

1 Introduction

The Hillingdon Local Plan

1.1 The Hillingdon Local Plan: Part 1- Strategic Policies is the key strategic planning document for Hillingdon and will support the delivery of the spatial elements of the Sustainable Community Strategy. It sets out the long-term vision and objectives for the Borough, what is going to happen, where, and how it will be achieved. While the Hillingdon Local Plan: Part 1- Strategic Policies includes broad policies for steering and shaping development, it does not set out guidelines for decisions about planning applications (this will be done through the Development Management Policies document) and nor does it allocate specific sites (this will be done through the Site Specific Allocations document and Policies Map).

1.2 The Hillingdon Local Plan: Part 1- Strategic Policies is consistent with the Sustainable Community Strategy, which focuses on three key components that together make up Hillingdon now and in the future, people, place and prosperity. Emerging from these three components are the six priority themes of the Sustainable Community Strategy, i.e. improving health and wellbeing; strong and active communities; protecting and enhancing the environment; making Hillingdon safer; a thriving economy; and improving aspiration through education and learning.

1.3 These themes are taken forward in the Hillingdon Local Plan: Part 1- Strategic Policies, which has an ambition for Hillingdon to be an attractive and sustainable borough. This Strategy encourages sustainable use of land, resources and the natural environment, methods of travel and the design of development that helps to create sustainable communities, and minimises harmful impacts on climate, biodiversity, landscape and neighbourhoods.

1.4 This Hillingdon Local Plan: Part 1- Strategic Policies has been produced against a backdrop of challenging economic times and in addition to the Sustainable Community Strategy it also reflects the following priority themes of the Council's wider vision:

- Putting residents first at the heart of everything we do and promoting civic pride;
- Protecting and enhancing the borough's natural environment;
- Improving buildings, roads and footways and ensuring that new buildings fit in with the natural environment; and
- Maintaining the solid approach to financial management that has delivered our success to date and which is vital going forward.

1.5 The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (the "Regulations") confirm the form and content of Local Plans and Supplementary Planning Documents.

1.6 Local Development Documents will include any document prepared by the Local Planning Authority and will contain one or more of the following statements:

- i. the development and use of land which the local planning authority wish to encourage during any specified period;
- ii. the allocation of sites for a particular type of development or use;

- iii. any environmental, social, design and economic objectives which are relevant to the attainment of the development and use of land mentioned in paragraph (i); and
- iv. development management and site allocation policies, which are intended to guide the determination of applications for planning permission.

1.7 The Regulations further confirm that any document prepared by a Local Planning Authority which consists of either statement (i), (ii) or (iv) above is a Local Plan.

1.8 The Council intends to divide the Hillingdon Local Plan into two parts. The first part will be entitled 'Strategic Policies' and will contain statements with regard to the use of land in the borough between the years 2011 – 2026. Furthermore, this document sets out the key elements of the planning framework for the area. It comprises a spatial vision and strategic objectives for the area; a spatial strategy; core policies; and a monitoring and implementation framework with clear objectives for achieving delivery. This part will not make specific changes to the Council's adopted proposals map. The Council have prepared and consulted with the public in relation to Part 1 of the Hillingdon Local Plan, which was previously referred to as the Core Strategy.

1.9 During 2012/13 the Council intends to prepare and consult on Part 2 of the Hillingdon Local Plan, which will consist of the Development Management Policies, Site Specific Allocations, Area Action Plans, Heathrow Area Policies and an associated Policies Map. This document will set out detailed proposals for the development of specific sites in the area, with specific or mixed uses, locations and the extents which will be clearly shown.

1.10 Part 1 (Strategic Policies) and Part 2 of the Hillingdon Local Plan will therefore form the completed Local Plan for the Borough and for the purposes of the Regulations.

1.11 A review of the Council's Statement of Community Involvement will also be undertaken. In the meantime adopted policies in Hillingdon's Unitary Development Plan Saved Policies will continue to be used for development management purposes where they are consistent with the National Planning Policy Framework.

1.12 A considerable amount of work has been undertaken to ensure that the Hillingdon Local Plan: Part 1- Strategic Policies reflects local issues and is based on sound evidence. It has been developed through discussion with Hillingdon Partners to ensure a close fit with the Sustainable Community Strategy. This version of the Hillingdon Local Plan: Part 1- Strategic Policies has evolved following consultation on the following documents:

- **Issues and Options** (Spring 2005): This document set out the key social, environmental and economic issues facing Hillingdon with a number of strategic alternatives.
- **Preferred Options** (Autumn 2005): This built on the Issues and Options document and identified a preferred option.
- **Revised Preferred Options** (Spring 2007): Refined the process further and identified a series of challenges for Hillingdon with alternative options.

- **A Vision for 2026: Local Development Framework Core Strategy Consultation Draft** (June 2010): Sets out the revised seven point Vision for Hillingdon, based on discussions with its Local Strategic Partnership
- **A Vision for 2026: Local Development Framework Core Strategy Pre-submission Consultation Draft (February 2011)**: representations were sought on the 'soundness' of the final publication version of the Plan.

Structure of this document

1.13 This document is structured in two parts:

- **Chapters 3-4:** Look at how the Vision has been developed, what it means for Hillingdon and how it will be achieved
- **Chapters 5-9:** Contain the policies that will deliver the Vision through to 2026