

# Initial public consultation on the proposed scope of Leeds Local Plan 2040

Date: 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023

Report of: Director of City Development

Report to: Scrutiny Board

Will the decision be open for call in?  Yes  No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?  Yes  No

## Brief summary

This report provides an overview of the proposed scope of the Leeds Local Plan 2040 (LLP 2040) and the public consultation that is underway on this. This consultation marks the start of the engagement stage on the Leeds Local Plan 2040 and helps decide what should be included. A 'scoping document' has been prepared which outlines the key issues and considerations for future planning policy. This has been published for public consultation between 10<sup>th</sup> February and 24<sup>th</sup> March 2023 to enable people to give their views on the proposed scope of the Plan. This stage is formally set out in Regulation 18 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012, which requires that various bodies and stakeholders be notified that the City Council is updating a plan and invites them to comment about what that plan ought to contain. A 'Call for Sites' has also been launched alongside this to enable people to suggest sites that they would like to be considered for inclusion in the Leeds Local Plan 2040.

## Recommendations

Following the approval of the consultation documentation by Executive Board on the 8<sup>th</sup> February 2023, the Infrastructure, Investment and Inclusive Growth Scrutiny Board is requested to:

- i. Note contents of the report;
- ii. Provide formal comments as part of the Leeds Local Plan 2040 Scoping (Regulation 18) consultation as contained at Appendix 2, 3 and 4;
- iii. Note that a 'Call for Sites' has been launched alongside the scoping consultation.

## What is this report about?

- 1 This report provides an overview of the proposed scope of the Leeds Local Plan 2040 (LLP 2040) and the public consultation that is underway on this. Full details are provided in the Executive Board Report attached at appendix 1.

- 2 LLP 2040 is the second Local Plan Update. It will not update topics that are already a part of Local Plan Update 1 known as “Your City, Your Neighbourhood, Your Planet”, which is a separate plan making process, unless there is a logical overlap between the two plans. However, the principles of net zero and placemaking will be as important to the Leeds Local Plan 2040 as they are to “Your City, Your Neighbourhood, Your Planet”. This consultation marks the start of the engagement stage on the LLP 2040 and helps decide what should be included.
- 3 The first regulatory milestone in the preparation of a Development Plan Document such as this Local Plan Update (LPU), is an initial stage of public consultation (‘Regulation 18’ consultation). The purpose of this stage is to ascertain views on what matters the LPU will need to consider and address i.e. its scope in order to achieve its identified objective.
- 4 There are seven broad topic areas that it is proposed the LLP 2040 will cover;
  - a) **Spatial Strategy** (how Leeds should grow and where new homes, business premises, shops and services and other types of development should take place)
  - b) **Housing** (ensuring the right type, size and tenure of new housing is developed to meet the needs of different people across Leeds)
  - c) **Economic Development** (planning for the development need to support new jobs, and retain existing jobs, across and range of sectors of the economy).
  - d) **Role of Centres** (ensuring planning policies respond to the changing role of the high street and the city centre)
  - e) **Minerals and Waste** (planning for the extraction and processing of minerals and waste products)
  - f) **Transport and Connectivity** (using planning and development to enable more people to travel by more sustainable options, such as public transport, walking and cycling)
  - g) **Other topic areas** (ensuring policies on issues such as heritage and conservation, landscape, rural development (including detailed policies for development in the Green Belt), community facilities, contaminated land and hazardous substances, open land and green corridors in urban areas are up-to-date and reflect local priorities).
- 5 This first period of consultation is the start of the process of early engagement and is a consultation period to hear initial views on the topics.
- 6 A ‘Call for Sites’ has also been launched alongside the scoping consultation. This provides an opportunity for anyone to make suggestions about pieces of land that they would like to be considered as part of the Plan. This includes sites for housing, industrial, commercial, community, minerals, waste, tourism, Gypsy and Traveller, Travelling Showpersons renewable energy and energy storage uses. The call for sites does not seek to pre-judge the outcomes of the scoping consultation and the decisions made on what topics and needs the Leeds Local Plan 2040 seek to address, or whether new allocations will need to be identified.
- 7 It will be essential that the Plan is underpinned by robust evidence, which is sufficiently fine-grained to enable an understanding of what it means for different parts of Leeds. Work to develop this evidence base is starting, and the outputs of this work – taken together with responses to this initial consultation and submissions to the call for sites exercise – will enable a range of alternatives and options to be identified, which will be subject to further public consultation. This will ensure that there will be ample opportunity for all stakeholders to get involved in the plan-making process.

### **What impact will this proposal have?**

- 8 See attached Executive Board Report for details (appendix 1).

### **How does this proposal impact the three pillars of the Best City Ambition?**

9 See attached Executive Board Report for details (appendix 1).

### What consultation and engagement has taken place?

Wards affected: ALL

Have ward members been consulted?

Yes

No

- 10 The proposed scope of the Local Plan Update 2040 outlined in this paper has been prepared in consultation with the Executive Member for Infrastructure and Climate and the Chief Planning Officer and members of Development Plan Panel. See attached Executive Board Report for details (appendix 1). It was endorsed by Development Plan Panel on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023 and Executive Board on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2023.
- 11 To meet the requirements of Regulation 18 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012, and in accordance with the Leeds Statement of Community Involvement, consultation on the scope of the LLP 2040 is taking place for six weeks, between 10<sup>th</sup> February and 24<sup>th</sup> March 2023.
- 12 Whilst it is necessary to formally close the consultation after 6 weeks, due to the start of the pre-election 'purdah' period, it is recognised that engagement with communities will be central to the success of the Local Plan 2040. As such, it is intended that the 6-week scoping consultation required by the regulations is just the start of the conversation about the Local Plan. We will continue to engage with communities outside of the formal consultation period to discuss what they value about their local areas and how they wish it to develop in the future.
- 13 The overall aim of the consultation is to get views on the scope of LLP 2040, and raise awareness of the Plan at this early stage. The following documents / materials have been prepared to support the consultation;
- Scoping Consultation Document (appendix 2): This includes 'topic papers' on each of the topics included within the proposed scope;
  - Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (appendix 3): This sets out the proposed scope of the sustainability appraisal that will be undertaken of options for inclusion in the Plan.
  - Summary Document (appendix 4): A visually engaging and easy to read summary of the proposals has been prepared, which includes infographics for each topic area.
  - Survey: a survey has been developed which asks a variety of questions relating to the proposed topics, to get views on the principle of including it in the plan and some of the key issues relating to the topic. Responses made by email and letter will also be accepted.
  - Call for sites: an online tool has been developed to enable people to suggest sites to consider when preparing LLP 2040.
  - Website: a Leeds Local Plan 2040 website has been created, which includes sub-pages for each topic with video presentations on each topic, alongside the written material and survey.
- 14 A variety of communication methods – including press releases and social media advertising – will be used to raise awareness of the consultation. Letters and email notifications have been sent to everyone on the Policy & Plans consultation database, and forward around LCC networks. Copies of the summary document and a poster have been sent to every library / community hub (and full copies of the consultation material are also on deposit at Merrion House)

15 Drop-in events are being held in locations that already have high levels of footfall, including the Merrion Centre, Kirkgate Market Food Village and Trinity Leeds. Officers will also be attending a number of Neighbourhood Planning Meetings around the district during (and after) the formal consultation period to discuss the proposals.

16 Targeted activity aimed at specific groups is also being undertaken. For young people, for example, a dedicated survey has been created and events will be held at Garforth Academy and Leeds College of Building.

### **What are the resource implications?**

17 See attached Executive Board Report for details (appendix 1).

### **What are the key risks and how are they being managed?**

18 See attached Executive Board Report for details (appendix 1).

### **What are the legal implications?**

19 See attached Executive Board Report for details (appendix 1).

## **Options, timescales and measuring success**

### **What other options were considered?**

20 See attached Executive Board Report for details (appendix 1).

### **How will success be measured?**

21 See attached Executive Board Report for details (appendix 1).

### **What is the timetable and who will be responsible for implementation?**

22 See attached Executive Board Report for details (appendix 1).

## **Appendices**

- Appendix 1: Leeds Local Plan 2040 Executive Board Report (8<sup>th</sup> March)
- Appendix 2: Leeds Local Plan 2040 Scoping Consultation Document
- Appendix 3: SA Scoping Report
- Appendix 4: Leeds Local Plan 2040 Summary Document

## **Background papers**

- None.