progresses. If a neighbourhood plan is made before the Local Plan is adopted, neighbourhood planning groups will need to consider whether aspects of the plan require review.

### **What is the timescale for the consultation?**

The council is consulting on the Issues and Options between the **10<sup>th</sup> May 2021** and the **21<sup>st</sup> June 2021**. All responses must be received by no later **5pm on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2021**.

### **How can I find out more information?**

You can see the document and supporting information online at:

[www.stoke.gov.uk/localplan](http://www.stoke.gov.uk/localplan)

If you would like to be kept informed of the Local Plan as it progresses then please let us know via the contact details above and we will add you to our database and keep you updated.

### **If I have some questions on the consultation, how can I speak to you?**

You can email [localplan@stoke.gov.uk](mailto:localplan@stoke.gov.uk) or telephone 01782 233841 during normal office hours (09:00-17:00 Monday to Friday) if you have any further queries.

### **How do I have my say?**

By providing your comments in the online consultation portal, which can be found at:

[www.stoke.gov.uk/localplan](http://www.stoke.gov.uk/localplan)

### **Will any comments I make be published?**

Councils are required by law to make available the comments you send about the plan, including your name and postal address. Your comments may be made available for the public to read in council offices and online as part of the local plan preparation process. Your telephone number, email address, and signature will not be published. Please note that we cannot provide anonymity or accept comments marked 'private' or 'confidential'. Comments that include offensive, racist, discriminatory, threatening and other non-relevant statements will be destroyed.

### **What happens next?**

The Council will consider each of the responses and then prepare a draft Local Plan which will be the next consultation stage.