

News Release

For Immediate Release

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Have your say on the content of Bexley's new Local Plan

The Council is inviting local people, businesses, landowners and organisations to give their views on the proposed content of the borough's new Local Plan.

This is a key planning document Bexley aims to update every five years. National Government produces the overarching framework, the Mayor of London produces a London Plan and the Council's document is third in that hierarchy.

The draft on which the Council is now consulting sets out -

- preferred approaches to key borough-wide planning policies
- proposals for managing future development
- the arrangement and designation of land uses across the borough.

After the Council has consulted, it will look carefully at all the views received and then publish a further version later in the year.

“We are taking a very open and transparent approach to deciding how we manage development in the future,” said Councillor Louie French, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Growth. “The Local Plan is a key document in determining how the borough will grow and where that might happen, so it’s important that it takes into account the views of everyone it might affect.”

Any comments must be received by Sunday 31 March 2019.

The aim of the draft plan is to deliver the vision set out in Bexley's Growth Strategy.

It proposes -

Greater flexibility on the use of land and property in town centres, but with controls on undesirable activities.

Requirements for good design and the protection of heritage, amenity and local character.

Control of garden development.

A new tall buildings policy.

Greater protection of trees.

Support for a high-quality transport system, including public transport improvements, promoting walking, cycling and other sustainable travel initiatives.

Promoting local heat networks and decentralised energy.

Support for improved recycling facilities in new developments.

Protecting and improving open spaces, waterways and biodiversity.

Promoting healthy and sustainable design in developments, including a new policy for living roofs.

The consultation paper also includes site assessments for more than 100 sites in the borough. Planners have assessed each site for their suitability for a range of uses including housing, employment, retail and the associated infrastructure.

Demonstrating that the borough has the space it needs is a key statutory requirement.

The consultation paper is available online at www.bexley.gov.uk/consultations, or in paper format at the Council's Contact Centre at the Civic Offices, Bexleyheath and all borough libraries.

You can give you feedback in two ways -

By email to team@bexley.gov.uk with the words 'Local Plan Reg 18 consultation' in the subject line.

In writing to: Local Plan Reg 18 Consultation, Strategic Planning and Growth,
London Borough of Bexley, Civic Offices, 2 Watling Street, Bexleyheath DA6 7AT

Points to consider in making your comments

The Council will accept any comments on the paper, but it would be helpful if you could particularly address the following –

- Are there any planning matters that have not been included, for which local policies are needed?
- Is there too much, or too little, detail in the approaches? Please remember, this is an early consultation paper and the final draft policies may look different.
- Do you broadly agree (or disagree) with the preferred approaches that the Plan takes to -
strategic policies;
development management policies;
spatial policies (land use designations); site assessment recommendations.

Please contact: Jane Parson on 020 3045 4868

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