

# Leeds City Centre West: Innovation Arc (North) SPD

## Report of Consultation

## **INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1. In accordance with regulation 12 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 this consultation statement summarises the process involved in preparing and conducting consultation on the Leeds City Centre West: Innovation Arc (North) Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). It provides a summary of the outcomes of the consultation, and how they informed subsequent changes to the document.

## **BACKGROUND**

- 2.1. The Innovation Arc encompasses 125 hectares of the west of the city centre. This area brings together the city's anchor institutions – Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, the University of Leeds, Leeds Beckett University, Leeds Arts University, Leeds City Council – with one of the UK's strongest and most dynamic networks of private sector businesses. The area is home to some of Leeds' most important and recognisable buildings and heritage assets, its civic core, and a wealth of cultural facilities. It is the access point to the city from the surrounding residential areas to the west and north and has the potential to connect directly with regeneration underway at the South Bank.
- 2.2 This Supplementary Planning Document sets out the ambition, spatial vision and objectives across the Innovation Arc. The SPD will inform development projects across the area.
- 2.2. The SPD will be a non-statutory document and expands upon existing policies in the Adopted Core Strategy, in particular Policies SP3, CC1, CC3 and P11. The SPD explains how policies in the Local Plan are to be implemented in the context of the SPD area. It will be a material consideration in the determination of planning applications which fall within the area of the SPD.

## **CONSULTATION PRINCIPLES**

- 3.1. The City Council adopted its Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) on 21 February 2007. The SCI sets out the Council's approach for involving the community in the preparation and revision of Local Development Documents and planning applications. It outlines how the community can get involved in the planning process and how the Local Planning Authority (LPA) will facilitate this involvement. The main methods of community engagement are outlined in the SCI, including a list of key consultation structures and organisations in Leeds which the Council consults on in the preparation of plans. It also includes a list of community and stakeholder groups to be consulted as minimum requirements under the planning regulations.
- 3.2. In 2012, the Government implemented changes to planning legislation as part of its modernising planning agenda. The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 came into force on 6th April 2012. The 2012 regulations revoked the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004 and any subsequent amendments. The above changes in legislation simplified and streamlined the local plan document

preparation process. In addition, the 'Duty to Cooperate' was introduced via primary legislation. This reduced the separate stages of front loading through public consultation. Whilst the SCI precedes these changes, the approach it sets out in relation to how the community and stakeholder groups will be engaged in the plan making process remains relevant.

- 3.3 This statement of consultation in line with Regulation 12 sets out:
- (i) a summary of the main issues raised (Appendix 1); and
  - (i) The persons the local planning authority consulted when preparing the supplementary planning document (Appendix 2);
  - (ii) how those issues have been addressed in the supplementary planning document (Appendix 3).

## **CONSULTATION**

- 4.1 Phase one of public Consultation on the Draft Supplementary Planning Document took place for a seven-week period between 24 October and 12 December 2022. The consultation sought the views of local residents, landowners, businesses and other key stakeholders on the principal themes of the document, including the ambition, spatial vision and objectives for the area.
- 4.2 Consultation information and online survey forms were made available on the [Leeds.gov.uk](https://www.leeds.gov.uk) website and at [Leeds Innovation Arc | Inclusive Growth Leeds](#) website. In addition to this, members of the project team also hosted 10 public-drop in events at a range of venues and times across the consultation period.
- 4.3 In order to raise awareness of the consultation and encourage participation, the project team also carried out a further programme of engagement which consisted of Walking Tours, Online Workshops, School Activities and Social Media content across a variety of Leeds City Council platforms.
- 4.4 Responses to the consultation were received in writing to [innovationarc@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:innovationarc@leeds.gov.uk), through online survey forms, and in writing at consultation drop-in events.
- 4.5 44 consultation responses were received in total. The responses reflect a wide spectrum of viewpoints from a range of stakeholders including local residents, landowners, people who work in the area, businesses, community-based groups and non-regulatory organisations. Overall, the draft SPD was well received and gained support and interest from a range of respondents.
- 4.5 Following this, phase 2 of consultation took place between 26 June and 27 July 2023 again seeking the views of residents, landowners, businesses, and other key stakeholders on a draft final SPD. In total, 20 formal consultation responses were received in phase 2 which reflect a wide range of perspectives from a

range of stakeholders including landowners, businesses and community-based groups. The SPD was well received and many of the responses were supportive of both the vision and of specific proposals. The table below highlights key issues that have been raised through consultation responses and sets out a recommended approach to each.

- 4.6 The comments received from both phases are set out in Appendix 2 of this statement alongside the Council’s response and any proposed modifications.

## Summary of Consultation Responses

- 5.1 In summary, the key headlines arising from the consultation are described below:

Appendix 1: a summary of the main issues raised

Phase 1	Requests to alter the boundary of the Innovation Arc SPD	While this document necessarily requires a defined geographic boundary, which needs to be limited in order to provide a robust basis for implementation, it is acknowledged that innovation extends beyond this geographic boundary and takes place across the city. The boundary has been altered slightly to include Leeds Arts University, City Square and Queens Square.  The document will be amended to provide a city-wide context and to clarify the rationale for the planning boundary set out on page 37.
Phase 1	Requests to include further context and narrative concerning the city’s wider ‘Innovation’ story	Further text added to provide context to Leeds innovation story.
Phase 1	Requests to include an ‘Implementation’ section to provide greater clarity on the next steps to achieving the Vision.	An implementation section has been added to the Document.

Phase 1	Requests for greater emphasis on the River Aire & Canal connection linking the Leeds Innovation Arc to the South Bank	This connection has been emphasised in the text on page 111 and is shown on relevant plans.
Phase 1	Requests for specific guidance for key public transport routes and greater detail on how they would interface with future Mass Rapid Transit plans	The Document has been amended to include street-level principles in key areas.
Phase 1	Requests to remove the envisaged route for Mass Transit in this part of the city from maps and text relating to routes or specific streets.	Mass Transit routes are removed from the SPD. However, in recognition of the ambition for this area to be served by high quality public transport connectivity, a network map of public transport priority routes is identified. To provide additional guidance, public transport priority street design principles will be added to the document to reflect this.
Phase 1	Requests for the Document to include 'above policy' sustainability principles	This is a matter for Local Plan policy in the first instance, as the Innovation Arc SPD cannot go beyond existing policy.
Phase 1	Requests for greater detail regarding the proposed car parking strategy for the SPD area	The public transport section of the SPD has been re-drafted to consider the holistic needs of the city centre. The comment is noted but the purpose of this document is not to detail a car parking strategy for the area.
Phase 1	Requests for further icons and buildings/places to be added to the maps used within the SPD	Further icons added as requested.
Phase 1	Requests for further detail which celebrates the heritage and cultural assets within the Arc's boundary.	Text added which reflects and celebrates the unique character and identity of Innovation Arc neighbourhoods.

Phase 1	Further detail highlighting the importance of Leeds Arts University and the role the institution plays in the area.	Further text is added to highlight the importance of Leeds Arts University and the role the institution plays in the area.
Phase 2	Emphasis on the importance of Temple District's inclusion within the SPD boundary. The response highlights the significance of connectivity between the City Centre, South Bank, and Temple District for maximising the benefits of the Innovation Arc. Revisions to the wording of the vision and narrative to better reflect the relationship between the Innovation Arc and surrounding neighbourhoods was suggested, mainly the Temple District.	The vision section of the SPD to be further amended to clarify that the Innovation Arc is not the only place where clusters of innovation will happen in the city.  No amendments to the boundary of the area on the basis there is sufficient policy guidance relating to Temple.
Phase 2	Suggestion to amend the name of the document to reflect that this area is not the exclusive location for innovation in the city.	The naming of the Innovation Arc SPD to be changed to 'Leeds City Centre West: Innovation Arc (North)'
Phase 2	The Arc's vision statement, although lying within the SPD, should also be a freestanding document which promotes the entirety of the Arc's opportunities and synergies. This vision section should clarify that the Innovation Arc is a larger concept than the SPD boundary.	Text to be added to the Innovation Prospectus ( <a href="#">Our Vision   Inclusive Growth Leeds</a> ) which explains the innovation vision for the Leeds city region, not just the SPD boundary area.
Phase 2	The strategic plan for the Innovation Arc (found on page 115 of the SPD Document) reveals designated locations for enhancing public spaces near the three Universities and other parts of the city. LAU feel there is a discrepancy in the allocation of space for improvements. The area outside LAU is smaller, only covering half of the campus's exterior length, while the area outside the University of Leeds	Public realm enhancements to be extended along Blenheim walk to Blackman Lane. The SPD document will be updated to reflect this.

	and Leeds Beckett University is significantly larger.	
--	---	--

## Appendix 2: List of notified Consultees

Organisation Name
Leeds City Council
Leeds City Council Equality Hubs and wider network
Leeds City Council Voice and Influence Network
Chamber of Commerce Property Forum
Leeds BID
Leeds Civic Trust
Quality Places and Spaces
Leeds Teaching Hospital Trust
Bruntwood
Marrico
MEPC
MRP
McLaren
TCS
Quod
DLA Architecture
FLJ Ltd
MRP
Mcaleer Rushe
Zerum
Grainger plc
Cerda Planning
Space Made
Leeds Society of Architects

Organisation Name
Nuffield Health
Swarthmore
Localities Inner South East Community Mailing List
Localities Inner North West Community Mailing List
Little Woodhouse Neighbourhood Planning Forum
Hyde Park Neighbourhood Planning Forum
Blenheim Primary School
Rosebank Primary School
Little London Community Primary School
West Oaks SEN Specialist School
Brudenell Primary School
Leeds Arts University
University of Leeds
Leeds Beckett University
Leeds City College
MP Rachel Reeves
MP Hilary Benn
Councillor Ed Carlisle Hunslet and Riverside
Councillor Mohammed Iqbal Hunslet and Riverside
Councillor Paul Wray Hunslet and Riverside
Councillor Javaid Akhtar Little London and Woodhouse
Councillor Kayleigh Brooks Little London and Woodhouse
Councillor Abigail Marshal Katung Little London and Woodhouse
Historic England
HLF
Victorian Society
20th Century Society
Leeds Society of Architects
Civic Trust
Council for British Archaeology



Organisation Name
Buttress Architects
Purcell
Carter Jonas
Spawforths
Adapt Heritage
Turley
Bowman Riley
Arctic Associates
Purcell
Donald Insall
Private Sector Organisations (Housebuilders, Consultants etc.)
Adjoining Local Planning Authorities
Ancient Monuments Society
Archaeological Trusts
Canal & River Trust
Chamber of Commerce
Civil Aviation Authority
Council for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE)
Crown Estates
Designated Neighbourhood Planning Forums
Education Establishments
Electric and Gas suppliers
Environment Agency
Environmental organisations
Fire and Rescue Authority
Forestry Commission
Freight Transport Association
Government Departments and Agencies
Gypsy and Traveller Community
Health and Safety Executive
Highways England
Historic England
Homes England
Home Builders Federation
Housing Associations
Leeds Chamber of Commerce
Local Enterprise Partnerships
Local Members of parliament
Leeds/Bradford Airport
Leeds Climate Commission
Marine Management Organisation
National Grid
National Health Service/Estates/ Integrated care systems (ICSs)

Organisation Name
Natural England
Neighbouring Local Authorities
Network Rail
Office of Rail Regulation
Police and Crime Commissioner
Ramblers Association
Relevant bus and rail operators
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPBA)
Sport England
Telecom and Mobile Operators
The Coal Authority
The Theatres Trust
Town and Parish Councils
Utility Companies
West Yorkshire Combined Authority
West Yorkshire Archaeology
Woodland Trust
Yorkshire Water